

Hydroponic and Container Basil Guide

Type	Variety	Description & Recommendation	Benefits	Disadvantages	Common Uses	Seed Forms Offered	Part #
Fast-Growing Varieties							
Genovese / Pesto	Aroma 2	Popular choice for hydroponic growers because of uniformity and fast growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fast growing •Uniform growth •Classic flavor/aroma profile •Fusarium resistant 	Plants are relatively lanky and sparse, with fewer leaves than more compact types. Leaves are a bit smaller and flatter than standard Genovese.	Preferred Use: Live plant in container or with growing medium attached. Secondary Use: Individual leaf, tip, and bunch harvest, packaged in clam shells or bags.	Organic seed	2946G
	Eleonora	Use during times of high downy mildew pressure. Also, fast growing and uniform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Downy mildew resistant •Fast growing •Uniform growth 	Flavor/aroma profile is slightly spicier than traditional Genovese. Leaves are a bit smaller and flatter than standard Genovese. Plants are relatively lanky and sparse, with fewer leaves than more compact types.	Preferred Use: Live plant in container or with growing medium attached. Secondary Use: Individual leaf, tip, and bunch harvest, packaged in clam shells or bags.	Organic seed with NOP-compliant pellet	2946GP
	Genovese	Recommended only for harvest of individual leaves, stems, or bunches, due to lack of uniformity in plant height and habit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fast growing •Large, cupped leaves •Classic flavor/aroma profile 	While fuller than Aroma 2 and Eleonora, plants are still relatively lanky and sparse, with fewer leaves than more compact types. Growth rate and plant habit can be variable, making it difficult to use for a dependable harvest of uniform live plants.	Preferred Use: Individual leaves, stems, or bunches packaged in clam shells or bags.	Conventional seed	3148
	Dolly	Genovese appearance, with Italian Large Leaf type yields. Performs very well in containers. While it is used successfully by experienced hydroponic growers, it is not recommended for those new to hydroponic production because of its sensitivity to nutrient imbalances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fast growing •Uniform growth •High-yielding plants with very large, cupped leaves •Classic flavor/aroma profile 	Sensitive to nutrient imbalances; often will show zoning/discoloration in leaves more than other varieties, both in hydroponic systems and in the field.	Preferred Use: Live plant in container or with growing medium attached. Individual leaves, tips, or bunches packaged in clam shells or bags.	Organic seed with NOP-compliant pellet	3148G
						Conventional seed with conventional pellet	911
						Organic seed with NOP-compliant pellet	911P <i>(Online Only)</i>
						Organic seed with NOP-compliant pellet	911G
						Organic seed with NOP-compliant pellet	911GP
						Conventional seed	3875
						Organic seed	3875G
Italian Large Leaf	Nufar	Popular choice for hydroponic growers because of its uniformity and fast growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fast growing •Uniform growth •Large leaves on productive plants •Fusarium resistant 	Italian Large Leaf types have a sweeter flavor/aroma profile that is not suitable for markets demanding a Genovese flavor/aroma profile. Plant type and flattened, serrated, and rugose leaves are also not as popular as the Genovese type.	Preferred Uses: Live plant in container or with growing medium attached. Individual leaves, tips, or bunches packaged in clam shells or bags. Good for mechanical harvest.	Organic seed	2178G
	Italian Large Leaf	Recommended only for harvest of individual leaves, stems, or bunches, due to lack of uniformity in plant habit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fast Growing •Large leaves •Seed is generally inexpensive 	Italian Large Leaf types have a sweeter flavor/aroma profile that is not suitable for markets demanding a Genovese flavor/aroma profile. Growth rate and plant habit can be variable, making it difficult to use for a dependable harvest of uniform live plants. Plant type and flattened, serrated, and rugose leaves are also not as popular as the Genovese type.	Preferred Uses: Individual leaves, stems, or bunches packaged in clam shells or bags.	Organic seed with NOP-compliant pellet	2178GP
						Conventional seed	944
Slower-Growing Varieties							
Compact Genovese / Pesto	Everleaf	Disease-resistant, compact plants, ideal for attractive, full, uniform live plants. NOTE: Because the plant architecture is so dense, a seeding rate of 2-5 seeds per 4" pot is recommended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Intermediate downy mildew resistance •Fusarium resistant •Very full, compact plants have short internodes •Medium-large, cupped leaves •Classic flavor/aroma profile •Uniform growth •Extremely slow to bolt 	If spray treatment is required, it may be difficult to get good coverage on the extremely dense, compact plants. Dense plants are not ideal for bunch harvest. Slower growth rate than fast-growing varieties noted above.	Preferred Uses: Live plant in container or with growing medium attached. Individual leaves or tips packaged in clam shells or bags.	Conventional seed	3334
	Elidia	Compact plants with large leaves are ideal for attractive, full, uniform live plants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fusarium Resistant •Full compact plants have short internodes •Large, cupped leaves •Classic flavor/aroma profile •Uniform growth •Slow to bolt 	Slower growth rate than fast-growing varieties noted above.	Preferred Use: Live plant in container or with growing medium attached. Secondary Use: Individual leaves packaged in clam shells or bags (a faster-growing standard Genovese is preferable if leaf harvest is primary purpose).	Organic seed	3622G
	Genovese Compact Improved	Full, compact plants with large leaves are ideal for attractive, full, uniform live plants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uniform growth •Full, compact plants have short internodes •Large, cupped leaves •Classic flavor/aroma profile •Slow to bolt 	Slower growth rate than fast-growing varieties noted above.	Preferred Use: Live plant in container or with growing medium attached. Secondary Use: Individual leaves packaged in clam shells or bags (faster-growing standard Genovese is preferable if leaf harvest is primary purpose).	Conventional seed	3622
						Organic seed	2922G
						Multi-seed Pellet: Conventional seed with Conventional pellet	3188P
						Conventional seed	2922



