



How-To: **PLANTING GARLIC**

Garlic is a hardy crop that needs a winter dormant period in order to produce well. Plant garlic in the late fall, and it will be ready early the following summer.



PLANTING GARLIC AT THE FRICK KITCHEN GARDEN



HEAD OF GARLIC, WHICH NEEDS TO BE BROKEN INTO CLOVES TO PLANT

TYPES

There are two main types of garlic:

Hardneck

This type of garlic is named for its stiff stem. It boasts large, easy-to-peel cloves, but not many papery outer layers, which means it doesn't store as well as softneck garlic. In the late spring, this type of garlic will send up a seedhead, or "scape," which is edible and should be clipped from the plant. Hardneck garlic fares better in Northern winters than softneck. Common varieties: Music, Spanish Roja, German Extra Hardy, Siberian.

Softneck

Most supermarket varieties are softneck, as these varieties store very well. Softneck garlic has many small cloves, with lots of papery skins protecting the head. Softneck garlic doesn't handle cold winters as well as hardneck garlic. Since the stems of softneck garlic are flexible, they can be braided together. Common varieties: Polish White, California Early, Silverwhite Silverskin.

WHEN TO PLANT

Plant garlic anytime from early November through early December, before the ground freezes. Depending on the weather during the winter, you may see the green tips of your garlic plants poking through the mulch even before spring. Garlic is very hardy and will weather the winter just fine; it actually relies on a winter dormant period, which is why we plant this crop in the fall. In the early spring, it will be one of the first bits of green you will see in the garden.

HOW TO PLANT

Garlic is most often planted by separating individual cloves from a head of garlic (leaving the papery layers **ON** the clove), then placing those cloves in the ground.

1. Purchase seed garlic online, or from a garden supply center. Or, buy interesting varieties at your local farmers market. Some supermarket garlic has been treated to delay sprouting, so avoid purchasing this garlic for seed.
2. Prepare the planting area. Garlic can grow just fine in many types of soil, but like most every food crop it prefers rich loamy soil, in full sun. Add a couple of inches of compost to the soil, and loosen the area with a trowel, shovel, or tiller. Other fertilizers will also work, but compost is ideal, since it builds healthy soil structure along with adding nutrients.



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CLOVE OF GARLIC, HELD AS
IT SHOULD BE PLANTED:
POINTY SIDE UP, FLAT ROOT
SIDE DOWN

3. Right before planting, separate the garlic cloves from the head. Leave the papery skins on each clove intact, as they will protect help protect the seed over the winter.
4. Make a trench and set the cloves upright (pointy end up, flat end down!), about 6 inches apart. Fill in the trench with soil. When covered, the pointy top of the clove should be about 2 inches underground.
5. Cover the garlic bed with several inches of mulch – dried leaves or straw work well. Leave mulch on the plants until spring.