

Let's be **Sitting** pretty

Mark Rayner shows how to make a fabulous herb seat using mat-forming thyme, treated timber and Resene paint.

You will need:



- 100mm x 100mm H4 treated fence posts cut to the following lengths:
- 10 x 700mm
- 10 x 1170mm
- Builders' pencil
- Tape measure

- Saw
- Large set squareDrill with long 6mm drill bit
- Hammer
- Construction glue
- 56 x 150mm x 6mm galvanised jolt head nails
- Spirit level
- Resene Quick Dry waterborne primer undercoat
- Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Magik
- Paintbrushes
- 12 x mat-forming thyme plants (we used 6 x woolly thyme and 6 x `Emerald Carpet' thyme)
 Trowel
- Good topsoil and/or potting mix



Other ideas

Create a fragrant chamomile

bench using lawn chamomile

(Chamaemelum nobile) or a

simple instant lawn seat

using cut turf.

Measure and cut the fence posts to the lengths listed above.

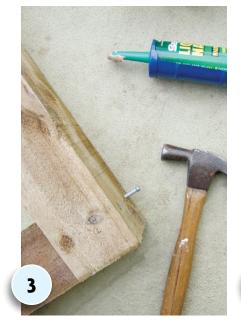


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Drill two pilot holes through both ends of the longer lengths of timber, as shown.



On a level surface, form a rectangular frame with two longer lengths and two shorter lengths. Fix at the corners, using nails and construction glue.



Place this first frame into position – using a spirit level and large setsquare to make sure it's level and square.



Repeat step three to make a second frame and fix this to the first frame, with agenerous amount of construction glue and a nail at each corner. (Drill a pilot hole first). Repeat this until you have five frames in position. Leave overnight for glue to dry.



Apply one coat of Resene Quick Dry waterborne primer undercoat to the outer sides and top edge of the seat and leave to dry for one hour.



Paint the seat with two coats of Resene Magik, allowing two hours for each coat to dry. Fill the seat with good quality topsoil and/or potting mix, firm it down and finish it level with the seat's top edge.



Position and plant the mat-forming thymes, as shown (we alternated woolly and 'Emerald Carpet' thyme). Allow plants to establish and spread (approx 30cm) to create a foliage carpet. Once established, the seat can be used.

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