

Melissa officinalis

(lemon balm)

Lemon balm is grown as a herb, especially for its edible, fragrant leaves (lemony) that are used in tea and salads. It's frost and heat tolerant, and may be invasive sometimes.

To be grown in fertile, well drained soil, and in full to partial sun.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Citronelle

Arabic Name: حشيشة النحل, تريجان

Pronunciation: mel-ISS-a oh-fiss-ih-NAH-liss

Plant Type: Groundcover

Origin: Southern Europe

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Border Plant, Container, Edible, Ground cover

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape:

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 m

Spread at Maturity: Less than 50 cm

Time to Ultimate Height: 2 to 5 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Reticulate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Crenate, Serrate

Leaf Textures: Hairy

Leaf Scent: Pleasant

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Flower Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Flower Type: Spike

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: White, Pink

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Fruit

Fruit Type: Nut

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Brown

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Invasive Potential: Yes

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Diseases: Powdery Mildew, Leaf Spots, Blights, Gray mold

Edible Parts: Leaf

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting, Division

MORE IMAGES



Bark Image



Other Image