

BAY LEAF

Botanical Name: *Pimenta racemosa*
Native range: Mediterranean region

Other Common Name: West Indian Bay Leaf



Description: Bay leaf is an aromatic evergreen tree or large shrub that can grow up to 60 ft. but often much shorter (8-30 ft.). Worldwide, many other kinds of plants in diverse families are also called "bay" or "laurel", generally due to similarity of foliage or aroma to *Laurus nobilis*.

Uses and cultural significance: Bay leaf grows slowly but has been used as an ornamental hedge or as a topiary. It's aromatic leaves are used as seasoning in cooking such as for soups and pasta. Bay leaves are not typically eaten themselves, only used to add flavor and then they are removed before serving.

How To Grow and Care For This Plant

Sun	Water	Soil	Fertilizer	Pests+Diseases
Full sun or partial shade.	Water regularly to keep the soil evenly moist.	Grows in clay, loamy, and sandy soil types. Prefers well-drained soils with a pH of 6-7 (although tolerates varying pH levels).	Incorporate organic mulch or compost into the soil.	Scales and psyllid. Laurel wilt, Phytophthora, and root rot.

Propagation	Bay leaf is propagated by seeds. Remove the fleshy outer casing and sow as soon as possible.
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Resources:

- “Laurus nobilis.” North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox, North Carolina State University Extension, Accessed 8 January 2025, <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/laurus-nobilis/>.
- Wikicommons (photo sources)

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