

PARSLEY

Parsley is an easy-to-grow vegetable that is commonly used as a garnish. However, the nutritional value of parsley is excellent, and it can be used as a salad green in several types of recipes or added to soups, stews and sauces. It can easily be grown in containers indoors for fresh use during the winter.

Varieties

Curled leaf types include Banquet, Deep Green, Forest Green, Moss Curled, Minicurl, Perfection, and Triple Curled. Italian parsley is not curled; it has a flat leaf. Some varieties can be grown for a large fleshy root, which has a strong parsley flavor.

When to plant

Parsley is a cool-weather crop that can be planted in mid-April, about the same time as beets or carrots, or in early August for a fall crop.

Spacing

Parsley seed is small and needs a fine seedbed because it must be planted $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep or less. Use fresh seed each year. Plants should be 1-2 inches apart as the plant is fairly small; rows may be 6-12 inches apart. You can also grow parsley in a bed or mass planting in a small area, especially in an herb garden outside the back door where plants are handy for use.

Care

Parsley grows quickly and is best during cool periods. The plant is shallow-rooted and requires regular fertilization and watering for best results.

Harvesting

Clip or break off individual leaves when they are full sized. Wash leaves and store them in a plastic bag in a refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Parsley can be dried for later use or leaves can be frozen easily. Freeze leaflets on a cookie sheet so they can be separated for later use.

Common concerns

Aphids

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