Mediterranean Creeping Thyme

Thymus longicaulis



Mediterranean Creeping Thyme flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

A beautiful creeping variety featuring fragrant, glossy green foliage with clusters of pink flowers rising above; wonderful in patio containers, hanging baskets and garden beds; delicious when added to marinades, dressings, salads or dried for seasoning

Edible Qualities

Mediterranean Creeping Thyme is a perennial herb that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The small fragrant oval dark green leaves can be harvested at any time in the season. The leaves have a savory taste and a pleasant fragrance.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Drying
- Seasoning

Features & Attributes

Mediterranean Creeping Thyme features showy clusters of lightly-scented pink flowers rising above the foliage from early to late summer. Its tiny fragrant oval leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

This is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial herb with a spreading, ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Mediterranean Creeping Thyme is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Herb Gardens
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Mediterranean Creeping Thyme will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated herb garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Mediterranean Creeping Thyme is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.