

Common Herbs - Growth Characteristics

Common name	Scientific name	Type	Light	Soil	Height (in.)	Propagation	Hardiness	Comments
Angelica	<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	B	LS	M	72	SF	H	Best in cool climates.
Anise	<i>Pimpinella anisum</i>	A	B	WD	18-24	SS	HH	Alkaline soils.
Basil, sweet	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	A	B	M	18	SS	T	Excellent for pots.
Bay, sweet	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	WP	LS	WD	48+	C	T	For containers. Topiary.
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	A	B	D	24-36	SS	HA	Often self-seeds.
Caraway	<i>Carum carvi</i>	B	B	WD	30	SS, F	H	Thin seedlings to 8 inches.
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	P	B, LS	WD	36	SS, D, C	H	Cut back in autumn.
Chervil	<i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i>	A	LS	WD	24	SS	HA	Sow early, will self-seed.
Chives	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	P	S, LS	D	10	SS, D	H	Can be grown indoors.
Cicely, sweet	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	P	LS	R	36-48	SF	H	Space 2 feet apart.
Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	P	B	R	36-48	D	H	Neutral pH, high fertility.
Coriander	<i>Coriander sativum</i>	A	B	R, WD	24	SS	HA	Space plants 8 inches apart.
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	A	B	R, WD	24-36	SS	HA	Do not plant with fennel.
Fennel, sweet	<i>Foeniculum dulce</i>	P	B	WD	48-72	SS, D	H	Less vigor in clay soils.
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	P	B	D	24	SS, D, C	H	Alkaline soils.
Hyssop	<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	P	B	D	24	SS, D, C	H	Cut back in spring.
Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	P	B	D	18-24	SF, C	H	Evergreen. May winter-kill.
Lemon Balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	P	B, LS	M	18-24	SS, D, C	H	Can be grown indoors. Weedy.
Lemon Verbena	<i>Aloysia Triphylla</i>	WP	B, LS	WD	48+	SS, C	HH	Rarely survives winter. Good indoors.
Lovage	<i>Levisticum officinale</i>	P	B, LS	R, M	36-60	SF	H	Self-seeds.
Marjoram, sweet	<i>Origanum majorana</i>	P	B, LS	R, WD	8-12	SS, C	HH	Grow in pots. Sow seeds as annual.
Myrtle	<i>Myrtus communis</i>	WP	B	WD	60+	C	T	Evergreen, for large containers.
Oregano	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	P	B, LS	WD	18-24	SS, D, C	H	Cut back in late fall.
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	B	B, LS	R, M	6-10	SS	HH	Often self-seeds.
Peppermint	<i>Mentha piperita</i>	P	B, LS	M	12-24	D, C	H	Spreads easily. Good indoors.
Rosemary	<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>	WP	B	D, WD	36	C	T	Alkaline soils. Good in pots.
Sage	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	WP	B	D, WD	24-36	SS, C	H	Replace plants every 5 years.
Sage, pineapple	<i>Salvia elegans</i>	P	B	WD	24-48	SS, C	HH	Good indoors.
Savory, summer	<i>Satureja hortensis</i>	A	B	R	18	SS	HH	Trim back during season.
Savory, winter	<i>Satureja montana</i>	WP	B	WD	24	SF, D, C	H	Alkaline soil.
Spearmint	<i>Mentha spicata</i>	P	B, LS	M	18	D, C	H	Spreads easily. Good indoors.
Tarragon	<i>Artemisia dracuncululus</i>	P	B	R, D	24	D, C	H	Needs winter protection.
Thyme	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	WP	B	D	6-10	SS, C, D	H	Evergreen. Grows indoors.
Woodruff, sweet	<i>Asperula odorata</i>	P	S, LS	M	6-8	D, C	H	Good groundcover.

Growth category: A = annual, B = biennial, P = perennial, WP = woody perennial

Light: B = bright, LS = light shade, S = shade

Soil: D = dry soil, M = moist soil, R = rich, WD = well drained

Propagation: C = cuttings, D = division, SF = seed (fall), SS = seed (spring)

Hardiness: H = hardy, HA = hardy annual, HH = half hardy, T = tender