

Thyme

Thymus vulgaris

Common thyme makes a great addition to a pollinator garden. The flowers are attractive to bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects. This plant is drought tolerant and requires little attention. Common thyme is a low-maintenance plant, but it should be trimmed whenever it gets leggy. Cut it back in early spring and summer to reduce its woody growth. Harvest thyme just before it flowers, when the essential oil content in the leaves is at its peak. It is recommended to cut five to six inches off the top growth and leave the woody stems. For the plant to thrive always leave at least five inches of growth.

Type: evergreen perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 9

Uses: herb; border; edging; mass planting; container

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 6 to 12 inches **Spread:** 6 to 16 inches

Plant spacing: 15 inches

Light requirement: full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; alkaline; sand; clay

Drought tolerance: good

Soil salt tolerances: moderate

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests or diseases are normally seen on the plant

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Photo: UF/ IFAS