

CALENDULA



Calendula officinalis

[ka-LEN-dew-luh oh-fiss-ih-NAH-liss]

Family: Asteraceae (Composite)

Names: Pot Marigold, Summer's Bride, Husbandman's Dial, Holigold, Marybud, Marygold, Bride of the Sun, Spousa Solis, Golds, bull flower; butterwort, care, cowbloom, death-flower, drunkard, golden flower of Mary, gouls, goulans, kingcups, holygold, sun's bride, water dragon, yolk of egg, poet's marygold, publican and sinner, ruddles, Scotch marigold, shining herb, solsequia, Gold; Ringelblume, Studentenblume, Totenblume, Goldblume (German); souci (French); calendula (Italian); Nagietek lekarski (Polish); goedsbloem-wratten-kruid (Dutch); calendula gialla, fiorrancio, calenzola (Italian); calendula, flamenquilla, maravilla, flor de muerto (Spanish); maravilhas, marianas (Portuguese); ringblomma (Swedish); nogotki, lekarstvennye (Russian); chin-chan-hua (Chinese); janvah, azariyunah, azarboya (Arabic)

Description: Native to Asia and southern Europe and was brought to America by early settlers. Introduced to Britain by the Romans. Calendula is a flowering annual that grows to a

height of twelve to eighteen inches. The stem is slightly fuzzy and the leaves are soft, long (growing to 6"), pale green. The root is a long spindly taproot. Flowers may be yellow or orange. The flowers are about one and one-half inches in diameter, consisting of concentric rows of ray florets surrounding the smaller ones making up the center disc.

Cultivation: Direct seed in the garden once the last chance of frost has past or plants can be put out before the last frost being careful not to injure the long taproot when transplanting. Germination is 7-10 days at a very high percentage if the seed is of good quality. The young seedlings are susceptible to damping off so take care to have good drainage and ventilation. Prefers a moderately healthy soil with average drainage and a pH of 5-8 but will grow in a wide range of soils. They prefer full sun or partial shade. A second planting can be made at the beginning of July to ensure a fall harvest. Thin plants to 12 inches apart. If you dehead the plant religiously in spring and summer it may produce more flowers as the weather turns cooler. Irrigation needs are on the high side so it's recommended to water once or twice a week depending on the temperature, humidity and soil type. Cultivation should be done soon after transplanting and probably one more time before it becomes unnecessary due to the short life of the crop in the field. Pests include blister beetles, aphids and cucumber beetles. Best way to deal with pests is to pick the flowers often so there is little time for the pests to feed. Cucumber beetles are extremely difficult to deal with except with strong botanicals like rotenone.

Flower harvest can start as early as late May in warm areas. You can pick a particular planting three times a week until productivity

goes way down, which is usually after 6-8 weeks. Harvests start to diminish in the late plantings after the first frost. The best time to pick is in the heat of the day when the resins are highest and the water content the lowest. Never let the flowers develop to the point where the seed is forming or you will greatly diminish your harvest totals.

The flowers should be dried as soon as possible as they tend to heat up and decompose if kept in the sun or in your harvest bucket. The petals dry quickly but the receptacle does not so you can expect a total drying time of 10 days or more at 90 degrees or so. Some growers advocate quick drying at high temperatures of 120 degrees which dries them in 5-7 days. They must also be sorted carefully as they reabsorb moisture readily. Dry flower yields of 400-600 pounds per acre can be expected. An acre would require a crew of 3-4 picking nearly every afternoon for 3-4 months.

History: The word *calendula* is derived from the Latin *calens* meaning the first day of each month because the Romans claimed they bloomed the first of each month. Christians called it "marygold" and "marybud" because it bloomed at all the festivals celebrating the Virgin Mary, also because people believed by constant association with the flowers they could ward off evil. It should not be confused with *Tagetes* also called "marigold". Known as the "herb of the sun" because the flowers open in the morning and close in the evening. Mentioned as such in Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*. The French name *gauche-fer*, meaning left-hand iron, was coined because the brilliant yellow marigold flower was thought to resemble the polished shield worn by warriors on the left arm. The culinary use of *calendula* dates back to ancient Rome. Common people couldn't afford to buy saffron and they discovered that powdered *calendula* petals were an excellent substitute which is why it has been called "poor man's saffron".

