

Family: ASTERACEAE Genus: <i>Calendula</i> Species: <i>officinalis</i> Cvs or ssp:	Proper name: <i>Calendula officinalis</i> Medievally known as: Marygold Common Name: Marigold, Ruddles, Pot Marigold
Average Size: to 80cm	Origin: probably Southern Europe
Distinctive Features: leaves are in a dense spiral, close to roseate form with simple oblong-lanceolate leaves 5-17cm long, hairy on both sides & margins either entire or sometimes waved or slightly toothed. Flowers are yellow to orange & made up of a thick capitulum 4-7cm diameter surrounded by two rows of hairy bracts. They have ray & disc florets. Ends of florets frequently have several notches. Flowers may appear all year born on sparse erect or slightly drooping stems. Fruit is a thorny curved achene.	Habit: short-lived aromatic herbaceous perennial Conservation status: very common
Aspect: full sun preferred	Soils: will grow in most soils, needs watering when young but tolerates being ignored when mature
Pruning: deadheading will encourage continued flowering.	Pests & diseases: susceptible to larvae of some Lepidoptera, particularly Cabbage Moth.
Usefulness: used in Indian, Middle-Eastern, ancient Greek & Roman cultures as medicine as well as a dye for fabrics, foods & cosmetics. A tincture in methanol exhibits anti-bacterial qualities.	Propagation: from seeds sown in late spring & early summer
Culinary use: florets are edible to add colour to salads or as a garnish. They are a cheap substitute for saffron. Leaves are edible but not very palatable. Despite this they date back to Roman times as a potherb.	Special features: in temperate areas sown in for blooms through summer & into autumn. Will not tolerate hotter temperatures.
Notes: petals used in medieval times to colour cheese yellow & in hair washes to lighten & brighten hair. Commonly used as a companion plant & dug in to reduce nematode infestations. Yellow dye is extracted by boiling.	Comments: This was in the 1st planting on 2/12/14. Included for the colour it adds to the Medieval Garden & also as a foodstuff (may be used as a tea, fresh or dried) & may be used in salads (fresh). It has already reseeded with many new plants. There were so many new plants we had to cull some to make room for the other plants. The challenge will be to see if the quality of the new flower heads are as good as the 1st bloom which were magnificent (see photos on the website).

Photos: #1 & #2 ©Henrietta Kress,

