

A guide for planting

ONIONS & GARLIC



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Onions take up little space and can be harvested and used at different stages of growth.

Tools & things you will need:

- Rake
- Hoe
- Fork
- Manure
- Liquid Fertilizer

Choosing your site:

Onions thrive in direct sunlight and will produce larger bulbs if planted in a position that has 6 hours of sunlight a day.

Soil:

The soil must be cultivated properly. Add in generous amounts of well-rotted manure and mix in well with the existing soil. If using a commercial fertiliser now is the time to do so.

Planting:

- Plant the bulbs in spring.
- Push the bulb into the soil until it is covered, making sure the stem portion is pointing up. Firm the soil around the bulb with your hands
- Space the bulbs 30cm apart, the onion sets can be planted closer if you are growing them for bunching or salad onions. Mature onions need plenty of room to develop

After care:

- Water thoroughly and keep the soil moist. Your onions & garlic should not need much watering in damp spring soil
- The plants must be kept weed free at all times. Feed with a water-soluble fertiliser once a month to encourage growth

Harvesting:

Onions:

- The onion stalks will turn yellow and fall over. Once they have fallen they will dry out and turn brown. This is part of the natural growing process and signals the time for harvest
- Pull onions by the stalk and shake off any excess soil. Place them in a shady area outside to cure for a few days and ensure they are kept dry
- Trim away roots and trim the stem to about an inch once the onions are dry. Do not remove the entire stem as this may encourage stem rot
- Storage: Store the onions in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place

Garlic:

- The bulbs are ready for harvest when the leaves are around half green to brown. Do not pull the garlic bulbs, they need to be gently lifted individually
- Keep the freshly harvested garlic bulbs away from direct sunlight and store them in a dark, dry place straight away