

easy grow guide

Basil Aristotle

(Ocimum basilicum)



Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-6.5, EC <1.0 mmhos.
Germination Stage 1: (5-7 days)	Media should be saturated and humidity needs to be high until radicle emergence. Temperature should be 70-75°F (21-24°C). Light is necessary for germination but a very light covering of vermiculite or growing medium can aid humidity.
Germination Stage 2: (8-14 days)	Once radicles emerge, maintain media temperature at 70-75°F (21-24°C). Once cotyledons are fully open, allow the media to become moist, not saturated and maintain even moisture. Humidity can now be reduced. Keep light levels between 1000-2000 f.c. HID lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light.
Germination Stages 3&4: (14-21 days)	Temperature can now be kept around 70-75°F (21-24°C) but reduced during the night. Dry media down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt. Increase light levels to around 2500 and 3000 f.c. This will help stop stretching. Fertilize as required using balanced calcium fertiliser such as a 14-0-14 at 50-100ppm. Keep media pH at 5.5-6.5 and EC <1.0 mmhos.

Growing On to Finish: 4" (10cm) or 8" (20cm) pot

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.5-6.5 and EC <0.5-1 mmhos.
Temperatures:	Day temperatures can be 70-75°F (21-24°C), night temperatures can be 60-65°F (16-18°C).
Light:	Light levels should be increased and maintained at 3000-5000 f.c.
Irrigation:	Once plants have established in the pot, practice a good wet/dry cycle to aid root development and control plant height. This will also benefit pest and disease pressures.
Fertiliser:	Feed every 2 nd or 3 rd watering with a balanced fertiliser such as 14-0-14 or 20-10-20 at a rate of 150ppm.
Growth Regulators:	Good moisture and fertiliser management combined with the correct light levels and temperatures should limit the need for PGRs. This variety is naturally compact. DO NOT USE
Pests:	Thrips, RSM, Whitefly, Aphid
Diseases:	Fusarium, Pythium, Botrytis

Plug Times:

288 plug:	10-14 days from sowing to transplant
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Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to green fruit (retail)	Total Crop Time
4" Pot	1 x plug	6-8 weeks	9-11 weeks
8" Pot	1 x plug	8-10 weeks	11-13 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.