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The plants may be stressed from shipping — water them as soon as possible and keep them in a protected environment. If you will be transplanting within a few days, harden off the plants as you normally would. If you must wait to transplant the plugs, you may want to transfer them into larger cell flats or containers. All of these varieties are suitable for container sales, field production and for use as edible ornamentals. If you allow the plants to flower, they may also attract beneficial insects.

LIGHT PREFERENCE:

Full Sun:

Marjoram, Tarragon, and Verbena

Full Sun/Part Shade:

Mint, Oregano, Sage, and Thyme

SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

Well-drained soil of normal garden fertility is suitable for the majority of these crops, but each prefers the pH to be either more acidic or alkaline.

Slightly acidic: pH of 6.1–7.0:

Mint, Sage, Thyme, Verbena

Slightly alkaline: pH of 7.4–7.8:

French Tarragon, Rosemary, and Sweet Marjoram

Prior to planting, check your soil pH and adjust if necessary. Loosen the soil and work in compost or a balanced fertilizer. Many of these herbs are perennials, so it is best to make sure that your planting area is weed-free prior to transplanting. Control weeds after transplanting with shallow cultivation or mulch.

CULTURE:

If you will be selling the herbs in containers with a relatively quick turnaround (1–2 months), 4-inch diameter pots are a popular option. Plant one plug per pot and grow on in a protected environment until the plants become established. Water and fertilize as needed. For larger containers, plant 1–3 plugs per 12-inch diameter pot. If you will be transplanting to the field, see the chart on the reverse side for plant spacing suggestions.

INSECT PESTS AND DISEASES:

Perennial herbs are typically hardy, easy to grow plants that have few problems with insects and disease. Foliar and root diseases can be prevented with adequate air flow and well-drained soil. If foliar disease or pest problems occur, treat the plants with an appropriate fungicide, such as Oxidate[®], or insecticide, such as PyGanic[®]. Be sure to follow the application instructions indicated for herbs.

HARVEST:

Wait until the plants are well established prior to harvesting significant amounts. To avoid stressing the plants when harvesting large quantities, keep them well-watered, use sharp sterilized shears, and harvest in the early morning. For detailed, crop-specific harvest and processing guidelines, we recommend the resource *Growing and Selling Fresh-Cut Herbs* by Sandie Shores.

Crop	Variety/Varieties	Hardiness Zones	Light Preference	Plant Height	Plant Spacing
Marjoram	Sweet Marjoram	9–11	Sun	8–24"	8"
Mint	Applemint	5–9	Sun/Part Shade	18–24"	18"
	Doublemint	4–9		12–18"	
	Peppermint	4–9		12–18"	
Oregano	Italian Oregano	8–11	Sun/Part Shade	12–18"	12"
Rosemary	Gorizia	7–11	Sun	24–36"	8–10" as an annual 24–36" as a perennial
	Perfect Skewer				
Sage	Berggarten	5–11	Sun/Part Shade	12–24"	12"
	Icterina	8–11		12–24"	12"
	Tricolor	8–11		12–24"	12"
	Pineapple	9–11		18–36"	12–24"
Tarragon	French Tarragon	4–7	Sun	18–24"	18"
Thyme	English	5–9	Sun/Part Shade	6–12"	8"
	French				
	Lemon				
Verbena	Lemon Verbena*	8–11	Sun	24–48"	18"

*Lemon Verbena plants can get quite large in warm climates — you may want to give them more space in these areas.