Aroma 2



Eleonora



Genovese



Dolly



Nufar



Italian Large Leaf



Everleaf



Elidia



**Genovese Compact,
Improved Multi-
Seed Pellet**



**Amethyst
Improved**



Red Rubin



Dark Opal



Purple Ruffles



Sweet Thai



Cardinal



Cinnamon



Aromatto



Mrs. Burns' Lemon



Lime



Piccolino



Spicy Bush



Tuscany

Specialty Basil

Type	Variety	Description	Seed Forms Offered	Part #
Specialty Basil				
Red	Amethyst Improved	Red basil most like Genovese, with shiny cupped leaves.	Conventional seed	228
	Red Rubin	Uniform red basil with sturdy, productive plant habit.	Organic seed	924G
			Conventional seed	924
	Dark Opal	Fast-growing red basil with slightly ruffled leaves.	Conventional seed	902
Purple Ruffles	Compact red basil with large, ruffled leaves.	Conventional seed	905	
Asian / Thai	Sweet Thai	Popular Thai basil with small, spicy leaves; compact plant.	Organic seed	945G
	Cardinal	Large leaves; compact plant.	Conventional seed	945
			Organic seed	3732G
	Cinnamon	Large leaves; fast-growing, tall plant.	Conventional seed	906
Aromatto	Large leaves, fast-growing, tall plant.	Organic seed	1772G	
Citrus	Mrs. Burns' Lemon	Vigorous, fast growing; medium-sized leaves.	Conventional seed	774
	Lime	Small-sized leaves.	Organic seed	848G
			Conventional seed	848
Piccolino	6-8" tall plant; spicy flavor.	Conventional seed	3294	
Greek	Spicy Bush	8-14" tall plant; spicy flavor.	Conventional seed	907
Lettuce Leaf	Tuscany	Very large leaves; compact plant.	Conventional seed	3719

Commercial Container & Hydroponic Production

Basil is a popular crop for container and hydroponic production because of its high value, ease of production, and quick crop time (approximately 28 days under optimal conditions in hydroponic systems).

To learn more, read our [BASIL VARIETY SELECTION GUIDE FOR COMMERCIAL CONTAINER AND HYDROPONIC PRODUCTION](#).