

Onions:

Zones: All

Sun: 

Width: 4"

Planting: Plant as early as possible in the spring, as soon as your soil is workable. Select a spot with rich, well-drained garden soil high in organic matter. The pH should be between 6.2 to 6.8 with consistent, even moisture.

Onion sets are pressed into the soil so that the point of the onion remains above the soil. Plant the sets 4" apart in a row with 12" between rows.

Harvest: For fresh green scallions you can begin to harvest when the leaves are 12"-16" tall throughout the spring. If you are growing onions for cooking allow them to ripen thoroughly. When you see the leaves wither just above the neck of the onion, it is time to pull them.

Helpful Tips: Onions are shallow rooted and need consistent moisture for flavorful, good-sized bulbs to develop.

Aftercare: Once the cooking onions are harvested, lay them in the sun for a few days, allowing the outer skins to cure. Store by roping or hanging in netted bags in a cool, dry, frost-free spot for use throughout the winter.

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PLANTING GUIDE

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Introduction:

Your plants should be opened right away. See individual product instructions below for details on recommended planting times. To store the plants until the proper planting time, open the box, mist them with a little water, and store them in their containers or bags in a cool, dry location.

If you have any questions or concerns about the plants, please feel free to contact our gardening experts at your convenience.

Soil pH:

You can test your soil pH with an inexpensive kit from your local garden center or hardware store. If you need to amend your soil to make it more acidic, this can be done using several different methods. Contact your local garden center for instructions specific to your location.

Planting:

Please see each plant description for details on planting, soil and sun requirements and harvesting information.

Potatoes:

For potatoes, please see individual packaging for detailed planting instructions.

To find your hardiness zone visit our Web site
AmericanMeadows.com/USDAZoneMap.aspx

Guide to Sunlight:



Full: Averaging 6 or more hours of sun per day





Partial: Averaging 4-6 hours of sun per day



Shade: Less than 4 hours of sun per day

Rhubarb:

Zones: 3-9 Sun:   Height: 24"-36" Width: 36"-48"

Planting: Keep crowns in a cool area prior to planting, and do not allow them to dry out. Plant in early spring once your ground is thawed and the soil is workable without getting muddy. Rhubarb prefers well-drained soil.

Rhubarb is a perennial that will come back every year, so plant in a corner of the garden that will not be disturbed. A slightly raised bed in full sun is ideal, but any well drained soil with a desired pH of 6.2 to 6.5 is fine.

The rhubarb crowns are pieces of mature roots with new buds. Place the crowns in the ground deep enough so that they are covered with 2" of soil. Space them 2'-3' apart in a row.

Harvest: Once the stalks are 1/2"-1" in diameter and showing good color, pull or cut them from the parent plant. Rhubarb has a large woody root system so there is no danger of uprooting your plants. **Cut off the leaves, as they are not edible and are very poisonous!** Rhubarb can be harvested over a period of 6 to 8 weeks.

Helpful Tips: Do not harvest rhubarb the first year it is planted, and only take a light harvest the second year. By the third year you will be surprised how much rhubarb can be produced from only a few plants.

Aftercare: Immediately remove any seed stalks that appear, as they reduce the vigor of the plant. Keep your rhubarb patch free of weeds and divide rhubarb every 6-8 years to maintain top production.

Horseradish:

Zones: 3-9 Sun:   Height: 24" Width: 18"

Planting: Plant your roots as soon as you can work the ground in early spring. If you need to wait: Store roots in original packaging in the refrigerator for a short time. Horseradish prefers a sandy, well-drained soil. The soil pH should be between 6.2 to 6.7 and free of rocks.

Dig a hole one foot across and as deep as your shovel. Loosen the soil in the bottom of the hole. Place the root on a 45-degree angle, around 6" deep for the small end and cover top of root with 1"-2" of soil which will settle with time and watering. Keep the soil moist while new plants become established.

Harvest: Wait until the second fall after planting to harvest horseradish. For the best pungent flavor, wait to harvest the roots until after several hard frosts, or harvest in the late fall. Dig up and separate out the fleshy roots from the side shoots for processing. Freshly dug and washed roots can be stored for several months in plastic bags at 32-38 degrees Fahrenheit.


Helpful Tips: To prepare horseradish, first start with a well-ventilated room as the fumes are potent—a whiff may be stronger than you expect! It is also recommended that you wear gloves when working with fresh horseradish because the roots contain highly volatile oils which are activated when crushed. Wash fresh roots and peel outer layer. Grate by hand or use a blender or food processor using a fine screen. The addition of white vinegar prevents oxidation and spoilage. Your grated horseradish is now ready to use in dishes, sauces and condiments; Enjoy! To keep prepared horseradish at its flavorful best, store it in a tightly covered jar in the refrigerator or freezer. Prepared horseradish will keep 4-6 weeks in the refrigerator and 6 months in the freezer.

Aftercare: Horseradish will over-winter very well in the garden as long as it is planted in a well-drained area. You can also mulch the plant well in the fall and continue to harvest throughout the winter. If you do not harvest, divide the roots every two years.

