



BEARS
BASIS INDEPENDENT
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Thanks so much for joining us at the BASIS Independent Brooklyn booth. We had a blast planting basil, parsley, and dill seeds with you and your child(ren)! We thought it might be helpful to put together some directions for each plant, in case you are perhaps not as good a plant-parent as you are a human-parent! Read on for step-by-step directions.

How to Grow Your Basil!

1. Basil plants need a lot of light and warmth, so pick out a nice, sunny window in a warmer room to keep your egg carton seed starter in.
2. You need to keep the soil for your basil consistently moist, but not soggy!
3. Now, you're good for *about* 4–6 weeks (with the sun and moist soil). You and your family should keep an eye on the progress of your basil, but you've got some time. The first set of leaves you'll see are not the "true leaves." Those are the **cotyledons** (this is an excellent time to break out Google and talk about plant parts!). We're looking for the next set of leaves to grow the "true leaves."
 - a. While in limbo here, you're going to want to pick out your pot for the basil. Again, about an 8-inch diameter pot with good drainage will do. You'll also need soil.
 - b. Again, many sources recommend using **perlite** (volcanic glass) in your soil.
 - c. If you're planting outside, pick a spot that gets 6–8 hours of sunlight. You can plant your basil next to tomatoes, asparagus, beans, beets, cabbage, chili or bell peppers, eggplant, marigolds, and oregano.
4. When that second set of leaves grow, which should be about 4–6 weeks or when the plant is 1–2 inches tall, you should start prepping to transfer your basil seedling. Fill your chosen pot with soil until it's about 2 inches below the top.
 - a. If planting in your garden, dig a hole about an inch deep.
5. Gently remove the egg carton from around the soil and the seedling. If the roots seem very tightly compacted, gently loosen them right at the very bottom.
6. Place the seedling, root ball, and soil on top of the soil in your pot (or garden). Fill the rest of the space around your seedling with soil and carefully tamp it down. The soil should come up with to the base of the seedling's stem.
 - a. If you had multiple seedlings start in your egg carton, you can plant all of them in your pot (or garden), but make sure they aren't crowding each other. If it starts to look like there's too much plant in the pot, you'll need to "thin" the seedlings by cutting off the extras at the soil line. You don't want to crowd basil.
7. Now, carefully water until some water comes out of the drainage holes, without getting the leaves wet or making holes in the soil.
8. Now you're all transplanted! If planted in a pot, put your basil back in the window, so it continues to get 6–8 hours of sunlight.
9. As your plant continues to grow, you'll have to pinch off some leaves so that you can encourage a big, bushy plant. You need to wait until the plant is about 6 inches high, with 3–5 sets of leaves.
 - a. Once you've got at least 3 sets of leaves, cut off the top set, directly above the second set of leaves. It should branch into two from there. Once these next shoots are about 4 inches long, you can pinch them off again!
10. You can start harvesting basil as soon as you have 6 or more leaves. Just cut off the leaves you need, similar to how you pruned it above! It will continue growing from wherever you've cut off the stem.
11. You can keep harvesting all summer, making your favorite basil-using recipes as you go, and then allow it to flower. Use those seeds to start your basil plant next year!
12. **A NOTE:** always keep the soil moist, but do not water from above. Try to keep the leaves as dry as possible, to prevent mold!

We'd love to see how your garden is growing! Tag us on Instagram or Twitter!



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How to Grow Your Dill!

