

ANOTHER  
**HERB HERBERT**  
FACT SHEET

SPECIAL INTEREST HERBS

# BASIL COLUMNAR

*Ocimum basilicum* 'Greek Columnar'



## DESCRIPTION

A great addition to the comprehensive and versatile basil family, Columnar Basil grows to around 4' (1.2m), making it one of the largest growing basil varieties available. The plant grows in a neat, upright column, producing glossy green leaves high in aromatic oils and flavor.

The movement towards apartment living and smaller housing blocks have seen gardeners looking to utilize space more effectively, so plants that take advantage of the vertical plane are highly sought after. Columnar Basil is ideal for this purpose.



## PROPERTIES

A restorative, calming herb, basil relaxes spasms, lowers fever, improves digestion, and is effective in controlling bacterial infections and intestinal parasites.



## USES

### Culinary

Uses are the same as they are for sweet basil, the flavor being identical. Use fresh leaves in Mediterranean cuisine, meat, fish

and chicken dishes. As Columnar Basil grows to a considerable size, this variety is perfect for producing large volumes of leaves for pesto production. Leaves can also be dried for use out of season.

### Aromatic

The sweet and spicy fragrance of Columnar Basil can be used in aromatherapy in a similar manner to that of sweet basil.

### Ornamental

As Columnar Basil has a neat upright habit, it is ideal for formal gardens, courtyards and

balconies. The variety is also well suited to pot culture, feature planting, or hedging.



## CULTIVATION

Select a sunny, well-drained position in the garden, and enrich prior to planting with organic compost or manure. Alternatively, plant in pots using a premium blend potting mix. Keep well watered, and harvest leaves by removing the growing tips, which will encourage further growth. Feed with a liquid fertilizer regularly, and prune to shape in early spring.

Columnar Basil is perennial in frost-free climates, but is best replaced every two years to ensure vigor and quality is retained.

This variety may suffer from slugs, aphids, whitefly, spider mites, and botrytis.

## PARTS USED

Leaves, seed and oil



Height 1.2m (4')  
Spread 30cm (12")



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