

C O S M O S

C O S M O S S U L P H U R E U S



highhog.farm

CULTURAL & HISTORICAL NOTES ...

Native to Mexico, Central America, and northern South America, sulfur cosmos have been cherished for their vibrant hues and ease of cultivation. Spanish priests in Mexico were so captivated by the orderly arrangement of the flower's petals that they named it "cosmos," derived from the Greek word for harmony or order. In various cultures, sulfur cosmos symbolize peace and tranquility. Their edible flowers are used in salads and teas, with traditional beliefs attributing antimicrobial properties to them. Historically, the flowers have been utilized as a natural dye source, producing orange-yellow hues for textiles. Their resilience and prolific blooming make them a favorite among gardeners and artisans alike.

HOW TO GROW...

Sowing: Directly sow seeds after the last frost, when soil temperatures reach at least 65°F (18°C). Scatter seeds on the soil surface and lightly rake them in, covering them with a thin layer of soil. Keep the soil moist until germination occurs, typically within 7 to 21 days.

Transplanting: For earlier blooms, start seeds indoors 4–6 weeks before the last frost. Transplant seedlings outdoors after the danger of frost has passed, spacing them 9–12 inches apart.

Maintenance: Regularly remove spent flowers to encourage continuous blooming and prevent self-seeding. Avoid over-fertilizing, as rich soil can lead to excessive foliage with fewer blooms.

Pest and Disease Management: Sulfur cosmos are generally pest-resistant but may attract aphids or slugs. Monitor plants regularly and employ organic control methods if necessary. Ensure proper spacing and air circulation to prevent powdery mildew.

Note: Regular harvesting of sulfur cosmos not only encourages continuous blooming but also provides a steady supply of flowers for dyeing purposes.

S
U
L
F
U
R
C
O
S
M
O
S
.
C
O
L
O
R
S
.
G
I
V
E
N



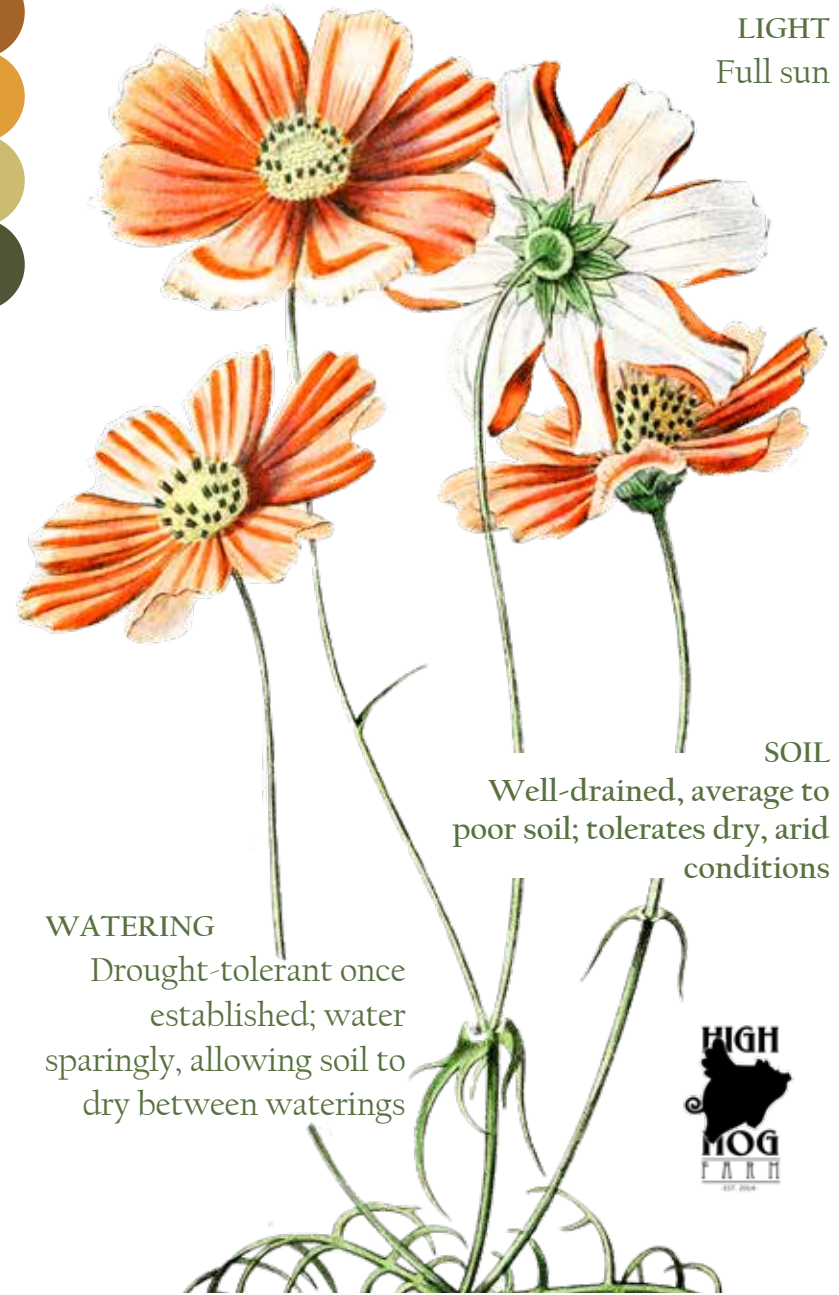
PARTS USED
Flowers, fresh or dried

GERMINATION
7-21 days

USDA ZONES
2-11

HARVEST
50-60 days

LIGHT
Full sun



SOIL
Well-drained, average to poor soil; tolerates dry, arid conditions

WATERING
Drought-tolerant once established; water sparingly, allowing soil to dry between waterings



DYE TECHNIQUES TO TRY ...

Use fresh or dried flowers to create a dye bath. Simmer the flowers in water to extract the dye, then strain. Pre-mordant natural fibers with alum to enhance color absorption, then submerge the fabric in the dye bath at approximately 180°F (82°C) for one hour, stirring occasionally. Adjusting the pH of the dye bath can shift colors; for instance, increasing alkalinity with ammonia can yield redder hues.

An alternative dyeing method involves solar dyeing: place mordanted fabric and sulfur cosmos petals in a sealed jar filled with water, then leave it in a sunny spot for several days. This gentle technique utilizes solar energy to extract and fix the dye onto the fabric.