



## Easy to grow Herbs

### Basil

Basil grows best from transplants. There are many types of basil, even with purple leaves! Cut leaves for fresh use or for drying just before the flowers open for best results. Basil loves hot weather. Plant two weeks after last expected frost. Use fresh or dried spicy-scented basil leaves to flavor tomato dishes. Try quick and easy basil pesto, made from fresh leaves.

### Parsley

Harvest parsley, grown from transplants, soon after planting. Choose curly or the Italian flat-leaved kind, or both. The curly type grows 10-12", the Italian about 18" tall. As soon as the leaves grow to a respectable size, use fresh or dried in just about any thing!

### Thyme

Thyme grows only 6-10" tall with small purple flowers and fragrant leaves. Grow thyme from transplants. Tuck it along the sunny edges of garden beds or use in a rock garden. Cut leafy tops and flowers when the first blossoms open. Thyme adds its light, aromatic flavor to salad dressings and seafood.

### Lavender

The long-lasting fragrant lavender leaves and flowers are used to make dried sachets, wreaths as well as in cooking. Lavender grows best from transplants planted in a sunny garden with warm, well-drained soil. Pick leaves anytime. For the best fragrance, cut flower stems, just as buds start to open.

### Rosemary

Young rosemary plants will transplant readily. Rosemary grows best in well-drained soil, in sunny gardens that have been limed. The narrow leaves have a leathery feel and a spicy fragrance. Pick leaves anytime. Use finely-chopped leaves in soups, sauces, salads and pasta. Rosemary's flavor complements chicken dishes well. Many take rosemary indoors and keep it potted in winter.

### Chives

Small dainty, onion-like plants, they grow in clumps reaching about 10" high and bear light purple flowers in early summer. Chives need extra care to survive winter. Plant as early as soil can be worked. As plant gets larger divide. Cut whole spears of chives from outside clump, snip above ground level. Renew clump during the season by cutting back tough leaves and faded flowers.

### Mint

Mint comes in a wide range of scents and flavors. Mint thrives in moist soil in shade or sun and easily survive winter. It tends to bully other plants, it spreads quickly and grows up to 2" tall. Gardeners tend to plant in containers. Pick mint leaves when young and tender for best aroma and flavor. Keep the plants producing leaves, nip off the flower spikes before they open.