

Chamomile

Matricaria chamomilla · Daisy family

DIFFICULTY

Easy

TYPE

Annual, direct sown

MATURITY

60–65 days to flower



SUN

Full–part sun



WATER

Regular



SOIL PH

6.0–7.5



SPACING

15–20cm



DEPTH

surface sown
(needs light)

01 Grown for the flowers

Unlike most herbs grown for leaf, chamomile is grown for its small daisy-like flowers — picked and dried for tea. Regular picking encourages more blooms.



02 Planting

METHOD	Surface sow — seed needs light to germinate, don't bury it.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Sow in spring or autumn.

04 Problems

- **Aphids** — occasional cluster on stems; hose off.
- **Powdery mildew** — humid, crowded conditions; space well.
- **Few other issues** — a generally easy, trouble-free plant.
- **Poor germination** — usually from burying seed too deep.

03 Growing care

- Keep soil surface moist until germination.
- Pick flowers regularly to encourage continued blooming.
- Water moderately — avoid extremes of wet or dry.
- Let a few flowers go to seed at season's end for self-sowing.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Flowers are fully open, petals starting to fold back slightly.
METHOD	Pick flower heads by hand.
CURING	Dry flowers flat on a screen or paper in a warm, airy spot.
STORAGE	Dried, airtight, a year or so.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Cabbage Onion	None major	Fast annual; rotate loosely.