

Botanical name:
Genus: Ocimum
Species: basilicum

Common Name(s): Basil,
Thai basil,
Italian basil

Latin Family Name: Lamiales
English Family Name:

There are many varieties of basil

The plant

Origin; country or region: Native to tropical regions from Central Africa to Southeast Asia

Growth habit: A culinary herb.

Flower description: Flowers are small and white
The flowers are insignificant but very popular with bees

Blooming period/availability: Basil is an annual, or sometimes perennial, herb used for its leaves

Leaf/Foliage Description: Leaf colors span from rich green to deep purple, with smooth or crinkled leaves

Usage: Basil plants are one of the most popular herbs to grow and also one of the easiest

All types of basil grow easily in warm, sunny weather

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

This fast-growing herb thrives equally well in gardens and containers

Miniature varieties are also available which are great for mass plantings along the edge of flower beds

WEAKNESS:

Basil is a heat lover, not ideal for cold climates

Prone to pest problems



Care & Handling

Longevity:

Water requirements: Water basil deeply on a regular basis, but be sure its soil is well drained

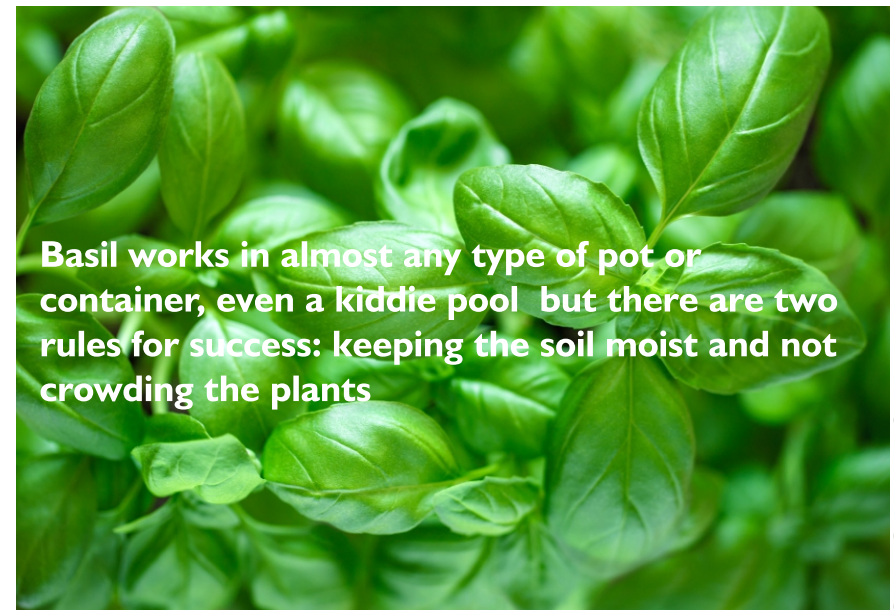
Use mulch to help keep moisture in

Light: Basil grows best with six to eight hours of full sun each day

Soil/Nutrition requirements: Basil does best in moist, rich, well-draining soil

It's a good idea to amend your soil with compost or other nutrient-rich mulch

Special care/remarks: Ornamental varieties often have showy purple foliage, making them perfect for containers



* Not on EMC list, Local botanical