There are many stories about *calendula*. One is the story of the four wood nymphs who fell in love with Apollo, the sun god. The nymphs became so jealous of one another they

began neglecting their duties to Apollo's sister, the goddess Diana. She turned them into four dull-white marigolds, which distressed Apollo, but his only recourse was to send down his most brilliant rays to color them gold.

In German folklore, rain was predicted if the flowers remained closed after 7 am. In India, Buddhists held pot marigold sacred to the goddess Mahadevi, who carried a trident emblem adorned with the flowers, while her followers crowned themselves with marigolds at her festival. Marigold was commonly used as an aphrodisiac, and thought to have great significance in love. Planting marigold in the footsteps of a loved one was supposed to tie him to his beloved. An old legend held that if a maiden touches a pot marigold with her bare foot she would be able to understand the language of birds. In the Middle Ages in Europe it was believed that those who wore marigolds would have a vision of anyone who had robbed them. Spanish sorcerers were said to wear it as a talisman. Traditionally it was picked when the Sun entered the sign of Virgo and the picker had to carry a wolf's tooth wrapped in a bay leaf. In Mexico it is thought to be a flower of death and is believed to have sprung from the blood of the Indians killed by the Spanish invaders.

Xochiquetzal, the Aztec love goddess, taught her people the message of the marigold, the petalled book of the cycles of life, of seed to leafy stem, of leafy stem to bud, of bud to flower open to the Sun, of flowers to drying petals that were the womb for the seed – to complete the cycle. Offerings of marigold petals were made to her.

In the early days of this country dried marigold petals were sold in country stores out of a wooden barrel just like other herbs. The practice of coloring butter made from autumn and winter milk--low in vitamin A and pale compared to spring butter--with skin-healing *calendula* was so common that butter became widely known as a burn ointment. The pigmentation of ornamental fish in captivity can be intensified by adding *Calendula* to regular fish food.

Constituents: essential oil, carotenoid; flavanoids; sterol; mucilage; saponins; carotenes; bitter glycosides; triterpenes; resin

Character: slightly bitter, pungent, drying, gently cooling

Meridians/Organs affected: liver, heart, lungs

Key Actions: anti-inflammatory; relieves muscle spasms; astringent; prevents hemorrhaging; heals wounds; antiseptic; detoxifying; mildly estrogenic

Cosmetic Use: The yellow or orange flowers produce a dye for the hair which women used in 16th century Europe. Marigold water is soothing to the eyes and the flowers provide a face cream which leaves the skin smooth and silky. When infused in water, marigold blooms make a tea that, when sipped, tones up a lazy circulation. It is also said to alleviate varicose veins. Since the blooms have healing properties the cooled infusion is valuable as a skin tonic for oily, blemished complexions. It can also be used as a rich skin moisturizer, a hair shampoo and a rinse, the latter being particularly useful in highlighting the tints in brown and reddish hair.

Chamomile and Calendula Hair Lightener

4 cups water

2 cups dried chamomile flowers

2 cups dried calendula flowers

1Tbsp lemon juice

1 Tbsp lemon extract

In a saucepan, bring water, chamomile, and calendula to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Remove from heat and cool, stirring in lemon juice and extract. When cooled enough for application, massage into hair, making sure that concentrated amounts stay in hair, and cover with plastic. Leave on for at least 40 minutes, then rinse with warm water. Use every other day for lasting effects. Makes 4 cups. Cover and refrigerate; discard after 5 days. For all hair types

Nourishing Cream

Gather 1 lb of the newly opened flowers and place in a large glass jar with a screw-top and cover with spirits of wine. Leave in the sun for a week, shaking continually. Then strain off the essence. Heat a pound of pure lard and when melted, stir in the essence. Add a teaspoonful of tincture of benzoin to preserve it, and as it cools, pour into screw-top jars and use as a night cream. It will leave the skin soft and smooth and remove any soreness.

Bath Mixture to cleanse the skin of impurities

Boil together 1 lb barley meal and 2 lb of bran . Add a large handful of borage leaves; 1 of lemon balm and 1 of marigold flowers. Simmer together for 30 minutes and add to a warm bath. Soak in it for 30 minutes, adding more warm water as the bath cools. Afterwards, rub down the body briskly with a warm towel.

