

## Basils for Flavor, Fragrance & Flowers

### General

- Basil flowers are edible and can make attractive garnishes.
- Lettuce-leaf basils have milder flavor than standard sweet or Genovese basil.
- All sweet or Genovese basils are highly susceptible to basil downy mildew (BDM).
- Other basils flavors such as anise and lemon tend to be BDM-resistant.
- Red and purple basils can have duller flavors than green; may be more BDM resistant.
- African basils provide genetic diversity to help counter BDM.

### CLASSIC BASIL FLAVOR

#### STANDARD

- Genovese – The sweet basil flavor most familiar to Americans; tall, relatively slow to bolt
- Everleaf Emerald Towers – Tidy, well-branched, very slow to flower; focus is on leaf production
- Tuscany –Lettuce-leaf type, mild flavor, some downy mildew tolerance in Johnny’s field trials
- Red Rubin – Dark purple Italian large-leaf basil with purple flowers and purple-copper leaves
- Amethyst – Purple to near-black color; purple flowers and red leaves make attractive garnish
- Prospera® – Downy mildew and Fusarium resistant line of basils
- Rutgers Obsession DMR – Downy mildew and Fusarium resistant
- Rutgers Devotion DMR – Downy mildew resistant

#### CONTAINERS

- Genovese Compact, Improved - Standard Genovese type for containers
- Emily - Compact classic Genovese type, high leaf-to-stem ratio
- Mammolo – Bushy; high leaf-to-stem ratio, compact growth habit
- ‘Pesto Perpetuo’ – Non-flowering, ornamental with variegated leaves, hints of lemon
- Prospera Compact – Compact Genovese type with downy mildew and Fusarium resistance
- Crimson King - 100% purple, no green shoots, nice flavor

#### WINDOWBOXES & EDGING

- Windowbox Mini Basil – From Italy, 8-10” tall, fragrant and ornamental
- Marseillais Dwarf – From France, intense basil flavor, 12” tall
- Fino Verde – Spicy-sweet flavor, 8-12" tall, compact and rounded form
- Boxwood – Same size and structure as Fino Verde
- Pluto - Spicy-sweet Greek basil flavor, 6-8” tall, perfectly fills a 3-6" pot
- ‘Round Midnight – Bushy 1'-tall plants, fragrant, burgundy leaves have silvery shimmer
- Purple Ball Basil – Ball of tiny, deep purple leaves, 1’ tall, nice flavor

## CITRUS & MINT FLAVOR

- Lemon – (*O. citriodora*) Native of India. Bold aroma, lemon flavor with pepper
- Lime – (*O. americanum*) Darker green leaves, lime zest flavor, less fruity
- Mrs. Burns' Lemon - (*O. citriodora*) [*New Mexico heirloom*] Fresh, light lemon flavor with mint
- Reyhan (Persian) – Variegated leaves, flowers; minty with classic flavor
- Chinese Sweet – Light fragrance, lemon and floral flavor, not sharp; tender stems

## ANISE & CINNAMON FLAVOR

- Thai Sweet – Sweet, spicy flavor, classic to Thai and Vietnamese cuisines, 12-18"
- Thai Siam Queen – Larger bright green leaves, ornamental flower cones, flavorful, 18"
- Everleaf Thai Towers - Large leaves, flowers 10-12 weeks later than Sweet Thai basil, 24"
- Cardinal – Ornamental and fragrant, anise flavor seemed harsh, 18"
- Cinnamon (aka Mexican Spice) – Ornamental heirloom, no cinnamon detected, 26–30"
- Aromatto – Ornamental foliage, dark purple flowers, spicy fragrance

## HOLY (TULSI)

- Green (called white or Lakshmi tulsi) and Purple (called black or Krishna tulsi) varieties hold a prominent place in the Hindu religion and are used interchangeably

## SPICE

- Sweet clove fragrance and flavor; mistakenly called "holy," "sacred," "tulsi"
- Spice and Blue Spice are very similar, possibly the same variety

## AFRICAN

- African Nunum (Ghana) – vegetal rather than basil flavor; impressive antibiotic qualities
- Akoko Mesa (Ghana) means "chicken dance" – a popular spice for cooking poultry
- Eritrean (Eritrea) - said to be stunning in flower; classic basil flavor with subtle differences
- Mrihani (Zanzibar) – Gorgeous leaves, complex flavor; used to create Rutgers BDM-resistant basil (African basil was also used to produce the Prospera® line of BDM-resistant basil)
- African Blue hybrid – (sterile) Ornamental, bee magnet, flowers heavily throughout the season

## BASILS FOR FLOWERS & FOLIAGE

Consider African Blue, Thai Siam Queen, Cardinal, Reyhan (Persian), Aromatto, Cinnamon, and Mrs. Burns' Lemon