

Basil

Ocimum basilicum

Care instructions



Info

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) is a tender annual herb native to tropical regions of Central Africa and Southeast Asia, widely cultivated for its aromatic leaves. A staple in many global cuisines—especially Italian and Southeast Asian—basil thrives in warm, sunny environments with rich, well-draining soil and consistent moisture. It prefers a slightly acidic to neutral pH and benefits from regular pinching to promote bushy growth and prevent flowering, which can reduce leaf flavor. Basil is highly sensitive to cold and should be planted after the last frost. Its fragrant leaves are best harvested fresh and used immediately for peak flavor and aroma.

Environmental Considerations

Soil

Well-draining, fertile soil with organic matter

Upkeep

Keep soil moist; moderate humidity; balanced fertilizer

