CULINARY LEMONGRASS

LIGHT

Choose full sun and a warm, sheltered position for Cymbopogon citratus. This tropical grass grows fastest in summer warmth. Acclimate indoor-grown plants before giving them strong outdoor sun.

WATER

Keep the root zone evenly moist during active growth. Large clumps in pots may need frequent checks in summer. Water thoroughly and drain; do not let a container dry completely or stand permanently in water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use fertile, well-drained garden soil or a generous draining container with fresh potting mix. Plant at the original depth and allow room for a substantial clump. Wait for settled warm weather before planting outdoors.

FEEDING

Feed actively growing plants with a labeled container or vegetable fertilizer when needed. Container nutrients wash out with watering, so follow the product schedule without exceeding its rate. Reduce feeding as growth slows.

SEASONAL CARE

In Maine, grow as a summer annual or bring a potted division into a bright, warm room before frost. Water less in low winter light, but do not let roots become completely dry. Remove dead leaves carefully.

HELPFUL TIPS

Harvest outer stalks near the base, leaving the center to continue growing. Tough leaf blades can have sharp edges, so handle carefully. This is culinary lemongrass, separate from citronella grasses and lemon-scented geraniums sold for fragrance.