

# Parsnip

Produced by:



— THE LAND —  
CONNECTION

## When to Plant Seeds Outdoors:

Plant seeds mid-April for spring planting or mid-July for fall planting

## Container Size for Container Gardening:

Use a 1-3 gallon container that is approximately 8-10 inches wide and 12 inches deep

## Ground Spacing for In-Ground Gardening:

3 inches of space between plants

**Hours of Sunlight:** 8-12 per day

**Amount of Water:** 3-5 cups per week

## Harvest:

### **Days Until Harvest: 120 days from planting outdoors**

Cool fall weather makes the parsnip sweet. Harvest after the first frost in the fall. Wearing gloves, cut and remove tops from parsnips and discard. The tops can cause skin irritation. Use a digging fork or shovel to loosen soil around parsnips. Pull parsnips from the ground and wash. Store in a plastic bag in the refrigerator drawer. Parsnips can be stored for several months. Wash before eating.



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:**

Parsnips need loose, fluffy soil about 12 inches deep. Plant seeds 1/2 inch deep, 3 inches apart in rows (allowing 18 inches between rows) or in a 1-3 gallon container at least 12 inches deep. Water the soil a couple times a day until the plants start to grow. It will take about three weeks for the plant to start growing. Some parsnip seeds will be pelleted. This means the seeds have a coating on them to make it easier to pick up an individual seed.

**Care:**

Keep the area around the plant free of weeds. Use a liquid fertilizer 2 weeks after growing begins. Give plants a little water every 3-4 days, either from rain or faucet, trying to maintain about 3-5 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. Contact with foliage can result in a severe rash. Consider wearing long sleeves and gloves when handling, and wash exposed skin as soon as possible after contact.

**Pests & Disease:**

Watch for flea beetles, black bugs the size of a sesame seed. To prevent the bugs, use a fabric row cover. Many diseases can be managed by providing fertilizer and water regularly, having good airflow without overcrowded plants, and keeping water off of the leaves. Choose seeds that are disease resistant.