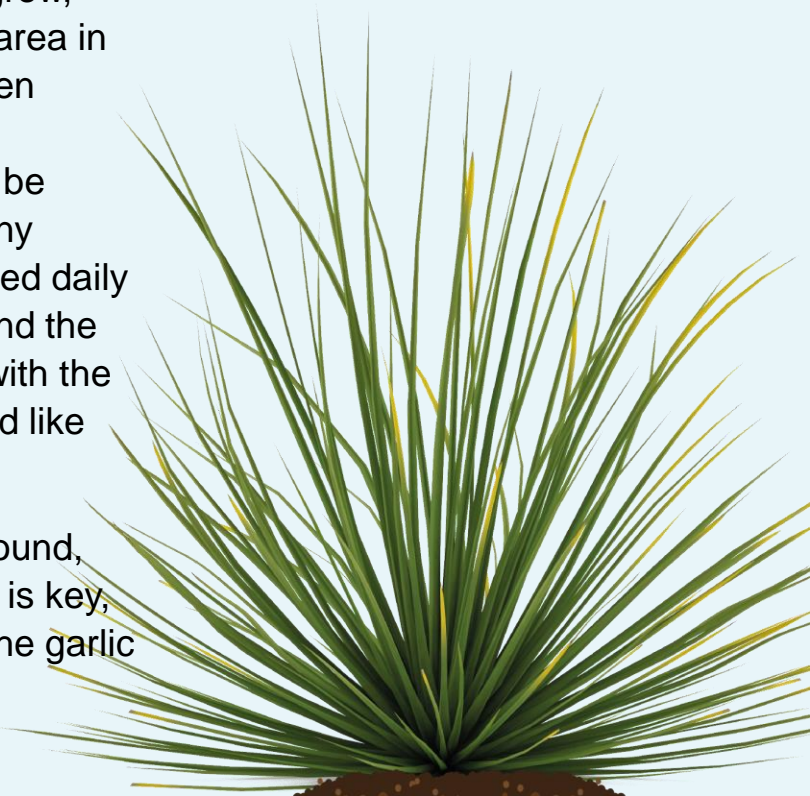


# How to grow Garlic

Garlic is one of easiest crops to grow, and it takes up a relatively small area in the garden. It has traditionally been planted on the shortest day and harvested on the longest but can be planted in May as well. It has many health-giving properties and is used daily in cooking in many kitchens around the world. The whole plant is edible with the shoots and leaves able to be used like Chives, along with the bulb.

Garlic does equally well in the ground, garden beds or pots. Preparation is key, and plenty of food and water as the garlic gets bigger.



  
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## Preparation

- If planting into the ground, add plenty of **Intelligro Organic Compost**, or **Intelligro Sheep Pellets** to add organic matter to the soil. The better the condition of the soil, the better the results you can expect.
- For a raised bed, **Intelligro Veggie Garden Mix** is the perfect mix providing all the nutrients your garlic will need.
- When planting into a pot or a container, use **Intelligro Patio Plus Potting Mix** as it is specifically designed for this purpose.

## Buying the bulbs

When buying your garlic to plant, avoid using garlic bought from the supermarket. Often it has been treated to stop it from sprouting while in the supermarket, this is especially true for garlic that has been imported from China. This will reduce your success rate when trying to grow your own. Instead, source these from your local garden centre. Most often they are available individually or in small 4 packs.

### Helpful Hint:

- **Garlic planted in between other crops will help repel insect pests.**



## Planting in garden beds and raised gardens.

- Break up your bulb into cloves to plant, taking care not to damage them. Plant the same day as they may dry out if left too long.
- Space them at 15 to 20cm apart, they can grow as large as a leek so plenty of space around the cloves is essential.
- Plant each clove at least 5cm below the surface of the soil or twice as deep as the clove. Importantly make sure that you point the clove with the pointed end facing upwards.
- Shallow planting can lead to the plant being pulled out, with heavy leaves falling over and pulling shallow rooted cloves out.

## Planting in pots and containers.

- Garlic grows just as well in a pot or a container as it will in the ground. In a pot the size of a bucket you can plant about six cloves of garlic.
- Choose a pot or container with good drainage, and position it in a spot that has full sun.
- Plant your cloves as per planting into the ground or a garden bed.

### Helpful Hint:

- **Keep a few bulbs aside for planting the next season. You can expect up to 120 plants from 10 bulbs.**



## Watering and feeding.

- For garlic in the garden soil, feed once a month during periods of growth using **Intelligro Veggie Garden Fertiliser**.
- Garlic needs to be consistently well watered to produce large bulbs, especially in November and December to set the bulbs.
- Garlic can be prone to rust, aphids and mites. Prevention is far better than trying to cure any issues. A regular spray with **Kiwicare Spectrum Plus** is a great way to keep on top of any pest issues before they arise.

## Harvesting your Garlic.

- You can harvest your garlic in summer once the tops start to die back.
- Dig up the garlic rather than trying to pull out by the tops. Dry it for a week either on the ground or in trays.
- Store in a dry spot away from direct sunlight.

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