Florence Fennel

Foeniculum vulgare var. azoricum



Florence Fennel fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Finocchio, Bulbing Fennel

Description:

Delicious and eye catching, this wonderful variety produces large bulbous bases with celery like stalks and fine fern like foliage; mild anise flavor adds a beautiful touch to salads or superb roasted, caramelized or charred

Edible Qualities

Florence Fennel is an annual vegetable plant that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. The entire above-ground parts of the plant are edible, and are typically harvested when mature. The edible parts have a savory taste with a crunchy texture and a pleasant fragrance.

The plant is most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Baking
- Pickling

Planting & Growing

Florence Fennel will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. This vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant is typically grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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 species is not originally from North America, and it is considered by many to be an heirloom plant.

Florence Fennel is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.