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Purple Ruffles Basil

Ocimum basilicum 'Purple Ruffles'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)



Purple Ruffles Basil foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Purple Ruffles Basil
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Purple Ruffles Basil is an annual herb that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The crinkled oval deep purple leaves are usually harvested from early summer to early fall. The leaves have a pleasant taste.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Seasoning

Planting & Growing

Purple Ruffles Basil will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated herb garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

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Purple Ruffles Basil is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.