

Feverfew

Tanacetum parthenium · Asteraceae

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Short-lived perennial, self-seeds readily
MATURITY 8–10 weeks to first flowers



SUN
Full sun to part shade



WATER
Moderate, regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



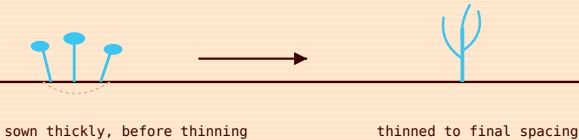
SPACING
30–45cm



DEPTH
0.5cm

01 Persistent once settled

Feverfew's small, daisy-like white flowers have a long history of traditional use, and the bitter-scented foliage is a distinctive feature — some gardeners grow it near doorways for exactly that reason. It self-seeds readily enough to become a permanent fixture once established.



02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow, or transplant seedlings once frost risk has passed.
SOIL	Average, well-drained soil; not fussy.
TIMING	Sow in spring or autumn — cool weather suits it best.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Deadhead spent flowers regularly to keep new blooms coming.
- Water at the base, avoiding wet foliage.
- No feeding needed — it flowers well in average soil.
- Let a few flowers go to seed for self-sowing, since plants are often short-lived.

04 Problems

- Powdery mildew** — humid conditions; improve airflow, avoid overhead watering.
- Aphids** — cluster on new growth; hose off.
- Very few other pests** — a hardy, easy-going plant.
- Short-lived plants** — normal after 2–3 years; let self-sown seedlings take over.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Flowers are ready once fully open, usually from 8–10 weeks after sowing.
METHOD	Snip whole flower heads at the base of the bloom.
CURING	Air-dry on a tray out of direct sun for long-term storage.
STORAGE	Fresh in water a few days; dried flowers keep for months in an airtight jar.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Tomato Brassicas	Few restrictions	Not applicable — short-lived perennial, useful as a pollinator-attracting border plant.
Most vegetables		