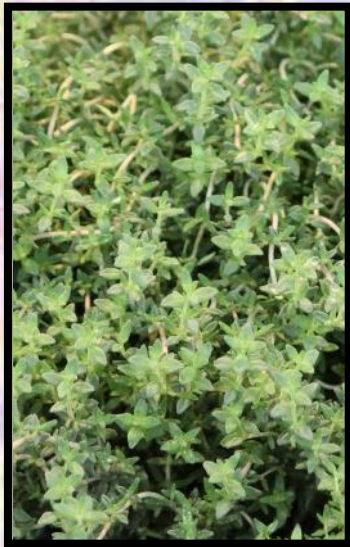


Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Planting Herbs in School Scheme 2020/21



French Thyme

Thymus vulgaris

Dill

Anethum graveolens

Sage

Salvia officinalis

French Thyme

Common Name : French Thyme

Genus : *Thymus*

Family : Lamiaceae (Labiatae)

Place of origin : Mediterranean region

Distribution : Mainly grown in the United States, the United Kingdom and France and has about 350 to 400 varieties



Form and Characteristics

- Evergreen
- A perennial dwarf shrub
- The leaves are thick with succulents and carry a mildly scented flavour.
- Common varieties include white-flowered Thyme, creeping Thyme, lemon Thyme and spotted-leafed Thyme.



Growth Habits and Care

- Thyme prefers a warm, sunny and well-ventilated environment.
- It grows well in well-drained sandy soil.
- Thyme is not resistant to humid soil and requires little watering.
- A prolonged period of humid soil conditions will hinder root growth and lead to weak plants.



Propagation

- Seeds can be sown in spring or autumn.
- Commonly propagated by cutting preferably in autumn.
- Layering can also be used.



Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

- Thyme is resistant to pests and diseases.
- If pests or diseases are found, spray the plant with effective fungicide and insecticide immediately, and remove the infected parts.



Horticultural Application and Economic Value

- Suitable for cultivation in gardens, herb gardens and roof gardens.
- It can also be used in aromatherapy, production of perfume and herb tea, and cooking etc.



Points to note

- Do not cut off the woody parts of the branches while pruning. As aged parts at the branch base are weak in regeneration, the whole plant may die when those parts are cut.



Anethum graveolens

Common Name : Dill, Dill Weed

Genus : *Anethum*

Family : Apiaceae

Place of origin : The Mediterranean region and Southern Russia

Distribution : It is now widely cultivated in Egypt, Europe and Asian countries.



Form and Characteristics

- A perennial herb
- It is heavily scented with bright green filament-like leaves and yellow umbel flowers.
- Depending on the variety and planting environment, the plant can grow up to 200 cm.
- Dill's yellow umbel flowers bloom from spring to summer, and its seeds can be collected upon maturity.



Growth Habits and Care

- Dill is considered as a cool-weather crop and intolerant of hot weather.
- It prefers a well-drained and sunny environment with good air circulation.
- It is ideally planted in well-drained, moist and rich sandy soil.



Propagation

- Dill is not suitable for transplantation. It is advisable to sow the seeds directly in the soil during autumn or winter for reproduction.



Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

- Dill rarely suffers from pests and diseases.
- Infestation and infection can be prevented by employing proper cultivation techniques and keeping the environment clean and well-ventilated.



Horticultural Application and Economic Value

- Dill is suitable for planting in gardens or herb gardens for ornamental purpose.
- The heavily scented herb is an ingredient for essential oils used in aromatherapy.
- Fresh leaves, when finely chopped, can be used in dumplings, soup, salad and fish seasoning, or marinated with seafood such as salmon, and even for making herb butter.
- Grinded dried seeds are commonly used for seasoning.



Points to note

- If it is planted in areas with high temperature and full sun, the soil must be kept moist to prevent drying of leaves due to lack of moisture. Stagnant water should be avoided during rainy season.
- If it is planted in pots, deep pots are preferred to cater for its long taproots.
- The plant should stay away from exposed positions and should be supported by bamboo sticks if necessary.



