Mexican Tarragon
Tagetes lucida

With a flavor similar to traditional French tarragon, but a better tolerance for drought, heat, and humidity, Mexican tarragon is a winner in the southern herb garden. Mexican tarragon, also called mint marigold or Mexican marigold, is beautiful in herb gardens or mixed in with annual and perennial plants. Used as an annual in cooler climates, Florida gardeners are lucky enough to enjoy Mexican tarragon year-round. Mexican tarragon is drought tolerant once established but it will grow best with occasional irrigation. A hard freeze will kill it to the ground but the plant usually recovers in the spring.

**Type:** perennial herb

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 through 11

**Uses:** herb garden; border; container

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 6 to 30 inches  
**Spread:** 6 to 18 inches

**Plant spacing:** 12 to 36 inches

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** acid to alkaline; clay; sand; loam

**Drought tolerance:** good

**Soil salt tolerances:** low

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** Slugs and snails can be a problem, especially for seedlings; Botrytis is an occasional disease problem

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