



ALMANAC

Thursday, May 1, 2025



ORDER YOUR ALMANAC TODAY!

HOME > GARDENING > GROWING GUIDES

How to Grow Parsley Plants: The Complete Guide to Parsley



Learn how to plant, grow, and harvest parsley in your very own garden.

Bo	<i>Petroselinum</i>
tan	<i>crispum</i>
ica	
I	
Na	
me	
:	

Pla	<u>Herb</u>
nt	
Ty	
pe:	

FREE GUIDE!



Ex [Part](#)
po- [Sun](#)
sur
e:

Soi [Slightly](#)
l [Acidic](#)
pH [to](#)
: [Neutral](#)

Planting, Growing, and Harvesting Parsley

By [Catherine Boeckmann](#)
Last Updated: April 24, 2025



Sign up for daily gardening advice and tips

Enter your email address

SIGN UP

ADVERTISEMENT

Parsley is a biennial plant with bright green, feather-like leaves. It’s in the same family as dill and carrots and is most commonly used as a garnish. Here’s how to grow parsley in your own garden.

At Home D...l

This popular herb is used in sauces, salads, and especially soups, as it lessens the need for salt. Not only is parsley the perfect garnish, but it's also good for you; it's rich in iron and vitamins A and C!

BUY SEEDS NOW

Native to Mediterranean Europe, the parsley plant (*Petroselinum crispum*) is a biennial but is usually grown as an annual in home gardens. After the first year, the leaves tend to become more bitter and tough, but the plant will gladly reseed itself in temperate zones.

- [A How-to Guide: Companion Planting with Herbs](#)
- [How to Grow Dill Plants: The Complete Guide](#)
- [How to Grow Rosemary Plants: The Complete Guide](#)

PLANTING

Pick a spot that gets full sun (6+ hours of sunlight) and has well-draining soil that's rich in organic matter. This herb needs more fertile soil than most herbs. [Soil pH](#) should ideally be around 6.0—slightly acidic.

Try to also choose an area that is weed-free; it'll be easier to see the parsley sprouting.

When to Plant Parsley

Parsley seeds can be started indoors or sown directly in the garden. However, the taproot of parsley plants is delicate, so take extra care if transplanting!

the [last spring frost date](#).

- Sow seeds outdoors 3 to 4 weeks before the last spring frost, as parsley is a slow starter.
- For the best germination, soil should be around 70°F (21°C), though parsley seeds will germinate in temperatures as low as 50°F (10°C). [Learn how to warm your soil in the spring](#).

How to Plant Parsley

- The germination rate of parsley seeds tends to be low, so consider soaking the seeds overnight before sowing to improve your chance of success.
- Sow parsley seeds 1/4 inch deep.
- Sow seeds about 6 to 8 inches apart. For larger plants, sow about 8 to 10 inches apart.
- Be sure to keep the soil moist while seeds germinate.
- It can take 2 to 4 weeks for seedlings to appear.
 - **Tip:** Plant [radish](#) seeds in the gaps between parsley seeds. The radishes will sprout and grow be-

- Indoors, you can use a grow light to help seedlings grow. Make sure it remains at least two inches above the leaves at all times.



ADVERTISEMENT

GROWING

Read more about how to grow parsley plants.

- Lightly mulch around the plants to conserve moisture.

Types

- **Flat-leaf varieties:** Use in cooking because they have better flavor and are easier to work with than curly-leaf parsley
- **Curly-leaf varieties:** Use when you want a fancier garnish

HARVESTING

- When the leaf stems have at least three segments, parsley is ready to be harvested.
- Cut leaves from the outer stems of the plant whenever you need them. Leave the inner portions of the plant to mature. Ideally, allow 2 to 3 weeks for regrowth between major harvests.
- If you want fresh parsley throughout the winter, replant a parsley plant in a pot and keep it in a sunny window.

How to Store Parsley

and keep them in the refrigerator.

- Another method of storage is drying the parsley. Cut the parsley at the base and hang it in a well-ventilated, shady, and warm place. Once it's completely dry, crumble it up and store it in an airtight container.

GARDENING PRODUCTS



Vegetable ...

\$8.99

BUY NOW



Housepla...

\$9.99

BUY NOW



All Purpos...

\$8.79

BUY NOW

PESTS/DISEASES

- Aphids
- Stem rot
- Leaf spots

Parsley is a favorite of **black swallowtail butterfly caterpillars** as well.

