

Marigold

Propagation

Marigold is propagated by seeds as it germinates easily and produces vigorous plants. The marigold seeds count about 300-350/gram. The seeds remain viable for about 1-2 years. The germination of fresh seeds is about 90-95%. The seeds germinate well at temperature from 18-30°C.

Raising of Seedlings in Nursery

Nursery beds are prepared by digging upto a depth of 30cm. The beds are properly cleaned, levelled and the soil is enriched by applying well rotten FYM. To protect the seeds from the infestation of ants, BHC powder is dusted on the raised beds. 3kg of seeds is sufficient to plant one hectare area. Seeds are sown thinly and are covered with light soil. The beds are immediately watered with a fine rose water can so as to avoid displacement of seeds.

The various seasons of planting and transplanting and corresponding flowering periods for marigold are given below -

| Planting Season | Transplanting | Flowering period | Remarks |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| Summer Season (February) | March | April-July | Size of flowers smaller due to high temperature. Good returns obtained due to higher market rates. |
| Rainy Season (May) | June | July-October | Crop fetches good price due to higher market demands. |
| Winter Season (August) | September | November-January | Profuse blooming, best quality of flowers. Higher yield per unit area but low market rates. |
| Spring Season (November) | December | Feb-April | Higher yield per unit area but moderate market rates. |