



# Okra

Produced by:



THE LAND  
CONNECTION

## When to Start Seeds:

Plant seeds indoors in late March/early April

## When to Plant Starts or Seedlings Outdoors:

June 1, using plants that are at least 8 weeks old

## Container Size for Container Gardening:

Okra does not grow well in containers, but adventurous gardeners may find success in large containers

## Ground Spacing for In-Ground Gardening:

28-36 inches of space between plants

<b>Hours of Sunlight:</b>	12+ per day
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<b>Amount of Water:</b>	36 cups per week, or roughly 2 gallons
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**Harvest:**

### Days Until Harvest: 50-60 days from planting outdoors

Okra pods are best when they are about 2-3 inches long. If a pod grows longer, it's still fine to harvest, but it may be too tough and bitter to eat. Remove the pod from the plant using scissors or a knife by cutting the stem above the pod. Wash and dry thoroughly 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:**

Soak seeds in water for 12-18 hours before planting. Plant seeds in 2-inch square by 3-inch deep containers with potting soil or seed starting mix. Seeds should be planted 1/4 inch below the soil and kept damp and warm (86 degrees Fahrenheit) until plants appear. After the danger of frost has passed, overnight temperatures are around 50 degrees, and plants are 8 weeks old, you can plant in ground 28-36 inches apart.

**Care:**

Keep the area around the plant free of weeds. Use a liquid fertilizer 4 weeks after growing begins. Give plants a little water every 3-4 days, either from rain or faucet, trying to maintain about 2 gallons of water per week. Water plants in the morning, if possible, since plants produce nutrients during the day and need water to do this. To promote a bush-like shape, cut the growing points on the plant when a central stem develops and the plant is at least 24 inches tall.

**Pests & Disease:**

Aphids will feed on the sap of the okra plant and the sap will attract ants. You can spray these pests off with water. There are minimal disease issues with okra, but, like other plants, diseases can be managed by providing fertilizer and water regularly, having good airflow without overcrowded plants, and keeping water off of the leaves.