

Basil

Ocimum basilicum

Also called sweet basil, this plant is an herb in the Lamiaceae (mint) family and native to the tropical regions of Africa and Asia. Thai and Genovese basil are cultivars of this plant. The fragrant edible leaves are great in soups, stews, and other meat dishes. Sweet basil prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soils. It can be grown from seed or is easily transplanted and should be done so after the last frost. Prune by pinching the tips of long stems and any flower buds. This promotes a branching, bushy form.

Type: herb

USDA hardiness zones: 3-11

Uses: edible, Plant tops can be used to make green and yellow dyes.

Origin: tropical regions of Africa and Asia

Height: 0 ft. 4 in. - 3 ft. 0 in.

Spread: 0 ft. 4 in. - 1 ft. 2 in.

Light requirement: full sun

Soil tolerances: moist, well drained

Drought tolerance: low

Soil salt tolerances: moderate

Invasive potential: not invasive

Pest resistance: relatively pest resistant

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