

## Basil

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) is a plant of the *Ocimum*, family *Lamiaceae*. It is a herbaceous plant native to tropical Asia.



It reaches between 20-60 cm high, with light green, silky leaves, 1.5-5 cm long and 1-3 cm wide. The flowers are white, arranged in a raceme. Unusually for the *Lamiaceae* family, the four stamens and pistil do not emerge from below the upper edge of the corolla, but rest on the lower one. After pollination with the help of insects, 5 corollas fall and later four achenelols develop inside the bilabial calyx. The plant has a taste similar to that of anise (also called anise) having a strong sweet-pungent smell. Basil is very sensitive to cold, growing well in warm and humid conditions. While common varieties of basil are annual, other varieties, such as African blue basil and Thai holy basil, are perennials.

Basil is said to have sprouted first date on the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. According to Christian teachings, as soon as Jesus was taken down the cross fell and, with time, was covered by the earth