

# Oregano (Za'atar)

Za'atar is an heirloom oregano variety from the Middle East. It has leaves that are reminiscent of thyme and marjoram. Bees adore oregano when it is in bloom. Germination may be slow, so be patient. When in bloom, oregano is highly attractive to pollinators.

**Matures in 45 days**

**Season: Warm Season**

**Exposure: Full sun**

**Difficulty: Easy**



## Growing

Oregano seeds are dust-like, so handle them with care. Prepare containers using sterilized seed starting mix and water the soil. Evenly distribute the tiny seeds on the surface of the soil. Do not bury them. As seedlings grow, keep soil on the dry side. Transplant in late spring to early summer.

Grow in a sunny and warm spot. Aim for 25cm (10") between plants. Cut plants back after flowering to prevent them from getting straggly. As autumn approaches, divide some to bring inside over winter. Cut back the year's growth to about 6cm (2½") from the soil.

## 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 labelled envelope and return to Brock!