

## Ocimum basilicum Purple Ball

<b>Life cycle</b>	Herb / Annual
<b>Family / Origin</b>	Lamiaceae / South America
<b>Popular uses</b>	Ornamental and culinary tomatoes or tomato sauce, also for meats, fish and vegetables
<b>Mature plant height</b>	25-30 cm (10-12")
<b>Mature plant width</b>	25-30 cm (10-12")
<b>Pot size</b>	8-15 cm (3-6")
<b>Plants per pot</b>	1-3 plants per 15cm (6") pot or larger
<b>Sun exposure</b>	Full sun
<b>Water requirements</b>	Reduced
<b>Flowering time</b>	Sun or partial shades
<b>Media</b>	Use a well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering pH 6.0-6.2 EC 0.5-1.4 (75-210 ppm N)
<b>Growing temperature</b>	Start at 18-20°C (64-68°F) Lower the temperature after rooting at 15-18°C (59-64°F) Avoid wet conditions at night
<b>Light</b>	Ocimum prefers high light conditions
<b>Fertilizer needs</b>	Balanced N:P:K fertilizer as needed recommended; use calcium based fertilizers EC 1.8-2.2 (270-330 ppm N)
<b>Crop time</b>	8-10 weeks in small pots; 10-12 weeks in larger containers
<b>Hardiness zone</b>	N/A



### Description

Very aromatic Basil with tiny deep purple leaves that are densely formed on a compact globular plant. It performs well under sunny and warm weather conditions and is drought resistant

### Growth regulators

Not applicable for herbs

### Common diseases

Botrytis – avoid wet foliage at night

### Common pests

Aphids, Snails

### Pinching

No need, although frequent cutting will promote regrowth

## Plug production

<b>Seed forms</b>	Profi-seed
<b>Seed count</b>	600 seeds/gram (17.000 seeds/oz); varies by lot!
<b>Recommended plug size</b>	288-128
<b>Seeds cell</b>	3-5 Direct sowing on pots is possible: 9 cm (4") pot: 15-20 seeds 15 cm (6") pot: 30 seeds
<b>Vermiculite cover</b>	No
<b>Stage 1 Germination</b>	Days to germinate 5-7 days Media pH 5.5 to 6.3 Moisture: keep medium saturated Moisture level 5, RV >90-95% Growing medium temperature: 20-22°C (68-72°F) Fertilizer level: EC 0.5-1.0 (75-150 ppm N)
<b>Stage 2 Stem and cotyledon</b>	Reduce moisture levels to obtain moisture level 4 for optimum root penetration and to avoid fungal diseases Prevent wet foliage after nightfall Temperature: 18-20°C (64-68°F) Fertilizer level: EC 0.5-1.0 (75-150 ppm N)
<b>Stage 3 Growth and development</b>	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry slightly between watering, but do not allow the plants to wilt Moisture level 3 Temperature: 16-18°C (61-64°F) Fertilizers: EC 1.4-1.8 (210-270 ppm N)
<b>Stage 4 Ready for transplanting</b>	Moisture: reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry slightly between watering but do not allow the plants to wilt Moisture level 2-3 Temperature: 16-18°C (61-64°F) Fertilizers: see stage 3
<b>Plug crop time</b>	4-5 weeks
<b>Approximate finish time</b>	6-8 weeks
<b>Special tips</b>	Plants should be grown dry, watering evenly when necessary The crop needs good air circulation under well-ventilated conditions