

***TAGETES ERECTA* (ASTERACEAE), A NEW ESCAPE TO THE
FLORA OF TEXAS**

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ABSTRACT

Tagetes erecta, known under several common names including common or Aztec marigold, is reported as escaped from cultivation in Texas for the first time.

KEY WORDS: *Tagetes*, Asteraceae.

Tagetes erecta L., common or Aztec marigold, has been reported as escaped from cultivation in several states to the east and west of Texas including the adjacent states Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana (Cronquist 1980, Gandhi and Thomas 1989, Nature Serve 2004, Radford et. al. 1968, USDA 2004). Until now, the species has never been reported escaped in Texas (Correll and Johnston 1970, Hatch et. al. 1990, Jones et. al. 1997, Kartesz and Mecham 1999, Nesom and Brown 1998, Slona-Nelson 1996, Turner et. al. 2002). Approximately 20 plants were found on black clayey soil in a weedy lot recently cleared for construction. The flowers were in shades of both orange and yellow. These plants may be the result of direct seeding or contaminants in grass seeds. However, no other unusual weedy or commonly cultivated species were detected in the area. A key to the commonly escaped species of *Tagetes* can be found in Cronquist (1980), Gandhi and Thomas (1989), and Radford et. al. (1968).

Voucher specimen: **Walker Co.:** clayey disturbed area ca. 100 m, W of the corner of Hwy 75 and 10th St., 28 May 2004, *Keith* 701 (SBSC, SHST).

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