



Culinary Herbs in the Garden

Culinary herbs have been used for seasoning food throughout recorded history and they are well-suited to growing in our Mediterranean climate. Culinary herbs all prefer well-drained soil, sun, good air circulation, and infrequent, deep watering. If you are not growing the herbs for seed, prune off the flowers to encourage the plant to put its energy into the leaves and not into seed production. Harvest young, fresh leaves in the morning. Some herbs can become invasive, so they are best grown in pots. Herbs in the landscape should be labeled so that you will not eat inedible plants by mistake. Try not to use pesticides or fungicides on edible plants. Carefully follow pre-harvest interval (PHI) if using a pesticide. Do not use herbicides near edibles.

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	DESCRIPTION	GROWING REQUIREMENTS
Basil	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Summer annual; bushy with shiny rounded green, red, or purple leaves. Height 12-24"	Full sun, regular water. Plant in the spring when the weather is above 50°F. Prune off flowers for the longest harvest. May benefit from afternoon shade.
Bay	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Aromatic shrub or tree with leathery oblong green leaves. Ht. to 65 ft.	Well-drained soil, full sun to light shade. Harvest leaves year-round. Plant in a pot when space is limited.
Chervil	<i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i>	Cool season annual; parsley-like foliage. Ht. 18".	Produces flowers and seeds above 85°F. Plant in the fall or early spring in a sunny location.
Chives & Garlic Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> & <i>Allium tuberosum</i>	Perennial; mild member of the onion family; cylindrical leaves and flower are edible. Ht. 18-24".	Full sun, well-drained soil. Space plants 8-10" apart. Reseeds easily so remove flowers quickly. Both types of chives may die back in the winter.
Cilantro (foliage)/Coriander (seed)	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	Cool season annual; parsley-like foliage with seeds produced in the fall. Ht. 12-36".	Full sun to partial shade. Rich, well-drained soil. Plant in the fall or early spring and continuously cut the foliage. At 85°F, flowers produced; harvest seeds when dry.
Cumin	<i>Cuminum cyminum</i>	Summer annual; small, long, and narrow leaves with white to pink flowers. Ht. 4-20".	Plant when above 60°F. Full sun, well-drained soil. Light shade above 85°F. Harvest seeds when dry.
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Cool season annual; feathery blue green leaves with seeds produced in the summer. Ht. 18-36".	Full sun, well-drained, moist soil. Harvest leaves for use fresh or allow seed heads to dry for later use.
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Perennial; feathery green or bronze foliage. Ht. 48-60"	Full sun, well-drained soil. Foliage can be cut regularly. Harvest seed before it is fully dry. Do not plant near dill.
Garlic	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Winter annual; harvest bulbs in early summer.	Plant individual garlic cloves 4-6" apart and 2" deep in rich, well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Plant in late fall and harvest when tops die back to 2-3 green leaves. Spring garlic can be harvested and used like green onions.
Horseradish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Perennial; pungent peppery root. Ht. 24-36".	As horseradish is invasive, plant roots in a large, deep pot and cover with 2" of soil. Full sun. Keep moist in the summer and harvest in the late fall.
Lemongrass	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Perennial; blue green grass-like leaves. Ht. 36".	Grow in a pot as it spreads easily and is frost tender. It likes moisture retentive soil and full sun.



COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	DESCRIPTION	GROWTH REQUIREMENTS
Marjoram	<i>Origanum majorana</i>	Perennial; low-growing bush with small green-green leaves and wiry stems. Ht. 10-20".	Well-drained soil in full sun. Harvest leaves spring through fall.
Mint	<i>Mentha</i> spp.	Perennial; a profusion of species and leaf types. Ht. 18-48".	Mint can become VERY invasive; it is best to grow it in a container with well-drained soil and partial shade during the summer. Mint will spread quickly if allowed to go to seed; cut off flowers before they form seed.

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