



Chervil

STARTING FROM SEED

Because chervil grows with a long taproot, it doesn't transplant very well. You're better sowing your seeds directly into the garden. Chervil seeds don't last very long though. After about a year, you'll find a sizable reduction in germination. So don't bother with old seed.

Plant chervil in a lightly shaded area that won't get the full sun during summer months. Don't bury the seeds, but rather just sprinkle them on the surface of the soil and keep moist until they start to sprout. Once they start to grow, thin down to one plant every 10 inches or so.

They do prefer cooler weather so plant your seeds early in spring, about 3 weeks before your last frost date. Or for a crop later in the season, plant additional seeds after the hottest weather of summer is passed (at least a month before your first frost date).

Or rather than 2 set crops, you can also sow additional seed every few weeks for a more staggered harvest of chervil.

GROWING INSTRUCTIONS:

Keep it well-watered particularly in the heat of summer. If the plants get too hot, they are likely to bolt to seed. Once that happens, you'll find the leaves have lost their taste and will quickly become bitter. Keeping the leaves well-trimmed can also help prevent early bolting.

Though they love water, don't douse the plant at watering time. Overly wet leaves can promote fungus growth (see Pests section).

If you want to have an ongoing crop of chervil each year, let 1 or 2 plants develop their flowers and go to seed. They will easily repopulate your chervil patch each season without any effort from you.

CONTAINERS:

Chervil can be grown in a pot as long as it is deep enough to accommodate the long roots. Containers should be 8 to 10 inches across and at least 12 inches deep for each chervil plant.

While most herbs do better in very sunny windows when grown indoors, chervil will do better in more indirect light. Outdoor pots can be kept on shaded patios or decks.

Water potted chervil often, though indoor plants are not as bothered by overheating as outdoor plants, meaning they can be watered a little less than plants in the garden.

If you cut the flowers out before they bloom, you can keep your chervil growing all through the winter. It won't last forever though, and will eventually die since it is just an annual. Plant a few extra seeds in the fall so you have fresh chervil during the winter months too.

© Seeds for Africa Limited

No part of this document may be reproduced, copied or distributed without the express written permission of the Directors of Seeds for Africa Limited.

www.seedsforafrica.co.za

Seeds for Africa