



Flax

PREPARING SOIL:

Flax seed grows best in soil that is well drained and contains a large amount of organic matter. Flax should also not be grown in the same field every year, but rotated. This will limit disease and improve yield. Soils that are heavy in clay, very gravelly, or dry and sandy will not work.

PLANTING THE FLAX SEED:

Sow the seeds in early spring. Specific planting times will vary based on where you live, so check with your local seed supplier. Once planted, cover lightly with approximately 1/8-inch of soil. These plants will bloom the following season. If you plant them in the fall, they will bloom in the spring. Again, check with your local grower about best planting times. The ideal spacing is about 10 to 12 inches apart.

GROWING FLAX:

Flax likes full sun. You will also need a general fertilizer when initially planting and then continue to add each month until harvest. Keep the soil moist, but not wet. Make sure to prune the plants to keep them healthy.

PREVENTING DISEASE:

Flax is prone to fungal disease and other blights. There are many organic and non-organic fungicides to choose from. Recommended for insects are Sevin or Telone; for fungicide: Busam or Captan.

HARVESTING FLAX:

Flax is ready to harvest when 90 percent of the seed capsules have turned brown. You simply mow it and then rake it up into sections and let it dry.

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