

Big Top

African Marigold

- Very large blooms and strong stems
- Stronger landscape performance
- Flowers are more rain resistant



Big Top

Big Top Orange



Big Top Yellow



Big Top Gold



Big Top Orange

Big Top

F1 Tagetes erecta

Big Top is a new F1 hybrid African Marigold with very large and weather resistant blooms. The large flowers are held strongly above the foliage giving a long lasting display of colour. The 3 colours are very well branched and uniform in bloom time.

New for 2019

Seed Form	Clipped, Coated
Seed Count	7,900/oz - 280/g
Garden Height	10 - 14" (25 - 35cm)
Garden Spread	14 - 18" (35 - 45cm)
Flower	3 - 4" (8 - 10cm)

easy grow guide

marigold big top

(Tagetes erecta)



Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 6.2-6.5 (avoid pH levels <6.0), EC <0.75mmhos. Cover seed with vermiculite
Germination Stage 1: (3-5 days)	Keep medium uniformly moist until seedlings are hooking above the covering, media temperature should be 68-72°F (20-22°C), light is not essential but light levels <1500 f.c. are beneficial.
Germination Stage 2:	Dry down slightly to avoid stretch, keep media temperature at 68-72°F (20-22°C), germination should be complete in 5-7 days.
Germination Stage 3:	Allow media to dry further between irrigations to improve rooting and control stretch, media temperature can be dropped to 65-68°F (18-20°C), light levels should be <3000 f.c. Fertilize with 100-150ppm N from 15-5-15, 17-5-17 or 13-2-13, keep media pH at 6.2-6.5 (low pH can cause iron deficiency) and EC <1.5mmhos.
Germination Stage 4:	Practice good wet/dry moisture cycle, maintain media temperatures at 65-68°F (18-20°C), light levels <5000 f.c. Fertilize with 100-150ppm N from 13-2-13 to help tone the seedlings. PGR's shouldn't be required but If needed, use sprays of B-Nine (1500 – 2500 ppm), A-Rest (3 – 10 ppm), Bonzi (10 – 20 ppm), or Sumagic (2 – 7 ppm) to control growth. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements.

Growing on to Finish: 4-6 inch (10-16cm) pots

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 6.2-6.5 (no lower) and EC <1.5mmhos. pH levels below 6.0 can induce iron, manganese and sodium toxicity.
Temperatures:	Day temperatures should be 65-68°F (18-20°C) Night temperatures can be lowered to 62-65°F (16-18°C)
Light:	Light levels should be 3000 - 5000 f.c. as a guide. Marigold Big Top has a facultative short day tendency.
Irrigation:	Practice a good wet/dry moisture cycle.
Fertilizer:	Feed 1–2 times per week with 150 – 200 ppm N from 15-0-15 or similar, occasionally using a 20-10-20 for more lush growth, but be careful not to lower the pH too much. Keep media pH 6.0 – 6.5, and media EC 1.25 – 1.75 mmhos (saturated paste).
Growth Regulators:	Use sprays of B-Nine (2500 – 5000 ppm), Bonzi (15 – 30 ppm), or Sumagic (5 – 10 ppm) if needed. A Bonzi drench (2 – 5 ppm) or Sumagic (1 – 2 ppm) can be used when plants are up to size and flowering if needed. It is best to run your own trials to avoid overdosing, as weather and cultural regimes can affect the requirements
Pests:	Aphids, Whitefly, Thrips, Red Spider mite, Leafminer
Diseases:	Pythium, Botrytis, Alternaria leafspot. A preventative fungicide program is recommended. Leafspots (bacterial and Alternaria), bronzing or speckling on lower leaves is likely to be caused by media pH <6.0.

Plug Times:

288 plug:	3-4 weeks from sowing to transplant
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Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to Finish	Total Crop Time
4 inch (10cm):	1 x plug	7-8 weeks	10-12 weeks
6 inch (15-16cm):	1 x plug	8-9 weeks	11-13 weeks

Crop times are based on trials conducted in Northern Europe. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can alter the crop times stated above.