Marigold Bran Cleansing Scrub for Acne

4 1/2 Tbsp marigold water

2 Tbsp bran

1Tbsp sea salt

Add the cooled marigold water to the bran and stir thoroughly. Add the salt and, using a fork, mix until you have a pudding-like paste. If the mixture is too stiff, add a little more marigold water. Apply the scrub in the usual way and massage your skin for four to five minutes, concentrating particularly on areas prone to spots and pimples. Rinse with tepid and then cool water and pat dry.

Medicinal Uses: Throughout the ages, tinctures made from calendula blossoms have been used to treat headaches, toothaches and even tuberculosis. The ancient Romans used calendula to treat scorpion bites and soldiers in the American Civil War found it helped stop wounds from bleeding. There is nothing better for sore or inflamed eyes than to bathe them in marigold water. (Place a large handful of flowers in a saucepan and add 1/2 pint water. Simmer for 20 minutes, strain and use while slightly warm.)

Calendula is a popular salve and cream ingredient because it decreases the inflammation of sprains, stings, varicose veins and other swellings and soothes burns, sunburn, rashes and skin irritations. Laboratory studies show it kills bacteria and fungus such as ringworm, athlete's foot. It is gentle enough to be applied as a tea to thrush in children's mouths.

Taken internally, it has been used traditionally to promote the draining of swollen lymph glands, such as in tonsillitis and as part of the therapy for uterine or breast cancer, both as a poultice and as a tea. Herbalists report success in using a swab of calendula preparation or calendula boluses to treat abnormal cervical cells. Some antitumor activities have been observed in scientific studies. The infusion or tincture helps inflammatory problems of the digestive system such as gastritis, peptic ulcers, regional ileitis and colitis. Calendula has long been considered a detoxifying herb, and helps to treat the toxicity that underlies many fevers and infections and systemic skin disorders such as eczema and acne. The herb is also considered cleansing for the liver (promotes bile production) and gallbladder and can be used to treat problems affecting these organs. Makes a healing mouthwash for gums after tooth extraction.

Calendula has a mild estrogenic action and is often used to help reduce menstrual pain and regulate menstrual bleeding. The infusion makes an effective douche for yeast infections.

Calendula oil is extracted from the petals by maceration. It is healing and rejuvenating, used in many skin preparations and in aromatherapy.

Applications:

Infusion is taken for menopausal problems, period pain, gastritis and for inflammation of the esophagus

Tincture is taken for stagnant liver problems, including sluggish digestion and also for menstrual disorders, particularly irregular or painful periods

Compress: Apply a pad soaked in the infusion to slow-healing wounds or varicose ulcers

Mouthwash: use the infusion for mouth ulcers and gum disease

Cream: Apply for any problem involving inflammation or dry skin; wounds; dry eczema; sore nipples in breastfeeding, scalds, and sunburn

Infused oil is use on chilblains, hemorrhoids, and broken capillaries

Combinations:

Digestive problems: marshmallow root and American Cranesbill

External soothing application: slippery elm

Antiseptic lotion: goldenseal and myrrh

Herbal Healing Salve

2 oz dried comfrey leaves

1 oz dried calendula flowers

2 cups olive oil

1 oz pure beeswax

4 drops each tea tree and lavender essential oils

Heat herbs in olive oil over low heat for about 5 hours. Do not let the oil boil or bubble. A Crock-Pot or the lowest temperature setting on a range should be suitable for heating this mixture. After cooking, strain out the herbs while oil is still warm. Place 1 1/4 cups of the herb oil in a pan, add beeswax and heat just enough to melt the wax. Add essential oils and stir. Finally, pour the salve into widemouthed jars. Store at room temperature.

Marigold Douche: 2 3/4 oz rosewater, 1 tsp marigold tincture, 1 tsp comfrey tincture. Mix all the ingredients and shake well. Dose: 1 tsp in 1 cup of warm water as a douche for thrush, cystitis, etc.

Marigold Conserve: Fill a large earthenware pot with marigold petals and pour on pure honey to cover all the flowerheads completely. Let stand in a warm place for six weeks. Strain. Use for infected wounds and give to children (over the age of 3) with infectious diseases such as chicken pox. Dose: 1 tsp in a cup of warm water three times daily.

TCM:

The plant is used to medicate bleeding gums and piles and tinctures of the flowers are used

to treat a variety of ailments, including bruises, cholera, cramps, fevers, flu, jaundice, sprains, stomach ache, syphilis, toothache, tuberculosis, typhus, ulcers and wounds.

