

For strength of heart, try a pinch of marigold



One of the last lovely flowers of summer is the marigold. Many years ago, they were used principally for making dye from their bright yellow petals. They were also used to hide the smell and taste of meat that wasn't fresh. They have been used for their medicinal value since early times. In 1973 they were said to be the most potent herb ever so far.

About 1900 the flower was popular for making a poultice to help heal even the most stubborn cuts and burns.

NICOLAS CULPEPER, a 16th century herbalist, wrote: "Marigold is of the sun and under the sun and therefore strengthens the heart."

It was used in broths to comfort the heart. The flower has also been used for female dooms, it, toothache and inflamed eyes and in medicines for the plague, measles and other ailments. In America, marigolds were used in great quantities during the Civil War to treat wounds and sprains. Marigold has also been used as a remedy for convulsions, typhoid and jaundice. It was recommended for its cooling, soothing effect as a tincture for sprains, bruises, cuts, burns and poison ivy. It has been said that marigold will also remove warts.

IN THE 1600s there was an amulet made from marigold petals and a bit of laurel wrapped around a wolf's tooth. If a woman wore this amulet, no one would speak ill of her. If a man carried it, he would be protected from physical dangers. If one were robbed, he would wear the amulet at night and would see who the robber was in his dream. And if the amulet were hidden in a church where a couple was originally married, all marital conflicts and troubles would cease.

Full of facts

The Michigan Historical Collections at the University of Michigan has more than 14 million manuscripts and 30,000 volumes, all historical materials related to the U.S. State of Michigan and its people.

Tax questions

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