

RECOMMENDED COMBINATIONS

Full, Hot Sun: Lavender, Pineapple Sage, Scented Geraniums, Aztec Sweet Herb, Lemon Grass, and Rosemary.

Partial Shade: Tea, Peppermint, Spearmint, Bee Balm, and Wintergreen.

Annual Teapots: Lemon Grass, Scented Geranium, Stevia, German Chamomile, and Aztec Sweet Herb.

GROWING HERBS FOR TEA

What could be more satisfying and refreshing than growing your own herbs for tea? Just step out your back door, pluck a few leaves off your favorite herbs, and within minutes you can enjoy a fresh cup of tea. *How self-sufficient!*

We have compiled a list of herbs perfect for tea, and life in a container. Most of these plants require full sun and good drainage. There are some exceptions for light requirements. Group two or three plants with similar needs in a container for a nice combination. You can also mass a few pots of each herb together for a pleasing vignette.

BREWING YOUR OWN TEA

For hot tea, pour boiling water over leaves and steep for a few minutes. Keep in mind to use only small amounts of your herbs for tea, as large doses of some herbs may be harmful and extremely bitter. You can put your tea in the fridge for iced tea. Impress your friends by adding a mint leaf to each square of your ice tray. Fill the tray half way, add a leaf on top, and freeze. Top with water and refreeze.

TIPS FOR TEA POTS

When to plant: These containers can be planted at any time the plants are available. Planted early in the season they will have more time to fill out.

Water: In hot sun you will need to water every day or so. There are products available to help retain moisture that can reduce the need for frequent watering.

Fertilizer: You can mix a time release fertilizer (such as Osmocote), or a granular organic all-purpose fertilizer, into the soil at planting. Alternatively you can fertilize once a month throughout the growing season with an all-purpose liquid fertilizer.

Pruning: Shrubby herbs such as lavender, rosemary, and tea camellia are pruned in late winter to early spring. This pruning helps keep the plants compact. Deciduous herbs such as peppermint or bee balm can be cut back to a few inches above the soil in winter.

Shelter: Tender perennials need extra care to make it through the winter. Pull containers into a sheltered area, such as a porch or garage to ensure plant survival for the next season.

WARNING: Be aware of any chemicals that may have been applied to your herbs. Even organic products can be toxic.

If unsure it's better to be safe.

Harvest only untreated herbs for tea.

Tea Pots



Herbs for Tea
and How to Grow Them

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HERBS FOR TEA

Apple mint- *Mentha suaveolens*. Grows to 3' tall. Needs full sun. Tolerates dry soil more than other mints. Use leaves for tea.

Aztec Sweet Herb- *Lippia dulcis*. A trailing annual. Leaves add a sweet taste to tea.

Bergamot, Bee balm- *Monarda didyma*. Grows 3-5' tall and wide. Red flowers in July/August. Use the leaves for tea.

Bee Balm- *Monarda citriodora*. Grows 3-5' tall and wide. Partial shade. Pink flowers also attract butterflies, bees, and humming birds. Leaves add a lemony aroma to tea.

Catnip- *Nepeta cataria*. Grows 3' tall and wide in full sun. You and your cat can both enjoy the soothing qualities of catnip. Steep leaves in water while kitty rolls euphorically at your feet. Place a basket over the plant if the cat loves it too much.

Chamomile- Roman (*Chamaemelum nobile*) is a mat forming plant. German (*Matricaria recutita*) is a 2'+ tall annual that is easy to seed. Use flowers for a relaxing tea.

Lavender- *Lavendula* sp. Evergreen shrubs in many sizes. Lavender thrives in full, hot sun. 'Compacta', 'Hidcote', 'Jean Davis', and 'Munstead' are good dwarf varieties perfect for container culture. Stems and flowers yield a strong, aromatic tea.

Lemon Balm- *Melissa officinalis*. A vigorous perennial to 2-3' tall. Prefers full sun. Pinch flowers to encourage leaves and discourage seed. Use leaves for a relaxing lemon tea.

Lemon Verbena- *Aloysia triphylla*. A bushy, tender perennial growing 2-10' tall. Wispy lavender flowers in summer. Harvest leaves for a wonderful lemon tea, or lemony cookies.

Orange Bergamot- *Mentha x piperita* 'Orange'. Grows 1-3' tall in full sun or partial shade. The leaves add a strong citrus flavor to tea.

Peppermint- *Mentha x piperita*. Grows up to 3' tall. Full sun to light shade. Said to soothe an upset tummy.

Pineapple Sage- *Salvia elegans*. Tender perennial reaching 2-3' tall. Bright red flowers in late summer attract humming birds. Steep leaves for a fruity tea.

Rose hips- *Rosa* sp. Size depends on variety. Very high in vitamin C, rose hips can be dried and stored for later use. Must be boiled in water for ten minutes to produce a tea. Use 2Tb per pint of water.

Rosemary- *Rosmarinus*. Size of plant depends on variety. Trailing varieties will cascade over the pots. Thrives in full sun. Leaves offer a strong, aromatic tea.

Scented Geranium- *Pelargonium graveolens*. Tender perennial, or annual. A wide range of varieties with many flavors to add to tea: peppermint, apple, nutmeg, lemon, coconut, rose, and more!

Spearmint- *Mentha spicata*. Grows 3' tall in full sun or part shade. Use leaves in tea.

Stevia- *Stevia rebaudiana*. An annual or tender perennial. Leaves add a sweet taste to tea or your favorite cookies. Stevia is said to be ten times sweeter than sugar!

Tea- *Camellia sinensis*. An evergreen shrub growing 3-6' tall and wide. Small, white or pink flowers in November. Prefers partial shade. Pick new leaves to brew your own cup of green tea.

White Horehound- *Marrubium vulgare*. Grows to 2' in full sun. Steeped leaves make a strong tea that is said to relieve colds and sore throats.

Wintergreen- *Gaultheria procumbens*. An evergreen ground cover preferring partial shade. Red berries in winter. Pick and crush leaves for a nice wintergreen flavored tea.

