

DYER'S CHAMOMILE

C O T A T I N C T O R I A



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CULTURAL & HISTORICAL NOTES ...

Dyer's Chamomile, also known as Golden Marguerite, is a hardy perennial herb native to Europe and Western Asia. Historically, it has been prized for its vibrant yellow, daisy-like flowers, which produce excellent yellow, buff, and golden-orange dyes used in natural dyeing. In the realm of textile arts, artisans have long utilized the blossoms of Dyer's Chamomile to produce a spectrum of yellow, buff, and golden-orange hues. It's played a significant role in various cultural traditions. Turkish weavers, in particular, have utilized its blossoms to dye wool, contributing to the rich color palettes of the region. Incorporating these dyes into the intricate patterns of rugs, artisans often combined them with madder (*Rubia tinctorum*) to achieve rich tangerine hues. This practice not only enhanced the aesthetic appeal of Turkish carpets but also reflected a deep-seated cultural heritage in textile artistry.

Beyond its dyeing properties, Dyer's Chamomile has been appreciated for its sweet aromatic fragrance, bright green, feathery foliage and ornamental appeal in gardens. While its medicinal uses are limited, traditional medicinal practices employed the plant in various forms: teas made from the flowers or whole plant were consumed for their antispasmodic and diaphoretic effects; externally, poultices were applied to alleviate skin conditions, and leaves were used to soothe insect stings. While its medicinal use is less common today, Dyer's Chamomile remains a beloved plant among natural dyers and gardeners alike.

*Note: Dyer's Chamomile is botanically more related to chrysanthemums rather than *Matricaria chamomile*, so recognize their medicinal qualities are more akin to mums before steeping yourself tea.*

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PARTS USED
Flowers, fresh or dried

GERMINATION
14-28 days

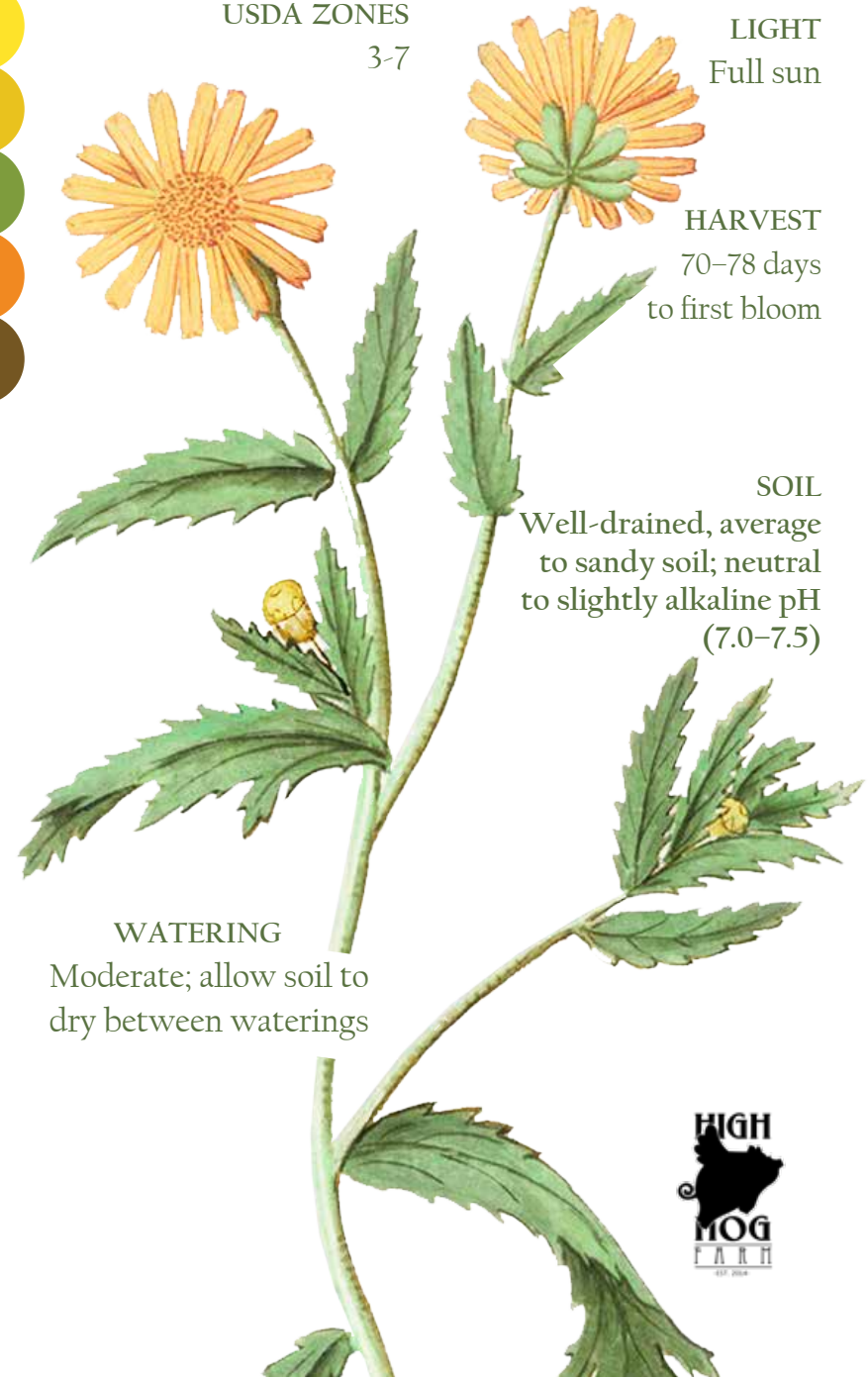
USDA ZONES
3-7

LIGHT
Full sun

HARVEST
70-78 days
to first bloom

SOIL
Well-drained, average
to sandy soil; neutral
to slightly alkaline pH
(7.0-7.5)

WATERING
Moderate; allow soil to
dry between waterings



HOW TO GROW...

Sowing: Start seeds indoors 4 weeks before the last frost. Sow seeds on the soil surface, as they require light to germinate, and maintain a temperature of 65–70°F (18–21°C). Germination occurs in 14–28 days. Alternatively, sow seeds directly outdoors in late May to early June.

Transplanting: Once seedlings have developed true leaves and the danger of frost has passed, transplant them outdoors, spacing plants 18 inches apart to ensure adequate air circulation.

Maintenance: Mulch around the base of the plants to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds. Deadhead spent flowers to promote continuous blooming and prevent self-seeding. In colder regions, consider mulching in late fall to protect the roots over winter.

Pest and Disease Management: Dyer's Chamomile is generally pest-resistant. However, young seedlings may be susceptible to slugs and snails; use organic deterrents as needed. Ensure good air circulation to prevent fungal diseases.

Note: Regular harvesting of flowers not only provides material for dyeing but also encourages continuous blooming, ensuring a steady supply for dyeing purposes throughout the growing season.

DYE TECHNIQUES TO TRY ...

Harvest flowers at full bloom and use them fresh or dried. For dyeing, pre-mordant fibers with alum to achieve bright yellow hues. Use dried chamomile at 50–100% weight of fiber (WOF) for medium to strong warm yellows. First, soak the chamomile in hot water for an hour. Add fiber and slowly bring the temperature up to about 80°C (180°F). Hold at temperature for about an hour. Allow the fibers to cool in the dye bath before rinsing. Combining Dyer's Chamomile with other natural dyes, such as indigo, can yield a range of colors, including greens.



REFERENCES/LEARN MORE ...

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