

# TIPS AND FAQs

## UPON ARRIVAL

When you receive your plants, immediately open the package to give your plants some fresh air and remove your plants from the box. Preferably open your box outside or somewhere that you don't mind getting messy, as some of the soil may have been shaken loose in transit.

## WATER

Water your plants immediately after taking them out of the box. Give them enough water so that the soil appears damp and water trickles out the bottom of the tray.

## IF PLANTS APPEAR VERY DRY

Sometimes plants may appear dry and crispy after the voyage. Do not despair. Generally, when this happens the foliage may look tired, but the rootstock is still perfectly healthy and alive. To begin with, make sure to give each plant water and then wait 5 minutes and water them again. Make sure to keep plants well-watered until you replant them into the garden or in containers. If the foliage continues to look very dry, give your plants a deep haircut. Cut the existing foliage back to the base of the plant. You can do this while the plants are still in the tray, once you popped them out of the tray, or after you've planted them. This will encourage new foliage to grow, as well as thicker growth. Even if your foliage didn't appear dry after the voyage, this can be a useful trick to get better first season growth.

## TIME TO PLANT!

Your plants are now ready to be replanted! Pick a large container or area of the garden that you wish to place your plants. A few minutes before transplanting, give your plants one last watering and once the water has trickled out the bottom of the tray, pop your plants out and replant. We recommend replanting in the morning or evening when outside temperatures are not at extremes. This will allow for proper water uptake from the roots.

## FIRST YEAR MAINTENANCE

Thyme is a great, low-maintenance perennial once it is established. But the first year, like all perennials, it will require some additional care while it is establishing its root system. Once you've planted your thyme, it is important to keep them moist (but not drenched) in the ground. The small plants will tend to dry out in the first 3-6 months until the roots have grown. This means that it may need water as often as every other day, or if you're experiencing very hot, drought conditions, every day watering may be necessary. After the first year, it will become quite drought tolerant, needing little more than natural rainfall.

## HOW TO GET THE BEST GROWTH

Thyme loves full sun, good draining soil, and regular fertilizing. A nice pruning in the spring is also helpful for encouraging thicker growth. Pruning about 1/3 of the plant is best.

During the first season your plants will be focusing their energy and building a root system. Most of the above ground growth will occur starting the second season.

## WHERE SHOULD I PLANT THEM?

Thyme is a wonderful evergreen ground cover – plant it along edges, on slopes, in rock gardens, as a lawn substitute, among stepping stones, or flowing over retaining walls. They're also great in containers spilling over the edge.



## Our Warranty (Perennials)

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at 1-800-428-9726 during the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm EST.

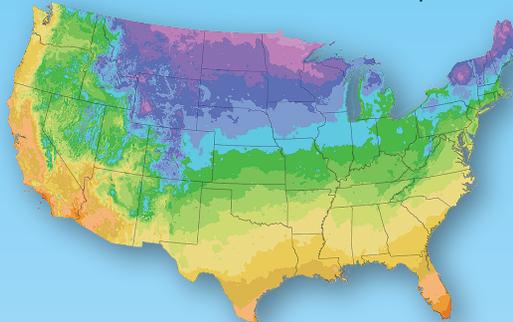
You can email questions to us at: [plantquestions@robertasinc.com](mailto:plantquestions@robertasinc.com).

If your bulbs, cuttings etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at [www.robertasinc.com](http://www.robertasinc.com).

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

Neither the retailer nor any other company involved in the sale or promotion of this product is a co-warrantor of this plant warranty.

## Plant Hardiness Zone Map



9a to 11 (orange) 7a (green) 6a (light blue) 5a (medium blue)  
8a to 8b (yellow) 6b (dark green) 5bs to 5bn (cyan) 3a to 4b (purple)  
7b (light green)



1-800-428-9726

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

Thank you  
for bringing us into your home

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## ROBERTA'S GARDENS PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Creeping Thyme  
(*Thymus serpyllum* hybrids)



## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full Sun to Partial Sun
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	4-9
PLANT TYPE	Perennial
PLANTING DISTANCE:	10-12 inches
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	1-4 inches 12-18 inches
BLOOM TIME:	Summer, by 2nd season

## PLANTING GUIDE

1

STEP

Remove netting and/or sleeve from around the tray. Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. If you cannot plant it into garden within a few days, make sure it stays well-watered.

