

# *Tagetes patula*



**Common Name:** French marigold

**Scientific Name:** *Tagetes patula*

**Family:** Asteraceae

It is an annual, occasionally reaching 0.5m tall and 0.3m wide. In some climates, it flowers from July to October. Achenes ripen and are shed within two weeks of the start of bloom. The head contains mostly hermaphrodite florets and is pollinated primarily by beetles in the wild, as well as by tachinid flies and other insects. The leaves of all species of the marigold include oil glands. The oil glands are pungent. It can grow in both sandy and clay soils provided they have good drainage.

**Economically Important Part:** Flowers and Roots

**Economic Importance:** It is used as an edging plant in the open border. The plant is used in companion planting for many vegetable crops. Its root secretions are believed to kill nematodes in the soil and it is said to repel harmful insects.