

How to Plant and Grow Garlic

Fall Planting

Plant cloves in mid-autumn in a sunny location with well-drained soil. Set cloves root side down 4-6" apart in rows 2' apart, and cover with 2" of soil.

Spring Planting

Plant cloves as early in spring as soil can be worked, about the same time as onion sets. Spring planted garlic should be put in the ground the same way as in the fall.

Mulch

After planting, cover with mulch, approximately 4 inches thick. Mulch will help to prevent the garlic roots from freezing and thawing.

Spring Care

When the leaves begin to grow, it is important to feed the garlic plants to encourage good growth. A teaspoon or two of a high-nitrogen fertilizer that decomposes slowly, such as blood meal should be gently worked into the soil near each plant. Some garlic varieties produce flower stalks that have small bulblets, or scapes. Cut these scapes off. In June the garlic plants stop producing new leaves and begin to form bulbs. Remove any remaining mulch and stop watering.

Harvesting Garlic and how to store

Harvest your garlic when most of the leaves have turned brown – mid July to early August. Carefully dig the bulbs up. Allow the plants to dry for 2 or 3 weeks in a shady area. Do not allow them to get wet. When the roots feel dry, rub them off, along with any loose dirt.

For storage, you can tie the garlic in bunches, braid the leaves, or cut the stem a few inches above the bulb. The braids and bunches can be hung up. The loose bulbs can be stored on a shelf in a cool location with good circulation.