

Columnar Basil

Ocimum basilicum var. (Columnar Basil) is also known as Greek Basil.

Columnar Basil is a perennial plant that is strongly aromatic and is classified as a herb. It has a stately columnar appearance with lush green leaves.

Columnar Basil grows in the full sun to part shade in well-drained moist soil. It has average water needs and one should be aware of overwatering as this will cause it to rot.

Columnar basil is a strong flavoured basil. It is a culinary herb that can be used in the same way as Sweet Basil and therefore goes well in Italian, Mediterranean and Asian dishes. It is an excellent herb for pesto.

Basil can be used to repel Aphids, flies and mites and is a good idea to plant outside kitchen doors.

 Columnar Basil does not seed and die as other Basils do.Ensure you make regular use of the leaves as this will encourage new growth and keep the plant fresh and happy. It can easily be cut back later in the season to promote a second growth spurt ,this will allow you to have fresh Basil leaves for cooking for a longer period of time. In frost free areas, you can harvest leaves throughout the year as it does not die down.

Columnar/Greek Basil copes well in containers or happily flourishes in general garden beds.