

## Marigold (French) Fireball

(*Tagetes patula*)

Annuals Culture (revised 03/14/17)

**Plug crop time:** 3 weeks

**Transplant to finish:** Premium packs, 3 to 4 weeks; Quarts or multi-plants in larger pots, 4 to 6 weeks

- Meet the “*New World marigolds*” – Fireball and companion Strawberry Blonde introduce germplasm never seen before in African or French marigolds and puts multicolour blooms on the same plant.
- Completely new look for premium packs, pots and decorative containers.
- In early Spring growing conditions, flowers age and change colour more slowly for maximum contrast. In warmer conditions, colour changes faster with less distinct contrast.

### General Information

Exposure	Bloom Season	Height	Spread	Spacing
Sun	Early Spring, Spring, Late Spring, Summer, Late Summer, Autumn, Winter	10-12 in. (25-30 cm)	6-8 in. (15-20 cm)	6-10 in. (15-25 cm)

### Germination

Seed Form	Recommended Plug Size	Seeds/Cell	Plug Crop Weeks	Days to Germinate	Initial Media pH/EC	Cover Seed
COT, DTL	288	1	3-4	2-3	6.2-6.5 pH 0.75 mmhos/cm	Yes

### Plug Production

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
<b>Moisture</b>	Level 4	Level 3-4	Level 3	Level 3
<b>Temperature</b>	70-72°F (21-22°C)	68-72°F (20-22°C)	68-75°F (20-24°C)	68-75°F (20-24°C)
<b>Light</b>	Optional			
<b>Fertilizer</b>	Less than 100 ppm N - Less than 0.7 EC	Less than 100 ppm N - Less than 0.7 EC	100 to 175 ppm N - 0.7 to 1.2 EC	100 to 175 ppm N - 0.7 to 1.2 EC

### Growing on to Finish

Growing on Temperature	Target Media pH/EC	Fertilizer	Daylength
(day) 65-68°F (18-20°C) (night) 60-62°F (16-17°C)	6.2-6.5 pH 1.0-1.5 mmhos/cm	100 to 175 ppm N - 0.7 to 1.2 EC	Facultative Short Day

### Crop Scheduling

Container Size	Plants/Pot	Crop Time	Season	PGR
306 Pack	1 (ppp)	3-4 (weeks)	Spring	-
4"/4.5"/Quart	1 (ppp)	4-5 (weeks)	Spring	-
10" Pot or HB/3 Gallon	5-6 (ppp)	4-6 (weeks)	Spring	-

### Fertilizer Notation

Starting 1 week after transplant, apply fertilizer at rate of 100 to 175 ppm N and 0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm) using a predominantly nitrate-based fertilizer with low phosphorus. Maintain the media EC at 1.0 to 1.5 mS/cm and pH at 6.2 to 6.5. For a constant fertilizer program, can apply fertilizer at a rate of 75 to 100 ppm N 0.5 to 0.7 mS/cm) while maintaining the above recommended EC and pH ranges.

## Common Problems

Insects: Aphids, Mites, Whiteflies Diseases: Damping off in the seedling stage

## Finishing Key Tips

Maintain soil pH of 6.2 to 6.5 to avoid iron toxicity. Quarts and multi-planted containers with several flowers open provide maximum contrast as blooms mature from red to orange to bronze.

**NOTE:** Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

## Variety Pictures

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Fireball



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