

How to Grow Onions

Easy to grow with a long storage life, onions are one of the best vegetables for the home gardener.

They have the advantage of being a sensible proposition in both the large and small garden, and can be grown in the same position for several years. With a little planning, they can be available for nearly all year round eating.



Where To Grow Onions

Onions prefer a sunny position with a rich but light soil, however they will do well in most soils as long as it is firm. For this reason it is best to prepare the soil well in advance of planting - **December** time is fine for maincrop onions, **June** is best for Japanese onions. Dig the soil to 45cm (18in) deep, working in any organic matter available - remove any stones in

the soil that you come across during the digging. Just before planting, tread the soil down so that it is firm.

Onions are ideal plants for growing in small confined spaces; they particularly thrive in raised beds.

When To Plant Onions

Onions should be treated differently according to their type. Each is described below.

Maincrop onion seed and sets (small, part grown onion bulbs) should be sown outside starting **March**. If they are sown under cloche protection, they can be sown four weeks earlier.

Japanese onion seed should be sown outside in mid-August.

Spring (or salad) onion seed should be sown at three week intervals from **early April** to **early June**.