

WAGNERS CARE CARD

HERBS

Herbs are among the easiest plants to grow and enjoy. An herb garden, even a single pot on a patio or windowsill, can yield fun and add flavor to your cooking. Herbs provide flowers, fragrance, flavor, and better health. Herbs can be classified as annuals, biennials, or perennials. Annuals bloom one season and then die. Biennials live for two seasons blooming the second season only. Perennials bloom every season once they are established.



BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Light Some herbs grow well in partial shade, but most need full sun for at least six hours a day. Growing plants in portable containers will allow you to move them if you don't have a fixed spot with enough sunlight. It also allows you easy access for harvesting when cooking.

Soil & Water Herbs appreciate good drainage and an evenly moist soil. Drainage is probably the most important single factor in successful herb growing. None of the herbs will grow in wet soil. Perennial and biennial herbs should be winter protected. Mulch after the ground has frozen in early winter.



CARE & MAINTENANCE

Harvesting Fresh leaves may be picked as soon as the plant has enough foliage to maintain growth. Pick leaves or seeds after the dew has disappeared but before the sun becomes too hot. Wash dirty leaves and seed heads in cold water; drain thoroughly before using. For the most part, the more you harvest herbs, the more they will produce. When you don't pick your herbs often enough, they tend to go to seed or become bitter.



TIPS & TRICKS

Bringing Herbs Indoors Extend your herbal gardening season by bringing your herbs indoors. Annual herbs can spend their full life cycle in a pot indoors. Perennial herbs, however, will do better if you place them outdoors during the summer. When transplanting herbs into pots, cut them back to make them easier to work with and encourage new growth. Place your herbs in a sunny location and keep them evenly moist.



WAGNERS

A Garden of Ideas

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