

# Grower's Facts

W.H.PERRON 



63-89515-010

## T<sub>hyme</sub>

*Thymus serpyllum* Creeping Magic Carpet

**PLANTATION: Indoor:** If spring planting, sow seeds indoors 6 weeks before transplanting outdoor in the spring. Use shallow trays filled to the top with potting soil. Sprinkle seeds over the trays (can mix seed with sand to accomplish this) and gently press seeds into soil. Bottom water or mist spray and try not to let the seed dry out. Keep trays at a temperature of 18-21 °C. The average germination time is 10-21 days. Before transplanting into the bed, harden the plants for 10–14 days in a protected area outside.

**Outdoor:** You may sow seeds directly Outdoor; however, this must be done with caution. These seeds are very tiny and a hard rainfall, planting too deep, not keeping the seed moist, and other environmental factors may hinder success. To ensure best planting, make sure you plant when it is warm outside. If spring planting, frost season should be well over and nighttime temps staying in the upper 5 °C or warmer. If late summer planting, make sure you have 8–10 weeks before the frost season begins. Do not cover the seed but tightly press into the earth.

**Sowing rate: 1 pack of 250 seeds covers 5 square feet or 0,5 square meter area and 1 pack of 5000 seeds cover 100 square feet or 10 square meter area.**

**SOIL: Indoor:** A well-drained, porous sowing media is best to prevent over watering.

**Outdoor:** Well-drained soil.

**CULTURALS PRACTICES:** Select a site that has good drainage and provides the amount of sun or shade needed. Raising the bed 5-10 cm above the original ground level will be helpful with drainage. Beds that provide good drainage are important as many ground covers do not do well with “wet feet,” and the poor drainage will cause rotting. Do not till the soil unless you plan on waiting about two months to plant so you can kill off all the weeds and grasses that will come up due to tilling.

Prepare the seed bed by removing all weeds either with herbicides or pulling manually (preferred).

Once the seed bed is prepared, spread a 2.5-5 cm layer of seed starting soil over the bed. Spread the seed over the desired planting area. Many of the seeds for ground cover are very tiny, and it is helpful to mix a seed packet with fine sand. This gives you more matter to spread over the desired area. If you are needing to

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sow between stones, using a parmesan cheese can is a good way of controlling where the seed/sand mixture goes, and it allows you to get into the small crevices.

Moisten the seed bed with a fine spray mist or water weeping type hose and maintain the moisture until the seed has sprouted. This step is crucial. If planting Outdoor in the hot summer months, watering once or twice a day is not good enough. You may need to water 4 or 5 times a day to keep the seed bed moist. You can set the water timer to come on every couple of hours just for 2 minutes or so (depends on your soil) and it will keep the seed moist all day long. At nighttime, the seed will stay moist, so this is not necessary if you have its water once after it is dark. Ensure mist spraying as to not wash the seed away or cause it to be buried too deep.

It is recommended to weed the bed as the seedlings grow as well as using a liquid fertilizer. Transplant the young seedlings into the garden 30 cm apart. Transplants use a light application of liquid fertilizer or starter fertilizer and water well.