

Calendula

With cool weather still upon us Calendulas are still in bloom. These brilliant little beauties have an interesting history, as they are a very old flower indeed. They are also known as Pot Marigold, because in Europe they were used as a kitchen herb to flavor soups and color cheese. Calendula flowers were also used during the Civil War, as an antiseptic and anti-hemorrhagic to dress wounds. However, they make an excellent garden flower to brighten up our less sunny days of winter.

Size: 1' – 2' tall, depending on variety

Exposure: Full sun

How to Plant: Plant from seed in spring or fall or purchase 6 packs at your local nursery.

Pruning: Remove spent blossoms to encourage more blooms

Water needs: Regular watering, but do not over water.

Soil: Grow in regular soil but make sure it is fast draining. Calendula will grow in leaner soils.

Snapshot: Calendulas are an easy to grow cool season flower, often planted in late summer and early spring in mild winter areas. In colder regions they can be grown in summer. These Mediterranean flowers grow in zones 1 -24 and re-seed easily. They have 2 ½ -4 ½ inch, daisy like blooms depending on variety. The most common color is a brilliant orange, but soft yellow, apricot and cream are available. Calendulas are great for mass planting. They can also be used as a cut flower.

Novella Springer

Calaveras Master Gardener

San Andreas

2/17/13