

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Ocimum basilicum* var. *citriodorum*

**LEMON BASIL** is a perennial. Native to India it has tiny, white flowers.

It is also known as Lemon-scented basil, and Indonesian kemangie.

*Basilicum* is derived from Greek *basileo-* (king) meaning ‘royal or princely’ with reference for some authorities to the classical practice that required the plant to be harvested only by the supreme ruler and for others to reputed healing properties. *Citriodorum* is made up of the genus name *Citrus* and Latin *odori-* (scent) components meaning ‘lemon-scented’ with reference to the leaves.