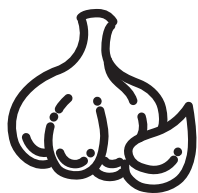


# GARLIC PLANTING

cheat sheet



THE BEGINNER'S GARDEN

# 1. CHOOSE YOUR SPACE

Garlic can be grown in either raised beds, a garden plot, or containers. If growing in containers, choose a pot 6" deep at minimum with drainage holes at the bottom.

# 2. CHOOSE YOUR GARLIC

Decide whether softneck or hardneck garlic is right for you. Softneck garlic is what you find at grocery stores. It has a mild flavor, stores well, can be braided, and matures more quickly. It prefers mild climates. If grown in cold climates, bulbs may turn out smaller. Hardneck garlic boasts more flavors. They produce garlic scapes and skins slip off more easily. They don't store as well as softneck varieties (6-10 months is average), but they are hardier in cold climates. Typically, they produce fewer but larger bulbs.

# 3. CALCULATE QUANTITIES

The number of cloves per garlic bulb will vary across types, but estimating 10 cloves per bulb is a good average. A half-pound order of softneck garlic will yield approximately 4 bulbs. Thus, you can expect roughly 40 cloves per half-pound order. In one 4x8 raised bed, 80-100 cloves can be planted. If planting in a plot of land, 20 cloves can be planted per 8' row. In pots, cloves will need 4-6" of growing room on all sides.

# 4. ORDER YOUR GARLIC

Do not use garlic from the grocery store! It's

not guaranteed to be disease-free, and you don't want to introduce pathogens to your soil. Instead, buy from a trusted supplier of seed garlic. I recommend Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, and Stark Bros. If you choose an online supplier, research the company online, specifically customer reviews on independent sites.

# 5. PREPARE THE AREA

If planting in a raised bed or plot of land, dig trenches 4" deep and 6" apart (12" if you plan to interplant other crops in the early spring). Sprinkle trenches with finished compost. If planting in pots, fill containers with a mixture of potting mix, peat moss, compost, and a small amount of sand.

# 6. PLANT

Garlic should be planted around the time of your average first fall frost, before the ground freezes. Place cloves in the trenches with the tapered side up, 4-5" apart. Cover with soil and a thin layer of mulch—like wood chips, hay, or pine needles—for weed control. If planting in pots, plant cloves 4" deep and 6" apart on all sides. Water well.

# 7. WATCH IT GROW!

If you have a mild fall, you may notice garlic shoots breaking through. As cold weather comes in, this growth will halt until the temperatures begin to moderate and daylight hours begin lengthening. As the plants grow, keep the area well-weeded.