

# Growing Basil

*Ocimum basilicum*

## QUICK FACTS

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USDA ZONES

**2–11**

SUNLIGHT

**Full Sun**

## AT A GLANCE

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Basil dies in cold. Do not transplant until soil reaches 60°F and nights are consistently above 55°F -- in zone 7a, that means the last week of May, not mid-April. Basil downy mildew (*Peronospora belbahrii*) is now established in the northeastern United States and will devastate Genovese types in a wet summer; grow a resistant cultivar like 'Rutgers Devotion DMR' or 'Eleonora' to stay ahead of it.

## PLANTING CHECKLIST

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- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

## FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/vegetables/growing-basil/>

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