



Must-have herbs for a cocktail garden

A simple collection of herbs can make for flavorful summer cocktails

It is summer, and after hours of pulling weeds on a hot afternoon, a refreshing beverage is well deserved. We've listed the most popular herbs for use in mixed drinks, and give advice on how to grow them.

1 - MINT

Mojito or Kentucky Colonel mint are good choices for growing in a cocktail garden. It is usually used fresh for cocktails. Mojitos and juleps are well known for using this refreshing leaf, but it brightens flavor wherever it is used. Plant in containers or in open soil (if you are prepared to have a lot of it).

2 - ROSEMARY

This woody herb can be added whole or muddled in gin or vodka, or to add depth to bourbon. Try adding a sprig to your next G&T or whiskey sour. Grow from cuttings in a pot. Placed in a sunny spot it stands up well in drought conditions.

3 - BASIL

A fashionable herb on the cocktail scene, its varieties can lean sweet, peppery or citrus-y with clove overtones. Like mint, basil is a great all-purpose herb. Muddle, use as a garnish or in simple syrup to add great flavor to gin, tequila or rum drinks among others. Make sure the plants get plenty of water and sunlight. Harvest leaves from the top, a few at a time, so healthy growth will continue throughout the summer and beyond.

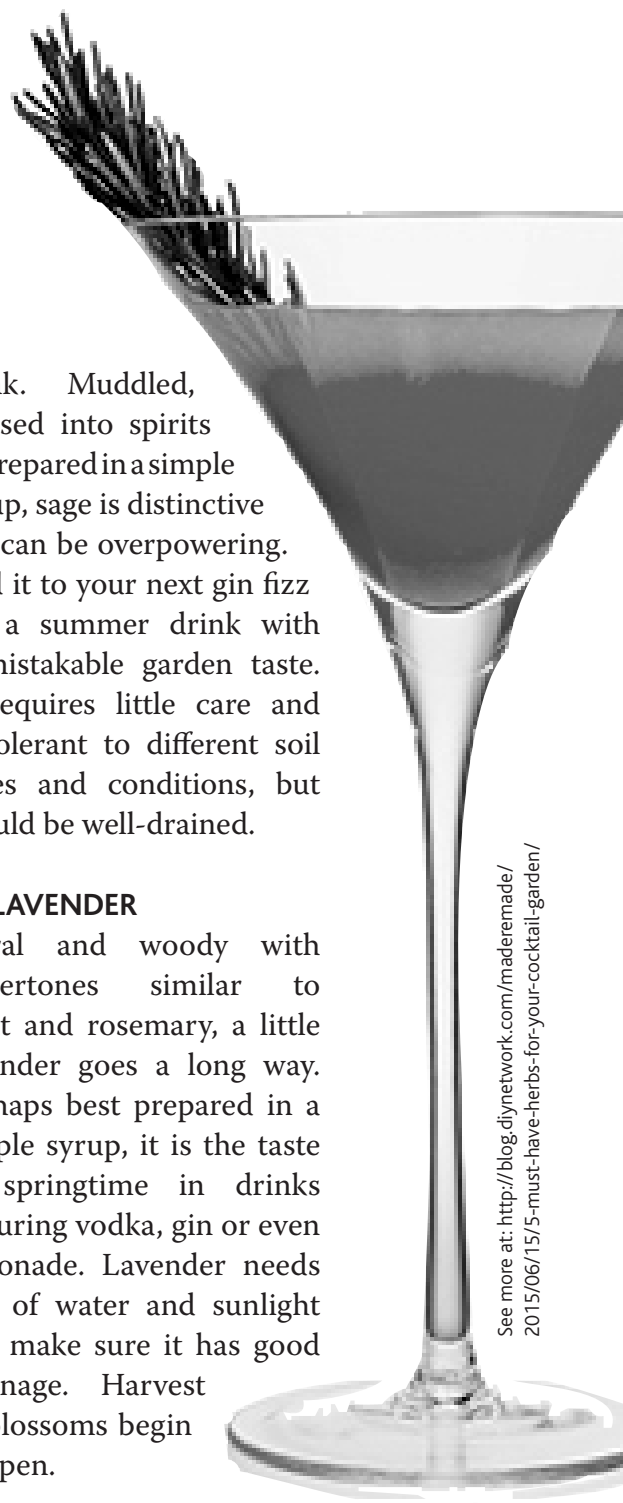
4 - SAGE

Earthy, woody and vaguely peppery, with a very distinctive flavor, sage adds savory complexity to any

drink. Muddled, infused into spirits or prepared in a simple syrup, sage is distinctive but can be overpowering. Add it to your next gin fizz for a summer drink with unmistakable garden taste. It requires little care and is tolerant to different soil types and conditions, but should be well-drained.

5 - LAVENDER

Floral and woody with undertones similar to mint and rosemary, a little lavender goes a long way. Perhaps best prepared in a simple syrup, it is the taste of springtime in drinks featuring vodka, gin or even lemonade. Lavender needs lots of water and sunlight and make sure it has good drainage. Harvest as blossoms begin to open.



See more at: <http://blog.diynetwork.com/maderemade/2015/06/15/5-must-have-herbs-for-your-cocktail-garden/>

TREE POLICY

Please remember: Bylaws REQUIRE you to follow these simple rules for the placing of fruit or any other kind of tree on your plot:

1. Consult your site rep for an acceptable placing of the tree, to ensure it does not cast significant shadow on your neighbours' plots.

2. Buy trees that are on dwarf root stock. This is important as it will ensure that the tree will not grow to unmanageable proportions. You are responsible for the pruning of any tree that is on your plot; by using dwarf rootstock, you can avoid expenses later on.



PATHS

First some good news. Leaside site have a new path, which is much appreciated by the plot holders, making it easier and safer to move around the site.

Secondly, the bad news. Some of our paths are so overgrown, a machete is needed to walk down them. Can you please make sure vegetation is kept off the path?? Not only is it unfair to your fellow plot holders to make it difficult for them to move around the site, but it is dangerous in wet weather when vegetation can become slippery. Site reps will be after you to help.

FREE ADVICE

You are all reminded that through our membership of Garden Organic you have access to expert advice on growing vegetables and flowers, compost making, pest control, etc. There are fact sheets on different topics, but you may also email specific requests for advice, attach photos, etc. for anything that is troubling you. All you have to do is go to www.gardenorganic.org.uk/members, and then log into the members site by using the username hackneyallotments@hotmail.com and password HAS2014.

SITE REPS

From some correspondence it seems that some members do not know who their site reps are. There is a list below, but if you need reminding of their contact details, please email Nancy (nancylkorman@hotmail.co.uk). Site reps should

be consulted when you are likely to be away from your plot for a longish period of time (illness, work, travel or other personal circumstances). This is particularly important during the main growing season as we are now being more rigorous about the neglected plot policy.

OVERWINTERING

Last AGM we had an talk by Stephanie Irvine about overwintering of crops and green manures. It came a bit late to do things for that winter, but now is the time to start thinking about what you might want to overwinter and to get seeds started to use. Her talk is on our website to remind you of her suggestions:

www.hackneyallotments.org.uk/docs/winter_growing.pdf

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