

With the growing concern over the use of salt in our diets, everyone should be encouraged to cook with fresh herbs. It is not necessary to dry herbs before cooking with them. They are much tastier when used fresh in anything.

So whether you are growing fresh herbs for cooking or just for the pure fun of it--enjoy! The art of herb growing is enjoying a resurgence in this country. More people are discovering the pleasures and rewards of growing herbs. Due to our mild weather, gardeners in Brevard can enjoy growing herbs all year round. Most herbs require a sandy soil with good drainage, which is exactly what we have here in Brevard. Most herbs also need full sun. It is not necessary to make a special bed for herbs, they can be incorporated into the existing landscape.

Fertilize your herbs with **Espoma Garden-tone**.

Here is a list of some of the more common herbs that are easy to grow in the south. It is a good idea to add some peat or organic matter when planting herbs in order to hold moisture until established.

**Arugula or Roquette** - Half hardy annual, full sun or part shade, great in salads.

**Catnip** - Hardy perennial, sun or partial shade, very vigorous, spreading, cats love it!

**Chamomile** - Hardy annual in the south, full sun. Grows very well in winter, will die in summer heat.

**Chervil** - Hardy annual, shade or partial shade, prefers cooler weather, the French prefer chervil over parsley.

**Chives** - Hardy perennial, full sun or partial shade, east to grow, garlic chives have slight garlic flavor.

**Cinnamon Basil** - Full sun, this is great used as a very fragrant annual with its showy pink flowers. Long blooming.

**Cuban Oregano** - Half hardy perennial, full sun, great for fresh use.

**Dill** - Full sun, likes cooler weather, dwarf dill is slower to bolt in warm weather.

**Fennel** - Hardy perennial, drought resistant, full sun, easy to grow, use stalks like celery, great in salads.

**Holy Basil** - Full sun, very fragrant, flowers tops. All basil flowers dry well for wreaths & potpourri.

**Lavender** - Can be annual or perennial depending on variety, plant in driest area available in full sun.

**Lemon Balm** - Hardy perennial, partial to full shade, very spreading, lemony aroma east to grow.

**Lemon Grass** - Half hardy perennial, grows to 30", full sun, very drought resistant, east to grow, lemony scent, a must in oriental cuisine.

**Marjoram** - Half hardy perennial, full sun easily over-watered.

**Mexican or Winter Tarragon** - Full sun, half-hardy perennial, this tarragon grows well in Florida, flowers profusely in spring and fall, flowers easily dried for arrangements.

**Orange Mint** - Partial shade, hardy perennial, strong citrus scent, great in drinks and fruit salads.

**Oregano Vulgure** - Full sun, low growing and spreading, weak flavor.

**Parsley** (flat & curly) - Hardy perennial, partial shade, likes moisture.

**Patchouli** - Half hardy perennial, full sun to partial shade, easy to grow, likes hot weather.

**Pennyroyal** - Tender perennial, partial shade, likes moisture, forms dense carpet, good flea repellent.

**Peppermint** - Hardy perennial, partial shade, likes moisture, very spreading.

**Purple Basil** - Full sun, large purple add much color to any garden.

**Rosemary** - Hardy perennial, full sun, easily over watered. Add some lime when planting rosemary, loves hot dry conditions.

**Rue** - Evergreen perennial, grows 2' to 3', adds grey color to landscape, good insect repellent, plant near roses to repel aphids.

**Sage** - Hardy perennial, easy over watered, full sun, evergreen.

**Sweet Basil** - Full sun, will tolerate some shade east to grow

**Thyme** - Half hardy perennial, full sun, do not over water, prune regularly.



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