

Tagetes erecta
(African Marigold)

萬壽菊



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科屬及分布 Family and Distribution

萬壽菊(*Tagetes erecta*)隸屬菊科(Asteraceae)萬壽菊屬(*Tagetes*)，是一年生草本植物，原產於墨西哥，輾轉傳遍世界各地，適合種於花壇，作觀賞花卉。

Native to Mexico with very wide distribution throughout the world, *Tagetes erecta* is a herbaceous annual belonging to the genus *Tagetes* in the family Asteraceae, ideal for growing in flower beds for ornamental purposes.



形態及特徵 Form and Characteristics

萬壽菊品種繁多，有高矮性之分，而花形亦有單重瓣之別。花瓣呈波浪狀，色澤豔麗，有白、黃、金黃、橙黃、橙紅等色，花期長。

There is wide diversity in species for *Tagetes erecta*, featuring both tall and dwarf species. Known for either its single or double petals with wavy margins, the plant's flowers offer a profusion of colours including white, yellow, golden yellow, orange-yellow and orange-red during its long flowering period.



生長習性及護理 Growth Habits and Care

萬壽菊喜溫熱而不耐寒，生長適溫介乎攝氏15度至30度。植料以含豐富有機質及排水良好的土壤為佳，並須在日照充足的環境下生長。當幼苗達10厘米高時可摘心，以增加分枝，促進開花。如欲控制花朵數量和大小，可摘除側花芽。如植於半陰處，可致枝條徒長軟弱，開花減少。栽培期間不可施放過多氮肥，以免花朵變小。宜每隔兩至三周施肥一次，薄肥多施。至於追肥，須以氮、磷、鉀三種主要元素的肥料為主，亦可加入少量銅、錳、硼等微量元素。開花期間應小心澆水，不要讓水留在花朵上，以免讓其腐爛。只要陽光充足，就能確保花色鮮豔，開花不斷。花凋謝後，應及早摘除，以促進新芽生長。

A heat-loving plant with intolerance to cold, *Tagetes erecta* grows optimally at a temperature ranging from 15°C to 30°C. In addition, *Tagetes erecta* thrives in a well-drained soil rich in organic material, and sufficient sunlight is a must for its healthy growth. When the seedlings reach a height of 10 cm, they should be pinched to promote growth of branches and flower buds. Removal of lateral buds would help control both the number and size of flowers. The plant will develop leggy yet weak branches and produce fewer flowers if in partial shade. During cultivation, excessive application of nitrogen fertilisers is to be discouraged, for this would cause the flowers to shrink in size. It is advisable to apply fertilisers once every two to three weeks at more frequent intervals yet in smaller quantities. Applying additional fertilisers with three major elements, namely nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, is also highly desirable. An insignificant amount of trace elements including copper, manganese and boron may be added as well. Careful watering is particularly important during the flowering period due to the fact that water left on flowers can lead to rotting. *Tagetes erecta* blooms in vibrant colours with continual flowering as long as there is adequate sunlight. Wilted flowers should be removed early to spur growth of new buds.

繁殖 Propagation

萬壽菊主要以播種繁殖，春、秋、冬三季均可播種，種子發芽率極高。花期因播種期而異，秋播種，春開花；春播種，夏秋兩季開花。花期甚長。由種子發芽生長到開花，需時約60至90天，視乎品種而定。

Known for its distinctively high germination rate, *Tagetes erecta* is mainly propagated by seed sowing in all seasons except summer. Its flowering period varies with the sowing period where autumn and spring sowing would, respectively, lead to spring flowering, and flowering between summer and autumn. Having a long flowering period, the plant takes about 60 to 90 days from germination to flowering, with length contingent on species.



防治病蟲害 Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

萬壽菊不易受病蟲侵害，惟葉斑病、莖腐病、銹病、飛蛾及蚜蟲等病蟲害除外。如發現有病蟲侵害，應立即除去受影響部分，並施用有效殺菌或殺蟲藥。

It is not that common for *Tagetes erecta* to suffer pests and diseases, but it can be susceptible to diseases such as leaf spot, stem rot and rust, as well as infestations including moths and aphids. In the event of infestation and plant diseases, it is advisable to remove the affected parts immediately, while applying fungicide or insecticide as appropriate in an effective manner.

園藝應用及經濟價值 Horticultural Application and Economic Value

萬壽菊花色豔麗，花期長達數周，不單可用於堆砌花壇、布置屋頂花園及盆植，亦可用作插花、花圈和花籃的材料。

Offering splendid colours and having a long flowering period lasting weeks, *Tagetes erecta* can be cultivated as floral bedding displays, roof garden ornaments and potted plants, while serving as the ideal material for flower arrangements, wreaths and flower baskets.



一般護理須知 Notes on General Care

繁殖及護理 Propagation and care

最適溫度 Optimum temperature	發芽 Germination 生長 Growth	15°C - 20°C 15°C - 30°C
泥土酸鹼值 pH value	pH 6-6.5	
繁殖 Propagation	播種 Seed sowing	

	春 Spring	夏 Summer	秋 Autumn	冬 Winter
日照 Sunlight				
澆水 Watering				
施肥 Fertilising				
換盆 Re-potting				

圖例 Key

	日照充足 Abundant daylight
	少許 Little
	中等 Medium

萬壽菊的生長過程 The Course of Growth of *Tagetes erecta*

