

Twelve Common Herbs & Their Bolting/Flowering Habits

Herb	Bolt/Flower	What to Do
Basil	Flower	Early in the season: prune back flowers to encourage your basil to produce more leaves. Late in the season: allow a basil plant or two to flower. Once the flowers are dry, collect the basil seeds hidden inside to grow new plants.
Borage	Flower	Allow the attractive borage flowers to grow and watch as they attract butterflies and bees to your garden! Both borage leaves and flowers are edible. Borage is a vigorous self-seeder, so you may wish to snip off flowers before they go to seed to prevent borage from overwhelming your garden.
Chives	Flower	Allow chives to flower and enjoy the tasty blooms fresh, dried, or infuse them into olive oil!
Cilantro	Bolts	Cilantro enjoys cool, moist environments. Prevent bolting by watering regularly, mulching/shading the soil, harvesting regularly and bringing cilantro pots indoors before summer heat hits. Once cilantro bolts, the taste will change, even if you cut off the flowers. Allow the flowers to produce seeds (coriander) which you can use to grow more cilantro or as a spice in the kitchen.

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Dill	Bolts	<p>Prevent dill from bolting by watering regularly, harvesting often, and bringing the plant indoors or to a shaded location before summer heat hits. Nip flowers in the bud to delay bolting.</p> <p>Bolting will not alter the flavor of dill, but it will stop new leaves from growing. Once your dill eventually goes to seed, allow the flowers and seeds to dry out before harvesting. Use your seeds to grow new dill plants. If you do not want dill self-seeding, snip the flowers before seeds emerge.</p>
Marjoram	Flower	<p>These small pretty flowers will not alter taste or slow down your marjoram. Feel free to leave them on the plant. They are edible but do not have much flavor.</p>
Mint	Flower	<p>Cut back the flowers if you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) want to prevent mint from spreading (mint can easily take over a garden!)(b) you want to encourage the plant to produce more leaves(c) you want to eat the flowers <p>Alternatively, leave the flowers be, as it won't affect the flavor of your mint leaves</p>
Oregano	Flower	<p>These small pretty flowers will not alter the taste or slow down your oregano. Feel free to leave them on the plant. The flowers are edible but do not have much flavor.</p>

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Parsley	Bolts	<p>Prevent parsley from bolting by watering regularly, harvesting often, and bringing the plant indoors or to a shaded location before summer heat hits. Nip flowers in the bud to delay bolting.</p> <p>Bolting will not alter the flavor of parsley, but it will stop new leaves from growing. Once your parsley eventually goes to seed, allow the flowers and seeds to dry out before harvesting. Use your seeds to grow new parsley plants.</p>
Rosemary	Flower	<p>Rosemary flowers are beautiful, and bees love them! Allow your plant to flower and prune it back once the flowers are done. Flowering will not alter the flavor of rosemary.</p>
Sage	Flower	<p>Sage flowers are beautiful, and bees love them! If you aren't lacking for sage leaves, allow your plant to flower and prune it back once the flowers are done. Flowering will not alter the flavor of sage. Sage flowers are edible and delicious! Conversely, if you want your sage to put all of its energy into producing leaves, snip the flowers.</p>
Thyme	Flower	<p>These small pretty flowers will not alter the taste or slow down your thyme. Feel free to leave them on the plant. The flowers are edible but do not have much flavor.</p>