All in the Allium Family
University of California
Cooperative Extension
Presents:
Garlic, Onions, and More

Co-sponsored by:
EDC Master Gardeners and
EDC Master Food Preservers
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Shallots

Softneck Garlic

Onions

Leeks

Hardneck Garlic

Chives
Garlic

*Allium sativum*
Softneck and Hardneck Garlic
Softneck Garlic

- Longer Storage
- More Cloves
- Milder Flavor
- Good for beginners
- Does well in a warmer climate
- Can be braided
Hardneck Garlic

- Shorter Storage
- Fewer Cloves
- More Flavor
- More Varieties
- Requires colder temperatures
- Produces Scapes
Garlic Scapes
Garlic Scape Pesto
Softneck Garlic

- California Early White—mild tasting with subtle flavor
- California Late White—stronger flavor than Early White
- Braids easily
- Inchelium Red—rich, savory medium heat
Hardneck Garlic

- Spanish Roja
- German Red
- Purple Italian

Rocambole

6-10 Cloves
Hardneck Garlic

- Bogatyr (hot)
- Siberian
- Purple Glazer

5-10 Cloves
Hardneck Garlic

- Music
- German White
- Georgian Fire

4-7 Cloves
Mulched Garlic Bed
Harvested Music Garlic
Before Cover Crop
Buckwheat Cover Crop
After Cover Crop
Bulbing Onions

*Allium cepa*
Bulbing Onions
Short Day

Intermediate Day

Long Day

DAYLENGTH, LATITUDE & ONION BULB FORMATION
Onions

Can plant:

Seeds—start inside

Transplants—seedlings

Sets—small bulbs
Onions

- Actively grow in cooler weather
- Spring & Fall
Onions

Two growth phases

1. Growing leaves and roots

2. Edible part
Short Day

- Best suited for southern states
- Requires 10-12 hours of day length
- Earlier they are planted, the larger they get
Short Day Varieties

- Texas Super Sweet
- Red Creole
- Texas Early White
Intermediate Day

- Best suited for midsection of the country
- Requires 12-14 hours of day length
- Most widely adaptable varieties
- Plant 6 weeks before the last frost
Intermediate Day Varieties

- Super Star
- Candy
- Red Candy Apple
Long Day

• Best suited for the north
• Requires 14-16 hours of day length
• Excellent for long storage
Long Day Varieties

- Copra
- Redwing
- Ringmaster
Redwing
Green Onions/Scallions

*Allium fistulosum*
Green Onions/Scallions

*Allium fistulosum*

- Harvested very young from bulb forming onions
- Easier to grow than onions
- Short growing period
- Less intense flavor
- No peeling; no tears
Bunching Onions

Allium fistulosum

- Non bulbing
- Edible green tops
- Mild flavor
- Hardy
Bunching Onions

*Allium fistulosum*

- Evergreen
- Tokyo
- Guardsman
- Deep Purple
Green Onions & Shallots
Shallots

*Allium cepa*

- Gourmet vegetable
- Hints of garlic
- Easy and rewarding to grow
- Cost effective to grow your own
- Stores for months
- Pungent, raw flavor that mellows when cooked.
Shallots

*Allium cepa*

- French Red
- Dutch Yellow
Leeks

*Allium ampeloprasum*

- Gourmet vegetable
- Mild, almost sweet onion flavor
- 2-3 feet tall by 2 inches wide
- Recipes recommend using only the white portion
- The green tops are edible also
- Long growing season—4-5 months
Elephant Garlic

*Allium ampeloprasum*

- Not a true garlic
- Mild flavor
- More closely related to leeks
- 4-5 feet tall
- Remove flower heads to promote larger cloves
- Very impressive size
Elephant Garlic
Allium ampeloprasum
Chives

*Allium schoenoprasum*

- Kissing cousin to onions
- Tastes slightly sweeter & milder
- Grass like hollow leaves
- Edible lavender flowers
- Thrives in full sun; tolerates light shade
- Does not require fertilizer
Requirements for Growing Alliums

• Actively grow in spring & fall
• Slightly acidic soil – 6.2-6.8 pH
• Soil needs to be rich in organic matter
• Good drainage
• Alliums are shallow rooted & require constant moisture
• Require 1 inch of water each week
• No weeds
• Full sun (chives do well in light shade)
• Pests—gophers
• Deer resistant
Right Tools for the Job
Resources

Dixondale Farms
https://www.dixondalefarms.com/

University of Minnesota Extension
Growing Onions in Home Gardens
https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-onions-home-gardens

University of Minnesota Extension
Growing Chives in Home Garden
https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-chives

Rutgers University Cooperative Extension
Growing Garlic in the Home Garden Fact Sheet FS1233
https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1233/

Missouri Botanical Garden
http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=257077

www.groworganic.com
www.johnnyseeds.com
www.rareseeds.com
www.harvesttotable.com
www.sonomamg.ucanr.edu