



Rosemary Tree Care

In the language of flowers, rosemary is for "remembrance." What better time to remember than during the Christmas holidays?

THE ROSEMARY TREE

Upright rosemary is a perennial evergreen shrub about 3 feet tall and formed in a traditional tree shape. Rosemary is an aromatic plant ideal for holiday accenting indoors. A strong evergreen fragrance is reminiscent of our holiday traditions of decorating and cooking.

If you decide to display your Rosemary tree in its red pot, give it plenty of direct sunlight in the spring and summer. Do not allow it to wilt from dryness. During the winter, keep your plant dryer than in the growing seasons, but don't fail to continue giving it good strong sunlight.

INDOOR GROWING

Should you wish to display your tree indoors, remember to keep it inside for only a short while, maybe 2 to 3 days. Place it the brightest window available, then, when you move it back outdoors, move the rosemary into direct sunlight. This will keep your plant healthy throughout the holidays.

DECORATING YOUR ROSEMARY TREE

If you wish to decorate your plant for the holidays, try to avoid lights that are hot to the touch. These can rapidly dry out your plant. Instead, try using ribbons, silk flowers, natural pods, and so forth. And remember that small sprigs of Rosemary on a dinner plate will add fragrance and a beautiful garnish to any meal.

Outdoor Growing

Rosemary can be successfully grown in the ground in the Brazos Valley. Provide a well-drained, sunny location for your plant and complement it with other herbs like

thyme, oregano, and basil in the summer, parsley and burnet in the winter.

FERTILIZING ROSEMARY

During the growing seasons (spring and summer), fertilize your rosemary with the higher nitrogen formula tree and shrub fertilizer, then hold back during the fall and winter to help impart the hardiness and toughness for which the plant is known.

INSECTS

Rosemary is generally pest resistant, but an occasional mealy bug or spider mite may show up. If your plant becomes prey, please bring a stem into Heirloom Gardens, so that we can properly identify the problem and provide you with a safe solution.

PRUNING ROSEMARY

Prune your rosemary tree often during the growing seasons to keep its shape nice and tight.

You can make use of your cut rosemary sprigs by keeping them in the refrigerator, preferably uncovered in a small cup of water. Should you gather more than you can keep fresh at one time, place your sprigs on a wire rack in a dark, unheated oven until they dry naturally. Cuttings can also be tied into bundles and hung upside down in a closet or in your kitchen. When they are dry, rub the small leaves into an airtight bag or jar until you can grind them for seasoning, discarding the stems.

Many forms of rosemary are available. The most common tree, called "upright," has many varieties. There is a creeping groundcover rosemary as well. Many distinct levels of rosemary fragrances and oils exist in the plants available to home gardeners.