

YEAR OF THE CALENDULA 2021



Transform your pots and planters with these fabulous plants and their sunny, cheerful flowers. Calendulas provide masses of colour and interest for very little cost or effort

You don't need to spend a fortune to make your garden stand out from the crowd. Choose to grow the incredibly easy pot marigolds (calendula) and inject some vibrant colour and drama into your summer displays.

Each plant bears masses of bright, cheerful flowers that will light up every corner of the garden. The prolific flowers can be picked for posies or left on the garden plants to create a zingy display and attract and feed our garden pollinators too.

There's been a lot of plant breeding in the world of calendulas that has resulted in a fabulous array of colours and forms all available to grow really easily from seed. That makes them an extremely cost effective way to fill your garden with vibrant and beautiful zingy colours. Look out for seed mixes

of fiery oranges and yellow, in single, semi double and double forms. Or why not choose to grow the more subtle but beautiful varieties with flowers in soft cream with green or yellow tinges that will soften the colour palette and make lovely cut flowers. There are peachy forms and dusky pinks and rusty orange types as well as some with a touch of red too.

Calendulas are low maintenance plants that are treated as annuals, which means that they grow and flower in the same year, but they may survive year on year if the winter is mild.

BUTTERFLIES AND BEES

The beautiful, colourful flowers are magnet for many pollinators and the open centre of the calendula flowers creates the perfect landing pad for hoverflies and bees searching for precious pollen and nectar. Add calendulas to your pollinator garden; mix them with salvias for that striking purple/orange colour combination. Choose single or open flowered calendulas that have accessible pollen and nectar for pollinators to feed easily and efficiently.

EASY TO GROW

Calendulas are great value for money. They are one of the easiest flowers to grow from seed and you can buy a seedpacket or two for the price of your daily coffee fix. Calendulas are hardy and can be sown directly into the garden soil, or plants can be raised in pots on a windowsill or in a cool greenhouse and then planted out where you want them to flower. Spring sown plants will flower from early summer right into the autumn. One packet will generate dozens of plants that you can plant all around your garden or share with friends and family. Plant them into pretty pots and containers for impromptu gifts for friends or position them towards the front of the flower border for the best drama and effect.



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HEALING POWER

Calendulas are pretty cottage garden plants that were traditionally grown as part of the home medicine cabinet. The bright orange petals are still added to skin care balms and used to make an anti-inflammatory tea. You can add the petals to salads for a bright zingy effect, but make sure you don't confuse them with the tagetes marigolds, which smell pungent and not nice to eat. A posy of zingy calendula flowers is sure to lift the spirits and if you keep picking the flowers so that the plants don't set seed they will keep flowering for months on end.

