



**TODD'S
SEEDS**

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Here are the detailed instructions for growing lentils in dirt:

Materials Needed:

- Lentil seeds (Todd's Seeds or another trusted source)
- Garden bed or pots with drainage holes
- Compost or well-rotted manure
- Garden trowel
- Watering can or garden hose
- Mulch (optional)

Steps:

1. ****Choose the Right Location:****

- Lentils require a sunny spot with at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day.
- They prefer well-drained soil with a pH between 6.0 and 6.5.

2. ****Prepare the Soil:****

- Clear the area of weeds, rocks, and debris.
- Loosen the soil to a depth of about 6-8 inches using a garden fork or tiller.
- Incorporate compost or well-rotted manure into the soil to improve fertility and drainage.

3. ****Planting the Seeds:****

- Lentils can be planted directly in the garden or started indoors.
- If starting indoors, plant seeds in biodegradable pots about 2-3 weeks before the last expected frost.
- For direct sowing, wait until the soil temperature is around 60°F (16°C).
- Plant seeds 1 inch deep and 1 inch apart in rows spaced 12-18 inches apart.
- Cover seeds lightly with soil and pat down gently.

4. ****Watering:****

- Water the newly planted seeds gently to avoid washing them away.
- Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Lentils do not tolerate waterlogged soil well.
- Water deeply once or twice a week, depending on rainfall and soil conditions.

5. ****Mulching (Optional):****

- Apply a thin layer of mulch around the plants to help retain soil moisture and suppress weeds.
- Ensure the mulch does not touch the stems of the plants to prevent rot.



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6. **Caring for the Plants:**

- As the lentils grow, thin the seedlings to 4-6 inches apart if necessary.
- Lentils are relatively low-maintenance but keep an eye out for pests and diseases.
- Use organic pesticides if needed, and remove any affected plants to prevent the spread of disease.

7. **Support:**

- If the plants become tall and leggy, provide support with stakes or a trellis.

8. **Harvesting:**

- Lentils are typically ready to harvest 80-110 days after planting.
- Harvest when the pods turn brown and the seeds inside are hard.
- Cut the plants at the base and allow them to dry in a warm, dry place for several days.

9. **Processing:**

- Once dry, thresh the lentils by beating the plants to release the seeds.
- Clean the seeds by winnowing to remove any debris and chaff.

Tips:

- Rotate lentils with other crops to maintain soil health and reduce disease risk.
- Avoid planting lentils in the same spot more than once every four years.
- Lentils can fix nitrogen in the soil, benefiting future crops.

By following these detailed steps, you should have a successful lentil harvest.

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