

# Garlic

Produced by:



THE LAND  
CONNECTION



## When to Plant Bulbs Outdoors:

Fall planting is preferable, usually late October before the ground freezes

## Container Size for Container Gardening:

Garlic is grown deep in garden soil, container planting is not recommended

## Ground Spacing for In-Ground Gardening:

5-8 inches of space between plants

**Hours of Sunlight:** 6-8 per day

**Amount of Water:** 7 cups per week

## Harvest:

### Days Until Harvest: 9 months from planting outdoors

New garlic bulbs form in June and bulbs can be dug when the tops begin to yellow in July. Do not wait to harvest until all leaves have browned. Harvest when 4-5 green leaves remain. Place whole bulbs on screens or elevated slats until bulbs are thoroughly dry. Remove the tops once bulbs are dry. Store in warm, dry conditions for 4-12 months. Peel cloves before eating.



SCAN ME

The information provided in this card is not exact for every growing experience and was designed for Champaign, Illinois in Zone 5b. You should read your seed packet or consult your local Extension agent for questions specific to your growing conditions.

**Planting:**

Plant individual, unpeeled cloves of a garlic bulb in October. Choose cloves that are large, smooth, fresh, and free of disease. Plant the cloves 3-5 inches apart with the pointed side facing up. Cover cloves with 2 inches of soil and 6 inches of straw mulch. Allow enough time for roots to develop and top growth to begin before the soil freezes. Plants will go dormant during the winter, but will continue to grow in the spring.

**Care:**

Through the winter, be sure the area stays covered with mulch. Keep the area around plant free of weeds. Mid March, start checking for plant growth. When the plant begins growing, water every 3-4 days, either from rain or faucet, trying to maintain about 7 cups of water per week. Water plants in the morning, if possible, since plants produce nutrients during the day and need water to do this.

**Pests & Disease:**

Garlic is, for the most part, pest resistant. White rot is the most common fungal disease affecting garlic. White rot causes the garlic to yellow, wilt, and die back prematurely. Pull or dig out diseased plants to keep them from infecting healthy plants. Nematodes and thrips are insects that can, but rarely do, cause problems for garlic. Planting fresh, healthy garlic cloves is the best way to ensure a healthy crop. Crop rotation (planting in different locations) is another way to ward off pests and disease.

This card was produced in part by University of Illinois Extension.