Growing Garlic (and Shallots)

* Site Preparation
	+ Work compost in deeply to improve drainage and tilth
	+ Add fertilizer to each planting hole at a depth of 5 or 6 inches
* Types of Garlic
	+ - 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 soft neck, 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 and plant 4 to 6 inches apart
	+ Add fertilizer to each planting hole
	+ Plant flat end (basal plate) down with pointy end about 1” below the surface and gently firm the soil
	+ Wait until shoots emerge before watering for the first time
* Growing Guidelines
	+ Provide water if rain is inadequate
	+ Keep free of weeds
	+ Mulch to preserve water and suppress weeds
	+ When growth becomes more rapid in Spring add nutrients through
		- Side dressing
		- Foliar feeding
	+ Stop watering on Mother’s Day; harvest on Father’s Day (rough guide)
* Curing and Storing
	+ Dry in well-ventilated place out of direct sun for about two weeks
	+ Store in a cool place with good air circulation around bulbs
* 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
	+ Mild infection does little damage to bulbs
	+ If severe, destroy all plants and rotate allium away for 2 to 3 years
* Shallots
	+ Plant like garlic but plant smaller shallots 8 inches apart