

Common Herbs for Santa Clara County

Perennial Herbs	Height	Propagation	Cultural Conditions & comments	Uses
Bay Laurel Laurus Nobilis	8 ft.or more	seed or cuttings	full sun to part shade makes nice tall shrub or tree, can keep pruned, can keep in container several years	leaves used for seasoning meats, veg. dishes, pasta, soups
Bee Balm Monarda sp.	3-4'	seed, divisions	full sun to part shade, moist soil, blooms late spring-fall , attracts bees & hummingbirds	flowers edible use in salads and teas
Chives Allium schoenoprasum	1 - 1.5'	seed, divisions	full sun to part shade moist soil, several types of chives, fine leaf chive smaller plant. Garlic chives larger with white flower	flowers & leaves edible, salads, veggies., esp.potatoes, anywhere onions are used
Chamomile Chamaemelum nobilis	2" - 6"	seeds, divisions	Full sun to part shade, somewhat drought tolerant once established, can form mat, can be invasive, reseeds easily, white daisy like flowers attract beneficial insects,	flower petals used in salad,flowers in tea
Hyssop, Lavender or Anise Agastache foeniculum	3-6 ft	seeds, divisions	Lavender-mauve dense flowers on spikes attract hummingbirds and bees. Full sun, must be kept moist. Flowers, petals, young leaves have a flavor like rootbeer plus anise.	young leaves and flowers used for teas, salad, desserts, breads
English or FrenchLavender Lavandula or sp.	1-2.5'	seed, cuttings, divisions	Full sun well drained soil, tolerates dry conditions, attracts bees. Leaves and flowers are edible	Used in salad, tea, on cheese, in chicken dishes, desserts
Lemon Balm Melissa officinalis	2'	seed, cuttings, divisions	full sun to partial shade can be very invasive, recommend keeping in containers	teas, fish, chicken, vegetables
Lemon Verbena Aloysia triphylla	to 6'	cuttings	full sun-part shade, is deciduous or partially deciduous evergreen herb-shrub, drought tolerant once established	iced drinks, custards, fruit salads
Lemongrass Cymbopogon citratus	to 4'	divisions, seeds	full sun, warm weather,moist but good drainage, mulch around plant, dies down in winter if frosty, tender perennial, is a fast growing grass in warm climates	teas, fish, poultry, soups, curries, thai cuisine

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Marjoram <i>Origanum majorana</i>	1' - 2'	seed or cuttings	tender perennial, full sun, pinch before flowering to keep leafy mounding, spreads	milder than oregano, use in pasta, tomato sauce, pizza, soups
MINT, peppermint, mentha piperata, spearmint mentha spicata	1'-3'	seed, divisions, cuttings	full sun, part shade, mints can be very invasive, plant in containers when possible	leaves flavor fruit, in drinks, teas, desserts
Oregano <i>Origanum vulgare</i>	1' - 2'	seed or cuttings	full sun, spreads, hardy, can tolerate heavy frost	pasta, pizza, soups, stews, veggies, salads
Rosemary <i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	3-6'	seed or cuttings	full sun, very drought tolerant, needs good drainage	pasta, pizza, soups, stews, meat, breads, veggies,
Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i>	1-2'	seed, cuttings, divisions	full sun, good drainage, can tolerate some drought, attracts bees & hummingbirds	soups, meat, dressing, veggies, eggs, salads
Stevia (Sugar Plant) <i>Stevia rebaudiana</i>		seeds, cuttings	full sun or partial shade if hot afternoon sun, moist rich soil, good drainage, mulch soil around plants to help shallow roots stay cool, dies down in winter, tender perennial	leaves in teas, used as sweetner and sugar substitute, can dry leaves, use like sugar
French Tarragon <i>Artemesia dracunculus</i>	2'	division, cuttings	Full sun - partial shade dies down in winter, good in containers	salads, fruit, vinegars, eggs, cheese, fish
Thyme <i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	6"-10"	seed, cuttings	full sun, good drainage, can tolerate some drought, old plants get woody, start new plants every 3-4 yrs, easy by taking rooted cuttings from existing plants	meats, soups, dressing, veggies
Annual & Biennial Herbs				

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Borage Borago officinalis	2'	seed	best in full sun grows fast to large plant great for bees	flowers edible & used in summer drinks, young leaves edible in small quantities
Chervil Anthriscus cerefolium	10"	seed	best in part shade, grows fast cut off flowers to encourage leafy growth, mulch under plants goes to seed in hot weather flavor milder than parsley	leaves used in soups, salads, mild anise taste use like parsley, popular in France
Cilantro Coriandrum sativum	1-2'	seed	full sun - part shade if hot afternoons, mulch under plants, seed is called coriander, grows & produces seeds fast	salads, Mexican, Asian, Mediterranean foods, & sauces
Dill Anethum graveolens	1-3'	seed	full sun to partial shade, moisture when young, attracts beneficial insects	seeds and leaves in salads, breads, veggies, grilled fish
Fenugreek Trigonella foenum-graecum	15"-2'	seed	Is a legume, grows fast, can grow in winter. Full sun, constant moisture. Sprouts, new leaves, and ground seeds are edible, taste similar to maple flavor	Exotic flavor, young leaves flavor potatoes, salads, sandwiches, eggs, use ground seeds in Indian cuisine
Fennel Foeniculum vulgare	2-4'	seed	full sun, moist soil, cool season herb in Calif., can be perennial, preferred plant for swallowtail butterfly,	aniselike flavor, salads, soups, meat dishes
Nasturtium Tropaeolum majus	1'-2'	seed	sun to partial shade some varieties mound, others vine	flowers & leaves edible, adds peppery taste to salads
Parsley Petroselinum crispum	5" - 1 ft	seed (slow to germinate, soak seeds first)	is a biennial, full sun - partial shade, mulch under plants, keep moist	salads, stews, soup, veggies, meats, fish, sauces
Summer Savory Satureja hortensis	1'-1.5'	seed	Full sun, well drained moist soil	sweet, peppery thyme flavor, salads, lentils, dressings, stews, soups, veggies, tea