HERBS · A SUNNY PATIO WITH GOOD AIR MOVEMENT

Let's grow rosemary.

Salvia rosmarinus

This plan is for **Culinary rosemary**

Is this your plant? Use an established nursery plant of Salvia rosmarinus, also sold as Rosmarinus officinalis. This is a starting pot for outdoor growth, not a permanent container for every mature cultivar.

One sunny pot, with fragrant sprigs for the kitchen.

12 × 12 in. pot **1 nursery plant**

Before you start

Start with an established nursery plant outdoors in warm weather. In cold-winter areas, plan a cool, bright indoor place before frost; this outdoor feed is not an indoor dose.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 26, 2026 View sources ↗



LIGHT

Lots of sun

Aim for at least 6 hours of direct sun outdoors.



WATER

Let the top dry

Water thoroughly when needed; avoid constantly wet roots.



FEEDING

Light feeding

Let the purchased mix set the start point; use a lighter feed during outdoor growth.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ One draining pot about 12 inches wide and 12 inches deep
- ✓ Fresh, freely draining potting mix and clean scissors
- ✓ 1 established culinary rosemary nursery plant

THE SOIL

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US; contains starter nutrients—check your bag)

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

One pot. Here's the plan.

A sunny patio with good air movement. Start with **nursery plant**.

