



# Turnip

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 8-12 inches wide and at least 8-12 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: 50 days from planting outdoors**

Turnips can be harvested at any point once they have reached 1 inch in size. They will continue to grow up to 4 inches around. Use a digging fork or shovel to loosen soil around turnips. Pull turnips from the ground and wash. Store with the tops removed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator drawer. Turnips can be stored for several months. The tops are also edible but should be used within 10 days of harvesting. Wash before eating.



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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:**

Turnips need loose, fluffy soil about 12 inches deep. Plant seeds 1/2 inch deep, 3 inches apart in rows (allowing 12 inches between rows) or 3 plants per 1-3 gallon container at least 8-10 inches wide and 12 inches deep. Water the soil a couple times a day until the plants start to grow.

**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. Turnips prefer cool temperatures and may begin to wilt when it's hot. Move containers to areas with less sunlight on hot days, if possible.

**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.