

HOW TO GROW PARSLEY !

Both the curly leaf form (*P. crispum*) and the Italian flat-leaf form (*P. crispum* var. *neapolitanum*) of this useful herb are members of the carrot family Apiaceae, and share a close botanical relationship to their cousin the parsnip (although the similarity in names is coincidental). As with most other members of this family, parsley grows feathery, deep-green foliage above a long taproot, and eventually flowers in its second year, sending up a tall umbel of white blooms that set masses of small, oily seeds.

Difficulty

All types are easy and well-suited to growing in deep containers.

Timing

Sow indoors in spring (mid-February to mid-March), or outdoors from May onward. Parsley grows well as a winter harvest crop if it is given some protection.

Sowing

Soaking overnight may speed up germination, which can take as long as 12-28 days. Be patient. Sow seeds 5mm (¼") deep.

Soil

Rich, well drained soil with ample organic matter in sun or partial shade works best.

Growing

Thin to 15-20cm (6-8") apart, and keep soil relatively moist. To prevent "volunteer" plants, make sure to remove flower stalks before they open.

Harvest

One to three plants is usually adequate for the family garden, and sprigs or branches of parsley can be harvested nearly all year round, particularly if grown under a cloche in the winter.

Storage

Refrigerate cut parsley either in the crisper or with its stems in a cup of water. Parsley does not maintain its flavour well when dried, although it is particularly good for freeze-drying. Otherwise, freeze chopped leaves in ice cube trays as you would basil.

Seed info

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In optimum conditions at least 60% of seeds will germinate. Soil temperature for germination: 10-27°C (50-80°F). Usual seed life: 1 year.

Pests & Disease

Almost trouble free. Parsley attracts beneficial insects.

Source:

www.westcoastseeds.com



As part of your garden this year, plant and grow an extra row of your favourite veggies and donate the harvest to your local food bank. Help us help all those in need.

Special thanks to McKenzie Seeds for their great growing information and their long-time support for Plant • Grow • Share A Row