

Latin Name/Genus: *Salvia rosmarinus* (previously *Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Family: *Lamiaceae*

Difficulty: Challenging

Season: Warm season

Exposure: Full-sun

Zone: Hardy to Zone 8



Timing: Sow rosemary seeds indoors from late winter to early spring (starting indoors is more reliable); transplant or direct sow starting in late spring, once soil has warmed. If possible, use bottom heat to maintain an optimal soil temperature of 27-32°C.

Starting: Germination of rosemary is notoriously low, so plant more seeds than needed - most nurseries grow rosemary from cuttings, not seeds. Sow seeds barely covered with sterilized seed starting mix over bottom heat. Once germinated, rosemary is highly prone to damping off, so keep watering to a minimum, provide bright light, and ventilation; keep each plant in its own pot for the first winter and offer them protection from severe cold. Transplant to the garden the following spring, spacing them 60-90cm (24-36") apart.

Growing: If growing rosemary in containers, monthly feedings of liquid fertilizer is suggested; keep watered in hot weather. Mulch around all rosemary plants as cold weather approaches - if their roots freeze in times of hard frost, the plants will die.

Nutrient Preferences: Like many other plants, rosemary generally require nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, and magnesium to thrive; these plants respond extremely well to nitrogen applicants post-harvest [promoting new growth] – ensure excessive amounts are not added.

Harvest: Harvest individual leaves by pulling them off the plant; harvest branches or stems for drying by cutting with a clean, very sharp knife (scissors may crush the plant's tissues at the cut end).

Companion Planting: Rosemary is a great neighbour for alyssum, beans, brassicas, carrots, coneflower, cosmos, lavender, marigolds, nasturtiums, raspberries, zinnia, and most other herbs.