THE POT

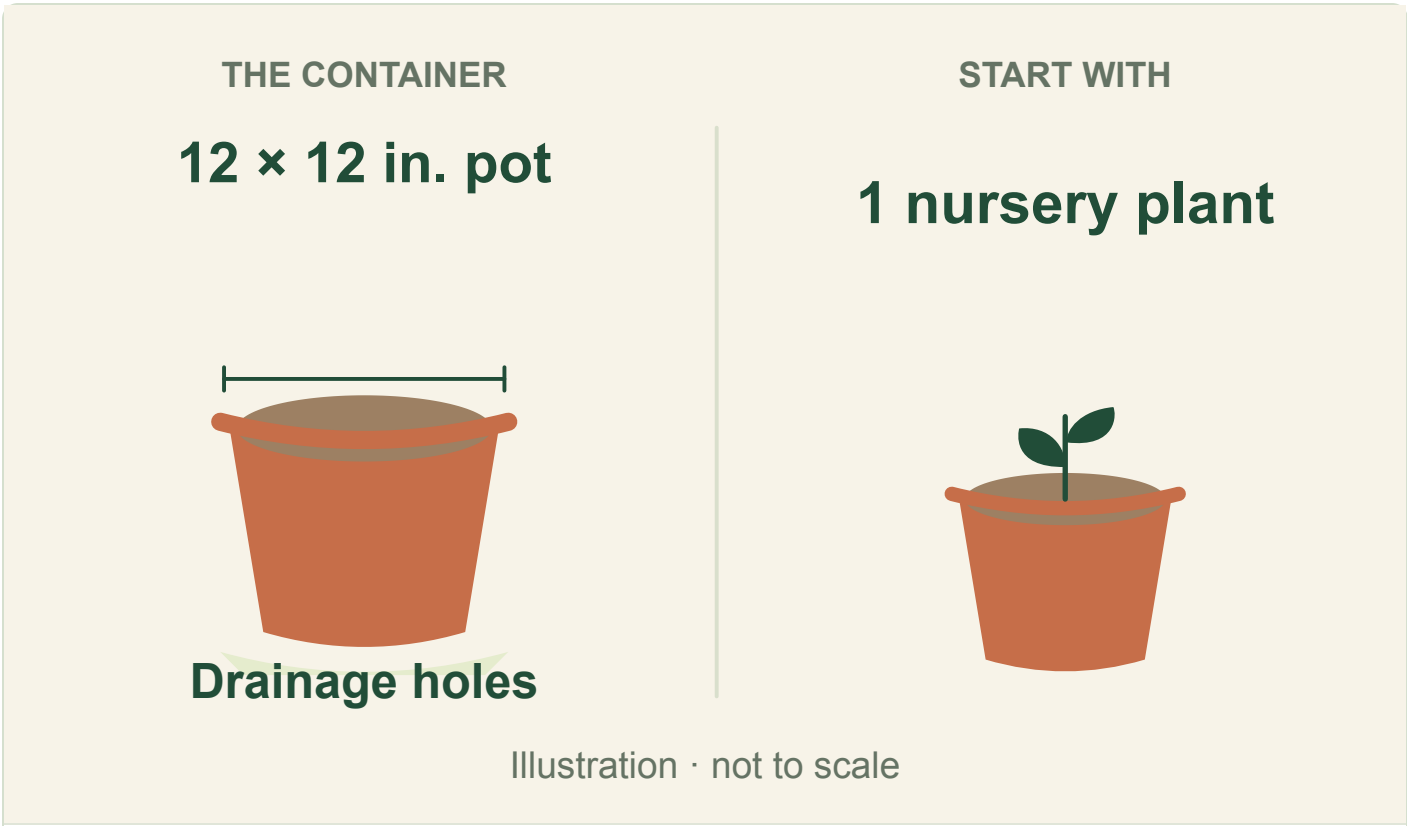
12 × 12 in. pot

About 12 inches wide and deep, with open drainage holes.

HOW MANY

1 nursery plant

A small established culinary rosemary, not a freshly rooted cutting.



12 × 12 in. pot · 1 nursery plant About 12 inches wide and deep, with open drainage holes. A small established culinary rosemary, not a freshly rooted cutting. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Start with a rooted plant

Choose a healthy culinary rosemary with a developed root ball. If you have only a tiny rooted cutting, let it fill its small nursery pot first.

02

Keep the stem base clear

Plant at the same soil level as the nursery pot. Do not bury the woody stem. Water once to settle the mix and let it drain.

03

Find its sunny spot

Give the leaves plenty of sun and space for air movement. Check the mix before adding more water.

04

Snip a few tender tips

After new growth appears, take a few leafy shoot tips for cooking. Keep most of the foliage; avoid cutting back into bare, old wood.

Help with the setup: drainage holes and saucers · potting mix vs. garden soil.

Other ways to start

Root a stem-tip cutting

In early to midsummer, take a healthy tip about 3 inches long, cutting just below a leaf joint. Remove the bottom inch of leaves and insert that bare stem into moist propagation mix in a small pot. Rooting hormone is optional; follow its label if used. Keep in bright indirect light, with lightly moist mix. Pot up after roots develop rather than on a promised date; do not put an unrooted cutting straight into this large pot.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Check daily outdoors. Let the top 1–2 inches dry, then water thoroughly and drain; avoid a bone-dry root ball.

FERTILIZER

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)

AMOUNT

1½ teaspoons in 1 US gallon of water

WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

Mix into water. Wet the root zone and let excess drain; the gallon is a mixing batch, not a per-pot serving.

HOW OFTEN TO FEED

Every 3–4 weeks during active outdoor growth.

WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

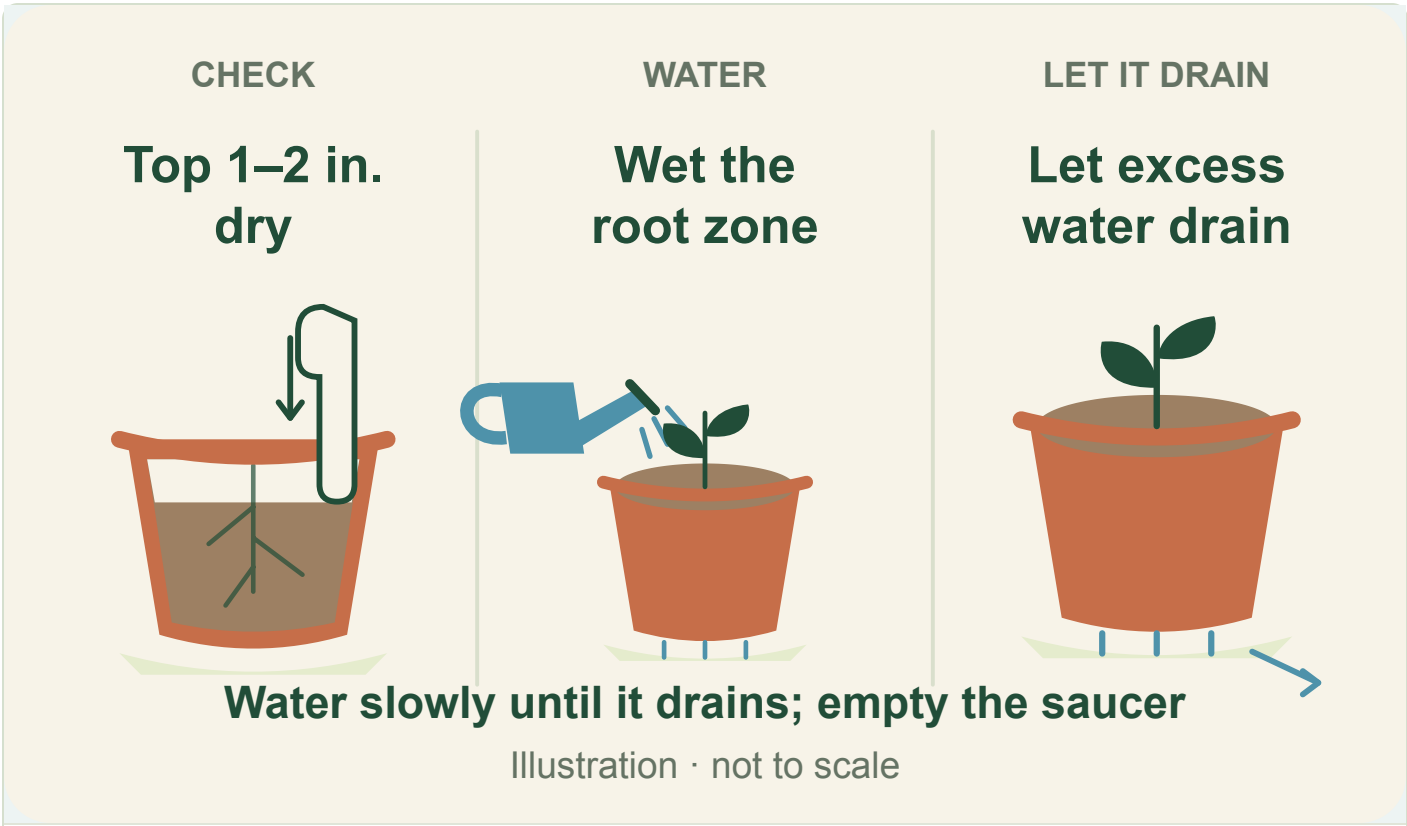
Use the purchased mix's follow-on feeding instructions. Correct wilt or wet roots first; skip slow, dim winter growth.

Half the product's outdoor concentration, using Minnesota Extension's container-herb guidance. This is not the indoor label dose.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check the pot each morning outdoors. Let the top 1–2 inches become dry before watering thoroughly and draining. Do not let the root ball remain bone-dry, but do not keep topping up damp mix. Persistent wetness is especially troublesome in cool weather. Empty the saucer after each watering.



Check before watering. Check daily outdoors. Let the top 1–2 inches dry, then water thoroughly and drain; avoid a bone-dry root ball. Original illustration; not to scale.

> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

Add no fertilizer at planting in the fresh enriched mix listed here. Check your purchased bag for its follow-on feeding instructions; do not turn “up to two months” into a fixed countdown. Rosemary needs a lighter routine than a fruiting summer vegetable.



