

Rosemary

There are many varieties of rosemary. The name actually means Dew of the Sea and it is an excellent choice for coastal gardens. Rosemary has a very oily sap with a strong favor almost like a pine. Do not plant rosemary up against your house since the oil sap makes it a fire hazard. The bushy variety most commonly found here will grow to 30 by 30 inches. It is susceptible to web worm late in the summer. It will kill the plant, so if you see a die back patch on your plant, immediately treat with insecticide. The prostrate variety will drape over pots and walls.

Rosemary makes a hardy evergreen perennial in your garden. It is drought tolerant and can take full sun—even in August! The prostrate variety blooms small pale blossoms. Some bush varieties bloom blue flowers. Rosemary should be grown from cuttings taken in the fall. It is difficult to start. It can be grown from seeds but if you need any within the next year or so, go with cuttings because it grows very slowly from seed.

Rosemary is a great herb for chicken and pork. Try dusting a pork chop with rosemary, then with flour (lightly) and then frying in a small amount of oil. It's a must for your herb mixture for roasting potatoes in the oven. The upright variety is preferred over the prostrate for cooking.

