

Marigold

Brocade Marigold seeds produce brilliant 5cm (2") wide flowers in gold to mahogany atop 30-38cm (12-15") plants. This is a medium-height marigold that works well in large containers. Grow in full sun and deadhead regularly to enjoy flowers from May to heavy frost. The flower petals are edible, and can be dried and ground as a replacement for saffron.

Type: Annual

Height: 30-38cm (12-15")

Exposure: Full Sun

Difficulty: Easy



Growing

Sow indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost, or direct sow 2 weeks before the last frost. If starting indoors, just cover the seeds with vermiculite and provide a soil temperature of 21-25°C (70-75°F). Seeds should sprout in 4-14 days at that temperature.

Pinch the growing tips to encourage branching. This prevents tall, spindly plants. Deadhead regularly throughout the growing season.

Saving

Wait for the flowers to fade and dry. The flower head should be very withered and dried out. It should be mostly brown, with just a little bit of green left at the base. Cut the flower heads from the plant a few inches down the stem so as not to damage the seeds. Pinch the withered petals of the flower with one hand and the base of the flower head with the other hand to gently pull the petals out of the base to expose the seeds. Lay the seeds out for a day or so to dry. Put the seeds into a dated and labeled envelope and return to Brock!