

Basil (Organic)

This vigorous sweet basil produces large, mid-green leaves all summer long. Keep picking the growing tips and the two pairs of leaves below them for the kitchen. Grow some organic sweet basil in a pot on a warm and sunny windowsill and harvest the fresh leaves right through the winter.

Matures in 50-60 days

Season: Warm season

Exposure: Full sun

Difficulty: Easy



Growing

For outdoor growing, sow basil seeds throughout late spring for transplanting to the garden after the summer solstice, or direct sow in early summer once the soil has warmed up. Sow seeds 1cm (½”) deep in sterilized seed starting mix. Basil is prone to damping off, so once seeds sprout, make sure they are adequately ventilated and kept under very bright light. Thin to 20-25cm (8-10”) apart. Once plants are 15cm (6”) tall, pinch out the growing tips to encourage really bushy growth prior to harvest. Watch for signs of flower buds forming in mid-summer and pinch these off to promote more foliage. Frequent harvesting will prolong the life of the plant.

Saving

Allow the herbs to flower and the flower heads to dry. Snip the flower heads off and dry them out in a warm, dry place. To collect the seeds, shake the dry flower head into a paper bag or bucket. Put the seeds into a dated and labeled envelope and return to Brock!