



Herb Planting Guide

The use of herbs for culinary, medical, and religious purposes dates back thousands of years. We invite you to start your own herb garden and discover the wonders of herbs. The leaflet walks you through the essentials to success with these fun plants.

1. PLANTING SITE. Although most herbs prefer a sunny site, some will thrive in part shade. What's most important is to choose herbs that will prosper in the conditions offered by the site. Try to avoid areas infiltrated by roots of trees and shrubs. If possible, choose a sheltered location not routinely exposed to strong winds. Any herb noted as sun loving will require sunlight for at least 6 hours a day under average conditions. But where the summer sun is relentlessly hot, many of these same plants will benefit from a bit of light afternoon shade or filtered light during the hottest hours.

2. SOIL. Despite differing soil preferences among herbs, most require – and all prefer – well drained soil. Most herbs are not particular about a soil's acidity or alkalinity. To help condition the hard, compacted, poor draining soils of our area, the use of organic soil amendments and other conditioners is recommended. Just follow the simple step by step instructions on the opposite side of this page. A mulch such as bark spread around newly planted herbs not only looks attractive, but also helps them establish more rapidly and helps suppress weeds. When spread on the soil surface, mulch keeps the soil cooler and helps slow down water evaporation. This is especially helpful during the summer months.



3. WATERING. Annual herb plants need regular watering from planting to harvest. Perennial herbs will appreciate routine watering during the first year, but once they're established, you can water to each herb's water preference. For best growth, remember to plant together herbs that have similar moisture needs.

4. FEEDING. Most herbs in the garden require very little feeding for good growth. Generally, herbs should be fed once in spring (Formula 49) as they put out new growth and once at the end of summer (Master Bloom) when the main growing season is over. In containers, herbs will need fertilizing more often since the nutrients are leached out of the container more frequently due to routine watering. We recommend feeding every 2-4 weeks. The more lush and leafy

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green herbs will need to be fed more often than those with sparser growth and small or gray leaves. Always water immediately after you fertilize.

5. PEST & DISEASE CONTROL. Herbs are relatively free from pests, but problems do occasionally appear. Root rot is sometimes troublesome with some of the more woody, perennial herbs. Their roots and stems do not have good resistance to excessive water. If you have bad draining areas, creating raised planter beds for your herbs is the best solution.

Aphids and whiteflies are indiscriminate feeders and might attack certain herb plants, especially in spring. Use particular caution controlling insects in an edible herb garden. For this situation we recommend spraying with a natural pyrethrum based spray or insecticidal oil.

6. PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1.) Using a spade, cultivator, or rototiller, work your soil to a depth of 8-12 inches.
- 2.) Add Gold Rush Soil Builder at the rate of one 2 cu. Ft. bag per 50 square feet.
- 3.) For excessive clay, add gypsum at the rate of 25lbs per 100 square feet.
- 4.) Add Master Start starter fertilizer at the rate of 6 cups per 50 square feet.
- 5.) Blend ingredients with native soil. Grade well for good drainage.
- 6.) Plant herbs by preferred location.
- 7.) Water in.

7. CONTAINER PLANTING. Choose a container with drainage hole in the bottom. Fill container with potting soil within 2 inches of top rim. Add starter fertilizer per package directions. Plan herbs and water well.

To help you find the proper herbs for your garden location, just ask one of our Nursery Professionals to help select the right plants for your needs.