

Rosemary

Salvia rosmarinus · Mint family

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Evergreen perennial shrub

MATURITY Usable from 3–4 months



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low, drought-tolerant once established



SOIL PH
6.0–7.5



SPACING
60cm–1m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Grows easily from cuttings

Once you have one rosemary bush, you have as many as you like — strike semi-hardwood cuttings in a pot of free-draining mix and they root readily.



bushy perennial clump



or strike a cutting in a pot

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot, or strike cuttings from an established plant.
SOIL	Free-draining — rosemary dislikes wet feet, especially in winter.
TIMING	Plant in spring or autumn.

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

- Water only occasionally once established — overwatering is the main risk.
- Prune lightly after flowering to keep a bushy shape.
- Avoid rich, heavily fed soil — lean conditions suit it best.
- Harvest sprigs regularly; this encourages fresh growth.

04 Problems

- Root rot** — from poor drainage or overwatering; let soil dry between waterings.
- Woody, leggy growth** — from lack of pruning; trim regularly.
- Spider mite** — fine webbing in hot, dry weather; hose foliage occasionally.
- Powdery mildew** — poor airflow; space plants well.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Usable year-round once established.
METHOD	Snip sprigs as needed with scissors or secateurs.
CURING	Air-dry hanging in bunches for long-term storage.
STORAGE	Fresh in the fridge a couple of weeks; dried, airtight for a year or more.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying woody herbs for storage) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Brassicas Beans Carrot	Basil (different water needs)	Not applicable — long-lived shrub.