

Calendula

Calendula officinalis · Asteraceae

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Annual, self-seeds readily

MATURITY 6–8 weeks to first flowers



SUN
Full sun to part shade



WATER
Moderate, regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



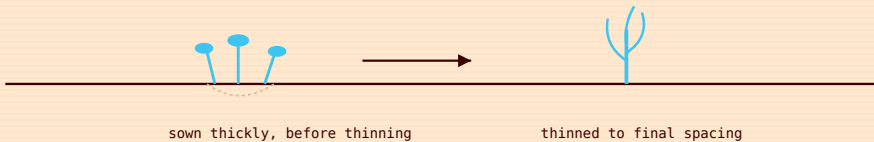
SPACING
30–40cm



DEPTH
0.5cm

01 Deadhead for months of colour

Calendula's bright orange-yellow flowers are edible in salads, and traditionally the petals have been dried for use in skin salves. Regular deadheading keeps new blooms coming for months, and it self-seeds readily enough to return on its own the following season.



02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow, or transplant seedlings once frost risk has passed.
SOIL	Average, well-drained soil; not fussy.
TIMING	Sow in spring or autumn — cool weather suits it best.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Deadhead spent flowers regularly to keep new blooms coming.
- Water at the base, avoiding wet foliage.
- No feeding needed — it flowers well in average soil.
- Let a few flowers go to seed at season's end for self-sowing next year.

04 Problems

- **Powdery mildew** — humid conditions; improve airflow, avoid overhead watering.
- **Aphids** — cluster on new growth; hose off.
- **Very few other pests** — a hardy, easy-going annual.
- **Bolting in heat** — prefers cool weather; expect it to fade in summer heat.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Flowers are ready once fully open, usually from 6–8 weeks after sowing.
METHOD	Snip whole flower heads at the base of the bloom.
CURING	Air-dry petals on a tray out of direct sun for long-term storage.
STORAGE	Fresh in water a few days; dried petals keep for months in an airtight jar.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Tomato Brassicas	Few restrictions	Fast annual; useful as a pollinator-attracting border plant.
Most vegetables		