

Suggested Herbs for Brazos County



Most Herbs on This List Should...

Be planted in a sunny location that receives afternoon (4:00 - 6:00pm) shade. Exceptions are noted under Description/Notes.

Be planted in well-drained soil; i.e., soil from which water percolates reasonably quickly and does not pool.

Be planted far enough apart to allow for good air circulation around individual plants. Only lightly mulch the plants for the same reason.

Do well in raised beds and containers.

Require minimal fertilizer.

Be drought-tolerant once they are established.

To ensure you have the desired species or variety, start with commercially guaranteed seed or by purchasing small transplants. Thereafter, propagate as indicated.

Note: (a) = annual; (p) = perennial. Under Plant Time, "Month-Month" is an inclusive period; "Month or Month" means only in the months indicated.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Height	Growth Habit	Propagate by	Plant Time	Description/Notes
Aloe Vera (p)	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i>	12"	Upright	Offsets	May-Aug	Cold tender; container growth suggested.
Artemisia (p)	<i>Artemisia albul</i>	1' - 3'	Upright	Seed, Division, Cuttings	Mar-Apr	Varieties "Silver King" and "Silver Queen" are suggested.
Arugula or Rocket (a)	<i>Eruca sativa</i>	8"	Upright	Seed	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Garlicky crispness. Flavor of leaves strengthens with time, so harvest often to keep leaves tender and growth steady. Bolts in warm weather.
Basil (a)	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	20" - 24"	Bushy branching	Seed	Apr-Jun or Sep	Many varieties mimic aromas of other plants. Keep watered and mulched. Leaf color and size vary. Pinch off flower stalks. Will cross-pollinate; i.e., seed may not produce same plant next year. Planting tip: strip lower leaves of transplants and set plant lower in ground, as with tomatoes. Attracts bees and butterflies.
Bay (p)	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	6' - 24'	Woody tree	Cuttings	Sep-Oct or Mar-Apr	Slow growing to tree form. Subject to scale insect.
Bee Balm or Bergamot (p)	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	3'	Upright	Division, Cuttings	Mar-Apr	Can be aggressive; needs to be controlled. Good for cut flowers (scarlet, pink, lavender, white). Attracts hummingbirds and bees.
Betony (p)	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	1' - 2'	Upright	Division	Mar-Apr	Wrinkled, scallop-edged, oblong leaves form a clump; flower stems rise 12" above leaves. Attracts bees.
Borage (a)	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	18"	Upright Spreading	Seed	late Feb	Covered in prickly white hairs; wear gloves. Smell and taste like cucumber. Self-seeding; prolific. Bright blue flowers attract bees summer- fall.
Bouncing Bet (p)	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	4" - 2'	Upright	Rhizome Division	Oct-mid Nov or Mar-Apr	Upright but makes a good groundcover.
Calendula (a)	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	8" - 18"		Seed	Oct-Nov or Apr-mid May	Edible flowers (yellow to orange). Reseeds readily. Pinch off spent flowers to ensure plant strength.
Catnip or Catmint (p)	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	3' - 5'	Upright	Seed	Mar-May	Hardy, vigorous; plant at distance from other plants to avoid damage by cats.

