Sabellico Greenhouses & Florist
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Zaatar Oregano

Origanum syriacum 'Zaatar'



Zaatar Oregano foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Syrian Oregano, Lebanese Oregano, Bible Hyssop

Description:

A culinary herb that is also quite ornamental; arching flower spikes in summer, over aromatic foliage; excellent mid to late season color for a rock garden or border front

Edible Qualities

Zaatar Oregano is an annual herb that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The fragrant round bluish-green leaves are usually harvested from late spring to early summer. The leaves have a zesty taste and a distinctive fragrance.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Seasoning

Planting & Growing

Zaatar Oregano will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated herb garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Zaatar Oregano is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.