

Seed Packet Data

Mrs. Burns' Lemon Basil

(*Ocimum basilicum citriodora*)

ANNUAL

Summer/fall harvest
Heat-loving, frost tender

TO PLANT DIRECTLY IN THE GARDEN

In late spring when night temperatures stay above 50°F (10°C), sow seeds 1 inch apart in well-worked, fertile soil in full sun. Cover ½ inch deep, firm soil and keep seedbed moist. Germination takes 1 to 2 weeks. After seedlings are well established, thin or transplant 6 to 8 inches apart to allow plants room to mature.

TO START EARLY INDOORS

Sow thinly in a container of seed starting mix, 4 to 6 weeks before last expected frost. Keep warm and evenly moist, and provide a good light source.

When seedlings are large enough to handle and weather is warm and settled, acclimate gradually to outdoor conditions before planting in the garden.

GROWING NOTES

Remember – it is critical to plant basil in the garden only after late spring day and nighttime temperatures stay above 50°F (10°C). Pinch off growing tips when plants are 6 to 8 inches tall to encourage branching. Harvest sprays of leaves by cutting stems just above two new sprouting lateral branches to get lush regrowth. Keep flower buds pinched off to extend harvesting and feed and water regularly to promote new growth.

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SUN/SHADE	PLANTING DEPTH	SPACE SEEDS	DAYS TO GERMINATE	Mt HI
July Full sun	1/4 inch	1 inch	7 – 14 days	1 –

PLANT IN	SUN/SHADE	PLANTING DEPTH	SPACE SEEDS	DAYS TO GERMINATE	MATURE HEIGHT
June	Full sun	Do not cover	Very thin	10 – 21 days	1 – 1 1/2 feet

White Flowered Greek Oregano

(*Origanum heracleoticum*)

PERENNIAL

Spring/summer/fall harvest
Frost hardy

TO START INDOORS

In early spring, sow seeds thinly in a container of moistened seed starting mix, but do not cover over; oregano needs light to germinate. Provide a good light source. Keep evenly moist as seedlings slowly emerge over 10 to 21 days.

TO PLANT DIRECTLY IN THE GARDEN

When warm spring weather arrives, sow in full sun in a well-worked, finely textured seed bed with good drainage. Sow thinly, then water very gently for good soil contact, but do not cover seeds. Tend carefully: keep soil evenly moist but not soggy and well weeded.

Transplant when 1 to 2 inches tall after gradually acclimating to outdoor conditions.

THIN OR TRANSPLANT

Space clusters of 3 to 4 seedlings 10 to 12 inches apart when large enough to handle.

GROWING NOTES

Mix tiny seeds with dry sand to help space seedlings. Young plants grow slowly at first; a good hot spell encourages strong growth. Pick leaves lightly the first season; wait until the second summer to make bigger harvests, then cut leafy sprays often to enjoy in the kitchen. Given good drainage, this carefree Mediterranean native is hardy and long-lived.

PLANT IN	SUN/SHADE	PLANTING DEPTH	SPACE SEEDS	DAYS TO GERMINATE	MATURE HEIGHT
April – June	Full sun	1 inch	4 inches	7 – 10 days	68 – 80 days

Rainbow Sherbet Watermelons

Yellow Doll F1, New Orchid F1, Tiger Baby F1

STARTING SEEDLINGS OUTDOORS

Melons need full sun, rich soil and warm temperatures. Plant only when weather is warm and night temperatures stay above 50°. Make slightly rounded hills 2 feet in diameter and 5 feet apart. Sow 5 or 6 seeds 1 inch deep in a small circle in top of each hill. When seedlings have several sets of leaves, **Be Sure To** thin to the 3 strongest plants in each hill.

TO START EARLY INDOORS

No more than several weeks before last frost date, sow seeds in individual pots of seed starting mix. Keep warm and moist, and provide a strong light source until weather warms enough to transplant outdoors (see above).

GROWING NOTES

Amend soil well with aged manure or compost. If summers

are short or cool, put down black plastic to retain heat, then plant into holes made in plastic. Where insects are a problem, cover seedlings with floating row covers to exclude them, removing when plants blossom. Keep young vines well watered and fed, tapering off as fruits ripen up for best sweet flavor.

HARVEST AND USE

Pick melons when the tendril closest to the fruit turns brown, and the light patch on the bottom of the melon changes from cream to tan. These small fruitful watermelons keep well in the refrigerator, even after being cut open. You can cut juicy wedges of all 3 colors for summer parties and picnics.