Homeopathy: Homeopaths use *Calendula officinalis* as a local application to open wounds, to stop bleeding after dental work, and internally for cancer. It is indicated especially for excessive pain and a tendency to be chilled, especially in damp weather.

Veterinary Use: St. Hildegard von Bingen praised calendula as a remedy for animals, recommending it to treat flatulence in sheep caused by bad feed. For this purpose, give the sheep fresh calendula juice. For cough in cattle or sheep, spray freshly pressed calendula juice into the nostrils of the affected animal. I have had great success using calendula salve on animals for wounds, injuries and inflammation. For this, mix together equal amounts of calendula and comfrey salves. Calendula tea is also suitable for washing wounds.

Emotional Uses: Marigold is said to comfort the heart and spirit. It is used for people who are nervous and easily frightened, who have low defences, pick up illnesses easily and feel themselves in need of protection. It is associated with shock and trauma and the expression of strong emotions, particularly anger. A solar herb, marigold is used to temper the excesses of Mars; that is, anger, impatience and pent up energy. It is good for hot-headedness; in the form of headaches with stabbing pains and for rashness, intolerance and foolhardiness. It has a smoothing effect, like that of unruffling feathers and soothes prickliness. Buy some marigold flowers and keep them wrapped in a white cloth. Carry them with you. When you feel in need of protection, hold the bag and feel the warm solar energy radiating through you.

Aromatherapy Uses:

EXTRACTION: an absolute by solvent extraction from the flowers. The real calendula

absolute is produced only in small quantities and is difficult to get hold of.

CHARACTERISTICS: A dark greenish-brown viscous liquid with an intensely sharp, herbaceous odor.

BLENDS WELL: oakmoss, hyacinth, floral and citrus oils

CONSTITUENTS: The absolute contains calendulin, waxes and volatile oil

USES:

Skin care: burns, cuts, eczema, greasy skin, inflammations, insect bites, rashes, wounds, cracked nipples, varicose veins

Flower Essence: The Calendula flower imparts a warm, golden light of healing for those souls who must learn to use “the Word” as a truly creative spiritual force. It is especially indicated for personal relationship work, and for all healing and teaching work when the art of communication must be intensively developed as a soul force. Calendula gives great forces of warmth and benign compassion to the human soul, especially helping to balance the active and receptive modes of communication.

Ritual Use: Gender - Hot; Planet - Sun; Element - Fire; Basic Powers: Love, Clairvoyance. Place the flower beneath the head at night to induce clairvoyant dreams. A vase of these flowers in any room immediately brings a renewed surge of life to everyone in it. Sometimes added to love sachets. It should be gathered at noon. In the 16th century, those who drank a potion made from marigolds were reputed to be able to see fairies. Sun Magic, carried into court for positive outcomes in legal matters, prophesy, simple joys. Language of Flowers: sacred affections; joy; remembrance; grief

Other Uses: For an orange dye for wool: tear up 1 pint of marigold flowers for each oz of wool you want to dye. Put the flowers in a large pot, and add enough water to cover. Boil the flowers for 30 minutes; then strain out the flowers and add enough fresh water to make 1 quart of dye solution for each ounce of wool to

be dyed. Wet the wool yarn, fabric or unlined garment in warm water; squeeze out excess water; add the yarn, fabric or garment to the dye bath; and let simmer (do not boil) for about 30 minutes. Now turn off the heat, let the solution cool, remove the yarn or garment and rinse it in cool water until the water runs clear.

Some marigold plants appear to be natural pest repellents that keep insects away without being poisonous to people or pets.

Culinary Use: The edible part of the calendula blossom is the "petal" as the center of the flower is strong and bitter. To remove petals, grasp the bloom in one hand and gently pull the petals from the disk. Calendulas have long been used to color butters and cheeses. They seem to add more color than flavor to most dishes but they do give a delicate, aromatic, salty bitterness. Petals must be well bruised to give off any color. The easiest way to do this is to chop the fresh petals finely. The taste vaguely suggests marigold: herbaceous and slightly musky. Calendula petals are most commonly used cooked in rice dishes, custards and puddings, but they are also good added to baked goods and egg dishes, and as a garnish for salads and vegetables. Also add the petals to meat dishes, cream soups, chowders, cream cheese or yogurt dips and mashed potatoes or turnips. The petals can be dried for use in winter soups and stews. They are best dried on paper, canvas or cheesecloth rather than screens or baskets, as they have a tendency to stick to the surface that they're dried on. Keep in a tightly sealed container in a cool, dry place for use out of season. Before adding dried petals to a recipe, pulverize them.

