

Herbs on a Windowsill

A quick guide to growing your own herbs indoors



At a Glance

Sun: Bright south, east or west facing window, or grow light

Soil: Quick-draining, mix 50/50 cactus soil & potting soil

Water: Do not allow soil to dry completely or keep soil constantly wet.

Harvest: You can safely snip up to 1/3 of the plant at a time. Trim frequently.

When bringing outdoor herbs inside, dip in a soap and water solution prior to bringing inside.

Steps for Success

1. Choose a well-lit window (South, East, or West-facing), or use a grow light. East is best for plants that like partial sun; West and South works for plants that like full, direct sunlight. Newer windows may have UV blocking filters, which would necessitate using grow lights. Some older windows may allow too much cold air for temperature sensitive plants like basil.
2. Herbs like quick draining soil. You can try mixing one part potting soil with one part cactus and succulent mix.
3. When repotting smaller plants, only increase to the next pot size. For instance, an herb in a 2.5" pot would be transplanted into a 3 or 4" pot.
4. When bringing herbs inside from the garden, dip plants in a nontoxic insecticidal soap to avoid transferring pests indoors.
5. Water thoroughly when soil is getting dry. Do not allow the soil to dry out so completely that the soil pulls away from the edges of the pot or keep soil constantly soaking wet.
6. Snip frequently. You can safely harvest up to 1/3 of the plant at a time.

Best Herbs for Indoors

Basil
Chives
Lavender (French, Spanish)
Lemon Balm

Marjoram
Mints
Oregano
Parsley

Rosemary
Scented Geraniums
Thyme

Note: Basil prefers a warmer location, around 65-70° F. All other varieties prefer cooler rooms of the home, around 60-65° F.

Herbs that Like it on the Dry Side

These herbs do well planted in the same container. Plant in terracotta or ceramic containers with a soil mix of 1/2 cactus soil and 1/2 potting soil.

Rosemary

Santolina

Savory

Lavender

Thyme

Oregano

Sage

Olive

Bay

Hyssop

Aloe

Marjoram

Herbs that Like More Moisture

These herbs do well planted in the same container. Mix in 1/4 to 1/3 cactus soil with your potting soil. Water when the top inch of the soil is dry.

Basil

Salad Burnette

Sorrel

Chamomile

Calendula

Chives

Cutting Celery

Cilantro/Coriander

Catnip

Dill

Cat Grass

Parsley

Mint