

The Planting, Care, and Feeding of Garlic

The last crop to go into the garden, garlic is planted in fall and harvested the following summer. Flavorful, nutritious, and helpful for warding off vampires, garlic is easy to grow!

Garlic falls into two main categories: hardneck and softneck. Hardnecks have a smaller number of larger cloves arranged around a central core. The cloves are easy to peel and have a more assertive flavor. Softnecks have lots of small cloves arranged in layers. They are somewhat harder to peel, and have a milder flavor, but store longer than hardnecks. The typical grocery store garlic is softneck.

Planting: Choose a sunny site, loosen the soil to about 6-8" and add some granular organic fertilizer and compost. When you are ready to plant, break the bulb into individual cloves. Make a furrow 3-4" deep, and place the cloves in about 4-6" apart, pointed end up. Cover with several inches of soil, and add a 3-4" layer of organic mulch such as straw or shredded leaves. Water well.

Next July, harvest the bulbs when the leaves begin to wither. Loosen the soil and gently pull the new bulbs. Lay the whole plant out in a warm, dry area for 1-2 weeks.

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