Year of the Basil 2027

Basil is a warm-season, aromatic herb in the mint family valued for its culinary versatility, diverse varieties, garden performance and signature role in fresh recipes such as pesto, salads, sauces and herbal teas.

Now a staple in summer gardens and a star ingredient in a range of dishes, basil had a legendary journey across the world before arriving in North America with English colonists in the early 17th century.

While many assume that basil's roots trace back to Italy, its story more likely begins in India, where it has been cultivated and revered for over 5,000 years, treasured as a sacred plant in Hinduism and used in Ayurvedic medicine. Traveling along ancient trade routes, basil was honored by Egyptians, used in burial rituals and placed in tombs to help protect the dead in the journey beyond. Greeks elevated its status to royalty, naming it basilikon, their word for kingly, crowning it the king of herbs.





