CULINARY HERB PROFILES

Basil – Ocimum basilicum
- Annual
- Rich soil
- Space 6”; Height 8-24”
- Full sun
- Moderate water
- Flowers in summer

Basil is best started from seed sown indoors in late March or early April and moved to the garden after danger of last frost has passed. Seed germinates in five to fourteen days. Best used fresh. Harvest before flowering. Prune basil to first leaf bud below the flower to encourage further leaf production.

Bay – Laurus nobilis
- Evergreen tree
- Moderately rich soil
- Space 3’; Height 5-40’
- Full sun to part shade
- Low water
- Spring growth period

Start from cuttings taken in the fall. Takes at least six months to develop a root system. Difficult to propagate.

Calendula - Calendula officinalis
- Annual
- Average soil
- Space 12”; Height 2’
- Full sun
- Low water
- Blooms spring through fall

Sow seeds directly into garden as soon as ground can be worked, preferably early spring. Germinates in ten days to two weeks. Self-sows freely.

Chamomile - Matricaria recutita
- Annual
- Slightly alkaline soil
- Space 1-2”; Height 1-2’
- Full sun to partial shade
- Low water
- Blooms early spring

Tiny seeds can be mixed with sand to ensure even distribution directly into garden. Self sows freely. Sow early in spring to prevent leggy flowers. Roman Chamomile (Chamaemelum nobile) is a perennial that is grown as a ground cover that prefers slightly acid soil. Harvest flowers continuously when petals begin to droop.

Chives - Allium schoenoprasum
- Bulb plant
- Prefers rich soil
- Space 6”; Height to 12”
- Full sun to part shade
- Moderate water
- Blooms in summer

Can be started from seed, purchased, or from clump. Clumps should be divided every three to five years. Best used fresh.
Cilantro – Coriandrum sativum
a. Annual
b. Rich soil
c. Space 8-18”; Height 10-12”

d. Partial shade
e. Moderate water

Direct seed in warm semi-shady spot. Cut leaves during growing season to produce second harvest. Cilantro will probably go to seed after the second harvest. Cilantro does not tolerate heat above 85° and will bolt.

Dill – Anethum graveolens
a. Biennial
b. Acidic soil
c. Space 10-12”; Height 3-5’

d. Full Sun
e. Moderate water
f. Blooms in Summer

Direct seed into garden. Self sows freely. Difficult to transplant. Fresh leaves should be harvested before flowering. Harvest seeds as seed heads become brown and dry. Good butterfly plant.

Fennel – Foeniculum vulgare
a. Perennial
b. Average soil
c. Space 2’; Height 4’

d. Full Sun
e. Moderate water
f. Blooms July through September

Direct seed into garden. Keep seeds moist for two weeks. Afterward, do not overwater. Seeds can be planted in fall.

Garlic – Allium sativum
a. Annual
b. Rich, light, alkaline soil
c. Space; Height

d. Full Sun
e. Moderate water
f. Blooms in Summer

Plant bulbs in the ground from early fall to early spring. Dig up bulbs in summer when leaves lose color and die to ground. Tradition says to plant garlic on shortest day of year and harvest on longest day.

Hyssop – Hyssopus officinalis
a. Perennial
b. Light soil
c. Space 2’; Height 12-24”

d. Full Sun
e. Low water
f. Blooms in Summer

Easily grown from seed or propagated from spring or fall root division. To harvest, cut stems before flowering. Attracts bees.

Lavender – Lavendula species
a. Perennial shrub
b. Sandy soil
c. Space 1-2’; Height 2-4’

d. Full Sun
e. Low water
f. Blooms in June

Lavenders can be grown from seed or cuttings taken in spring or fall. Harvest buds just as flowers are about to open. Prune lavender after flowering. Lightly trim lavender in spring to encourage flower production. There are numerous varieties featuring different flower colors and heights. English varieties (Lavandula angustifolia) considered premium scented variety. French hybrid (Lavandula x intermedia) varieties such as ‘Provence’ or ‘Superior’ do well in our region. Deer resistant.

Lemon balm – Melissa officinalis
a. Perennial
b. Average soil
c. Space 2’

d. Full sun to partial shade
e. Blooms Summer to frost

Easily grown from seed sown in spring or early fall. Harvest before plant blooms. Best used fresh. Delicate lemon scent.
**Lemon Verbena – Aloysia triphylla**

a. Deciduous shrub  
b. Rich soil  
c. Space 3’; Height 4’  
d. Full Sun  
e. Moderate water  
f. Blooms in Summer

Propagated from stem cuttings pencil-sized or smaller. Mid and late summer stems take best. Harvest sprigs of leaves all year long. Cut back in mid summer. Fragrant shrub.

