

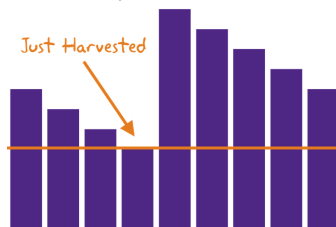


## Herb Success Quicksheet

Three Management Categories																																																																																																					
<b>Herbs as Vegetables</b>	Grow these just like annual vegetables.																																																																																																				
<b>Simple Perennials</b>	Use an easy four-year rotation. Propagate plants in early spring of year 0, then plant out around August 1. Harvest in years 1 and 2, and in the spring of year 3. Till in the herbs in the summer of year 3 and seed a cover crop, or keep until year 4.																																																																																																				
<b>Complex Perennials</b>	These slow growers stay in place for a longer period of time. In the north, rosemary needs additional protection; we winter in northeast Iowa.																																																																																																				
<p><i>* It isn't easy to find certified organic plugs, and most perennial herbs don't reproduce true from seeds. My recommended propagation methods for each crop are provided in this chart.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">Management Category</th> <th colspan="4">Propagation Method</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Direct Seed</th> <th>Transplant</th> <th>Cuttings</th> <th>Layering</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Basil</td> <td>Herbs as Vegetable</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chives</td> <td>Simple Perennial</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cilantro</td> <td>Herbs as Vegetable</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dill</td> <td>Herbs as Vegetable</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marjoram</td> <td>Herbs as Vegetable</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oregano</td> <td>Simple Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>stem</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parsley</td> <td>Herbs as Vegetable</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rosemary</td> <td>Complex Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>stem</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sage</td> <td>Simple Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>stem</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peppermint</td> <td>Simple Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sage</td> <td>Simple Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>stem</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Savory</td> <td>Herbs as Vegetable</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spearmint</td> <td>Simple Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tarragon</td> <td>Complex Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>root</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thyme</td> <td>Simple Perennial</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>stem</td> <td>X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Management Category	Propagation Method				Direct Seed	Transplant	Cuttings	Layering	Basil	Herbs as Vegetable		X			Chives	Simple Perennial		X			Cilantro	Herbs as Vegetable	X				Dill	Herbs as Vegetable	X				Marjoram	Herbs as Vegetable		X			Oregano	Simple Perennial			stem	X	Parsley	Herbs as Vegetable		X			Rosemary	Complex Perennial			stem		Sage	Simple Perennial			stem		Peppermint	Simple Perennial				X	Sage	Simple Perennial			stem		Savory	Herbs as Vegetable		X			Spearmint	Simple Perennial				X	Tarragon	Complex Perennial			root		Thyme	Simple Perennial			stem	X
	Management Category			Propagation Method																																																																																																	
		Direct Seed	Transplant	Cuttings	Layering																																																																																																
Basil	Herbs as Vegetable		X																																																																																																		
Chives	Simple Perennial		X																																																																																																		
Cilantro	Herbs as Vegetable	X																																																																																																			
Dill	Herbs as Vegetable	X																																																																																																			
Marjoram	Herbs as Vegetable		X																																																																																																		
Oregano	Simple Perennial			stem	X																																																																																																
Parsley	Herbs as Vegetable		X																																																																																																		
Rosemary	Complex Perennial			stem																																																																																																	
Sage	Simple Perennial			stem																																																																																																	
Peppermint	Simple Perennial				X																																																																																																
Sage	Simple Perennial			stem																																																																																																	
Savory	Herbs as Vegetable		X																																																																																																		
Spearmint	Simple Perennial				X																																																																																																
Tarragon	Complex Perennial			root																																																																																																	
Thyme	Simple Perennial			stem	X																																																																																																

### Harvest in a Wave

For the most efficient harvest and maintenance, harvest in a wave to create a wedge of growth. Harvest from one end to the other of your row or bed, cutting everything back to the same level of growth. For branching crops with a central stem, like sage, harvest no more than a third of the plant. Mints should be cut right to the ground, and thyme and oregano are given a nice, short crew cut.



### Don't Let Herbs Flower

To keep plants growing vegetatively, don't let them even think about reproduction – as soon as you see the beginnings of flower buds, cut the crop back – even if you have to just compost the trimmings. Once a plant goes into reproductive mode, it stays in reproductive mode until it thinks it's done; if you cut back a flowering thyme plant, it just puts out more flowers. If you miss cutting back and the plant has started to flower, wait to cut it back until the flowers to turn brown, indicating that they are no longer receptive and that any pollination that is going to happen is already done - but don't wait for seeds to set before you cut the crop back!