Corsican Basil

Ocimum basilicum 'Corsican'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 14 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

A culinary variety that produces purple variegated leaves with a strong flavor, on a rounded bushy plant that is slow to bolt; purplish-red flowers in summer; pinch stems to promote leaf growth; great for mixed containers, herb gardens, and annual beds



Corsican Basil foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Corsican Basil is an annual herb that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The fragrant oval green leaves with showy deep purple variegation which emerge deep purple in spring are usually harvested from early summer to early fall. The leaves have a pleasant taste and a pleasant fragrance.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Seasoning
- Sauces



Corsican Basil foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Corsican Basil will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 14 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated herb garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Corsican Basil is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.