

# Findings from the Field

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Volume 5

Article 28

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2022

## Thyme on Rock

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### Recommended Citation

C, Christian (2022) "Thyme on Rock," *Findings from the Field*: Vol. 5, Article 28.  
Available at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal/vol5/iss1/28>

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## Thyme on Rock

On October 29 at around 11:35 at Pawtuckaway State park, I found a really intriguing plant growing on a rock. It was about 54° on a sunny fall day at Pawtuckaway, and while I was sitting on a rock at the peak of South Mountain I saw a rock in front of me. The rock that I found had dead leaves and vines that looked like they once grew on the rock. This was interesting to me because I was surprised to see plants and vines growing on rocks. It made me think, how did leaves and vines grow on rocks? And what is that plant?

Once I saw this weird plant, I knew I had to find what it was. I found out it's called a thyme. Thyme plant is actually a kind of herb. I knew the plant was thyme because I found that thyme grows on mountains and in rocks. The thyme that I found was on the peak of South Mountain and it was growing on a rock, so I knew that had to be it. I also found that thyme grows in full sun and heat (it prefers 70° or more), which leads me to believe that it was a dead thyme because the rock was in a colder climate and under a tree, so not as much sunlight and warmth for it to thrive and live.

I still have some unanswered questions about thyme. One being how does the rock produce the right soil for the plant to grow on it? Was the soil on top of the rock? How much time does it take to produce soil that plants can grow on? One thing I would like to do to answer these questions is go back out there and look more closely at the rock and see where exactly the plant might have been coming from. It would help me better understand the plant, and answer some of my questions. I could also do some deeper research on the topic and find other plants that might be like it.

Cites:

<https://www.almanac.com/plant/thyme#:~:text=Thyme%20thrives%20in%20full%20sun%20and%20loves%20heat.&text=Plant%20cuttings%20or%20young%20thyme,depending%20upon%20the%20specific%20variety.>

<https://blog.gardenloversclub.com/gardens/rock-garden-plants/>

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