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Cosmos bipinnatus

[Synonyms : *Cosmos bipinnatus* var. *exaristatus*, *Cosmos caudatus*]

COSMEA is an annual. Native to Mexico it has dahlia-like, yellow-centred, white, red or pink flowers.

It is also known as Cosmos, *Fiederblättrige Schmuckblume* (German), Garden cosmos, *Kenikir* (Javanese), *Kosmos* (Afrikaans), *Krásenka zpeřená* (Czech), Mexican aster, *Punakosmos* (Finnish), *Rosenskära* (Swedish), *Schmuckkörbchen* (German), and *Ulam rajah* (Malay),.

Bipinnatus is a botanical term for a leaf divided into many small segments, producing a feathery effect and sometimes looking like a mass of small individual leaves.

In the Philippines and Malaysia the strong flavoured leaves are eaten as a vegetable.

Cosmea yields an orange-red dye.

The plant is believed to have been introduced to Europe in about 1796.

Those who attribute meanings to flowers associate cosmea with the month of October.