Individual Product Instructions:

Blackberries:

Chester:

Zones: 5-9 Sun:  Height: 4'-6' Width: 3'-4'

Planting: Plant one month before the last frost date, as soon as your soil can be worked. Blackberries prefer a well-drained, fertile, slightly acidic, loam soil with moderate water-holding capacity. Avoid heavy clay or sandy soils. Dig a hole large enough so the roots can be spread outward and downward. Fill the hole with soil, tamp the soil and water well. Prune back to 6".

Harvest: Begins in mid-August and continues into September. Harvest begins in the second season and once established will last many years.

Aftercare: After you harvest, prune out all canes that bore fruit.

Blueberries:


The blueberry varieties we carry will pollinate and produce fruit by themselves, but if you plant more than one variety next to each other you will get a bigger harvest.

Planting: Plant one month before last frost date. Choose a well-drained, loose-textured soil with a pH of 4.5 to 5.5. Blueberries love very acidic soil with good surface drainage. Plant 4' apart in rows 10' apart. Spread the roots out in a downward direction in the hole leaving the main trunk above the soil. Water thoroughly immediately after planting.


Harvest: Mid-late season

Aftercare: We recommend annual pruning to remove the small branches near the base of the plant and any dead or injured branches. This promotes an upright vigorous bush that produces larger berries that tend to ripen faster.


Berkeley:

Zones: 4-8 Sun:  Height: 4'-6' Width: 5'-8'

Blue Ray:

Zones: 4-8 Sun:  Height: 4'-5' Width: 4'-5'

Jersey:

Zones: 4-8 Sun:  Height: 5'-6' Width: 3'-4'


Raspberries:

Planting: Plant the canes in spring, one month before the last frost date, in well-draining, sandy, loam soil with added organic matter and a soil pH of 5.8 to 6.5. Create a hedgerow with canes 2' apart and rows 10' apart. Water thoroughly immediately after planting. Fertilize your raspberries twice a year, once in early spring before new growth and again in late May. Use 2-3 lbs of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100' of row for each application.


Harvest: There will be a large first crop in June and a larger crop in late summer. Harvest begins in the second season and once established will last many years given proper care.

Aftercare: For a summer and fall crop prune back weak and tall canes to 5' early in the spring. After the first harvest, remove the canes that produced fruit. Kiwi Gold may also be mowed or cut to the ground in March or April for an early August crop.


Kiwi Gold: Everbearing

Zones: 4-8 Sun:  Height: 12"-24" Width: 24"-36"


Logan: Junebearing

Zones: 4-7 Sun:  Height: 12"-24" Width: 24"-36"

Heritage: Everbearing

Zones: 3-10 Sun:  Height: 12"-24" Width: 24"-36"

Shallots:

Zones: 3-9 Sun:  Width: 6"


Planting: Plant as soon as possible in the spring, once the soil is workable. For best results, shallots require rich, well-drained organic soil with a pH of 6.2 to 6.8. They prefer even moisture throughout the growing cycle.

Separate the bulbs into individual cloves and plant so that the points are just covered with soil, spacing each clove 6" apart in rows that are 12" apart. Water well and mulch to protect plants. Water once a week during dry periods.

Harvest: Allow shallots to ripen thoroughly and leaves to wither just above the neck of the shallots. At that time pull the whole plant from the ground; knock off the dirt and allow to dry for several days. Once dried, store by roping or hanging in netted bags in a cool, frost free dry spot for use throughout the winter.

Helpful Tips: Good weed control is essential but be careful as young shallots are hard to distinguish from grass!

Asparagus:

Zones: 3-8 Sun:   Height: 36"-48" Width: 18"-24"

Planting: Plant in spring after your soil has warmed up to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Properly planted asparagus that is well-tended can last 10-12 years.

Asparagus requires well-draining soil with a pH of 7 to 7.2. Jersey Knight also performs well in heavy clay-like soils. Once established, asparagus tolerates drought.

Dig a trench 5"-6" deep and spread the roots out in the bottom; plant the roots 12"-14" apart and cover with 2" of soil. The roots will grow no matter how they are placed in the trench. Over a period of several weeks, continue to add soil as the plants begin to grow until the trench is full. Water well after planting and during dry periods.

Harvest: Do not harvest the first year. Only a light harvest may be taken the second season. By the third season, harvest spears with tight tips by snapping the 7"-9" stalks off at the ground. Limit harvest to a period of 6-8 weeks in late spring to early summer or until spears are pencil thin.

Aftercare: Keep plants well-cultivated and mulched to prevent weeds. Regular applications of compost or well-rotted manure provide a steady source of nutrients. Do not cut down ferns at the end of the growing season, as they protect the crowns in winter. Remove old ferns in spring prior to new shoots emerging. Divide plants in early spring if desired.

Garlic:

Zones: All Sun:  Height: 24" Width: 6"

Planting: Plant as soon as possible in early spring, once the soil is workable. Separate the cloves from the bulb and plant pointed end up in a 4" deep hole. Space the cloves 6" apart in a row, with 12" between rows.

