

# Planting Heirloom Herbs

The following charts show any special needs for starting, and growing heirloom herbs. This information was gathered from many, many sources, and is presented here for your use. Enjoy, and share it!

Variety	Special requirements	Days to sprout	Germination rate	Planting instructions
Comfrey	Seeds need darkness to germinate	14 - 21	40%	Start inside 6 weeks before last spring frost.
Evening Primrose		20 - 30	70%	
Heartsease		14 - 21	70%	
Pennyroyal		14 - 21	60%	Use soil heating cables or a heat propagation mat.
Pimpernel		10 - 14	60%	
Rue		10 - 14	50%	
Sage		7 - 10	70%	
Sea Lavender		7 - 14	70%	Transplant outside after last spring frost
Sneezewort		7 - 14	70%	
Sorrel, French		10 - 24	65%	
Wormwood		7 - 10	65%	

Note that you can put these on top of your refrigerator, instead of buying a heating pad or mat. It is free, and the temperature is just right for getting these seeds to germinate.

Herb	Special needs	Germ time	Rate	Notes
Anise	None.	7 - 14	50%	Sow seeds outside after last spring frost.
Basil		7 - 10	60%	
Bloodflower		15 - 30	60%	
Borage		7 - 14	75%	
Burdock		10 - 14	65%	
Calendula		10 - 14	75%	
Caraway		10 - 14	70%	
Chives		7 - 14	60%	
Coriander		7 - 10	70%	
Cumin		10 - 14	50%	
Dill		7 - 21	60%	
Edelweiss		7 - 14	65%	
Eucalyptus		7 - 14	65%	
Fennel		None.	14 - 21	
Fenugreek	7 - 10		75%	
Flax	7 - 10		65%	
Hawkweed	7 - 14		70%	
Horehound	14 - 21		60%	
Hyssop	14 - 21		65%	
Jacob's Ladder	14 - 21		65%	
Lamb's Ear	10 - 14		75%	
Lovage	10 - 21		65%	
Mugwort	10 - 24		65%	
Mullein	10 - 14		70%	
Mustard	7 - 14		75%	
Nigella	14 - 21		75%	
Ox Eye Daisy	14 - 21		50%	
Parsley	21 - 30	60%		

NOTE THAT SOME OF THESE HERBS NEEDS LIGHT TO GERMINATE. BASIL AND OREGANO ARE TWO OF THEM. PARSLEY DOES BETTER WHEN NOT "PLANTED" BUT RATHER "SOWN".

Herb	Special needs	Germ time	Rate	Notes
Plantain		10 – 14	75%	
Queen Anne's Lace		7 – 14	80%	
Pyrethrum		10 - 14	60%	
Red Clover		7 – 10	80%	
Soapwort		10 - 24	65%	
Speedwell		7 – 14	75%	
Tansy		14 - 21	40%	

These are very "friendly" herbs, as they behave just as you would expect: put the seeds into the garden, and watch them grow.

Remember that the "rule of thumb" to this is to not plant the seed any deeper than 2-3 times it longest dimension. If it is 1/8 of an inch long, then plant no deeper than 1/4 inch.

In nature, most of the seeds just end up on top of the soil, and are "washed into" it by rain. This plants the seed at just the right depth.

NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT BASIL, OREGANO, AND PARSLEY BENEFIT BY BEING JUST "SOWN" NOT "PLANTED" AS THEY NEED SUNLIGHT TO GERMINATE. WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL GRANDPA.

Variety	Special requirements	Days to sprout	Germination rate	Planting instructions
Angelica	Stratify seeds. Place seeds in a moist medium and refrigerate before planting.	30	30%	Start inside 6 weeks before last spring frost.  Use soil heating cables or a heat propagation mat.
Joe Pye Weed		14 - 21	50%	
Purple Coneflower		14 – 21	50%	
Rosemary		14 – 21	25%	
St. Johnswort	Seeds need light to germinate.	7 - 14	50%	Transplant outside after last spring frost.

These herbs are a little more "picky" about how they like to start out in life. That being said, do not give up.... give it a try, and you will most likely succeed. These require a little more patience, as they can take longer to germinate, the wait is worth it.

Bee Balm	Seeds need light to germinate.	7 - 14	50%	Start inside 6 weeks before last spring frost.  Use soil heating cables or a heat propagation mat.
Catnip		7 - 10	50%	
Chamomile		10 - 14	65%	
Common Yarrow		10 - 14	60%	
Dandelion		14 - 21	60%	
Elecampane		7 - 10	50%	
Epazote		7 - 14	60%	
Feverfew		7 - 14	60%	
Lavender		14 - 21	65%	
Lemon Balm		7 - 14	65%	
Marjoram		10 - 14	50%	
Oregano		7 - 14	60%	
Peppermint	Seeds need light to germinate.	10 - 14	50%	Transplant outside after last spring frost.
Savory		7 - 14	70%	
Spearmint		10 - 14	50%	
Tarragon		14 - 21	40%	
Thyme, English		14 - 21	50%	
Wild Bergamot		7 - 14	50%	

Chicory	None	10 - 14	65%	Sow outside three weeks before last spring frost.
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Valerian	Stratify seeds.	14 - 21	50%	Sow outside after last frost
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Chervil	Seeds need light to germinate.	10 - 14	70%	Sow seeds outside after last spring frost.
Creeping Thyme		14 - 21	50%	

Those that need light to germinate will do well if the seed is "sown" or just place on top of the soil and either barely "dusted" with soil, or just pressed into it. Watch the birds!!! They can see these seeds and will likely try to eat them. Again, the effort is worth it.