

## Basil

There are many varieties; the information given below is applicable to all.

**Sweet Basil** (*Ocimum basilicum*)

**Lemon Basil** (*Ocimum x citriodorum* or *Ocimum x africanum*)

**Holy Basil** (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*)



**Season:** Warm season plant

**Sun Exposure:** Full sun

**Size:** Variable but generally 2–3 ft in height

**Blooms:** Will flower and go to seed. Pollinators love the flowers, but leaves turn bitter after the plant sets flowers. Pinch tops of plants to encourage bushy growth and prevent premature flowers. Leaves are best used before flowers start to grow.

**Maintenance category:** Low

**Highlights:** Can be propagated by seeds or cuttings. Pollinator favorite. Heat tolerant.

**How to Use:** Culinary and a mainstay of Italian, Thai, and Vietnamese dishes. Great used in salads, with tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, or zucchini. Makes the classic pesto sauce for pasta.