

PLANT PROFILE

Parsley



Latin Name: Petroselinum crispum

Soil type: Moist but well drained soil

Soil Ph: Slightly acidic

Aspect: Sun or part shade

Hardiness: Move plants at the end of the season and bring them indoors for leaves throughout winter

Propagation: Sow seed from early Spring to Summer either outdoors directly into well-prepared soil, in rows 1cm deep and 30cm apart. When seedlings are large enough, thin them to 15cm apart. Or sow in pots indoors lightly covered with soil, prick out and pot when large enough to handle. Ensure the soil or compost does not dry out. Grow as an annual so sow new seed each year. Successional sowing provides continuous crops

Maintaining: Feed every few weeks with a balanced liquid fertiliser, remove flowerheads, cut off any lower shoots that start to turn yellow,

Harvesting: Pick as needed, cutting the stems at the base, so that new leaves grow back quickly

Storage: Using fresh provides better flavour but it is better to chop parsley finely and freeze if using later

Other characteristics: Parsley is biennial, so flowers will be produced in the second year if plants are not regularly cut back, allow plants to flower to save seed

Pests: Slugs and snails, Carrot fly, Celery leaf miner

Uses: The leaves and stems can be used in cooking or as a garnish, best used finely chopped, flat leaved Parsley has a stronger flavour than curly leaved Parsley