

Please help us determine if we should continue to offer the UH Sweet Basil seeds for sale by completing the questionnaire below:

1. I purchased these seeds for planting in a:
 home garden: Number of basil plants: _____
 commercial farm: _____ acres of basil
 Other, Specify: _____

2. I found out about this variety:
 by word of mouth
 through the seed order request form
 Cooperative Extension Service Programs
 other, specify: _____

3. How do you like this variety?
 very much
 acceptable
 not acceptable, please specify why: _____

4. Do you want the Seed Lab to continue to offer the UH Sweet Basil seeds for sale?
 Yes: Why? _____
 No: Why? _____

5. Do you have the Fusarium Wilt disease of basil?
 Yes
 No
 Not sure

Optional:
Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mail to: Cooperative Extension Service
45-260 Waikalua Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744



Growing Basil in Your Home Garden

Sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) is a very popular herb which can be easily grown in your home garden. Basil is a member of the mint family and is a native of Central Asia and North West India. The use of a Fusarium wilt tolerant variety such as UH Sweet Basil may increase the chances of success where the disease has been a problem.

Basil can be planted year-round in most of the gardens on Oahu. Basil prefers a sunny location with well-drained, fertile soil with a pH between 6.0 to 7.5. Basil can be started either as transplants or by seeding directly into the soil. Many home gardeners often choose to start the seeds in a commercial planting mix and then transplant the seedlings into the garden or into pots or other containers. Plants are usually spaced one to three feet apart in home gardens depending on the desired plant size.

Basil can usually be harvested after about 30 to 35 days from transplanting. Regular harvesting or removal of the flower spikes will encourage active plant growth. Harvested basil is sensitive to rough handling, chilling, and drying. Holding the harvested basil in a refrigerator may cause chilling damage which will cause the leaves to turn black.



▶ UH Sweet Basil:

A Fusarium Wilt Disease Tolerant Basil Variety

Cooperative Extension Service

 College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Description

The UH Sweet Basil variety was developed by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii. UH Sweet Basil is tolerant to Fusarium Wilt disease, a serious and widespread disease of sweet basil. This variety was developed for planting in disease infested soil where susceptible sweet basil varieties succumb to the disease. UH Sweet Basil was selected from 'Genovese Basil' and is similarly suited for pesto and other uses for sweet basil. It produces green leaves about 2 inches long. Plant height ranges from about 24 to 30 inches, depending on plant spacing and other growing conditions.



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Fusarium Wilt Disease of Basil



The Fusarium wilt disease of basil is caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum*. The disease is both seedborne and soilborne. Early symptoms of the disease include yellowed shoots, twisted young leaves and internal discoloration of the stems. Advanced symptoms include wilting, dieback, leaf drop, and death of plants. The fungus can survive in soil for many years.

Note: UH Sweet Basil is tolerant to Fusarium wilt but NOT completely resistant. Some plants could become diseased well into the season. Remove diseased plants to minimize the build up of fungal inoculum. Seeds produced on infected plants may contain spores of the Fusarium fungus, when grown in infested commercial fields or home gardens.

Seed Availability

Seeds of UH Sweet Basil is available for sale on a trial basis through the Seed Program, University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, 3190 Maile Way, Room 112, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, Telephone (808) 956-7890, Fax: (808) 956-3894, E-Mail: rsakuoka@hawaii.edu.