

Mint

We don't use mint enough. It makes a wonderful tea but many of the mints are excellent in salads, a great addition to chicken stock soups, or added to green peas and as a sauce (with vinegar and sugar) for lamb.

There are a LOT of different mints. Many of them are not interested in our hot, temperamental weather. But those that are happy here want to be on the south side of your house. They will thrive there like no other place in your yard. They must have afternoon shade and never, never put your mint on the west side of your house. The first rule of mint is that you really should grow it in a pot. Otherwise, if it does well, it will take you over. And even those grown in a pot are forever sneaking into the pot next to them or crawling out the back of their pot when you aren't paying attention. Mints like moist rich soil. If you have a problem faucet that drips, put a pot of mint under it. Or if you have a place where the condensate from your air conditioner drips, mint will be happy there too.

Few mints get taller than 18" and most grow to about 6". They will grow from cuttings or root cuttings and although you can buy mint seed, a cutting will get there faster.

Spearmint is easy to grow while peppermint can be temperamental. I love my apple mint which grows to 18 inches and is a soft velvety green. Chocolate mint does well here and pineapple mint which has a variegated leaf does well also. Orange mint was not meant for this climate and few lemon mints do well here either.

