

Growing stevia as a sweet herb

Stevia rebaudiana

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

9–11

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

AT A GLANCE

Stevia is easy to grow from transplant in full sun with consistent moisture. Its two real constraints are: (1) it is frost-tender and must be started 6–8 weeks before last frost indoors, and (2) it blooms under short days (fall) and loses sweetness in the flowers -- harvest leaves before flowering.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- 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-stevia/>

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