



Basil Varieties

Sweet Basil *Ocimum basilicum*

Sweet basil is a generic term for many unnamed varieties of basil. They tend to be large leaved and grow from 24 to 36 inches tall. They have wonderful fragrance and are excellent for culinary purposes.

Lemon Basil *Ocimum xcitriodorum*

A wonderful lemony flavored basil that is excellent in teas, pestos and chicken dishes. It is one of many hybrids of *O. basilicum* x *O. americanum*. It grows 18 to 24 inches tall and has light green pointed leaves. Lemon basil tends to be early flowering so be especially vigilant about pinching to encourage branching and leaf production.

Cinnamon Basil *Ocimum* 'Cinnamon'

A very attractive basil with a strong taste of cinnamon combined with other basil flavors. The plant will grow to 30 inches and has beautiful whorls of purple that stand above the glossy, green foliage. It is excellent in bouquets, teas and fruit dishes. For an interesting twist, add the chopped leaves to your favorite meat loaf recipe.

Anise Basil *Ocimum* 'Anise'

This is a somewhat lanky growing basil with a sweet licorice flavor. It grows to 30 inches and has pinkish whorls of flowers. It is also called Licorice Basil

Lettuce Leaf Basil *Ocimum basilicum* 'Crispum'

An attractive basil with excellent flavor. Growing to 24 inches in height, lettuce leaf basil has large, crinkled bright green leaves.

Siam Queen Basil *Ocimum basilicum* 'True Thai' (*O.b.* 'Siam Queen')

A 1997 All American Selection, this is a basil with attractive purple flowers arranged in a "blocky" fashion on the plant. It grows to 24 inches tall and looks especially nice when placed in the garden alongside pink blossomed plants. It has a strong, spicy, licorice aroma. The plant seems to benefit from heavy pinching while young.

Opal Basil *Ocimum* 'Dark Opal'

Purple Ruffles Basil *Ocimum* 'Purple Ruffles'

Red Rubin Basil *Ocimum* 'Red Rubin'

These purple leaved basil varieties are attractive additions to the garden, have good flavor and add a beautiful rose color to herbal vinegar. Research indicates that these colorful basil varieties may have *O. basilicum* and *O. forskolei* in their genetic background. Purple Ruffles has large crinkled leaves. All may grow to 24 inches.

Fine Leaf Basil *Ocimum basilicum* 'Minimum'

A small basil growing to 12 inches. Also called Greek Basil, it has a splendid pungent flavor. Because of its small size it is excellent grown as a border or in pots.

Spicy Globe Basil *Ocimum* 'Spicy Globe'

Another hybrid of *Ocimum basilicum* x *O. americanum* this delightful tasting basil that is also highly ornamental. Growing to 12 inches tall, the plant naturally forms a wonderful globe shape that is useful in flower beds and container gardening. The small leaves are bright green.

African Blue Basil *Ocimum* 'Dark Opal' x *O. kilmandscharicum*

This is an attractive ornamental basil useful for bouquets and flower beds. When in bloom it is highly attractive to bees. The scent is strongly camphor-like. It is a hybrid plant growing to 36 inches. The leaves are purplish green.

Holy Basil *Ocimum tenuiflorum*

An attractive basil growing to 24 inches it may also be found listed as *Ocimum sanctum*. It has smaller flowers than other basil varieties. Other basil varieties are frequently mislabeled as 'Holy Basil' in the United States, let flower size help you in identifying the correct plant. The medium sized leaves have a blunt tip. The plant is quite bushy and is a good ornamental in the garden. The pungent aroma is unique. Holy Basil may reseed itself. Also called Tulsi Basil.