Amsterdam Seasoning Celery

(*Apium graveolens*)

Biennial, Grown as Annual

Spring/summer/fall harvest.
Frost Hardy

To Plant Directly Outdoors

Start leaf celery in spring, when weather is settled, but still cool. In mild winter climates, seed can also be started in fall. Plant in full sun or, in hot areas, where plants will get afternoon shade. Sow seeds 1 to 2 inches apart into well worked, fertile soil. Cover 1/4 inch deep. Be patient and be careful to keep seedbed evenly moist while awaiting germination which can be uneven. Thin groups of 3 to 4 seedlings 8 inches apart when several inches tall.

To Start Early Indoors

Start in early spring 6 weeks before night temperatures will warm up to 50°F. Sow

seeds 1 to 2 inches apart in a container of seed starting mix. Barely cover. Keep evenly moist but not soggy until germination takes place over 3 weeks. Provide a strong light source as soon as seedlings emerge. Plant out groups of 3 to 4 seedlings when 2 to 3 inches tall, spacing groups 8 inches apart.

Growing Notes

Water regularly and fertilize monthly with a high nitrogen source. Seasoning celery forms sprays of attractive leaves rather than thick stalks. Harvest sprays of leaves as needed once plant is well established. Hang leafy bunches upside down in a cool, well ventilated place to easily air dry for future use.

PLANT IN	SUN/SHADE	SOW SEEDS	DAYS TO GERMINATE	MATURE HEIGHT
Winters April-May /inters March-May	Full sun or partial shade	1 to 2 inches apart cover thinly	18 – 24 days	12 inches

PLANT IN	SUN/SHADE	PLANTING DEPTH	SOW SEEDS	DAYS TO GERMINATE	MATURE HEIGHT
April – June	Full Sun	1 inch deep	4 inches apart	8 – 10 days	6 – 8 feet

Snack Seed Sunflower

(*Helianthus annuus*)

EASIEST TO START

DIRECTLY IN THE GARDEN

Plant in full sun when weather is above 50°F (10°C) both day and night and all danger of frost is past. Poke seeds into well-worked, good garden soil 1 inch deep and 4 inches apart. Press soil over seeds and keep moist as seedlings emerge. When seedlings are 3 inches tall, thin them 12 to 18 inches apart with 3 feet between rows so plants have room to mature.

TO START EARLY INDOORS

Several weeks before last frost date, sow seeds 1 inch deep in individual pots of well-drained seed starting mix. Keep moist and provide a strong light source until seedlings are ready to plant outside. Transplant seedlings carefully 12 to 18 inches apart with 3 feet between rows.

GROWING & HARVEST

Cover seeds at planting time with netting or green plastic berry baskets to keep birds from plucking seeds and seedlings from the ground (remove before plants get crowded). Towards midsummer, after sunflowers grow tall and bloom, the flower heads' outer petals will shrivel and seeds begin to form. Wait until center florets have dried up, indicating pollination is complete, before covering the ripening heads with paper grocery bags to keep birds from picking out the immature seeds. When seeds are dry, plump and fully formed, harvest heads and rub seeds out with thumbs. Store in a cool, dry place in a sealed container to keep out insects.

SEEDS INDOORS	DAYS TO GERMINATE	TRANSPLANT OUTDOORS IN FULL SUN	MATURE HEIGHT	TRANSPLANT TO HARVEST
March	10 – 28 days	April – June	2 1/2 – 3 feet	Approx. 80 days

Mild Habanero Chiles

Orange and Red Suave

STARTING SEEDLINGS

In early spring, start indoors about 2 months before night temperatures stay reliably 50 to 55°. Sow seeds 1/4 inch deep and 1 inch apart in a container of seed starting mix. Keep moist but not soggy, and very warm (80 to 85°). Provide a strong light source until seedlings are ready to plant outside. When seedlings are 2 inches tall, transplant into deeper individual containers. Maintain at 70 to 75°. Feed with half-strength fertilizer every week until weather is warm enough to gradually acclimate seedlings to outdoor conditions. Transplant 2 feet apart into rich soil in full sun.

GROWING NOTES

Habaneros need warm conditions. Don't transplant outdoors until night temperatures stay securely above 55°. Prepare soil

well with aged manure or compost. Plant only robust seedlings with well-developed roots. Mulch plants to maintain even soil moisture. Keep well weeded, watered and fertilized.

HARVEST AND USE

To harvest, cut rather than pull fruits from the plants when fully colored orange or red. With Suaves, you'll enjoy habaneros' unique taste without their incendiary heat. Use freely in all kinds of fresh salsas, sauces, jerk rubs and marinades. You'll find them no hotter than mellow New Mexico green chilies, with Suave Red rated a mild 580 Scoville units and Suave Orange a smooth 835 heat units, compared to the 575,000 heat units of the normal habanero chile!