

Did You Know?



Rosemary, *Salvia Rosmarinus* (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

- While *Rosmarinus officinalis* has long been the botanical name for rosemary, DNA research has revealed that the plant characteristics are more closely aligned with plants in the *Salvia* genus. Therefore, the scientists at the Royal Horticultural Society in London have reclassified rosemary as *Salvia rosmarinus*.
- The genus name *Salvia* comes from the Latin word *salveo*, meaning “to save or heal”.
- Early Egyptians used rosemary in their embalming practices.
- Rosemary is associated with improved memory and alertness. Greek scholars often wore a rosemary garland on their heads to help their memory during exams.
- It was also the symbol of remembrance. A sprig of rosemary was often placed in the hands of the deceased at funerals.
- As a symbol of happiness, loyalty, and love, rosemary sprigs were used in bridal bouquets, or a simple sprig was worn by the groom symbolizing faithfulness.
- Napoleon Bonaparte’s Eau de Cologne was made with rosemary.
- Grow rosemary in well-drained soil with additional sand or gravel added to the mix.
- Water rosemary when the soil is slightly dry to avoid root rot.
- Depending on the cultivar, rosemary can be hardy to zone 6. Winter protection can improve hardiness.
- Indoors, rosemary prefers a sunny, cool room and water when drying but before completely dry.
- In addition to culinary uses, rosemary can be used to create wreaths, garland, bath/beauty and potpourri products. As a dye plant, rosemary produces a yellow-green color.

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