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Seeds for Africa

Radish – Raphanus Sativus

Originally from China, radishes reached Mediterranean areas even before Greek times. They are a staple food in Japan and China, where they are often pickled in brine, preserving them for long periods of time.

SITE AND SOIL:

Most soils dug well, especially the top 15cm (6in).

Plant to Harvest Time

Summer varieties 3 to 8 weeks

Winter varieties 3 to 5 months

They are an ideal vegetable for the amateur gardener, suited to most soil types, rapidly reaching maturity and extremely happy growing amongst taller vegetables. Radish seed is also very economical.

Radishes are also an excellent way to introduce children to gardening - buy a pack of mixed radish seeds in April, sow them early in the month and radishes in a variety of shapes and sizes will be ready May.

WHERE TO GROW RADISHES:

Radishes like sun, but at the same time like cool conditions. If they are grown in full sun during the summer, they will run to seed or bolt very quickly. For this reason they are ideally suited to as a growing companion to other vegetables such as peas or beans.

In spring and late autumn when radishes need the sun most, the peas or beans will be short or have been cut down, whereas in the hotter summer months, they will provide welcome shade for your radishes.

There is no need to restrict them to being vegetable companions - they will grow equally well amongst deciduous shrubs (such as roses) and annuals (such as sweet peas).

SOIL PREPARATION:

Soil conditions for radish are simple; a very well-dug soil to a depth of 15cm (6in) with no stones or fresh compost in it. At the time of digging, add two handfuls of bonemeal per square metre (yard) and work it into the topsoil. The soil preparation should ideally be complete a month before sowing, but it makes very little difference if it is done at sowing time.

RADISHES IN CONTAINERS:

Radish are very well suited to growing in containers. They can be sown between other crops which will protect them from the harsh summer sun. Just make sure they are kept well-watered in dry conditions and they will be fine.

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