Salvia officinalis

- Common Name : Sage
- Genus : *Salvia*
- Family : Lamiaceae (Labiatae)
- Place of origin : The Mediterranean region
- Distribution : It is now grown worldwide in the southern part of Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the United States, while species of the best qualities mainly come from the United Kingdom.



Form and Characteristics

- It is a perennial herb and also has shrub varieties.
- Stems, leaves and flowers of the plant produce a strong and unique fragrance.
- Common varieties include White Sage, Purple Sage and Fruit Sage



Growth Habits and Care

- Sage prefers a warm, sunny and well-ventilated environment.
- The herb is cold-resistant and must be kept away from excessive heat and humidity.
- It should be planted in cool and shady areas in summer.
- It grows best in well-drained sandy soil, preferably alkaline.
- Appropriate watering is required as excessive moisture in the soil may rot the roots and kill the plant.



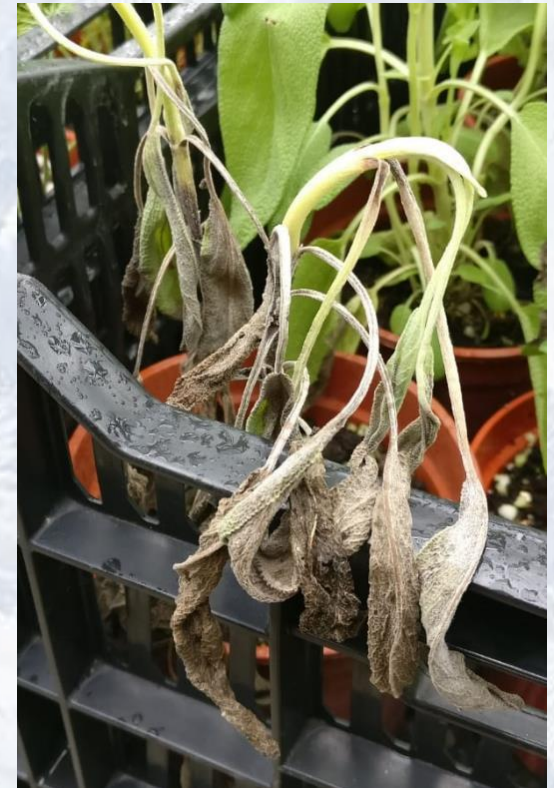
Propagation

- By seed sowing, cutting and division
- Mainly by cutting
- Propagation can be carried out in spring or autumn



Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

- Sage is resistant to pests and diseases.
- If pests or diseases are found, remove the infected parts and apply appropriate insecticide or fungicide immediately.



Horticultural Application and Economic Value

- Sage is suitable for garden, courtyard and rooftop planting.
- If grown in homes, it should be kept in a sunny place.
- For external use, the herb can be used for beauty care, making medicine and essential oils.
- It goes well with seafood and poultry.
- It can also be used for making tea and food seasonings.



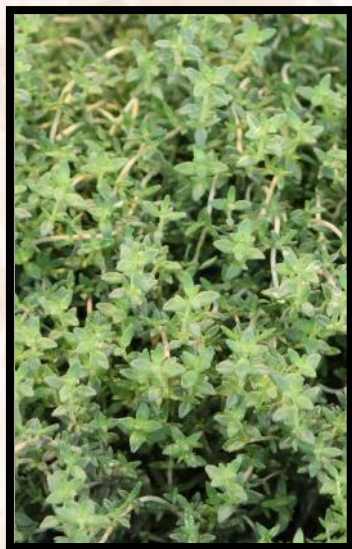
Points to note

- Keep the soil well-drained to avoid root rot.
- Place the plant in cool and shady areas in summer.
- As the leaves at the bases of the stems tend to rot while in contact with the soil, stones or cobbles may be used to separate the leaves from the soil.



For details on these three herbs, please visit the following webpage:

◆ <http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/green/education/greeningschool/plant.html>



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