Recipes:

Marigold Cordial

1 peck of marigold petals
1 ½ lbs raisins
7 lb sugar
2 lbs honey
3 gallons water
3 eggs
4 oranges
1 lb sugar candy

4-5 Tbsp brewers yeast
1 pint brandy
½ oz isinglass

Add to the petals 1 ½ lbs of raisins and pour over them a boiling liquid made with the sugar, honey and water. Clear the liquid first, while boiling with the whites and shells of 3 eggs and strain before pouring over the flowers. Cover the vessel tightly and let stand for 24 hours. Then stir, cover again and leave for 72 hours. Strain off the whole into a cask and to the liquor add the rinds (pared without the white) of oranges and a pound of sugar candy. Then put in 4 or 5 tablespoonfuls of brewer's yeast and cover the bung-hole. Leave the wine to work until it froths out. When all fermentation has ceased, put in a pint of brandy and ½ oz of dissolved isinglass and stop up the cask, leaving it untouched for some months. (Culinary Herbs and Condiments)

Golden Corn Muffins with Calendula Petals

1 cup stone-ground cornmeal
¾ cup unbleached white flour
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
2 extra-large eggs
1 cup milk
3 Tbsp corn or vegetable oil
¾ cup grated cheddar cheese
1 cup corn kernels, fresh, or frozen and thawed
¼ cup calendula petals

Butter a muffin tin and preheat the oven to 375F. In a mixing bowl combine the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, and salt. In another bowl, beat the eggs and add the milk and oil, blending well. Stir the cheese and corn into the wet ingredients. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry and blend. Stir the calendula petals into the batter. Fill the muffin tins almost full, dividing the batter evenly. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand for 5 minutes, remove the muffins from the tin and serve with or without butter or molasses. (Flowers in the Kitchen)

Marigold and Dandelion Eggs

4 whole dandelion buds
2 Tbsp butter

2 marigold blossoms, chopped
4 eggs
¼ cup cream or milk
1/8 tsp salt,
1/8 tsp pepper
1/8 tsp nutmeg

Pick the dandelion buds when they are just about to open. Melt the butter in a frying pan over low heat. Sauté the dandelions until they open wide. Beat the marigold, eggs, cream, salt, pepper, and nutmeg in a small bowl. Pour over the dandelions, which will poke through. Cover; cook over low heat until the egg is set and dry on top. Fold in half. (A Kitchen Witch's Cookbook)

Marigold and Nasturtium Leaf Sandwiches

Thinly sliced white or brown bread
Young marigold and nasturtium leaves
Marigold and nasturtium petals and flowers, to garnish

Marigold Butter:

1/4 lb unsalted butter, softened
2 Tbsp marigold petals
a pinch of ground cinnamon
a squeeze of lemon juice

Blend the butter with the marigold petals and cinnamon and add lemon juice to taste. Spread the marigold butter onto the thinly sliced bread. Cover with a layer of marigold or nasturtium leaves and place a second layer of buttered bread on top. Press the sandwiches together and cut to shape. A nice variation is to use one slice of brown bread and one of white. Arrange the sandwiches on a serving plate and garnish with marigold petals and nasturtium flowers. Serve right away. (Geraldene Holt's Complete Book of Herbs)

Carrot Soup

4 Tbsp butter
1 cup sweet Vidalia onion, coarsely chopped
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 cup tart (Granny Smith) apple, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup peanuts, chopped
1/4 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp freshly ground nutmeg

1/4 tsp cumin
2 lbs carrots, coarsely chopped
4 cups vegetable stock or chicken stock
1/2 cup milk
1 cup calendula petals

In a large stock pot, melt butter over a medium low heat. Add onion and garlic, sauté until they turn translucent. Add apple, peanuts, cinnamon, nutmeg and cumin. Continue to cook for 3 minutes. Add carrots and cook for 5 minutes over a low heat, stirring intermittently. Pour in stock, cover and allow to simmer for 20-25 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly before pouring into a blender or food processor. Puree until smooth. Return to pot and stir in milk. Cook over a medium-low heat for 5 minutes. Do not let it come to a boil. Stir in petals just before serving. Serves 4-6. (Edible Flowers From Garden to Palate)

