



PLANT FACT SHEET

Tagetes minuta L.

GENUS *Tagetes* FAMILY Asteraceae

COMMON NAMES Mexican marigold

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Flowers, Spice

The leaves are dried and used to make a tea. They are also added to tea to increase the flavour.

The dried plant is also added to rice dishes and stews for flavouring.

CAUTION: The oil *Tagetes* oil is poisonous due to tagetone. The plant should probably only ever be used very sparingly

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It grows 1-2 m high. The stems are ribbed. The leaves are compound and alternate or opposite. They are 10-12 cm long with 3-9 leaflets. The leaflets are 1-8 cm long by 5-9 mm wide. The flowers occur in a panicle of heads at the end of the branches or in the axils of leaves. The flower heads are 2-5 mm across. They are white and yellow in the centre. The fruit is a black nut. It is 5-8 mm long. It is hairy.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 950 m altitude. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 2,500 m above sea level.

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