URBAN FARMER
LOVE THE EARTH

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Basil Comparison Chart

Every basil we carry, grouped by type and sorted by days to maturity

Days	Variety	Color	Flavor	Best for	Notes	Height
Genovese & Sweet Basil						
60	**Persian**	Green	Sweet, anise	Salads, garnish	Big leaves; pollinators	24 in.
68	**Genovese** HEIR	Dark green	Sweet, clove	Pesto, sauces	Classic pesto basil	24 in.
68	**Sweet Genovese** ORG	Green	Sweet, spicy	Pesto, sauces	Large aromatic leaves	24 in.
68	**Prospera DMR (CG1)** F1 ORG	Dark green	Classic Genovese	Pesto, sauces	Downy mildew resistant	24 in.
68	**Aroma 2** ORG	Dark green	Strong, sweet	Pesto, sauces	Fusarium resistant	24 in.
70	**Dolce Fresca** AAS	Green	Sweet	Pots, garnish	Compact, bushy	18 in.
70	**Large Leaf** HEIR ORG	Dark green	Sweet, tangy	Pesto, sauces	Heat loving	30 in.
72	**Prospera DMR (PS5)** F1 ORG	Dark green	Classic Genovese	Pots, garnish	DMR; semi-compact	20 in.
74	**Large Leaf Italian**	Light green	Sweet, mild	Pesto, sauces	Our most popular	24 in.
74	**Nufar** F1 ORG	Green	Sweet, floral	Pesto, sauces	Fusarium resistant	30 in.
Lettuce Leaf & Ruffled Basil						
65	**Lettuce Leaf**	Light green	Mild, sweet	Salads, garnish	Hand-size leaves	24 in.
70	**Green Ruffles**	Green	Tangy, rich	Salads, garnish	Ruffled, serrated	24 in.
80	**Valentino**	Green	Sweet	Pesto, sauces	Large, cupped leaves	15 in.
Purple Basil						
72	**Red Rubin**	Purple-red	Sweet, spicy	Salads, garnish	Holds color well	24 in.
80	**Dark Opal** HEIR AAS	Deep purple	Spicy, clove	Vinegars, color	Pink flowers	24 in.
85	**Purple Ruffles** AAS	Deep purple	Sweet, spicy	Salads, garnish	Ruffled, fringed	24 in.

Genovese & Sweet

Large, cupped leaves with classic sweet basil flavor. The pesto standard.

Lettuce Leaf

Huge, crinkled leaves for wraps, salads and big batches of sauce.

Purple

Deep purple leaves add color to salads, vinegars and flower borders.

Specialty

Citrus, Thai, holy, cinnamon and tiny globe basils for unique flavors.

Quick picks

Best for pesto: Genovese, Sweet Genovese, Aroma 2, Large Leaf · **Best for containers:** Dolce Fresca, Pistou, Spicy Bush
Disease resistant: Prospera CG1, Prospera PS5, Nufar, Aroma 2 · **Most colorful:** Purple Ruffles, Dark Opal, Red Rubin

When to plant

Start indoors
Sow 6–8 weeks before the last frost, ⅛ in. deep. Seeds sprout in 5–10 days at 70–80°F.

Plant out
Transplant or direct sow after the last frost, once nights stay above 50°F. Basil hates cold.

Succession sow
Sow again every 3–4 weeks until midsummer for a steady supply of fresh, tender leaves.

Basil types and F1, ORG, HEIR and AAS tags are explained on page 2.

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Basil Comparison Chart continued

Days	Variety	Color	Flavor	Best for	Notes	Height
Citrus Basil						
60	**Lime**	Bright green	Lime	Fish, drinks	Bright lime scent	18 in.
60	**Mrs. Burns** HEIR	Green	Lemon-lime	Fish, drinks	Large, intense leaves	24 in.
65	**Lemon**	Light green	Lemon	Fish, drinks	Compact; small leaves	18 in.
Thai, Holy & Cinnamon Basil						
64	**Cinnamon**	Green	Cinnamon	Desserts, tea	Purple stems	24 in.
64	**Thai** HEIR	Green	Anise, clove	Asian dishes	Purple stems & flowers	24 in.
75	**Siam Queen** AAS	Dark green	Anise, licorice	Asian dishes	Showy purple blooms	24 in.
85	**Holy (Tulsi)**	Green, purple	Clove, pepper	Herbal tea	Sacred tulsi; bees love it	24 in.
Fine Leaf & Globe Basil						
60	**Pistou**	Green	Spicy	Pots, garnish	Petite; great in pots	12 in.
70	**Spicy Bush**	Bright green	Spicy, sweet	Pots, garnish	Round, boxwood-like	12 in.
Basil Blends						
85	**Culinary Blend**	Mixed	Mixed	Pesto, sauces	Genovese, lemon, lime	24 in.
85	**Culinary Blend** ORG	Mixed	Mixed	Pesto, sauces	Genovese, lemon, lime	24 in.

Days are from seeding to full-size plants. You can start picking leaves about 3–4 weeks earlier.

Basil Types

Genovese Classic Italian pesto basil with large, cupped leaves.

Citrus Lemon or lime scent; great with fish, salads and drinks.

Thai Anise flavor and purple stems; holds up to high heat.

Starting from seed

Sow ⅛ in. deep in warm soil and keep moist. Thin or transplant 10–12 in. apart in full sun.

Pinching & care

Pinch the tips when plants have 3 pairs of leaves, and snip flower buds so plants keep making leaves.

Harvest & storage

Cut stems just above a leaf pair. Keep stems in water on the counter; the fridge turns leaves black.

Troubleshooting

Gray fuzz under leaves
Basil downy mildew. Grow DMR types like Prospera and give plants room for airflow.

Black or brown leaves
Cold damage below 50°F. Wait to plant out and cover plants on cool nights.

Wilting plants
Often Fusarium wilt. Rotate beds and choose resistant types like Nufar and Aroma 2.



Genovese



Purple Ruffles

Variety Notes

F1 Hybrid seed
AAS All-America Selections winner
ORG Certified organic seed
HEIR Heirloom, open-pollinated

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