

Thyme

Thymus vulgaris · Mint family

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Evergreen perennial shrub

MATURITY Usable from 8–10 weeks



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low, drought-tolerant once established



SOIL PH
6.0–8.0



SPACING
30–40cm



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Thrives on neglect

Thyme does best in lean, free-draining soil with minimal watering once established — rich soil and too much water actually weaken its flavour and vigour.



bushy perennial clump



or strike a cutting in a pot

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot, or strike cuttings.
SOIL	Free-draining, lean — avoid rich, heavily fed soil.
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 sparingly once established.
- Trim after flowering to keep a compact, bushy shape.
- Avoid mulch touching the woody base.
- Divide or replace plants every few years as they get woody.

04 Problems

- **Root rot** — from overwatering or poor drainage.
- **Woody, sparse growth** — from lack of trimming; prune regularly.
- **Powdery mildew** — poor airflow; space plants well.
- **Few other issues** — a hardy, low-maintenance herb.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Usable year-round once established.
METHOD	Snip sprigs as needed.
CURING	Air-dry hanging in small bunches.
STORAGE	Fresh in the fridge 1–2 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
Cabbage Tomato	Basil (different water needs)	Not applicable — long-lived shrub.