

Cempasúchil flower

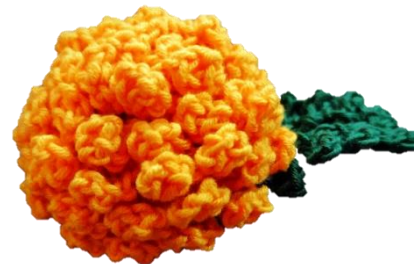
The cempasúchil (or Mexican Marigold) is used to celebrate Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) in Mexico, as the fragrance of these bright yellow-orange flowers is said to attract souls to the altar.

Suggested hook size: 3.5mm

Yarn weight: 4-ply, cotton.

Suggested yarn: Drops safran #11 sunshine, or #28 orange (50g). Drops loves you 7 #30 bottle green for the stem and leaf.

Gauge: Not important for this project.



Flower

Note: Petal = ch6, skip 3 of these chs, htr 3 into next 3 chains, slst into next stitch

Slip knot. Ch 2.

Round 1: Work 6 dc into 2nd chain from hook (6 sts)

Round 2: working into back loops only, ch1, [dc, ch1] into every st.(12 sts)

Round 3: working in back loops only, ch3, [htr, ch1] into every stitch until end. (24 sts)

Round 4: working in back loops only, ch3, skip chsp on row below, [htr, ch1, skip chsp] until end of row (24 sts).

You should now have a dome shape with plenty of front stitch loops free on the right side, ready to work petals into.

Round 5: Working into back loops only of round 4, work petal over each htr stitch, skipping every chsp, and working each slst into the next htr back loop. (12 petals)

Round 6: Working into front loops only, work petal into unworked chain stitches of round 4. Work each slst into next chain front loop. (12 petals) then slst to beginning of round 3.

Round 7: Working into front loop only, work petal into every htr of round 3, skipping chsps. Work each slst into next htr front loop (12 petals) then slst to beg of round 2.

Round 8: working into front loop only, work 12 petals, one into every st, including chains. Work slst into the next st. Slst to beg of round 1

Round 9: Working into front loop only, work petals into all 6 stitches of round 1, as in previous round.

Round 10: We now need to cover the hole in the top of the flower with petals. Inserting the hook through the centre hole and back out again between the stitches of round 1, work 4 petals

evenly around central hole. Slst around the post of next st of round 1 when working petals. Work final slst, then slst around post of final st of row 1, then bind off yarn. Use a needle to pull loose thread through to back of work.

Stem

Using green yarn, ch2.

Round 1: ch1, 6dc into furthest chain from hook.

Round 2: ch1. Working in back loops only, [2dc] in every st. (12 sts).

Round 3: ch2. Working in back loops only, [2htr] in every st. (24 sts).

Round 4: ch2, htr in every st (24 sts).

Slip stitch to loops around base of petals at outside of flower. Lightly stuff with wadding or yarn off-cuts as you go. Bind off green yarn and weave in tail.



Leaf

(worked in one round)

Ch16, then work slst into first two chains from hook.

Ch3, slst into 1st chain of ch3, slst into next 2 sts.

Ch4, slst into first ch of ch4 and next 2 sts.

Ch5, slst into first ch of ch5 and next 2 sts.

[Ch6 slst into first ch of ch6 and next 2 sts] x 3

Ch3 around last ch stitch, slst into first 2 stitches of other side of leaf.

[Ch6, slst into first ch of ch6. Skip 2 stitches, slst into next st] x 3

Ch5, slst into first ch of ch5. Skip 2 stitches, slst into next st.

Ch4, slst into first ch of ch4. Skip 2 stitches, slst into next st.

Ch3, slst into first ch of ch3. Skip 2 stitches, slst into next st.

Slst into centre of second slst worked at top of leaf.



Then slst down back of leaf, working around foundation ch sts (i.e put hook in through one stitch of starting Ch, and back out through the next, then work slst. This gives the leaf some strength against being stretched). Bind off yarn. Sew leaf onto stem.