

# PLANTING GUIDE FOR ONIONS

Onions have a long history that dates way back to the time when first modern civilizations emerged. It was a prominent symbol of eternal life in ancient Egypt due to its spherical internal structure. Fast forward to the 21st century, onions are popular ingredients all over the world with various medicinal uses making them one of gardener's favorites for home gardening. They are easy to take care with short growing season.

## Prepare for Planting:

- A. Choose the onion variety to grow. They are available in multiple colors and categorized into 2 types: long-day and short-day. Long day onions are known to begin sprouting when the days between 14-16 hours in length while short-day onions begin sprouting when days are between 10-12 hours in length.
- B. Choose the method of planting an onion whether to use onion sets (bulbs) or use onion seeds. Most gardeners prefer onion sets since they can withstand poor weather conditions better than seeds.
- C. Check your local weather conditions. It is best to sow the onions sets 6 weeks before your average last frost date as they don't grow well in cold weather.
- D. Choose a suitable location. Onions prefer full sunlight and plenty of space to grow.
- E. Prepare the soil. Determine the soil conditions if it is rocky, sandy or has lots of clay, you may add some potting soil to improve the conditions. It is recommended to test pH level that should be between 6 and 7.5 which should be done at least 1 month before planting. To alter pH level, some additives may be added to the soil.

## Planting Your Onions

- A. Prepare the soil.
- B. Start digging holes around 1 inch of soil above the sets or seedlings. Leave around 4-6 inches space apart each onion set.
- C. Put the seeds in the dug holes and cover them with 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil. Cover it with some soil and add some water.

## Watering the Onions

- A. Aside from watering onions about 1 inch of water per week, adding nitrogen fertilizer for a month will boost its soil nutrients.
- B. Remove any weeds in sight and add mulch to keep moisture in.

## Harvesting the Onions

Once onions are fully ripe, remove them from the soil and cut off the shoots at 1 inch above the bulb and the roots. Let the onions dry out for a day or two in the sun, then move them indoors in a dry space indoors for 2-4 weeks to continue drying.



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