Amazel Basil™ Sweet Italian Basil

Ocimum basilicum 'UF16-23-2'



Amazel Basil Sweet Italian Basil foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Italian Large Leaf Basil

Description:

A large and vigorous ornamental herb producing flower spikes adorned with white flowers in mid summer; aromatic deep green leaves; great for containers, herb gardens, and beds; seed sterile variety that is heat tolerant and resistant to downy mildew

Edible Qualities

Amazel Basil Sweet Italian Basil is an annual herb that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The large fragrant pointy green leaves can be harvested at any time in the season. The leaves have a delicious taste and a pleasant fragrance.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Drying
- Seasoning

Planting & Growing

Amazel Basil Sweet Italian Basil will grow to be about 32 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. 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.

Amazel Basil Sweet Italian Basil is a good choice for the edible 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.