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## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH444



### ROSEMARY

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Rosemary
- Scientific name: *Rosmarinus officinalis*
- Latin name *rosmarinus* means ‘dew of the sea’
- Native to the Mediterranean region
- Evergreen, perennial herb with fragrant pine-needle like leaves
- Slow to moderate growth rate with a shrub-like habit
- Grows 3-5’ tall
- Develops trusses of blue, pink, or white flowers that last through spring and summer
- Often used as an herb in traditional Mediterranean cooking
- Hardy in zones 8-10; cultivar ‘Arp’ is hardy in zone 7

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in well-drained, sandy media
- Plant in an area with good air circulation and protection from wind
- Requires at least 6 hours of sun per day
- Light feeders, a 200 ppm N fertilizer with a ratio of 20-10-20 can be used
- Established plants require watering only in desert climates
- In warm climates, plants can be grown in the same location for up to 30 years
- In colder climates, plants should be grown in pots and brought indoors during freezing weather

## PROPAGATION

- Seed will germinate in about three to four weeks at 65 F in sand or potting substrate
- Sow seeds ¼ inches deep
- Seed propagated plants take 3 years to bloom; occasionally the plants may not resemble the parents
- Generally propagated by cuttings taken throughout the year
- Cuttings will root in a glass of water, but plants develop better if started in a clean potting medium
- Cuttings taken in December or January will be ready for 4" pots by April

## DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
  - White coating forms on leaves
  - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Root rot (*Phymatotrichum*)
  - Reduce irrigation
  - Remove infected plants
- Aphids
  - Suck on plant sap and damage foliage
  - Remove with a spray of water
- In general, rosemary is very pest resistant

## CONSUMER CARE

- Excellent addition to an herb garden
- Grows well in containers and hanging baskets
- Responds well to clipping and can be used for landscaping purposes

- Harvesting can be done throughout the year
- Often used in potpourris due to its fresh, piney scent
- Best used fresh in cooking, as it loses most of its flavor when dried
- Can be used to soothe digestive upsets
- Reputed to improve memory

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Rosmarinus officinalis*
  - 'Alba': hardy variety with white flowers
  - 'Arp': most cold-hardy cultivar
  - 'Blue Boy': dwarf with blue flowers, ideal for container growth
  - 'Golden Rain': small plants with golden edges on young leaves
  - 'Majorca Pink': violet pink flowers
  - 'Prostratus': low-growing with a spreading habit
  - 'Santa Barbara': dark-blue flowers; only reaches 12" in height
  - 'Tuscan Blue': violet blue flowers, larger leaves than most varieties

## References

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosemary>
- [http://www.floridata.com/ref/r/rose\\_off.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/r/rose_off.cfm)
- <http://www.gardenguides.com/plants/info/herbs/rosemary.asp>