

January 2022

Rosemary, *Salvia rosmarinus* Spenn.

(since 2020, formerly *Rosmarinus officinalis* L.) from the Lamiaceae family.

Rosemary is a perennial, evergreen semi-shrub. The needle-shaped, narrow lanceolate leaves are arranged in opposite pairs on the woody stem and branches. The upper side of the leaves is dark green, the underside densely white-haired and somewhat curled. The two-lipped flowers can appear all year round, they are usually purple, but there are also plants with blue or pink flowers. The plant grows to a height of 100-200 cm, prefers sunny spots and well-drained, nutrient-rich soil.

Rosemary is a medicinal and spice plant. It contains up to 2.5 % essential oils, which are responsible for its characteristic smell and taste. Furthermore, rosemary contains diterpene phenols, carnosolic acid, rosmarinic acid, flavones and triterpenes.

In the garden, rosemary is a flowering plant for insects such as butterflies, bees and bumblebees. Especially in the first few years, it is only partially hardy and needs winter protection. Once it has established itself in a particular location, a cold winter is no longer a problem. As rosemary does not tolerate waterlogging at all, it should be planted in a moderately dry location. In winter, protect it from drying out during mild temperatures.

