

Tips for Success

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.

Plants look Dry or Foliage appears Lackluster: Sometimes plants may appear dried out and wilted after the voyage. Do not despair. When this happens the foliage may look lackluster but the rootstock is still perfectly healthy and alive. To plump your plants back up, water them and wait 5 minutes and then water them again. This will generally rehydrate them. Keep these plants well-watered until you can re-plant them into larger containers or in the garden within the next week. If plants arrive dry, it is often because the roots have outgrown the small shipping pots and need more room to grow; roots tend to dry out quickly in small containers. Your plants are very much alive and when you transplant them into larger pots or the earth, they will start growing quickly! So, re-plant them as soon as possible. Remove any yellow or brown foliage. If a lot of the plant's foliage has yellowed, you may cut the foliage back to just above the soil line. This will give your plant a chance to restart, and it encourages bushier, thicker growth.

Time to Plant! Your plants are now ready to be replanted. Follow the planting guide inside for detailed instructions on how to most effectively plant your new plants.

First Year Maintenance: For perennials, the first year (or sometimes two) will require additional maintenance. During the first season of growth, even if the plant is known to be drought-tolerant, it is very important to water your plants on a regular basis, meaning up to 3-4 times per week. When plants are in their infancy stage, they need to be watered by their caretaker until they've had a chance to build a strong enough root system to subsist on their own. If you are experiencing severe heat, drought like conditions, or your plants appear consistently droopy, you may need to water your plants almost every day.

Thyme: This is one of the best ground covers around. Thyme loves the full sun and good draining soil. To make it even happier and thicker, a light shearing in early spring will keep your plants healthy. This ground cover is excellent along hot walkways or driveways, along slopes and edges, in rock gardens or between stones and pavers, flowing over retaining walls, or spilling over the edges of containers.



Roberta's Gardens

PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Creeping Thyme
Thymus serpyllum hybrids

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 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST. You can email questions to us at: 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 RobertasUniqueGardens.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.

Perennials

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for bringing us into
your home*

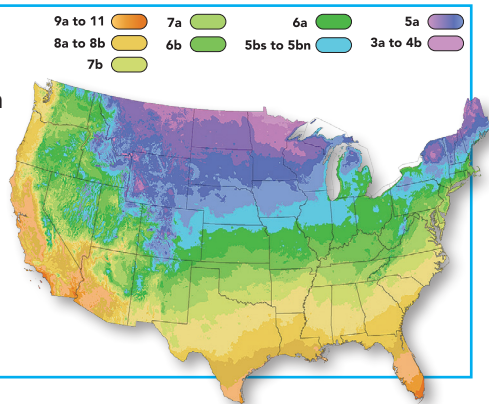
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P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182
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Quick Reference

-  **Plant Type:** Perennial
-  **Light/Sun:** Full to Partial Sun
-  **Mature Height:** 2-4"
-  **Mature Spread:** 12-18"
-  **Bloom Time:** Summer, by second season
-  **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 4 to 9



Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Remove netting and/or sleeve from around the tray. Make sure they stay hydrated until the time of planting. If plants are growing into one another, you can either cut them apart with scissors or pull the apart with your hands. This action will actually encourage fresh growth and does not harm the plant at all.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Dig a hole about 3-4" deep and twice the width of the plant. After you've placed the plant in the hole, cover with soil ensuring all the roots have ben covered. In the garden space about 10-12" apart.

Potted Plants: Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. You may pot one plant in an 8-12" container, or place multiple in a larger container.

Soil Preparation: Thyme prefers lean, fast drying soil. Sandy or rocky soil is great. If soil is clayish, amend with compost or potting mix. They do not like soggy soil. If soil is very acidic, add lime to increase alkalinity.

Watering: Water upon planting and water regularly as the plants get established. They like to stay moist but not drenched while getting used to their new home. By the second or third season they will be much more drought tolerant. Do not let them dry out too much in the first summer of growth.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta's Bounty a couple weeks after planting and then once or twice a month all summer long.

Pet Considerations: Ensure your pets do not consume plants.

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

Winterizing: In all but the coldest regions these will stay evergreen year round. There is no additional winter care for these tough ground covers.

Planting Steps

Step 1 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.

Step 2 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.

Step 3 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.

