

# ROSEMARY

*Rosemarinus officinalis*

Rosemary is one of those fabulous herbs that is pungently fragrant and has a multitude of uses. It's also very pretty to look at with tiny, thin leaves on sturdy woody stems, which makes some varieties great for shaping into tiny topiaries. Other varieties tend to stay low and stretch along the ground, making them perfect ground covers.



## PLANT | GROW | HARVEST

Rosemary likes full sun and a quick-draining soil – indoors or out, in a pot or in the ground, this is what it needs. In warmer climates Rosemary can be grown outdoors as an evergreen shrub. In cooler climates, you'll need to take it inside when winter sets in and frost is immanent.

In dryer climates start with a soil-based compost and bark to ensure that the soil remains damp but not wet – rosemary hates wet feet. In a humid climate, start with a soil-based compost and add a bit of sand to encourage quick drainage.

When planting rosemary in a pot, an uncoated terra cot pot is best. This will allow water and moisture to drain from the bottom and through the container's permeable sides.

Rosemary can easily be grown from cuttings. Start them in spring or summer to give them enough time to develop before the cooler weather arrives.

To harvest rosemary, snip off the tender stems just above the woody growth and pull the leaves off of the stem for use either fresh or dried.

## CULTIVATION STATS

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Foliage:** needle-shaped, dark green and highly fragrant

**Flowers:** small blue flowers from early spring through early summer – may flower in early fall in some climates

**Type:** woody perennial – can be grown as an evergreen/annual in some temperate climates

**Origin:** Mediterranean but is now cultivated throughout the world, especially in temperate climates

**US Growing Zones:** 6 – 10

**Exposure:** full sun

**Soil:** quick-draining

**Soil pH:** 5.5 – 7

**Fertilization:** after flowering

**Pref. Propagation Method:** cuttings

**Height:** 3'

**Spread/Spacing:** 3'

**Common Pests and Diseases:** rosemary beetle

**Companion Planting:** carrots, as it may help repel carrot fly

**Additional Varieties:** Rosemary Blue Lagoon, Rosemary Majorcan Pink, Rosemary Severn Sea, Rosemary Prostrate, Rosemary Primley Blue