Calendula Pilaf

3 Tbsp olive oil
1 small onion, minced
1/2 cup white rice
1/2 cup orzo
2 1/2 cup hot chicken stock
salt to taste
1/2 cup calendula petals

heat oil in a heavy saucepan and stir in onions, rice, and orzo. Stir constantly to cook rice and orzo and to lightly cook the onions. When rice is opaque, add the stock and salt, stir well, cover, and turn heat to the lowest setting. When rice is tender but not mushy, add calendula petals and toss gently. Cover and leave with heat off for about 5 minutes to steam before serving. (Fresh Herbs)

Beef and Marigold

2 Tbsp flour
3 cups water
1 1/2 tsp dried rosemary
4 turnips, quartered
1 1/2 tsp dried marjoram
1 1/2 tsp dried parsley
1 1/2 tsp dried thyme
5 yellow marigold blossoms, chopped
1 1/2 tsp onion powder

2 cups pearl onion
1 5-lb beef roast
2 Tbsp butter

Preheat the oven to 350F. Mix the flour, rosemary, marjoram, thyme and onion powder on a large plate. Coat the roast with the flour. Melt the butter in a frying pan; brown the roast on all sides. Transfer to a deep roasting pan. Add the water. Roast uncovered for 2 1/2 hours. Baste every half hour. Add the turnips, parsley, marigolds and pearl onions. Add a little water if the pan is dry. Cover; cook until the turnips are tender, about 30 minutes. Baste occasionally. Use the drippings to make gravy. (A Kitchen Witch's Cookbook)

Golden Crabmeat

1/2 cup chopped fresh marigold petals
2 cups crabmeat
1/4 cup finely chopped celery
1 Tbsp finely chopped scallions or chives
1 Tbsp finely chopped parsley
1 tsp capers
1/2 cup sour cream
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 Tbsp dry white wine
Dash Tabasco
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine marigold petals, crabmeat, celery, scallions, parsley and capers. In another bowl mix sour cream, lemon juice, wine, Tabasco, salt and pepper. Blend together the two mixtures. Correct seasonings and chill. Serve on crisp greens. (The Forgotten Art of Flower Cookery)

Monkfish Pasta with Marigolds and Anchusa

12 oz monkfish, cubed
1 1/4 cups good fish stock
10-12 oz fresh white or green tagliatelle
1 Tbsp butter
1 Tbsp each chopped fresh coriander, dill, parsley and chives
salt and pepper
5/8 cup light cream
1 Tbsp marigold petals
2 tsp anchusa flowers

Poach the monkfish in the fish stock for about 10 minutes, until just done. Drain and keep warm. Cook the pasta in plenty of boiling, salted water for 3-4 minutes, until 'al dente'. Drain, toss in the butter and keep warm. Mix together the herbs, fish and pasta and season to taste. Warm the cream in a heavy pan, then pour it over the pasta. Serve in a beautiful bowl, tossing in the flower petals at the last moment. (Cooking with Flowers)

Turkey Calendula Roll-Ups

8 oz cream cheese, at room temperature
2 Tbsp low-fat mayonnaise
1 Tbsp horseradish
2-3 tsp lemon juice
2 Tbsp diced sweet pickle relish
1 tart apple, peeled, cored, and finely diced
1 cup calendula petals
4 12-inch tortillas
8 oz wafer-thin turkey slices or ham, if desired
Lettuce leaves, for garnish
Calendula petals for garnish

In a bowl, blend the cream cheese with the mayonnaise, horseradish, lemon juice, and pickle relish. Gently stir in apple and calendula petals. With a spatula spread the mixture evenly over each tortilla. Cover spread with a single layer of turkey (or ham) slices. Roll up the filled tortilla, jelly-roll style. Cut immediately, or wrap tightly in plastic wrap and chill until serving. To serve, cut to desired thickness, and arrange on a serving platter over a bed of lettuce leaves. Sprinkle with additional calendula petals. (Edible Flowers: A Kitchen Companion)

Greengage and Marigold Jelly

4 lb yellow plums
granulated sugar
2 1/2 cups marigold petals

Simmer the plums until soft in water to cover. Strain through a jelly bag. Next day, add 1 1/2 cups of sugar to each 2 1/2 cups of juice. Stir over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved, then boil until; setting point is reached. Leave in the pan for 10 minutes off the heat, then stir in the marigold petals. This allows the jelly to set slightly so that the petals

are distributed evenly instead of floating in a mass to the top. Pour into warm clean jelly glasses, seal and cover. (The Complete Book of Herbs and Spices)

