

Sweet Genovese Basil

HERB *Ocimum basilicum*

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Ocimum basilicum

Don't rush the season with this pick-and-come-again warm-weather-loving annual.

Culture: Direct sow well after danger of frost or start indoors 4 weeks before last frost. Lightly cover seed and firm gently. Keep evenly moist. Thin when plants have 3–4 true leaves. Prefers full sun and well-drained, rich soil.

Harvest: Begin harvesting approximately 10 weeks after sowing. Pinch off the flower buds as they develop to promote bushier growth. Responds well to being cut back. Harvest whole plants when frost threatens. Dry the leaves for cooking, or make pesto and freeze dinner-size portions.

Seed Savers: To save seeds for home planting, isolate from other basil varieties of the same species by at least 1/8 mile.

Soil
Temp.
70–85°F

Sowing
Depth
1/4"

Final Plant
Spacing
8–12"

Final Row
Spacing
18–24"

Light
Full Sun

Days to
Emerge
7–14

