

Onions *Planting & Growing Guide*

Soil Preparation

Onions prefer loose, well-drained soils that are high in fertility, slightly acidic, adequately irrigated and exposed to full sunlight. The looser the composition of your soil, the larger your onion bulbs will grow. Prepare your bed by turning under animal manure or plant residue based compost, making sure that this material is fully broken down before planting. Compost composed of cedar or redwood is not an acceptable substitute for high quality compost. The potential for fungus diseases like downy mildew and pink root can be greatly reduced by avoiding beds where onions, garlic and other

alliums have been grown within the last two years. This time period is a basic rule of thumb but, in general, "the longer the better". As gophers are a major pest in onion beds, use gopher traps, wire barriers and wire baskets prior to and during planting.

Planting & Growing Onion Transplants

We ship Onion Transplants in the fall as this is the optimum time to plant them in mild climates. Onion Transplants are often wilted when they arrive, but like other members of the hardy lily family, they will survive for about 2 weeks after being pulled from the soil. If you cannot plant them immediately upon receipt, either refrigerate them after soaking the roots in water or mound soil around the roots and keep them moist until planted. Before planting, trim Onion Transplant tops to approximately 3" and roots to 1/4" - roots will begin to grow rapidly once planted. Plant Onion Transplants 1"-2" deep (to the top of white section) and 4"-6" apart. Plant close as 3" apart if smaller onions are desired. Rows should be 18"-24" apart or 12" apart if planting for commercial production. If planted on raised beds which are approximately 20" wide, transplants should be planted in double-rows 4" from each edge. "Scatter planting" among vegetables in inter-planted gardens is sometimes utilized to ward off a variety of pests, but onions must not be forced to face heavy competition from surrounding neighbors.

Onion Sets

Onions are easy to grow from sets. Plant 1" deep and 1-3" apart. Harvest young plants for use as scallions, thinning to 3-4" spacing. Onions should be mulched and supplied with ample phosphorus while growing. Mulch deeply (up to 8") in cold winter areas but only lightly in milder climates. Mulching will suppress weeds, maintain soil moisture and protect bulbs from "heaving" (working their way out of the soil) during extreme temperature cycles. Weed suppression is critical for onions - you can grow weeds or onions, but not both. Regular irrigation is necessary anytime rainfall is not sufficient to provide the 1" of water per week required to keep bulbs from splitting in hot dry soil or tasting bitter at harvest.

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Water up until the time you harvest! Beds kept weed free and properly irrigated will require little additional care.

Harvesting & Storing

Onions are mature and ready to harvest when their tops have yellowed and begin to fall over. Finish bending the tops horizontal to the ground by hand or with a rake for those that have not completely fallen over. This bending will stop the sap from diverting energy into the leaves while the bulb matures. Harvest bulbs after the tops have turned brown. Place the tops of one row over the bulbs of another to keep them from becoming sunburned. When the outer skins have dried, complete harvesting by clipping the roots, wiping off any remaining soil and cutting the tops back to 1" above the bulb. Onions keep best when kept separated; individual foil wrapped specimens can last up to a year under refrigeration. Pungent onion varieties, which have low water content, will keep longer than sweeter, moister types. Hanging an onion in a mesh bag, in a cool, dry, well-ventilated location and tied off to separate onions from each other, is the recommended method of preserving onion bulbs for maximum shelf life.

Organic Onion Transplant Combo Pack

The six varieties of onions and leeks are labeled like so:

Red = Red Torpedo
Orange = Red Crimson
Black = Walla Walla
Yellow = Stockton Yellow
Silver = Solano White
Green = American Flag Leeks

3-Day Return Policy For Perishable Merchandise

Within 3 days of purchase, you can return any perishable merchandise that doesn't meet your standard. We guarantee the perishable merchandise we sell (included but not limited to, garlic bulbs, flower bulbs, seed potatoes, onion transplants...etc.) to be in good, viable condition when we sell them. However, because these items will deteriorate over time, we strongly encourage you to inspect them carefully upon receipt and plant them without any delay. Should there be any quality problem, you must notify us within 3 (three) days of your purchase, or of receipt, whichever the latter, to request an exchange or a refund. Beyond 3 days from the date of purchase, or of receipt, whichever the latter, perishable merchandise is not returnable nor refundable under any circumstances.

Limitation of Remedy

We warrant to the extent of the purchase price only that the seeds or plants sold hereunder are as described on the label within recognized tolerances. No other warranty is given, expressed or implied, of (1) the merchantability or fitness of the seeds or plants for any particular purpose, or (2) against loss due to any cause. We cannot accept any responsibility for the many uncontrollable growing and climatic conditions (soil preparation, fertilization, weed and pest control, temperature control, irrigation...etc.) that must be met to insure the success of your crop(s) or plants.

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