

Basil



Basil is a summer annual. Some Thai basil will make it through a very mild winter, but not many. Sweet basil is easy to grow from seed. It is a truly summer herb and is not cold hardy. It will freeze at 32 degrees, but basil will also reseed so pick a place you would like to have it permanently and it may please you by returning year after year. You should keep the flowers nipped so that you maintain the full flavor in the leaves but you can also eat the flowers. Basil is originally from warm India but it is used so extensively in Italy that most of us think of it as Italian. It has been hybridized extensively and there are many varieties. The purple variety is a hybrid. Cinnamon basil is very popular as is Thai basil which makes a strong, branched upright plant. There is also lemon basil.

Basil is a taller herb growing to about 36 inches. It likes a little afternoon protection but with good water it can grow in direct sun.

