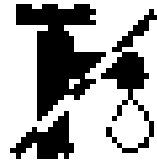


Elfin Thyme



Thymus or thymon is Greek for "courage." Through the centuries it has been used for traditions relating to this theme. Roman soldiers bathed in thyme water, European knights carried thyme tokens. Other folklore talks of thyme as being the home of fairies.



Thymus serpyllum (Previously known as: *Origanum serpyllum* *Serpyllum vulgare*)

- **Use:** Spectacular ornamental herb with purple blooms and tiny evergreen leaves. Great for filling between stepping stones as it will tolerate light foot traffic and dry conditions. Works well in mixed beds or in pots when allowed to trail over the edges. Showy flowers and aromatic foliage. Deer resistant.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Tolerates full sun to part shade. Water regularly, when top 3 in. of soil is dry to start. Little water needed once established.
- **Growth:** Slow grower to 1 to 2 in. tall, 4 to 8 in. wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-8, Perennial; Evergreen in zones 8 and 9.
- **Foliage:** Evergreen. The leaves are tiny, pubescent, and blue-green in color. The plant's leaves are aromatic, but it is not typically used in cooking.
- **Flower:** The flowers are tiny tubular bell-shaped blooms that are deep pink to purple. The blooms appear on the upright stems from June to September.