

Ocimum sanctum

Scientific classification 

Kingdom : Plantae
Clade : Angiosperms
Order : Lamiales
Family : Lamiaceae
Genus : *Ocimum*
Species : *Ocimum sanctum*



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DESCRIPTION:

Holy basil is an erect, many-branched subshrub, 30–60 cm (12–24 in) tall with hairy stems. Leaves are green or purple; they are simple, petioled, with an ovate, up to 5 cm (2.0 in)-long blade, which usually has a slightly toothed margin; they are strongly scented and have a decussate phyllotaxy. The purplish flowers are placed in close whorls on elongated racemes.

MEDICINAL USES:

In traditional systems of medicine, different parts (leaves, stem, flower, root, seeds and even whole plant) of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn (known as Tulsi in Hindi), a small herb seen throughout India, have been recommended for the treatment of bronchitis, bronchial asthma, malaria, diarrhea, dysentery, skin diseases.