



The Herb Society of America Promising Plants Profiles

Ocimum selloi

Genus: *Ocimum*

Specific Epithet: *selloi*

Common Name: green pepper basil

Family: Lamiaceae (mint)

Flower Color: lavender

Germination Time: 7-14 days

Form: perennial but grown as annual to zone 9

Hardiness Zone: 9

Height: 18-36"

Soil: rich soil

Sun: full sun

Uses: culinary, medicinal, ornamental



“The stiff, leathery, dark green leaves have the distinct aroma of green pepper. This handsome basil came to us from Dr. Arthur Tucker. It grows to about three feet and is a handsome plant with small lavender blossoms. We use the smaller leaves in salads. I grow *Ocimum selloi* in large containers where they winter in the greenhouse. A very interesting basil to add to a collection.” – Madalene Hill, HSA Pioneer Unit, Promising Plants Presentation May 2001

“*Ocimum selloi* is a wonderful peppery-tasting basil from South America. It is easy to grow from cuttings or seed, and the seed is easy to collect.” – James Adams, Curator of the National Herb Garden and Promising Plants Committee member, 2003

Photo by Gwen Barclay

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