1½ teaspoons in 1 US gallon of water Mix into water. Wet the root zone and let excess drain; the gallon is a mixing batch, not a per-pot serving. Every 3–4 weeks during active outdoor growth. Use the purchased mix's follow-on feeding instructions. Correct wilt or wet roots first; skip slow, dim winter growth. Original illustration; not to scale.



US PRODUCT REFERENCE

Miracle-Gro

Water Soluble All Purpose

24-8-16

Soluble: mix into water

Check the official US product ↗

Illustrated reference; check the manufacturer's current packaging and US label.

A GENTLE FEED DURING ACTIVE OUTDOOR GROWTH

Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16)

When extra feeding is due, dissolve 1½ teaspoons of Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food (US 24-8-16) in 1 US gallon of water. Apply every 3–4 weeks while growing outdoors. This is half the product's outdoor concentration, following Minnesota Extension's lighter container-herb guidance. Wet the root zone and drain; the gallon is a mixing batch, not this pot's serving. Correct wilt or wet roots first. Skip feeding during slow, dim winter growth; this is not an indoor dose.

Check the manufacturer's product page ↗

Use the named US formulation. A different product or concentration needs different directions. The amount mixed is a batch, not a dose to pour into one pot.

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03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

New tips and your first harvest

Once the plant has settled, look for fresh tips before taking small harvests. An established nursery plant gives a much quicker start than seed, which can be slow and variable.

Outdoor growing and winter protection

Use this plan outdoors in warm weather. In cold-winter areas, bring the pot into a cool, brightly lit place before frost. Check for pests first and keep it away from a heater. Water according to the mix, not the summer calendar; rosemary often grows slowly indoors in winter.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

Something looking off?

Why is my rosemary turning brown in wet soil?

Brown leaves can occur while roots are too wet. Empty the saucer, check that drainage holes are open, and feel the root zone before watering again. Hold fertilizer while you investigate. If decline continues, ask local Extension to help check for root disease.

What is the white powder on the leaves?

Powdery mildew is possible, especially with crowded foliage and poor air movement. Separate it from crowded plants and inspect the leaves closely. Do not spray a fungicide on a culinary herb without identifying the problem and checking that product's edible-herb label.

Can I keep it on a dim kitchen counter?

A dim counter will not support this growing plan. Use a sunny outdoor position in suitable weather. For winter indoors, provide a cool, bright location or suitable grow light, check for pests, and expect slower growth; more fertilizer cannot replace light.

Repotting and checking the plant label

Repot as the roots fill the container

One 12-inch pot keeps the first project manageable. Repot as the roots fill it. Rosemary varieties differ in eventual height and spread, and a pot does not make a large variety permanently dwarf.

Recognize rosemary's two botanical names

Salvia rosmarinus is also sold under the older name Rosmarinus officinalis. Buy a labeled culinary plant. Cuttings preserve a named cultivar more reliably than seed.

Help with your next step.

Set up a pot that drains

Choose drainage holes and keep water from collecting around rosemary roots.

Check the mix before you water

Use the condition of the potting mix instead of watering a still-damp pot on a fixed day.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- NC State: rosemary identity, sun, drainage, and common problems ↗
  https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/salvia-rosmarinus/
- Wisconsin Extension: container sizes for herbs, including rosemary ↗
  https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/files/2014/11/A3382.pdf
- Illinois Extension: rosemary cuttings, harvest, and winter care ↗
  https://extension.illinois.edu/herbs/rosemary
- University of Minnesota: feeding herbs in pots ↗
  https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/gardening-in-minnesota/growing-herbs
- Manufacturer: starter feed in the named potting mix ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/potting-mix/miracle-gro-organic-potting-mix/78951430.html
- Manufacturer: US fertilizer formula and application directions ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/plant-food-and-care/miracle-gro-water-soluble-all-purpose-plant-food.html
- Ask Extension: rosemary stem-tip cutting steps ↗
  https://ask.extension.org/kb/faq.php?id=153099

Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.