African blue basil is a sterile hybrid of an East African camphor basil and a standard garden variety called ‘Dark Opal’. The amount of pollinator activity on this selection makes it a benefit to any garden. African blue basil is alive with pollinators when in bloom. Although edible, African blue basil has a bit of camphor flavor from one of its parents that some may not care for. This plant is more heat tolerant than other basils. Because it does not produce seed, African blue basil does not need to be pinched back in order to keep the plant growing like other basils. The plant can be easily grown as an annual down to zone 5.

**Type:** tender perennial herb

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11

**Uses:** border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; accent

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** slightly acid to slightly alkaline; clay; sand; loam

**Drought tolerance:** low

**Soil salt tolerances:** low

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests or diseases

Photo: Beth Bolles, UF/IFAS Extension, Escambia County