Harvest: When the leaves turn brown, it is time to harvest. Carefully lift mature garlic bulbs out of the ground and allow to dry in the sun for several days. This gives the outer skin a chance to cure.

Helpful Tips: Pinch off any flowers that might develop; they consume energy that should be going into producing a big and flavorful bulb.

Aftercare: Store garlic bulbs by roping or hanging in netted bags in a cool, dry, frost-free for use throughout the winter.

Strawberries:

Quinault and Red Chief: Everbearing

Zones: 4-8 Sun:  Height: 8"-10" Width: 12"-24"

Planting: Plant one month before last frost date, as soon as your soil can be worked. Put 2"-4" of mulch over the plant to protect it from frost. Strawberries grow best in a well-drained, sandy, loam soil with plenty of organic matter. They will not tolerate drought or standing water. Dig a hole slightly larger than the root and place the root in the hole. Spread the roots out so the crown is level with the soil. Water thoroughly immediately after planting. The optimal pH is 5.3 to 6.5 (slightly acidic), but they will grow with a pH of 5.0 to 7.0. Set your new plants 18"-24" apart in rows 36"-48" apart. Allow the runners to set in the row up to 24" wide. Remove plants beyond the 24" wide rows.

Harvest: Everbearing strawberries produce one crop in spring and another in fall. Remove flowers in the first season so that plants produce more runners. This will increase berry production.

Aftercare: Protect from severe winter cold and frost heaving by mulching with 3"-4" of straw in late fall. Remove in spring as temperatures moderate. Continue irrigation through September and fertilize if necessary. Drought stress will affect harvest.

Earliglow and Ozark Beauty: Junebearing

Zones: 4-8 Sun:  Height: 8"-10" Width: 12"-24"

Planting: Plant one month before last frost date, as soon as your soil can be worked. Put 2"-4" of mulch over the plant to protect it from frost. Strawberries grow best in a well-drained, sandy, loam soil with plenty of organic matter. They will not tolerate drought or standing water. Dig a hole slightly larger than the root and place the root in the hole. Spread the roots out so the crown is level with the soil. Water thoroughly immediately after planting. The optimal pH is 5.3 to 6.5 (slightly acidic), but they will grow with a pH of 5.0 to 7.0. Set your new plants 18"-24" apart in rows 36"-48" apart. Allow the runners to set in the row up to 24" wide. Remove plants beyond the 24" wide rows.

Harvest: Junebearing strawberries produce large, concentrated crops in late spring. The entire crop will ripen over a three-week period. Remove flowers in the first season so that plants produce more runners. This will increase berry production.

Aftercare: Protect from severe winter cold and frost heaving by mulching with 3"-4" of straw in late fall. Remove in spring as temperatures moderate. Continue irrigation through September and fertilize if necessary. Drought stress will affect harvest.

Grapes:

Planting: Grapes grow best in any well-drained soil with a pH preferably between 5.6 and 6.4 (slightly acidic). Make sure to keep well-watered and weed-free to ensure a good crop. Plant your grapes in early spring as soon as your soil can be worked. Dig a hole large enough so the roots can be spread out. Fill the hole, tamp soil around the grapes and water well. Prune back to a single cane leaving 2-3 buds. After danger of frost has passed and growth has begun, remove all but the two strongest shoots per vine and apply a fertilizer that is high in phosphorus. This will encourage good root development.


Harvest: Mid-late season harvest. Grapes should be well-established before you let them produce fruit. During the first three years, you should pinch off the flowers so the energy goes toward establishing a root system.

Aftercare: Established plants should be pruned in late winter or early spring before new growth appears.

Catawba:

Zones: 5-8 Sun:  Height: 10'-20' Width: 8'-10'

Concord:

Zones: 5-10 Sun:  Height: 10'-20' Width: 8'-10'

Himrod:

Zones: 5-9 Sun:  Height: 10'-20' Width: 8'-10'

Niagara:

Zones: 5-9 Sun:  Height: 10'-20' Width: 8'-10'

Wine Grapes:

Planting: Grapes grow best in any well-drained soil with a pH preferably between 5.6 and 6.4 (slightly acidic). Make sure to keep well-watered and weed-free to ensure a good crop. Plant your grapes in early spring, as soon as your soil can be worked. Dig a hole large enough so the roots can be spread out. Fill the hole, tamp soil around the grapes and water well. Prune back to a single cane leaving 2-3 buds. After danger of frost has passed and growth has begun, remove all but the two strongest shoots per vine and apply a fertilizer that is high in phosphorus. This will encourage good root development.

Harvest: Late season. Grapes should be well-established before you let them produce fruit. During the first three years, you should pinch off the flowers so the energy goes toward establishing a root system. Chambourcin produces a deep-colored wine with a full aromatic flavor. The wine is often served with dark chocolate (or desserts made from the chocolate), as the flavors of the wine and chocolate intermingle exceptionally well.

Aftercare: Established plants should be pruned in late winter or early spring.

Seyval Blanc:

Zones: 5-7 Sun:  Height: 10'-20' Width: 8'-10'

Chamourcin:

Zones: 5-7 Sun:  Height: 10'-20' Width: 8'-10'