CILANTRO & CORIANDER

LIGHT

Give cilantro sun to light shade. In warm weather, afternoon shade can help keep roots and foliage cooler. Spring and late-summer plantings generally provide better leaf harvests than the hottest part of summer.

WATER

Water regularly while plants establish, then as needed to keep the root zone from drying completely. Let surplus water drain. Avoid constantly saturated soil and damp, crowded foliage.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moderately fertile, well-drained soil or a deep draining container. Minimize root disturbance when transplanting. For a continuing supply, sow fresh seed every few weeks during suitable cool growing weather.

FEEDING

Feed modestly rather than heavily. Compost in the surrounding soil or a labeled vegetable fertilizer can support growth when needed. Excess feeding does not prevent heat-induced flowering.

SEASONAL CARE

Snip outer leaves while leaving the growing center. When plants send up flower stalks, leaf production declines; cutting the stalk does not reliably return an old plant to a long leafy stage. Start another sowing for fresh leaves.

HELPFUL TIPS

Cilantro leaves and coriander seed come from the same annual plant, Coriandrum sativum. For seed, let selected flower heads mature and turn brown, then dry them in a paper bag. This guide is separate from unrelated plants called Vietnamese cilantro.