

Living Herbs

Description

Thyme Woolly
Thymus Pseudolanuginosus
Family: Lamiaceae

Growing Tips

Thyme Woolly is a small creeping shrub growing to only 10cm tall with green-grey, hairy leaves arranged in whirls along thin branched twigs. It also produces a few pink flowers in late summer.

Parts Used

This perennial likes full sun and neutral to alkaline soil with good drainage. It spreads readily and therefore makes a nice ground cover, especially around paving stones and in containers. It grows up to 10cm tall. For best result space 20cm apart.

Uses

Leaves and flowering tops.

Origin & History

This Thyme is used in potpourris due to its strong emanating aroma and is particularly popular as ground cover. Not suited medicinally or for cooking.

Thyme originates in western Mediterranean area and was brought to Europe by the Romans who also added it to cheeses and liquors. It now grows wild in parts of South Canterbury.

The name Thyme has links to the Greek language where it meant "courage" or "to fumigate". In ancient Egypt it was used for embalming and Roman soldiers inhaled its smoked or its steam when placed in baths to give them courage.

Placed in a pillow, Thyme was said to induce sleep and ward off nightmares. The oil was used in World War I to ease pain and as an antiseptic and it was believed that twigs of Thyme placed on coffins would assure safe passage into the spiritual world.

Thyme, Woolly

