

It's a Gardener's World!

Each month has a flower that symbolizes the month of somebody's birth. The characteristics that the flower has may be "inherited" by whoever is born in that certain month person. Every month has a flower that is sometimes referred to as a Birth Month Flower.

Marigold or Calendula is the flower associated with October. For the Hindus, the month of October is associated with festivals like Dusshera and Diwali and the Marigold, although a relatively recent introduced flower from the New World, has come to be an auspicious flower & part of many religious ceremonies.

Marigolds traditionally symbolized despair and grief over a loved one. It may be surprising that such a cheerful flower is associated with the dead. However, for many cultures, it's those neon-bright orange and yellow hues that represent the sunrays or light paths that guide their dearly departed. The bright orange and yellow hues also represent the beauty and warmth of the rising Sun, and its power to resurrect. Today, we often focus more on the sunny colours of the marigold, representing optimism and prosperity.

Calendulas grew their name from blooming at the beginning of each month, hence the Latin "calends" and the English "calendar." The calendula means "throughout the months." This flower is used by many gardeners as an insect repellent and by cooks as a spicy seasoning or colouring for food.

Dried, the calendula can spice up and brighten up a salad. In fact, this flower is referred to as the "pot marigold" because of cooking pots, not flowerpots. As if these weren't enough uses for the calendula, this flower can be used as many herbal medicinal remedies for headaches, toothaches, stomach-aches, fever reducers and cramps. It can reduce swelling in insect bites, sprains, jaundice, sore eyes, wounds and other skin irritations when the calendula is made into an ointment. Lip balms can be made to soothe chapped lips as well. The calendula's bright colours ranging from gold to bright orange have also been boiled to make brilliant dyes for fabrics, cosmetics and food.

The calendula, or marigold (referred to as "Mary's Gold" by early Christians), was considered a sacred flower. Garlands of marigolds were crafted and strung around the necks of the holy saint statues. These brilliant flowers decorated the statue of the Virgin Mary as if they were the sun and stars surrounding her. Its floral meaning is associated with "winning grace." In ancient times, garlands of marigolds protected homes from evil by being strung at doorsteps. It was once thought that placing these garlands under a bed would cause the sleeping person to have prophetic dreams.



Growing Mary's Gold is a humble, joyful way of spreading Christianity. Many people do not know that marigold means Mary's gold. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" Romans 10:14

Telling people about Mary's gold is a gentle way to remind them about her Son. And doing that is a beautiful way of fulfilling the duty to evangelize. "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15

You can take the next step, by planting some Marigold seeds, and nurturing them – and telling people about them. The time you spend growing Mary's Gold, and sharing it, will keep God in your mind, and will help you to "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16

When you spread the word about Mary's gold, you spread the Word about Jesus Christ. But even when you are the only one who knows what your beautiful golden flowers mean, "Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6

Grow Mary's gold. Grow faith. Grow Christianity.