



Growing Garlic

www.gardenwerks.com

PLANT GARLIC! The first couple weeks in October is a great time to plant garlic for harvest the next summer. Add six inches of straw after planting to help protect the bulbs over the winter, unless there is consistent snow cover. Separate bulbs just before planting and plant individual cloves two inches deep and four to six inches apart. The smaller cloves can be planted, but expect a much smaller bulb to mature compared to the larger, outer cloves. Best in a sunny spot with rich, fertile, well-drained soil.

The leaf growth occurs during the cool spring weather, while the bulb development happens when the day length increases and the temperatures warm. Irrigate regularly to keep plants growing through the cool season and back off a bit in early July as the bulbs begin to grow. Fertilize when the tops are actively growing and again after the bulbs start to develop.

Harvest when bulbs have matured in late July and August. About half the leaves should be brown and dry, and the scapes have unkinked. Air dry the plants, still intact, for a couple weeks away from direct light. Screening or poultry fencing is a great way to accomplish this.

Hardneck varieties do best in our cold climate. Rocambole varieties are known for their complex and full flavors. They store well for around six months. Porcelain varieties are similar in taste but produce much larger cloves. They store for 6-8 months. Multiple kinds are available at the shop in the fall, ready to be planted!