1. Dill plants need a lot of light and warmth, so pick out a nice, sunny window in a warmer room to keep your egg carton seed starter in.
2. You need to keep the soil for your dill consistently moist, but not soggy!
3. Now, you're good for *about* 4–6 weeks (with the sun and moist soil). You and your family should keep an eye on the progress of your dill, but you've got some time. We're looking for the second set of leaves to grow—the “true leaves.”
 - a. While in limbo here, you're going to want to pick out your pot for the dill. Again, about an 8-inch diameter pot that's at least 8 inches deep with good drainage will do. You'll also need soil.
 - b. Again, many sources recommend using **perlite** (volcanic glass) in your soil.
 - c. If you're planting outside, pick a spot that gets 6–8 hours of sunlight. You can plant your dill next to cabbages, corn, lettuce, onions, fennel and cucumbers. *Avoid planting dill near carrots or tomatoes.*
4. When that second set of leaves grow, which should be about 4–6 weeks or when the plant is 1–2 inches tall, you should start prepping to transfer your dill seedling. Fill your chosen pot with soil until it's about 2 inches below the top.
 - a. If planting in the garden, dig a hole about an inch deep.
5. Gently remove the egg carton from around the soil and the seedling. If the roots seem very tightly compacted, gently loosen them right at the very bottom.
6. Place the seedling, root ball, and soil on top of the soil in your pot. Fill the rest of the space around your pot with soil and carefully tamp it down. The soil should come up with to the base of the seedling's stem.
 - a. If you had multiple seedlings start in your egg carton, you can plant all of them in your pot, no worries! It's not like basil...dill can be crowded! It helps with support (see #9).
7. Carefully water until some water comes out of the drainage holes, but without making holes in the soil.
8. Now you're all transplanted! Put your dill back in the window, so it continues to get 6–8 hours of sunlight, and keep the soil moist (but not wet).
9. Keep an eye on the stalk! Dill can grow to be 2–3 feet, so you may want to start using a stake (using the same technique as the bean stalks) if your dill starts looking droopy.
10. You can start harvesting dill about six to eight weeks after planting. You have two options:
 - a. If you want to just use the leaves and have no intention of collecting seeds for pickling: cut the entire stalk to within 3 inches of the ground so it regrows. This will give you more leaves but no flowers. New leaves will grow back in 6–8 weeks and can be harvested again.
 - b. If you want to collect seeds for pickling: snip off up to a third of the leaves every time you want to use some dill. By leaving the main stalk intact, it will eventually flower.
11. If you selected the seed option, you will eventually see yellow flowers. Once you see flower buds forming, trim the other leaves (not the flowers) from the stem base. About two to three weeks after blooming, seed buds begin to ripen.
12. Cut off the stalks just before seeds ripen and turn a tan color. Hang the stalks upside down, and tie a plastic bag with tiny holes poked in it around the seed head. Seeds will fall into the bag as they ripen more.
13. After all the seeds have fallen, move them into a paper bag in a warm, dry place indoors for a week or more. Crunch the dried seeds and stems with your hands, and then dump out the bag into a large pan.
14. Pick out the seeds from the stems and allow the seeds to dry for another week or so at room temperature before storing them along with other spices in a dark, dry place. Use as desired!

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How to Grow Your Parsley!

1. Parsley plants need a lot of light and warmth, so pick out a nice, sunny window in a warmer room to keep your egg carton seed starter in.
2. You need to keep the soil for your parsley consistently moist, but not soggy!
3. Now, you're good for *about* 4–6 weeks (with the sun and moist soil). You and your family should keep an eye on the progress of your parsley, but you've got some time. Again, you're looking for the second set of leaves to grow—the “true leaves.”
 - a. While in limbo here, you're going to want to pick out your pot for the parsley. An 8-inch diameter pot that's at least 8 inches deep with good drainage will do. You'll also need soil.
 - b. Many sources recommend using **perlite** (volcanic glass) in your soil as well. You can pick out a mix that has it included, or buy a separate bag of perlite. Mix the soil and perlite (3:1 ratio) together right before placing in your pot.
 - c. If you're planting outside, pick a spot that gets 6–8 hours of sunlight. You can plant your parsley next to tomatoes, corn, and asparagus and roses!
4. When that second set of leaves grow, around 4–6 weeks or when your plant is about 1–2 inches tall, you should start prepping to transfer your parsley seedling. Fill your chosen pot with soil until it's about 2 inches below the top.
 - a. If planting in the garden, dig a hole about an inch deep.
5. Gently remove the egg carton from around the soil and the seedling. If the roots seem very tightly compacted, gently loosen them right at the very bottom.
6. Place the seedling, root ball, and soil on top of the soil in your pot. Fill the rest of the space around your pot with soil and carefully tamp it down. The soil should come up with to the base of the seedling's stem.
 - a. If you had multiple seedlings start in your egg carton, you'll need to “thin” the seedlings by cutting off extras at the soil line. Parsley needs a lot of room to grow, because of their long **tap roots** (another excellent opportunity to google!)
7. Carefully water until some water comes out of the drainage holes, but without making holes in the soil.
8. Now you're all transplanted! Put your parsley back in the window, so it continues to get 6–8 hours of sunlight.
9. You should allow the soil to dry between watering, but every time, water enough so that it runs out the drainage holes. Don't let the pot sit in this water though, or your roots will rot.
10. You can start harvesting parsley when the shoots are 6 inches high. The harvesting cycle for parsley is a little different, since it is a biennial, and has multiple edible parts!
11. This first year, harvest parsley for its leaves. You should choose stalks furthest out from the plant's center, and cut them off from the base. *Do not shave off the tops of stems, as this will stunt the growth of parsley.* Leave the inner stalks and leaves so the plant keeps growing.
12. The second year, the leaves will be sparse and may be less flavor-intense. You can use them, but you can also just let the parsley bloom, and then collect the seeds to plant the following spring!
13. In the fall of that second year you can harvest the parsley's root, which is actually the most flavorful portion of the entire plant!

Good Luck!

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