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and mulch  
more**

*For the avid gardener*

### Mad for marigolds

Look through the pages of any seed catalogue. Walk into any garden center in spring. You'll see dozens and dozens of marigolds in all sorts of different flower types: single flowers, doubles, crested types, carnation-types, even delicate lacy flowers.

It's a wonderful predicament, trying to decide what's best. For even with the dozens of marigolds to choose from, it's easy to keep all those different flower types straight.

Marigolds are divided into four basic groups: the dwarf French marigolds; the taller African (or American) marigolds; the lacy, fernlike signets; and a new class, the triploids. Each group contains several different flower types: crested, carnation, doubles, singles and others. Each variety, however, has special characteristics that make it easy to decide what's best for you.

**French Marigolds-** The French marigolds are dwarf, growing no higher than 12 inches. At one time, along with their small size, they bore small nondescript flowers,

'Bonanza' and 'Boy' marigold series are crested types. New for 1984 are 'Bonanza Harmony' with orange flowers and maroon collars; and 'Sunny Boy', with golden yellow flowers.

Companions to the crested marigolds are carnation or anemone types with broad, flattened petals and solid, bicolor or speckled colorings.

'Red Cherry' is a popular carnation type with a red color truer than other marigolds. The 'Queen' series is another popular carnation type. 'Queen Victoria', the latest addition to the series, has the same, unique, broadened petals in deep gold, lightly flecked with red.

Single French marigolds, such as 'Dainty Marietta' are also available with broad, single flowers. 'Spinwheel's' red and yellow stripes radiate out from the center of the flower.

Intermediate between single and the double is 'Tiger Eyes', a single marigold with just a trace of crested in the center.

French marigolds mentioned are compact and make excellent plants for borders or edgings - as well as fine container plants.

**African Marigolds-** The African (or American) marigolds, are the statuesque plants often used against fences or walls, as back-

drops or focal points for beds or even as small hedges to divide the garden.

Lovers of these tall marigolds can choose between two different flower types; the all-doubles and the carnation or anemone types.

The all-doubles have full fluffy flowers on plants that grow up to 36 inches tall. Flowers stretch 3-4 inches across and from a distance appear to be soft, fluffy balls of color. They're attractive close up, too, where their distinctive doubling and large size really stand out.

Some of the most dependable and popular varieties include the 'Inca', 'Jubilee'; and 'Lady' series.

The carnation American marigolds have a more flat-topped, broad flowered form with vivid, pure colors. 'Sunshot', a sparkling yellow, is early, with big 3-inch blooms.

**The Signets-** Signet marigolds are one of the best kept secrets in gardening. With their unusual, lacy flowers and fern-like foliage, they attract attention wherever they're planted. The lacy flowers have a very pleasing, delicate feeling to them. Their 10-12 inch size makes them suitable for borders, edgings or containers. Try 'Tangerine Gem' for outstanding performance.

**Triploids-** Triploid marigolds are crosses between American and

French marigolds. The result is a plant with the best characteristics of both - the sturdiness and vigor of the Americans with the compact habit of the French kinds. Because the triploids are 'mules' they turn all their energy into producing flowers instead of seed ... even in the hottest days of summer.

Both crested- and carnation-flowered triploids are available. One of the best crested varieties is 'Encore', a primrose, almost translucent yellow.

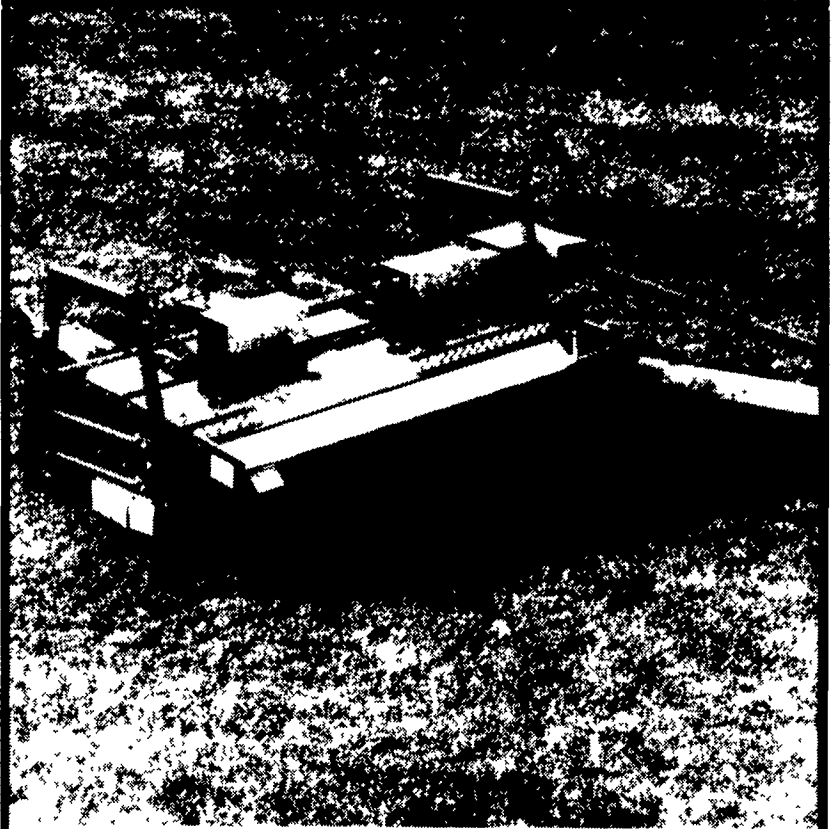


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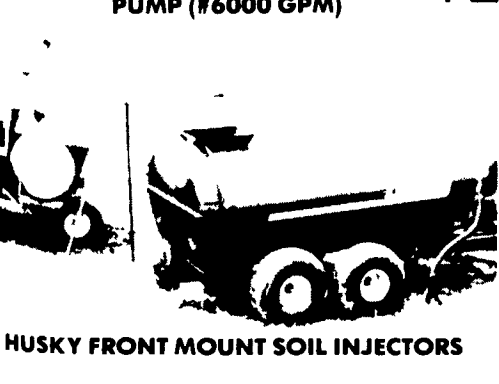
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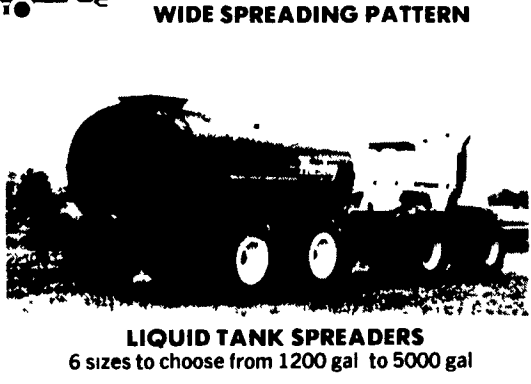
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