

How to Grow Chervil

General

A delicate, parsley-like plant with a hint of licorice, chervil is one of the traditional *fines herbes*.

Latin

Anthriscus cerefolium

Family: Apiaceae

Difficulty

Easy

Season & Zone

Season: Cool season

Exposure: Sun or part-shade

Zone: 2-10

Timing

Start seeds indoors or direct sow in spring. Direct sow in summer and protect plants from midday sun for a winter crop - chervil is quite hardy. Keep transplanting to a minimum, as chervil develops a delicate taproot.

Starting

Sow seeds 5mm-1cm ($\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ") deep, and space plants 23-30cm (9-12") apart.

Growing

Plants will be ready for cutting 6-8 weeks after sowing. It's probably best to grow chervil in relatively damp soil in partial shade, as plants will bolt in hot mid-summer weather. Transplanting may also trigger bolting. Cover with a cloche in winter, and it will just keep growing until it blooms the following spring.

Harvest

Begin harvesting as needed 6-8 weeks after sowing, or when plants are 10cm (4") tall. Drying kills nearly all the flavour of the leaves, so freezing is best for long term storage.

Companion Planting

Chervil is an excellent companion for Brassicas, lettuce, and radishes, but does best in part shade. Try growing some between rows of tall cabbages and kale. Chervil helps to repel slugs.



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