Greek Basil

Ocimum minimum

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Bush Basil

Description:

A compact culinary variety with very small, strongly scented leaves; spikes or whorls of tiny white flowers in summer; pinch flower stems to promote leaf growth; great for mixed containers, herb gardens, and annual beds



Greek Basil foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Greek Basil is an annual herb that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The small fragrant pointy light green leaves are usually harvested from early summer to early fall. The leaves have a zesty taste and a pleasant fragrance.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Seasoning
- Sauces



Greek Basil
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Greek Basil will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated herb garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Greek Basil is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.