

Nasturtium

(Tropaeolum)

Two-inch, single and double blossoms on plants 8 to 15 inches tall. Climbing variety reaches 6 feet. Shiny, rounded, green leaves. Mixed colors and bicolors.

Type: Annual

Care

Plant seeds after danger of frost passes in full sun where summers are moderate; otherwise, in partial shade. Nasturtium will thrive in ordinary -even poor or sandy - soil.

Comments

Nasturtium often is included in organic gardens because its unusual scent may discourage the presence of damaging insects. Its leaves spice up a serving of cottage cheese; its flowers brighten a salad; and, strangest of all, its pickled seed can spark a meat dish. Known as Indian-cress, this product was popularized by the British.

Nasturtium grows quickly, with flowers in ranges of golden orange. Favored by hybridizers, varieties now span from dwarf to trailing or high climbers. New colors are jewellike, and new strains have double blooms.