

Description

Pyrethrum Chrysanthemum Cinerariaefolium, aka Tanacetum cinerariifolium Family: Asteraceae

Also called Dalmatian Chrysanthemum, the Pyrethrum is a perennial herbaceous plant that produces grey-green finely divided foliage along a stem reaching up to 75cm high and presenting a daisy-like flower up to 8cm in diameter.

Growing Tips

It likes a sunny position and well drained fertile soil. For best results plant 30cm apart.

Parts Used

Leaves and flowers

Uses

The main use for this herb is its insect-repellent component stemming from the chemical pyrethrin which is contained in its seed pods and is extracted and traded. Lower concentrations serve as a repellent so the plant makes a favourite companion plant as it keeps the insects away from neighbouring plants.

The fresh leaves are a pleasant addition to salads and stir-fry.

Origin & History

Pyrethrum originates in the Balkan region, Dalmatia in particular.

It was introduced to Africa in the 1920's and Kenya now produces 70% of the world's commercial Pyrethrum.

Other countries with commercial crops are Dalmatia and Japan.