WIT AND WISDOM

- Add a [parsley infusion](#) to bathwater to soothe and cleanse.
- In the [language of flowers](#), parsley symbolizes festivity.

RECIPES

**VEGETABLE SOUP WITH PARSLEY
DUMPLINGS**

HERBS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Catherine Boeckmann



Catherine Boeckmann loves nature, stargazing, and gardening so it's not surprising that she and The Old Farmer's Almanac found

in the state of Indiana. [Read More](#)
from [Catherine Boeckmann](#)

MORE LIKE THIS



**A How-to
Guide:
Companion
Planting with
Herbs**



**How to Grow
Dill Plants:
The Complete
Guide**



**How to Grow
Rosemary
Plants: The
Complete
Guide**



**How to Grow
Carrots: The
Complete
Guide**



**How to Grow
Kohlrabi: The
Complete
Guide**



**10 Fast-
Growing
Vegetables for
Cool Weather**

ADVERTISEMENT

COMMENTS

[ADD A COMMENT](#)

Pat Dyer (not verified) 2 months ago

Live in NJ. After spraying for insects with an organic spray, I brought my beautiful Italian parsley plant into the house placing it in a cool hallway with lots of sun. It looks nice and healthy even now in February with minimal foliage loss. I will be taking it outside into the shade probably in May and then after a few weeks will move it to a sunnier location. My Austrian grandmother would tell my mother to plant things

ADVERTISEMENT

month and it is something I remember well.

Parsley is such a versatile herb.

REPLY

Meredith Ramke (not verified) 1 year ago

Can I restart in water to root.

REPLY

Donna JEROME (not verified) 2 years 8

months ago

What do you do when parsley flowers?

REPLY

The Editors 2 years 8 months ago

Pinch off the flowers when they appear in order to prolong the growth of the leafy bits!

REPLY

My Italian parsley leaves have mutated! Instead of looking like regular parsley leaves the leaves look long and thin. They taste ok. What's wrong?

REPLY

Geri Reski (not verified) 3 years 2 months ago

Definitely cut tops off...if long and leggy this should stimulate growth or side shoots. This happens with cilantro too. Just cut tops off and it will also delay bolting.

REPLY

The Editors 4 years 10 months ago

Heat and dry soil can cause parsley to become long and thin, but so can leaving it alone (not harvesting it). Trim/harvest it and water generously. Then continue to trim it from time to time. This will cause it to

[REPLY](#)

Elizabeth Johnson (not verified) 5 years 2 months ago

Generally how many days does it take for the parsley to be ready to harvest?

[REPLY](#)

The Editors 5 years 2 months ago

Parsley is ready to cut or harvest in about 70 to 90 days after planting. Your seed packet should list days to maturity for the respective variety.

[REPLY](#)

Dan Casey (not verified) 5 years 9 months ago

I'm a person who never understood the appeal of parsley. Fresh parsley has essentially NO flavor to me whatsoever! It's odd, but I find dried parsley both fragrant and tasty....

REPLY

MORE COMMENTS

THE OLD FARMER'S STORE



The Old Farmer's Almanac Garden Journal

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS TO BLOOM

\$15.95

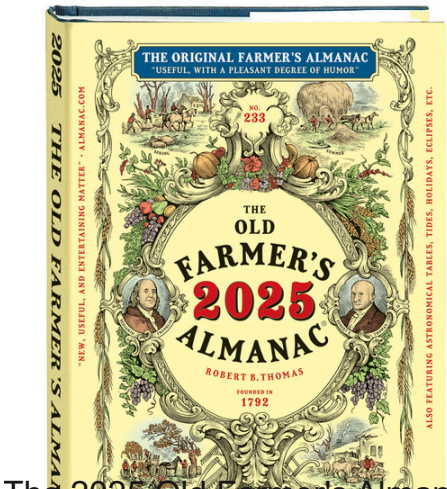
BUY NOW



THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC GARDENING FOR EVERYONE VOLUME 1

\$9.99

BUY NOW



BUY NOW

BUY NOW

ADVERTISEMENT

Our Brands

[The Old Farmer's
Almanac for Kids](#)

[Yankee Magazine](#)

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

[NH Business Review](#)

[New Hampshire
Magazine](#)

[Yankee Custom
Marketing](#)

Resources

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Free Daily Newsletter](#)

[Webcam](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)

[Media Relations](#)

[Sell the Almanac](#)

[Where to Buy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie List](#)

[Do Not Sell or Share](#)

[My Personal
Information](#)

Connect with Us



