

# March 2026 Plant of the Month

## Desert Marigold

*Baileya multiradiata*

Plant Form: Perennial sub-shrub

Water Use: Very low

Mature Size: 18" - 20" tall & wide

Exposure: Full sun

Bloom Time: Spring – Summer, Fall (April – July, and again in Oct.  
if receives summer rain or if given summer water)

Native to: All of Western US and Mexico (below 6,000 feet)

Hardiness: Cold hardy to 10°F

Desert Marigold is a cheery, fast-growing but short-lived perennial with bright yellow flowers from spring through fall. At lower elevations, this wildflower may bloom continuously, and can flower anytime in mild winters. Flowers are held on slender stems high above the white-wooly leaves on the lower half of the stems and in a basal rosette. This low, mounded plant can tolerate heat, cold, full or reflected sun, and drought—but not overwatering, which causes root rot. This plant brightens up borders, rock and cactus gardens, masonry walls, and any garden space with good drainage and no organic mulch. While it is short-lived, it does reseed easily (seeds are best gathered in fall and spread for planting). Desert Marigold requires no pampering other than removing old flower heads, but loves a rock as a life partner.



Alliance for Water  
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening,  
contact your local water provider or go to

[www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac](http://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac)

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