Marigold Cake

1 cup softened, sweet butter
1 generous cup superfine sugar
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
Grated peel of 1 orange and 1 lemon
3 Tbsp fresh marigold petals or 2 Tbsp dried
Granulated sugar (optional)

Grease and line a 9x5x3" loaf pan. Cream the butter with the sugar and add the beaten egg little by little. Sift the flour with the baking powder and fold into the creamed mixture. Add the peel and marigold petals. Spoon into the pan and bake in an oven preheated to 350F for about 1 hour, sprinkling with granulated sugar half-way through, if desired. Cool for 5 minutes, then remove from the pan. Serve when just cool. This cake keeps well and can readily be frozen too. (Betty Crocker's Book of Flowers)

Spring Garden Salad

2 cup leaf lettuce, torn apart
2 cup dandelion greens, torn apart
1 cup very young comfrey leaves, shredded
1 cup spinach leaves, shredded
1 cup Queen Anne lace blossoms, separated
½ cup Calendula blossoms
1/2 cup thinly sliced radishes

Dressing:

1 tsp salt
¼ tsp dry mustard
¼ tsp fresh black pepper
2 Tbsp honey
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
1 cup oil

Combine all salad greens and blossoms in a salad bowl; toss well. Place all dressing ingredients, except oil, in blender on low speed. Turn blender to high; add oil slowly. Pour over tossed salad and serve immediately. Serves 12. (Edible Flowers a Recipe Collection)

Golden Pumpkin-Calendula Bread

1 1/2 cups pumpkin purée
2 1/2 cups whole-wheat flour
2 tsp baking powder
6-8 calendulas, petals only, chopped
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp cloves
1/2 cup butter, softened
1/4 cup honey
3 eggs, separated
3 Tbsp lemon juice
1 cup milk, water, or soy milk

Preheat oven to 350F. Cut a small pumpkin into 1- to 2-inch pieces, remove the seeds, and steam it for 15-20 minutes or until tender. Remove the pulp from the skin and put it in the blender or processor with enough water to form a thick purée.

Stir the dry ingredients together. In another bowl blend the butter with the honey, egg yolks, and lemon juice, beating until smooth. Mix in the pumpkin purée and continue beating, adding the flour mixture until stiff, fold them in, and pour the mixture into two 9x5x3-inch buttered and floured loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour or until a knife comes out clean and dry. Makes 2 loaves (The Complete Book of Flowers)

Mushroom Salad with 'Lemon Gem'

Marigolds

3 cups thinly sliced mushrooms
3 cups tender baby lettuce leaves
1 cup chicory leaves
2 Tbsp fresh snipped chives
¼ cup fresh dill sprigs
handful of 'Lemon Gem' marigold blossoms
small handful chive blossoms

Mayonnaise:

Zest of 1 lemon
Handful 'Lemon Gem' marigold petals
1 clove garlic
1 extra-large egg yolk
¾ cup olive oil
1-2 Tbsp lemon juice
salt & freshly ground pepper

Clean mushrooms (if dirty) with mushroom brush. Wash the salad greens and spin or pat them dry. Rinse the herbs and flowers if necessary and pat them dry. Keep the salad ingredients cool until ready to assemble.

Lemon Mayonnaise

Put the lemon zest, marigold petals, and garlic in a mortar and bruise them well. Stir in the egg yolk. Add the oil, drop by drop, until the mixture begins to thicken; then in a fine stream, until the mayonnaise emulsifies. Stir in the lesser amount of lemon juice and season with salt and pepper. The mayonnaise should be a bit tart. Taste for seasoning.

