

Community PlantAid Nursery

The notes this week are concentrating on some tough Mediterranean plants that are available at the nursery. They may have been recently potted on so please look after them until they have developed a substantial root system.

'Blue Margarite Daisy (*Felicia amelloides*) is a tough low shrub that bears clusters of large blue daisy yellow-centred flowers from late summer to early autumn. Needs little maintenance apart from deadheading the spent flowers to encourage more and trimming back the outside shoots to maintain a dome shape and camouflage any woody stems. This aster thrives in full sun which keeps mildew at bay and grows to about 45cm. Bit of a butterfly magnet.

Thymus forms

This culinary herb comes in many shapes and forms and makes a welcome addition to any garden. There is a selection of varieties in the nursery at the moment.

Turkey Thyme (*Thymus 'Westmoreland'*)

This thyme usually grows about 15cm high and is covered by a profusion of pale pink flowers over spring and summer. It is useful as an edging plant on garden beds or especially paths where the strongly aromatic leaves can release their fragrance.

Carpet Thyme (*Thymus serpyllum 'Magic Carpet'*)

This is a very prostrate thyme with slightly woolly foliage and rosy mauve flowers that can be used between pavers or stepping stones. *Thymus serpyllum* 'Annie Hall' has lilac pink flowers over bright green foliage and is also very prostrate.

Caraway Thyme (*Thymus herba-barona*)

This thyme originates from Corsica in the Mediterranean so as you can imagine it is one tough critter. The narrow-leaves create a dense mat and give off the smell of caraway when crushed. The many flowers produced late spring to early summer are lilac and attract bees. Thrives in full sun as do all of the thymes..

Doone Valley (*Thymus citriodorus 'Doone Valley'*)

This thyme also forms a dense mat consisting of gold-variegated green leaves with purple flowers. Scent of this cultivar is thyme-like infused with lemon. Although very ornamental in the garden this thyme is unfortunately not suitable for culinary use.