

Herb Guide



Tips:

- Herbs can be grown in the house, in containers or planted in your yard
- Many are perennial in our area
- Always wash herbs before use
- Some herbs such as garlic will deter insects from entering an area. Try using near your veggie garden.
- If using leaves or stems, do so before the herb flowers to prevent bitter taste.

When do you plant?

Herbs should not be planted until after the last frost, generally after May 15th. However, your kitchen window is a great place to keep them anytime of the year.

What to plant?

When you begin a garden, think realistically about what you will actually use. Also challenge yourself, grow something you have never grown or eaten before. Remember if you plan on canning or storing your crops you may need to plant a large quantity of those plants.

Where to plant?

Most herbs love the sun. If your garden is shaded you may not get the production you desire. Planting in pots is an easy way to have a garden if you have a limited, or nonexistent, growing space. Remember to consider the finished size of the plant before potting. (ie don't plant dill in a 4" pot because dill gets 3-4' tall)

Watering and Fertilization

Watering can be challenging, too much or too little and your plants could die. Most herbs want the top of the soil to be dry. Most herbs do not need fertilizer.

Insects

Garden insects are usually found on the underside of the leaf, and some only come out at night. Planting marigolds and other aromatic flowers and herbs in your garden is an easy way to reduce the number of insects in your garden. Do not use a systemic insecticide on an herb garden.

Harvest

If using the foliage, most herbs should be harvested before they flower and go to seed. You can even dry the herbs or freeze them. Herbs with large leaves like basil are nicest if frozen in olive oil or melted butter.

Next year

Keep a notebook of what, where, and when you planted. Make notes at harvest of what varieties you liked or did not like.