**Lovage – Levisticum officinale**

a. Perennial  
b. Rich soil  
c. Space 3’; Height 5’  
d. Full Sun  
e. Moderate water  
f. Blooms in Summer

Sow seeds in fall or spring. Mature plants can be divided in the spring. Requires little care. Deadhead to encourage growth. Harvest young leaves and stalks often.

**Marjoram – Origanum margorana**

a. Perennial  
b. Average soil  
c. Space 12”; Height 12-18”  
d. Full Sun  
e. Low water  
f. Blooms in Summer

Sow seeds in spring. Cut plant 6-8 inches from the ground before first flowering to encourage second harvest.

**Mints - Mentha species**

a. Perennial  
b. Rich soil  
c. Full Sun to part shade  
d. Moderate water  
e. Blooms in July/August

Propagate by stem cuttings or root division. Mint is invasive and best grown in containers. Twenty true species. There are many varieties with different scents such as apple, orange, and spearmint. Harvest new growth for best flavor.

**Nasturtium – Tropaeolum majus**

a. Annual  
b. Average soil  
c. Space and Height vary  
d. Full Sun to part shade  
e. Low water  
f. Blooms in Summer


**Oregano – Origanum vulgare**

a. Perennial  
b. Alkaline soil  
c. Space 1’; Height 2’  
d. Full Sun  
e. Low water  
f. Blooms in Summer

Propagated from seeds, stem cuttings, or root division. Seeds germinate slowly. Harvest as plant begins to bloom.

**Parsley - Petroselinum crispum**

a. Annual  
b. Rich soil  
c. Space 1’; Height 1-2’  
d. Full Sun to part shade  
e. Moderate water  
f. Blooms in early Summer

Sow seeds in spring and fall to ensure continued harvest. Seeds take three to six weeks to germinate. Harvest leaves when they reach a height of about eight inches and at anytime thereafter. Loses flavor when dried.
Rosemary - *Rosmarinus officinalis*

- Evergreen shrub
- Rich to average soil
- Space 2'; Height 2-6'
- Full Sun to part shade
- Blooms in early Summer
- Low water

Propagate prostrate rosemary by root division. Propagate upright varieties from stem cuttings in the spring. If leaf tips droop when temperatures rise, water immediately. “Tuscan blue” is an upright, branching shrub variety. Harvest throughout the year by cutting four-inch pieces from top.

Salad Burnet – *Poterium sanguisorba*

- Perennial
- Average soil
- Space 1'; Height 3'
- Full Sun to part shade
- Blooms in Summer
- Low water


Sage – *Salvia officinalis*

- Perennial
- Rich, sandy soil
- Space 1'; Height 2'
- Full Sun
- Blooms in Summer
- Low water

Excellent drainage is required to prevent root rot. Can be propagated by seeds, cuttings, layering, or root division of older plants. After second year, plant needs to be trimmed in spring to avoid center becoming woody. Powerful distinctive fragrance. Tricolor sage is a favorite for color in the herb garden. Bergarten sage is preferred variety. Harvest by snipping leaves.

Scented Geranium – *Pelargonium species*

- Perennial
- Rich, humus soil
- Space 2'; Height 2'
- Full Sun
- Blooms in Summer
- Low water

Take cuttings from non-flowering shoots in summer. Not very frost hardy. Harvest young leaves. Dries brown. Best used fresh. There are numerous varieties which have wonderful scents and flowers. Pelargonium crispum is a lemon scented geranium. Pelargonium cultivar ‘Attar of Rose’ has pungent rose scent. Pelargonium x nervosum ‘Lime’ geranium has orchid like flower and strong lime scent.

Tarragon - *Artemisia dracunculus*

- Perennial
- Rich, sandy soil
- Space 1'; Height 8"
- Full Sun to part shade
- Moderate water


Thyme – *Thymus species*

- Evergreen perennial
- Rich soil
- Space 1'; Height 1'
- Full Sun to part shade
- Low water

Propagate by root division every 3-4 years. Good ground cover or border plant. Harvest leaves before blossoms open. Second harvest may weaken some varieties.