

Dill

Anethum graveolens L.

Dill, a member of the parsley family, is a strong-smelling fennel-like plant. Dill often is grown in vegetable gardens around the state. The variety that does best in Florida is 'Long Island Mammoth.' Dill has uses beyond the culinary - it's also the host plant of the Black Swallowtail butterfly. Dill grows well on an organic soil such as muck and on any other soil suitable for growing vegetables. Normally, the same cultural practices used for a vegetable garden should be used for growing dill. Dill is commonly used for flavoring pickles. Dried or freshly chopped dill leaves are used on broiled or fried meats and fish, in sandwiches and in fish sauces.

Type: biannual grown as an annual - self seeds

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 11

Uses: herb

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 2 to 4 feet **Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 12 inches

Light requirement: full sun to part shade

Soil tolerances: acid; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: low

Soil salt tolerance: high

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: few pests or diseases; tomato hornworms and anise swallowtail butterfly caterpillars eat stems and foliage

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Photo: James M. Stephens