

## Basils 2024

Tropical plants, basilis thrive in warm weather. Wait until danger of frost has passed (May 10th on average in the Boise area) to plant outside. Plant in full sun and in well-drained, but consistently moist soil. Harvest regularly by cutting back by 1/3 or more to keep plants well branched and productive. For most varieties, the flavor can turn bitter once plants begin to flower. However, if allowed to flower, pollinators will be delighted. Basils are ornamental as well as edible and make attractive additions to mixed containers, borders, and herb gardens. In general, sweet basils make delicious pestos and pair well with tomato dishes. Holy basils are most often used for teas.

### Sweet Basils (*Ocimum basilicum*) and Hybrids

African Blue	A fast growing hybrid of a camphor and sweet basil that is ornamental and unique tasting. This basil is noted for its heat tolerance and is a better option for indoor growing.
Ajaka	Strong, upright plants have bright green leaves with a sweet, spicy flavor. Flowers are burgundy and attract bees. This is a robust, vigorous, cold tolerant, and disease resistant cultivar.
Amethyst Genovese	The first purple Genovese basil, it has large, deep purple-black leaves with a wonderful aroma and taste. Looks great in the landscape. Open pollinated.
Cinnamon	A basil with attractive, violet stems, veining, and bracts and lavender blooms that are suitable for fresh arrangements. Flavor is soft cinnamon and good for Asian and Middle Eastern cooking and in fruit-salad dressings. Open pollinated.
Coldasil	Vigorous and productive bushy plants grow to 8" wide by 12-18" tall with deep green, flavorful leaves that are perfect for pesto. More cold tolerant than your average basil (to 50°).
Dark Opal	Attractive, deep purple foliage is solid or mottled with green. Flavor is spicy and slightly citrusy with hints of anise and mint. 1962 AAS winner. Open pollinated
Emily Dwarf Genovese	A compact Genovese type that grows 12-16" tall. Plants are dense and well-branched and good container plants. Dark green foliage is fragrant and flavorful. Keeps longer in fridge than most basils. F1 hybrid.
Gecofure Dwarf Genovese	A dwarf (18") Genovese cultivar with improved fusarium resistance. Large, aromatic leaves have sweet flavor. Makes a good container plant. Name means: GENovese COMpatto FUSarium Resistant.
Genovese	Traditional Italian variety with strong aroma and flavor. It is widely considered the best for pesto. Plants are vigorous and productive. Open pollinated.
Greek Columnar	Noted for its compact, upright, and narrow growth habit that is great for smaller gardens and containers. Grows to 24-36" tall and 9-12" wide. Small green leaves have a strong basil flavor with spicy overtones of cinnamon, allspice, and cloves. Great in desserts. Rarely flowers

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Italian Large Leaf	An old world type that is a sweeter pesto variety with big, flavorful, and fragrant leaves. One of the best basil's for drying. Open pollinated
Lemon	A strong lemony fragrance and sweet flavor make this basil a great addition to fish dishes or in tea or potpourri. Open pollinated.
Lettuce Leaf	Very large, light green, crinkled leaves have a flavor more sweet than spicy and a wonderful aroma. Good fresh or in sauces, as a wrap, instead of lettuce, in sandwiches, or layered into casseroles. Open pollinated.
Lime	Bright green leaves with a subtle lime taste. Makes a nice addition to fish dishes, fruit salads, teas, or in iced drinks. Used in Thai cooking, and great for pesto. Open pollinated.
Magic Mountain	Purple tinged leaves are very fragrant and flavorful. Showy flower spikes are dark purple and don't affect the flavor. Vigorous growth with high productivity. Plants can grow to about 36".
Mammoth Lettuce Leaf	Very big, ruffled leaves have a strong aroma and flavor. Try using it as a wrap for shrimp or instead of lettuce on a sandwich. Great for all culinary uses. Adds a unique texture to mixed plantings and grows to 12-20". Open pollinated.
Napoletano Lettuce Leaf	Ruffled, crinkly leaves with a sweet, mellow flavor. Good for mini-wraps. Open pollinated.
Pesto Party	A sweet, aromatic Italian basil with a mounding habit growing to 18-24" tall by 12-18" wide. Flowers late for a longer harvest period. Great for salads, cooking, and, of course, pesto! Resistant to mildew and fusarium.
Pesto Perpetuo	The first variegated basil has beautiful light green foliage with white margins. The flavor is of sweet basil with a hint of lemon. Plants have a columnar habit and can grow to 4' tall. Bring indoors for a fresh basil all winter. Does not flower. Hybrid.
Purple Ruffles	Large, frilly, violet foliage on an attractive plant. Makes a fine vinegar. AAS in 1987. Open pollinated.
Red Freddy Genovese	Genovese basil with dark red, smooth, broad leaves. Adds both color and wonderful flavor to dishes.
Siam Queen Thai	Essential in Thai and Vietnamese cuisine. The fragrance hints at licorice. Ornamental, rich green foliage and reddish stems make for an attractive plant. AAS in 1997. Open pollinated.

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Spicy Globe	Plants are compact and 12-15" with a uniform globular shape. They are especially good for containers. Small aromatic leaves pack a spicy kick. Open pollinated.
Sweet Thai	Green leaves are tinged with purple and have a sweet, anise/mint/citrus fragrance and flavor that is traditional in Thai cooking. Stems and flowers are purple and ornamental. Open pollinated.
Thai Hairy Lemon (bai maeng lak)	Named because the stems are a little bit fuzzy, this is an amazingly lemony basil great for pesto or any dish that needs a hint of citrus. Also nice in potpourri and tea. The lemon flavor holds well even after drying or freezing. Grows well even when summers are very hot. Open pollinated.
Yaqui	From the Yaqui Indians of northwest Mexico, these large (3-4') plants have medium sized, shiny green leaves with licorice flavor and aroma. The stems and flowers vary in color. Great for cooking or flavoring oils and vinegars. Open pollinated.
<b>Holy Basil (<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i>)</b>	
Holy Basil Chocolate Bubblegum	A variety of holy basil from India with a scent of chocolate, spice, and bubblegum. Plants have an upright habit and grow to 18". Serrated leaves are used to make a soothing tea. Mildew resistant.
Holy Basil Kapoor Tulsi	Holy basil variety with a spicy, chocolate, and coffee scent and flavor. Compact, ornamental plants with purple flowers attract beneficial insects. Used for herbal teas and cooking, medicinally by herbalists, and as an insect repellent. Open pollinated. May self-sow.
Holy Basil Kaprao	Another holy basil, this one is used in Thai cuisine and also for religious (Hindu) and medicinal purposes (Ayurveda). It is a Rama variety of holy or tulsi basil with an intense scent, green and purple leaves, and purple flowers. Both flowers and leaves are used in tea.
Holy Basil Tulsi Rama	The most commonly grown in India. Plants have purple stems, green leaves, and pink to purple flowers. It is a natural pest repellent and pollinator attractor for your garden. Used in Ayurvedic medicine. Also makes a cooling and mellow tea scented with peppermint, cloves, licorice, and lemon... a great way to start the day!