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Chamomile, German (p)	<i>Matricaria recutits</i>	1' - 2'	Matting	Seed	Mar-Apr or Sep-Oct	A cool-season, flowering species. Roman Chamomile does not do well here.
Chives (p)	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	1' - 2'	Clumps	Division	Mar-Apr	Onion & garlic flavors. Pinch off flower spikes (they are edible) to promote new leaves. Can be aggressive; good for container culture.
Cilantro or Coriander (a)	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	3'	Branching	Seed	late Oct or early Mar	Reseeds readily; cut seedheads into paper bags to collect seed; store in cool, dry place. If seeds are to be used in cooking, store in refrigerator.
Comfrey (p)	<i>Symphytum officinalis</i>	12"	Clumps	Crown Division, Root Cutting	Apr-Sep	Clumps spread to 2-3' diameter. Will grow in partial shade. Requires ample water. Deep-rooted; once established can be difficult to dig up.
Dill (a)	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	2' - 3'	Upright	Seed	late Oct or early Mar	Cool-weather preferred. Bolts easily.
Echinacea or Purple Cone Flower (p)	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	3' - 4'	Upright Branching	Seed, Division	Mar or mid Aug-Sep	Can grow 2-3' wide. Attracts butterflies and bees. Pinch off spent flowers to extend blooming season.
Elephant garlic (p)	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	2'-3'	Clumps	Bulb	Mar or Sep	Not a true garlic, but variant of garden leek. Flavor is milder than true garlic. Remove flower scapes to promote bulb growth. Can be left in ground for years without rotting.
Fennel (a)	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	3'	Upright	Seed; Crown or Root Division	mid-Mar	Hardy, drought-resistant, but watering improves appearance. Bulbous variety "Florence" is suggested as cool season annual.
Feverfew (p)	<i>Tanacetum parthenum</i>	20"	Upright	Seed, Division	Mar-mid Apr	Compact; leafy; aggressive. Will self-sow freely.
Geranium, Scented (p)	<i>Pelargonium spp.</i>		Varied	Cuttings	Oct or Mar	Cold tender (upper 30s). Heat tolerant. Growth habit varies; good in containers. Prune after blooming and feed well. Flavors: lemon, rose, peppermint, nutmeg,...
Germander (p)	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	4" -10"	Upright	Division	Mar-mid May	Makes attractive evergreen hedge or edging.
Gotu Kola (p)	<i>Centella asiatica</i>	8"	Spreading	Seed, Offsets	Mar-Aug	Tastes like parsley. Growth habit like strawberries. Likes bright shade and ample water. Can be aggressive.
Horseradish (p)	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	3'	Upright	Root Cuttings	Mar-May	Very aggressive. To start, plant dormant root in loose soil. Attracts potato bugs; is considered a "catch plant". Good for container culture.
Lemon Balm (p)	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	2' - 3'	Branching	Seed	Mar-May	Happiest in high shade. In stress conditions (heat, cold, too wet/dry), cut to ground - it will revive.
Lemon Grass (p)	<i>Cymbopogon citrates</i>	6'	Clumps	Root Cuttings	Mar-Oct	Semi-hardy; cold tender. Cut back in early winter and mulch it. Note: handle with gloves owing to sharp-edged grass blades.
Lemon Verbena (p)	<i>Aloysia triphylla</i>	3' - 5'	Branching Sprawling	Cuttings	Apr-mid Sep	Cold tender; will drop leaves; mulch heavily in winter.
Mexican Oregano (p)	<i>Lippia graveolens</i>	2' - 3'	Shrubby	Cuttings	mid Mar - Apr	Not a true oregano. Easy to grow, with good flavor.
Mexican Mint Marigold (p)	<i>Tagetes lucida</i>	2-3'	Upright	Cuttings, Seed	Mar or Sep	Evergreen through all but the harshest winter. A good substitute for tarragon, which is difficult to grow.
Mint (p)	<i>Mentha spp.</i>	2' - 3'	Matting	Cuttings	Apr-May	Very aggressive; best grown in containers. Pinch off spent flowers asap to avoid self-seeding. Tolerates high shade.
Nasturtium (p)	<i>Tropaeloum majus</i>	1' - 18"		Seed	Oct-Feb	Fall-winter annual. Cream, yellow, orange and red flowers. One variety can trail up to 6'.

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Oregano (p)	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	1' - 18"	Creeping, Mounding	Seed, Cuttings	mid Mar-Apr	Most varieties are winter hardy. Will tolerate shade, but will lose flavor. Harvest when NOT blooming. Good for container culture.
Parsley (a)	<i>Petroselinum sp.</i>	12" - 18"	Spreading	Seed	Mar-Apr or Sep-Oct	Curly-leaved/French & flat-leaved/Italian (easier to grow). May not survive heat. Soak seeds several hours before sowing. Pinch off flowers; plant dies after flowering.
Pineapple Sage (p)	<i>Salvia elegans</i>	2' - 4'	Upright	Cuttings	Apr-May	Hardy to about 20°. Grown for appearance (red blooms). Smells like fresh pineapple. Roots easily in water. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
Purslane (p)	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	3" - 6"	Matting	Seed, Cuttings	Apr-May	Self-sows aggressively. Considered a weed in the lawn.
Rosemary (p)	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	up to 6'	Upright & Prostrate	Cuttings	Nov or Mar	Uprights = 3-4' tall. Prostrates = tiny to groundcover. Tolerates high shade. Water lightly but often. Mulch well to protect hairlike roots. Flowers attract bees.
Savory, Winter (p)	<i>Satureja montana</i>	18"	Shrubby Spreading	Seed, Cuttings	mid Mar-Jun	Evergreen. Small white-to-lilac flowers attract bees. Prune often and lightly for continual tender, delicate growth (better flavor).
Thyme (p)	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	6" - 10"	Upright or Creeping	Seed, Cuttings	mid Mar-Jun	Mulch well in winter. Culinary varieties are upright; use creeping as ground-cover. Likes regular light pruning. Propagate by layering during fall through spring.
Yarrow (p)	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	2' - 4'	Upright Spreading	Seed, Division	Apr-mid Jul	Tall showy flower heads (red, yellow or white) good for dried arrangements. All varieties can be aggressive.
Herbal Challenges! These are difficult to grow in our climate.						
Lavender (p) considered (a) in our zone	<i>Lavandula sp.</i>	18" - 3'	Upright shrubby	Cuttings	Apr-May	Try these varieties: fernleaf (<i>L. multifida</i>); French (<i>L. dentata</i>); Goodwin Creek Gray & Provence (<i>L. lavandula</i> x hybrids); Spanish (<i>L. stoechas</i>).
Sage (p) - culinary considered (a) in our zone	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	2-3'	Upright Woody	Cuttings, Seed	early Mar	Dislikes high humidity and temperatures. Best variety for Texas is "Newe Ya'ar". Freeze seeds 3 days before sowing; cover well.
Tarragon (p)	<i>Atemisia dracunculus</i>	12"-18"	Sprawling	Seed, Cuttings	Mar-Apr	Dislikes heat/humidity. Best grown in sphagnum-lined basket; keep moist; move to cooler area in summer. Asparagus-like growth habit. Fertilize and prune often.