Dark Opal Basil

Ocimum basilicum 'Dark Opal'



Dark Opal Basil foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Edible Qualities

Dark Opal Basil is an annual herb that is typically grown for its edible qualities. The fragrant oval deep purple leaves which emerge burgundy in spring are usually harvested from early summer to early fall. The leaves have a delicious taste.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Seasoning

Planting & Growing

Dark Opal Basil will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. This fast-growing annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant is typically grown 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.

Dark Opal 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.