2

STEP

Water your plants just before popping them out of the shipping tray. On the day of planting, if the plants are growing into each other, you may simply pull them apart or cut them apart with scissors. You may also cut the foliage down to roots before or after planting to encourage new, bushier growth.

3

STEP

Transplant into the garden as soon as evening temperatures stay above 40F. Dig holes slightly wider than each cell and about 3-4 inches deep. Place them in the holes and pack soil around the roots, filling the hole and making sure all the roots are covered with soil. Water them well again. Alternatively, you may plant them in containers. Transplant into a larger container that slightly less wide than the maximum width your plant is expected to grow as indicated above. You may also choose an even larger container and plant multiple plants together in the same pot.

4

STEP

It is important to keep new plants well-watered for their first year of growth, making sure they do not become dried out for prolonged periods. This may mean watering your plants 3-4 times per week or more, depending on your region's weather. As years progress, your plants will not require as much care.

5

STEP

Planted now, your plants will produce flowers in the summer starting the second season.

## CONTINUING CARE

### SHELF LIFE

Plant into garden or larger pots and place outside immediately after the night temperatures stay above 40 degrees. Keep tray in cool, shaded area outside until ready to plant. Please plant as soon as possible.

### PLANT PREPARATION

Remove netting and/or sleeve from around the tray. Discard any packing material clinging to leaves or soil. If you cannot plant into the garden within a few days, make sure it stays well watered. If the plants are growing into each other, you may simply pull them apart or cut them apart with scissors. You may also cut the foliage down to roots before or after planting to encourage new, bushier growth.

### PLANTING DEPTH AND SPACING

Dig a hole that is about 3-4" deep and about twice the width of the cell. After you've placed the plant in the hole, cover with soil ensuring all the roots have been covered. In the garden, space about 10-12 inches apart.

### POTTED PLANTS

Rather than in the garden you may re-pot into large containers. Re-pot the plants into a container that is slightly smaller than the max width the plant is expected to grow. This will allow your container to fill out nicely. You may also plant multiple plants together in an even larger pot.

### SOIL PREPARATION

Plants prefer lean, fast drying soil. Sandy or rocky soil is great; amend clay type soils with compost or potting mix to avoid death from 'wet feet'. If soil is very acidic, mulch with lime to increase alkalinity.

### GARDEN LOCATION

They are great as a groundcover. Plant along walkways, sidewalks, edges, at the front of beds and borders, in rock gardens, slopes, or in mixed containers as the 'spiller'.

### PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH

These grow to about 1-4" tall and 12-18" wide.

### WATER

Water upon planting. The first season plants like to stay moist, but not drenched. This may require watering every other day for the first 3-6 months until the roots have been established. Starting the second season they are quite drought tolerant.

### FERTILIZER

They respond to feeding with a high bloom fertilizer like Roberta's Bounty. Fertilizing every two weeks is recommended.

### LIGHTING

In the summer growing season full sun is best, but partial sun will suffice.

### BLOOMING

Under correct conditions blooming starts the second summer.

### TEMPERATURE ZONE 4-9

They can withstand winter temperatures to minus -25F

### PRUNING

In early spring, prune about 1/3 of foliage back to keep plants neat and compact. However, this is not required, but simply for aesthetics.

### DORMANCY

There is really nothing to do to winterize these. In all but the coldest regions your plants will remain evergreen throughout winter. In the colder regions they may drop their foliage, but will quickly regrow it the following spring.

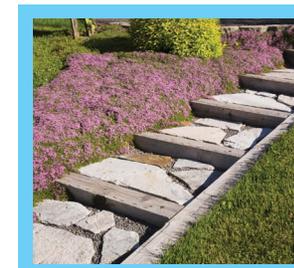
## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Shipped as Shown



Blankets of color all summer long



Excels on slopes and borders



Handles foot traffic with ease



Great for smothering weeds and replacing mulch