

Basil

2017

Basil (*Ocimum* spp.) is a tender herb grown as an annual in Wisconsin, prized for its strong spicy-sweet aroma. Essential oils give distinct flavors such as camphor, licorice and lemon. Basil is sensitive to the cold and does best in hot, dry conditions. It is excellent for container gardening. Continually harvest the leaves to discourage flowering and increase overall yields, although the flowers can be very ornamental. Basil can be used as a companion plant to repel aphids, mites, and tomato hornworms.

‘Amethyst Improved’

Color: purple

Height: 16-20”

A purple Genovese-type basil! Thick, turned-down leaves are nearly black in color.

‘Aroma 2’

Color: green

Height: 20-24”

Genovese-type basil with *Fusarium* disease resistance. 3” long leaves are glossy, dark green. Classic basil aroma.

‘Blue Spice’

Color: green

Vanilla overtones and strong basil scent add flavor to salads or poultry. Green leaves and purple flowers look great in a bouquet!

‘Dolce Fresca’

Color: green

Height: 12-14” tall

AAS winner. Ornamental edible! Compact variety only grows a foot wide, yet has large leaves with classic basil flavor. Great in containers or edging. Late flowering.

‘Genovese’

Color: green

Height: 24”-30”

This is the traditional Italian basil! Leaves are 3” long and shiny. Use fresh or dried in Italian cuisine. Relatively slow to bolt.

‘Holy’

Color: green

Height: 18-24”

“Sacred basil” leaves are 1½” long with red stems. A common ingredient in Thai cooking and teas, also used in Ayurvedic practice.

‘Red Freddy’

Color: purple

Height: 21”

Deep purple Genovese-type basil with smooth, broad leaves.

‘Sweet’

Color: green

Height: 18”

Perfect for pesto! This basil is aromatic and flavorful. A classic.

‘Sweet Dani’

Color: green

Height: 18 – 24”

AAS winner. This lemony sweet basil is very high in citral and essential oils. Wonderful with fish, in salads or desserts.

‘Sweet Thai’

Color: green

Height: 12”-18”

Authentic Thai basil flavor is spicy with anise-clove aroma. Attractive purple stems and blooms. Green leaves are 2” long.