



## Edible Allium



### Lily Family

-  One of the largest plant families with over 250 genera and almost 4000 species, most characterized by some kind of bulbs or other storage organs
-  Includes flowers such as lilies, tulips and hyacinth, and vegetables such as asparagus as well as all allium.







### History of allium

### Advantages of growing your own

### Site Preparation







-  Work compost in deeply to improve drainage
-  Add fertilizer to a depth of 5 or 6 inches

### Cultivating Allium

-  Provide water if rain is inadequate
-  Weed frequently
-  Mulch to preserve water and suppress weeds
-  When growth resumes in Spring add nutrients though
  -  Side dressing
  -  Foliar feeding

### Fertilizers

### Bulbing (Dry) Onions (*Allium cepa*)

-  Choosing which ones to grow
  - Consider color, size, flavor, days to maturity, storage quality, day length
-  Day Length
  -  Short Day (12-14 hours): Torpedo, Maui, Bermuda
  -  Long Day (14-16 hours): Walla Walla, White Sweet Spanish
  -  Intermediate Day or Day Neutral (14 hours): Superstar, Stockton (all colors), Crimson, Candy
-  Starting Bulbing Onions

- 🍷 Sets
- 🍷 Seeds
- 🍷 Transplants
- 🍷 Time planting so that plant is smaller than pencil during coldest months

#### 🍷 Growing Guidelines for Bulbing Onions

- 🍷 Amend soil and fertilize well before planting
- 🍷 Space 3-4 inches apart
- 🍷 Make sure onions are receiving water regularly
- 🍷 Mulch and keep free of weeds
- 🍷 Feed once or twice when onions begin to show growth in the spring
- 🍷 When bulbs are large, necks soften, and about half the leaves turn brown, stop watering and bend remaining leaves down

#### 🍷 Harvesting and Curing Bulbing Onions

- 🍷 For fresh eating, dig up when bulbed up
- 🍷 To store, leave onions in ground for a week or two after bending down the tops
- 🍷 Then pull up and let dry out of direct sun for a few days
- 🍷 When tops dry they can be cut off or braided
- 🍷 Store in a cool, dry place

#### 🍷 Using your onions

- 🍷 Within varieties use biggest ones and most elongated ones first
- 🍷 Hotter varieties usually keep longer than milder, sweeter ones
- 🍷 Long day types keep better than short-day types
- 🍷 In general white are poorest keepers, red intermediate, and yellow best keepers

#### 🍷 **Scallions (*Allium fistulosum*)**

- 🍷 Also known as Japanese bunching onions, multiplier onions, Welsh onions, green onions, and Egyptian walking onions
- 🍷 Grow like bulbing onions but closer together.
- 🍷 Will bolt with age

#### 🍷 **Garlic (*Allium sativum*, *Allium ophioscorodon*)**

##### 🍷 Softneck Garlic (*Allium sativum*)

- 🍷 Does not develop scapes
- 🍷 Has more cloves per bulb than hardneck, varying in size
- 🍷 Tends to be more successful in mild winter climates than hardneck

- 🍷 Can be braided

- 🍷 Hardneck Garlic (*Allium ophioscorodon*)

- 🍷 Develops scapes

- 🍷 Has fewer cloves per bulb than softneck, but more uniform in size, arranged in a circular layer around the central stem and easier to peel

- 🍷 More highly colored and attractive than softneck

- 🍷 Difficult to braid

- 🍷 Planting Garlic

- 🍷 Purchase certified disease-free garlic from a nursery or catalog

- 🍷 Plant mid-October through November in full sun in moist soil

- 🍷 Carefully separate the cloves from each other and the basal plate, keeping the protective wrapper intact.

- 🍷 Use only the largest cloves

- 🍷 Plant flat end (basal plate) down with pointy end about 1" below the surface and gently firm soil

- 🍷 Wait until shoots emerge before watering for the first time

- 🍷 Growing Guidelines

- 🍷 Amend soil well before planting

- 🍷 Mulch and keep free of weeds

- 🍷 Check soil and water if necessary

- 🍷 Feed once or twice when garlic begins to show growth in the spring

- 🍷 Stop watering on Mother's Day; harvest on Father's Day

- 🍷 Elephant Garlic

- 🍷 Closer to a leek in taste

- 🍷 Grown like garlic

- 🍷 Rust on garlic

- 🍷 Appears as reddish to dull orange oval-shaped pustules on leaf blades

- 🍷 Can appear dark later in season due to black teliospores developing within the pustules

- 🍷 Appears sporadically and mild infection does little damage to bulbs

- 🍷 If severe, destroy all plants and rotate allium away for 2 to 3 years

## 🍷 Shallots

- 🍷 Planting Guidelines

- 🍷 Traditionally planted as bulbs like garlic
- 🍷 Plant, grow and harvest as you do garlic, but allow 6 to 8 inches per plant
- 🍷 Recently seeds have become available for planting
  - 🍷 Plant outside in February, 1/2 inch deep, 2 inches apart for single bulbs, wider for clusters
  - 🍷 Start inside 10 to 12 weeks earlier
  - 🍷 Seed started shallots mature later than fall planted bulbs

## 🍷 Leeks

### 🍷 Growing Guidelines

- 🍷 Plant seeds indoors Dec.-Jan. or outdoors Jan.-March
- 🍷 Plant or thin to 3 to 6 inches apart
- 🍷 If transplanting, bury leek to the base of the first leek joint
- 🍷 Planting in fall is a gamble as leeks are more likely to bolt
- 🍷 If you plan to harvest them young (thin) you can plant any time
- 🍷 Both summer and winter leeks grow well in our climate; summer leeks are more tender but can withstand our mild winters.
- 🍷 As the leek grows, cover the shaft to blanch the stem

### 🍷 Harvesting leeks

- 🍷 Pull up baby leeks whenever needed
- 🍷 Harvest mature leeks when over 1" in diameter, usually not until September
- 🍷 Harvest as needed during the winter
- 🍷 Carefully loosen up leek so as not to pierce or break
- 🍷 Complete harvesting by mid-March of year after planting or plants will go to seed

## 🍷 Chives

### 🍷 Growing Guidelines

- 🍷 Easily grown from seed but slow to mature so better to buy plants from nursery
- 🍷 Amend soil well before planting or grow in pots
- 🍷 Perennial so choose a permanent location and keep free of weeds
- 🍷 Fertilize in ground two times a year during growing season (more frequently in pots)
- 🍷 Divide every 2-4 years in clumps of 6-8 bulbs placed 8" apart
- 🍷 When harvesting clip leaves at base to stimulate new growth

## 🍷 Garlic Chives

### 🍷 Growing Guidelines

- 🍎 Can buy from nursery or grow from seed
- 🍎 Seed between January and April indoors or directly in the garden
- 🍎 Prepare soil as for all allium
- 🍎 Keep evenly moist
- 🍎 Every few years dig up plant, divide into parts with a shovel, and transplant clumps 18" apart
- 🍎 Harvest whole plant and replant next year, or pick individual leaves as needed