FYN Topic: Rosemary

Question: What's your secret to growing the herb, rosemary? You have a large plant in the ground in front of your house. What do you do to keep it alive? Frustrated in the Cape

Answer: Finding the right spot took some trial and error. I worked the rosemary into an existing landscape bed and did not plant it on an herb mound. Nor did I amend the soil or add organic matter or fertilizer. It is surrounded by other drought tolerant, Florida-Friendly plants. The soil is well drained. Also, I planted it towards the front of the landscape bed with taller plants behind it. It receives continuous sun every day all year. It likes growing undisturbed. I cut a few stems occasionally for cooking or for making wreaths. Rosemary prefers minimal watering by hand or by regular irrigation even in the dry season. Initially, I also kept competing plants surrounding it (shade, root competition, etc.) at a distance. I prune off older or dying growth spikes only. The key to success I believe is not over-watering. I also made sure rain water off the house drained away from where it was planted.