

Nasturtium (there are many varieties and colors, e.g., “Jewel Mixture,” “Alaska,” “Peach Melba,” etc.)

(*Tropaeolum majus*)



Season: Spring – Annual (but should drop seeds and grow the next Spring.)

Sun Exposure: Morning sun to partial sun in the hot south.

Size: 16 in tall but there are dwarf varieties and trailing/climbing varieties that can reach 5ft.

Blooms: Late Spring through early Fall. They bloom once the temperatures start to rise. The blooms come in all varieties of rich colors: reds, yellows, oranges, pink and white.

Maintenance Category: Low. Nasturtiums do well in *relatively infertile soil* with good drainage. Soil that is too rich will result in abundant greenery, but few flowers. It does not need to be watered often and can survive a moderate drought, water about 1 inch per week. Can be grown in containers or in the ground. Trim the plant back for new growth, try to protect from freezes either bring indoors or cover. Don't worry if your nasturtium doesn't make it, it's likely that the seeds will offer new plants wherever the plant is placed either in a pot or in ground.

Highlights: It has light green waterlily-shaped leaves. Wonderful for use as a climbing riot of color on a fence or around a tree or trellis. Perfect for hanging baskets and colorful ground cover.

How to Use: The leaves and flowers are edible, offering a peppery sweet taste. Often appreciated for its colorful foliage, nasturtium blossoms make a lightly spicy edible garnish, too! To harvest: For the best fresh-cut flowers, harvest in the morning when the flowers are their freshest and the petals are just opening.