Toss the mushrooms lightly with about one-third of the mayonnaise; add a little more mayonnaise if they are not moistened enough. Arrange the greens on a chilled platter. Scatter the chives and dill over the greens. Arrange the mushrooms on the salad. Scatter the marigolds and chive blossoms over the salad. Pass the remaining mayonnaise as the salad is served. (Flowers in the Kitchen)

Marigold Cheese Soup

¼ cup butter
3 Tbsp minced marigold petals
½ cup each minced celery and green peppers
1 cup milk
¾ cup each minced onions and carrots
1 cup cream
4 Tbsp flour
2 Tbsp sherry
1 quart chicken stock
chopped chives or parsley
3 cups grated Cheddar cheese
additional petals
salt and pepper

Melt butter and sauté celery, green peppers, onions, and carrots for 12 minutes. Add flour, constantly stirring, and slowly add stock, stirring constantly until slightly thickened. Lower heat and slowly add cheese, stirring gently. Add salt, pepper, marigold petals, milk, cream, and sherry. Heat but do not boil. Garnish with finely chopped chives or parsley and a single marigold petal. Pour into a

tureen for serving and place watercress and marigold flowers around the tureen. (The Forgotten Art of Flower Cookery)

Orange Cake

Cake batter:

5 eggs
½ cup butter, softened to room temperature
1 ½ cups granulated sugar
rind of 2 lemons, grated
rind of 1 orange, grated
1 cup sour cream
½ cup plain yogurt
3 cups all purpose flour
2 tsp baking soda
½ cup calendula petals, chopped

Preheat oven to 350F. Separate eggs. Beat whites until they form stiff peaks. Set aside. Cream butter and sugar together. Blend in egg yolks, lemon rind, orange rind, sour cream and yogurt. Beat until smooth. Sift dry ingredients together. Slowly add dry ingredients to wet, mixing well. Gently fold in beaten egg whites and calendula petals. Butter and flour a Bundt cake or angel food cake pan. Pour in cake batter and bake for 60 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool in pan 10 minutes, then remove to a cooling rack and allow to cool completely.

Syrup topping:

½ cup orange juice
¼ cup lemon juice
¼ cup Grand Marnier
¼ cup granulated sugar

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan over a low heat. Bring to a boil, then simmer for 3 minutes. Pour hot syrup over cooled cake and garnish with calendula petals. (Edible Flowers from Garden to Palate)

Marigold Potato Puff

6 large potatoes
1 bay leaf
1 ¼ cups milk
4 Tbsp butter
1 tsp powdered marigold petals
1 tsp salt
½ tsp black pepper

2 eggs

1 Tbsp shredded fresh marigold petals

Peel potatoes, cut in quarters, and cover with boiling salted water. Add bay leaf, and cook until tender. Then drain potatoes, discard bay leaf, and mash potatoes thoroughly. Be sure no lumps remain. Preheat oven to 350F. Heat milk in small saucepan. Dissolve butter and powdered petals in heated milk, and stir mixture into mashed potatoes. Add salt and pepper. Separate eggs and beat yolks until thick and lemon-colored. Beat yolks into mashed potatoes. Now beat egg whites until they peak; fold into mashed potatoes. Bake, in greased casserole, until puffed and golden brown (about 30 minutes). Before serving, sprinkle with shredded fresh petals. (A Feast of Flowers)

Marigold Wine

8 lbs sugar

2 lbs honey

3 gallons water

shells and whites of 3 eggs

8 quarts marigold petals

1 ½ lbs seedless raisins, chopped

5 Tbsp brewer's yeast, spread on both sides of a piece of toast

3 oranges

1 pint brandy

½ oz isinglass solution

Boil 7 lbs of the sugar, honey, and water together, and add the shells and whites of the eggs. Filter the shells and impurities out through fine muslin, and pour the boiling liquid over the petals and raisins in a tub. Cover it tightly, and leave for 24 hours, at which point stir, re-cover, and let stand for a further 3 days. Place the thinly pared rinds (no white) of 3 oranges and 1 pound white sugar in the bottom of a cask and pour the strained liquid on top. Float the toast on the surface to start the fermentation, and cover the bung hole lightly. When the wine has ceased frothing remove the toast and add 1 pint brandy and ½ oz isinglass solution, bung the cask firmly, and leave to mature for 3-5 months before bottling. (Mastering Herbalism)

Pagan Punch

1 part calendula flowers

1 part damiana leaves

1 part meadowsweet flowers

1 part red clover flowers

1 part sweet woodruff flowers

fresh fruit juice

honey or maple syrup to taste

fresh calendula flower petals

Make a strong infusion of herbs, using 1-2 oz of the mixture per quart of boiling water. Strain out the herbs. Add equal amount of fruit juice to the tea, cranberry and raspberry are good choices. Sweeten lightly with honey or maple syrup to taste. Serve chilled, garnished with fresh edible flower petals of calendula if desired. (Healing Tonics)

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