



The annual Burpee seed catalog was a staple of the Burpee business. It reached 4 million customers across the country by 1960.

Burpee Seeds. W. Atlee Burpee Co., 1959. https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/330701#page/27/mode/1up. Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Contributed by U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection. | www.biodiversitylibrary.org



Transcription: American Marigolds (Formerly Known as African Marigolds)

Nobody knows why Marigolds have been called African and French for they are native Americans. In France the big one (Tagetes erecta) is called "The Rose of India." The little one (Tagetes patula) that we call French is called "The Carnation of India." In India the Marigold is called "The Good Luck Flower."

Now we are calling the big one (Tagetes erecta) "The American Marigold." Because the word French has been most closely associated with the Dwarf Small-Flowered Marigold, we still list it as French to avoid confusion, although it, too, is a native American.

When Cortez conquered ancient Mexico he found Marigolds growing in the gardens there. He took seed back to Europe and soon they became the favorite flower for the devout to place at the altar of the Virgin Mary. Because of this they became known as Mary's Gold, and then as Marigold.

Some commercial growers want the Rose to be named our National Flower, but the Rose is a native of other countries and has an ancient association with bloodshed. For instance, "The War of the Roses." And the Rose already is the National Flower of England.

Some Corn growers want the Corn Tassel named our National Flower, but this is not a perfect flower and is not especially beautiful.

Marigolds are easy to grow from seed and do well in all parts of the United States. The Marigold is everybody's flower. It is gay but humble. It has no thorns.

We think the Marigold, the "Flower of Good Luck," the "Friendship Flower" should be named the American National Flower.