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DURANGO NURSERY & SUPPLY

271 Kay Cee Lane, Durango CO

www.durangonursery.com

970-259-8800



Planting & Growing Garlic

Benefits of Growing Garlic

Garlic is a low-maintenance, high-reward crop that loves growing in cold climates. It does not require much space to grow and is a wonderful pest-resistant companion plant, especially for Roses. Garlic is very reproductive, and all bulbs collected for future plantings or use have a long shelf life.

Soil Preparation

Garlic prefers Full Sun and Well drained areas. Heavy compact soil should be tilled approximately 8" from the surface and amended with manure-based compost. If you plant in the fall, add additional manure or well-balanced (NPK 4-7-5) fertilizers in Spring. Garlic will not produce successfully in areas recently used to cultivate other members of the Allium family, such as Onions, Shallots, Leeks, and Chives.

Variety Selection

Our cold climate, available micronutrients, and occasional Sandy/Loamy soils are ideal for growing Garlic. We have the benefit of a wider selection of Garlic Varieties. Specific Varieties may have special requirements, follow labeled instructions or research purchased varieties to ensure successful planting.

Varieties	Hard neck	Soft neck
Climate	Cold	Cold & Warm
Clove Size	Medium – Extra Large	Small - Medium
Yield	Large Heads with fewer Cloves	Moderate Heads with Many Cloves
Harvest	Spring or Summer	Late Summer
Bulb Longevity	Average 6 Months	Average 10-12 Months
Planting Season	Fall	Fall or Spring
Flavor	Robust, Medicinal, Spicy	Smooth, Creamy, Mild
Additional Information	Edible Scapes (seedheads on this plant's Hard neck) are most flavorful when sauteed.	Generally, Soft neck varieties are available for purchase in the produce aisle of the grocery store.

Planting

Carefully break up heads of Garlic into individual cloves. Plant cloves 6" below the soil surface and 6" apart from other garlic or companion plants. Top dress plantings with mulch or straw and water consistently. Plant in the Fall 2-6 weeks before the average first frost and in the Spring 2-6 weeks after the average final frost date or as soon as the soil is workable. Keep the plants well-watered, weeded, and mulched until harvest.

Harvest

Most foliage will begin to turn brown as an indicator that the bulb is ready for harvest.

Cure bulbs in a cool, dry place for approximately 3 weeks for optimal storage.



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Onions, Leeks, and Shallots

Allium Family Vegetables

Onions, shallots, leeks, and garlic are easy to grow but the production of their crop is heavily influenced by sun exposure. Research your purchased variety for any special requirements or observe additional package instructions to ensure a successful yield of these delicious vegetables.

Onions require a specific latitude (related to sunlight exposure, not climate) to thrive. The New Mexico/Colorado border line runs along the 37th Parallel.

Onions	Long Day	Intermediate Day	Short Day
Latitude	Above 37 th Parallel	32 nd – 42 nd Parallel	Below 35 th Parallel
Hours of Daylight to Produce Bulbs	14-16 Hours	12-14 Hours	Less than 12 Hours
Varieties	Ringmaster, Yellow Sweet Spanish Utah, Cipollini Borettana	Red Amposta	Yellow Granex PRR

Preparation

Alliums prefer Full Sun and Well drained areas. Heavy compact soil should be tilled approximately 8" from the surface and amended with manure-based compost. Alliums are heavy feeders and soil should be amended for these alliums to produce as anticipated. Alliums will not produce successfully in areas recently used to cultivate other members of the Allium family and crops should be rotated, particularly with nitrogen fixers, like peas.

Seeding

Onion can be planted by seed indoors approximately 10-12 weeks before our average last frost (January or February) and transplanted outside approximately 4-6 weeks before the average last frost (End of May). Leeks can get much larger and require less time to get a jump start, they can be started indoors 8 weeks before the annual last frost and transplanted outside at the same time as onions. Shallots are cold hardy and can be planted directly outside in the fall. The ideal germination temperature for seeds is from 60-85°F. Seedlings will need to be hardened off before planting in the soil by transitioning young plants to colder temperatures.

Planting & Maintenance

Bulbs can be sown into amended soil directly, at a depth of 4" or to where any green shoots protrude slightly from the soil. Dense plantings will yield less impressive crops, space plantings approximately 4" apart. Once allium greens reach 8-10" tall, plants can be heavily mulched or hilled to reduce weed emergence, retain water, and blanch the stems (which can be important for Leeks).

Harvest

Most alliums can be harvested at any time, except for bulb-producing onions and shallots. The foliage of the plant will wilt as a sign the crop is ready for harvest. The crop should be collected before the annual first frost.



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While all are cold hardy, these plants use sugars to help prevent frost damage and will be sweeter if harvested after frost. Cure harvest prior to use or storage.

