

A Fasciated Stem in Desert Marigold - March 28, 2020

Though the cause of fasciation in a plant (cresting) is usually not known, the results are often glorious to behold. Most people know about creusting in saguaro cactus. Many other plants can form "crests" as well.

If you would like to explore the subject, you'll find information at:

- [Wikipedia](#)
- [University of Arkansas Extension](#)
- [Wisconsin Master Gardeners](#) (lots of photos)

You can find the crested desert marigold in our community about a foot from the curb at the intersection of lots 60 and 61 along Galileo. Look for utility box #36, then look to the right. I have marked it with a green plastic streamer.



Clockwise from top left: whole plant (arrow shows fasciated stem); closeup of stem, also showing normal stems; the flower heads at the top of the fasciated stem. In desert marigold, usually there is one flower head at the end of each stem. The fasciated stem has multiple flower heads (arrows).

Photos and text by Mary Welch-Keesey