



FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

Flower of the Week

phone: (518) 585-2821
fax: : (518) 585-2210
fort@fort-ticonderoga.org
PO Box 390
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Common Name:	Marigold
Botanical Name:	Tagetes patula, Tagetes erecta
Family:	Asteraceae (Daisy)
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Annual Flower
Season of Bloom:	Early summer to frost

All 52 species of annual and perennial marigolds are natives of the American southwest, Mexico and Central and South America. *Tagetes patula*, commonly known as French marigold, is a popular garden annual. It is deemed French since many hybrids and cultivars were developed by plant breeders in France. Abundant flowers over a long season, ease of care and striking colors make marigolds a popular choice for gardeners.

Marigolds thrive in a sunny location and are not fussy about soil. They are often used in companion planting, where they benefit other plants nearby. The marigold is reported to keep some garden pests such as aphids, whitefly and nematodes at bay with its strong scent. Marigolds are deer, rabbit and rodent resistant. Pests that *do* attack marigolds are slugs, snails and earwigs. Choosing a sunny location and removing debris nearby will help to curb these creatures.

In the King's Garden, Marian Coffin's planting plan calls for marigold plantings of lemon yellow, giant orange and dwarf bronze for borders along pathways and giant lemon within four mixed borders. (The "giants" refer to African marigolds, *Tagetes erecta*.) In our Discovery Gardens alone we use over 400 marigolds-- the stars of the garden in late fall with their companions, the zinnias and the asters!

