

CUBAN OREGANO

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Cuban Oregano
- Scientific name: *Plectranthus amboinicus*
- Native to India and Malaysia
- Fleshy-leaved perennial herb used as culinary seasoning
- Grows up to 18" in height
- Occasionally produces flowers ranging from white to violet to rose in color
- Leaves emit a very strong aroma when handled
- Leaves are often used in flavoring meat as a substitute for sage
- Hardy in zones 9-11

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Performs well in heat and direct sunlight
- Should be kept in a controlled environment during the winter months
- Should be watered regularly without over-watering
- Plant growth is delayed by temperatures less than 60°F

PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated from leaf or stem cuttings

- Cuttings should be placed in a well-drained rooting medium
- Rooting will occur in 10-14 days

DISORDERS

- Whiteflies
 - Tiny, sap-sucking insects occur in groups on the undersides of leaves
 - Remove infested leaves
 - Hose down plants to remove insects
 - Insects can also be removed with a small vacuum cleaner

CONSUMER CARE

- Younger leaves have a milder flavor
- Performs well in pots or hanging baskets
- Leaves are used medicinally in India to cure coughs

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Plectranthus amboinicus*: Round, fleshy leaves
- *Plectranthus barbatus*: Succulent, light green leaves, lavender flowers
 - 'Variegata': green and white variegated leaves

References

<http://www.freshcutherbs.com/herbofthelmonthcuban.htm>
<http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/1356/>
<http://www.mountainvalleygrowers.com/pleamboinicus.htm>

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