

Plant Facts

Mexican Mint Marigold - *Tagetes lucida*

Other Common Names: Mexican tarragon, Spanish tarragon, Texas tarragon



Amy Prindle, CC BY-NC-SA, Denton County MGA

MEXICAN MINT MARIGOLD or MEXICAN TARRAGON

Tagetes lucida

Perennial Herb

Pollinator Friendly



Sun/Part Sun

1-2' Tall x 1.5' Wide



Water: Low, drought tolerant

Color: Yellow

Blooms: Summer-fall

Anise or licorice-flavored leaves spring to frost;
 spreads freely but pulls out easily

Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener

General Information

This compact perennial looks similar to marigolds but is often listed as a substitute for French tarragon. It is easy and provides great fall-colored yellow flowers. The leaves have a fragrance similar to anise or licorice. This is native to Mexico and the Southwest, and is drought and heat tolerant. Blooming in summer to late fall, it is excellent for attracting migrating butterflies.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 7-10

Size: 18 inches w x 1- 2 feet h

Flowers: Profuse spikes of yellow blooms

Bloom time: May to September, heavy through early Summer and sporadically through Fall

Leaves: Palmate, compound leaves with 5 to 7 leaflets; spicy fragrance when crushed

Growth Habit/Shape: Upright, clumping

Soil Requirements: Well-drained; tolerant of poor soil

Propagation: Seed; Division every 2-3 years; spreads freely

Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoor

Pests and Disease Problems

Slugs and snails, especially to seedlings

Plant Care

Plant this compact perennial in full sun. Tolerates poor soils, but it must be well drained. Needs regular water to establish and then deep watering weekly to keep it at its best.

Note

Avoid contact with broken skin while in sunlight

Sources for Additional Information

NC State Extension

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/tagetes-lucida/>

Texas SmartScape™

<https://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/mexican-mint-marigold>

Texas Superstar® Plants

<https://texassuperstar.com/mexican-mint-marigold/>