

Latin Name/Genus: *Origanum vulgare*
Family: *Lamiaceae*

Difficulty: Easy

Season: Warm season

Exposure: Full-sun

Zone: Hardy to Zone 5



Timing: Start oregano seeds indoors in plug trays from late winter to mid-spring (starting indoors is more reliable than direct sowing); use bottom heat to achieve a constant soil temperature of 15°C for best results. Germination occurs in 7 - 14 days.

Starting: Oregano seeds are dust-like, so handle with care. Prepare containers or plug trays using sterilized seed starting mix, and water the soil; then try to evenly distribute the tiny seeds on the surface of the soil - do not bury them; using a bottom heat source will improve the overall success rate. As seedlings grow, keep soil on the dry side; pot on as necessary or transplant to the garden in late spring to early summer.

Growing: Optimal pH level: 6.5-7.0, but can grow between 5.5-8.0; grow oregano in a sunny and warm spot, allowing soil to dry thoroughly between irrigations. Aim for 25cm (10") between plants. Cut plants back after flowering to prevent them from getting straggly; as autumn approaches, divide some to bring inside over winter. Cut back the year's growth to about 6cm (2½") from the soil.

Nutrient Preferences: Oregano doesn't usually require any added nutrients to grow well, however, it can benefit from smaller, balanced applications of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in the spring and summer.

Harvest: Pick oregano leaves throughout the season as needed - oregano leaves can be dried or frozen; store dried leaves or whole stalks in air tight containers in dark, cool locations.

Companion Planting: Oregano is particularly excellent for repelling cabbage moths, and is intentionally planted between rows of brassicas for this purpose. Oregano is also beneficial around asparagus and basil. When in bloom, oregano is highly attractive to pollinators.