



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Don't Forget Rosemary!

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"Rosemary for remembrance" is a well know phrase---it has that sublime romantic suggestion that sounds so appealing. But in fact, the phrase comes from the fact that the consumption of rosemary was believed to improve one's memory. This is doubtful, of course, but it probably doesn't hurt your memory, either. The rosemary scent is so distinctive that upon smelling it, one's memory is bound to conjure some favorable imagery---warm rosemary bread, perhaps.

In its native Mediterranean clime, rosemary grows to be a good sized evergreen shrub. Here, although it has a shrubby habit, we

consider it to be an annual, but many folks bring it in and overwinter it successfully. Rosemary has needlelike leaves, usually dark green, and the plant stems are silvery white. The plant can be pruned according to your taste, or left natural; some varieties are trailing. The small but plentiful flowers vary in color---they are usually pale blue, but some varieties are pale lavender blue or white.

Rosemary is easy to grow. Keep in mind its Mediterranean origins---it likes hot, dry



warm spell in April (hah!), but you should bring it in on any really cold nights. Although rosemary can take a frost, new growth may get damaged. Place your rosemary plant in the sunniest spot you have. It is ideally suited to growing in pots, where the soil can be chosen so that you get excellent drainage, unlike many of our gardens that may have substantial clay, which impairs drainage.

This spring we have a marvelous selection of rosemary, brought in from our specialty sources around the country. They are affordably priced, from \$4.99 to \$37.99. Many are trimmed into topiaries. They can help create a distinctive look on your patio. Since the

scent is released when the plant is rubbed or bruised, I like to place it alongside a walk where you can't help but rub against it. You can also place it so that, with a light breeze, it rubs against another plant, a solid object such as garden sculpture, or against another rosemary plant. Most folks want as much rosemary scent as they can get. Which reminds me---they make a great hostess gift, much more "memorable" than a bottle of wine.

weather. Despite being from a mild climate, it is fairly hardy, but not enough to withstand our winters. You can place it outside during a

