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