

We're Here to Help!

Phelan's offers onion sets, onion plants, and bunching onion seed every Spring.

This brochure offers basic information to get you started. If you are unsure about the process, we are happy to help answer your gardening questions.

Phelan's is open year-round and offers an extensive selection of trees, shrubs, perennials, and houseplants.

For your convenience, Phelan Gardens is open seven days a week.



Open Year-Round
7 days a week

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway
80918 * 574-8058

www.phelanguardens.com

- *local gardening information
- *upcoming classes & events
- *what's new at Phelan Gardens

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Our **monthly newsletter** is offered via **e-mail**. Sign up in-store or on our website to receive special offers, class & event updates and seasonal gardening tips.

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How to Grow Your Own Onions



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Growing Onions

Soil Preparation

Prior to planting, apply and work into the soil bone and blood meal. You may also use a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10, 5-10-5 or 10-20-10 at the rate of two pounds per square foot (1 cup for 10 square feet). Onions prefer a pH level of 6 to 7.

Prepare raised beds at least 5" high and 20" wide. Beds should be spaced on 35" centers, with 15" spacing between beds. As with all root vegetables, make sure your soil is loose. Compacted soil impedes growth.

To Plant

Plant approximately 1" deep with 5 to 6 inch spacing between plants (2 to 3 inch spacing if you plan to thin later for green onions).

Water immediately!



Growing Care

Sun: a full sun location is essential

Water: Ample water is important at all stages of growth, especially when bulbs are forming. The best method is by ditch or furrow irrigation. This provides water to the roots while keeping the tops dry. If the tops are regularly wet they are more susceptible to disease. Even moisture to a depth of 8" is best. Avoid extremes of very dry or completely soggy soil.

Fertilizing:

Onions are heavy feeders, so prep your bed with fertilizer prior to planting. About three weeks to a month after transplanting, side-dress with fertilizer. Repeat again when tops are 6"-8" tall, and again when the bulbs begin to swell. *Always water immediately after feeding.*

Cultivate frequently to keep weeds at a minimum and remove any flowers that develop on your onions.

Harvest and Storage

Harvest your onions when the tops fall over (late summer). Pull and let dry (cure) for about 2 weeks in a cool, dry place. (A shed or garage comes in handy here).

When tops have completely dried out, clip off an inch from the bulb and store in a cool, dry, ventilated area. The preferred way to store onions is to use a pair of pantyhose. Place an onion in one leg and tie a knot, drop another in and tie a knot. Continue until the pantyhose is full and loop over a rafter or overhang.

Another method is to loosely wrap each onion in newspaper and keep in a cool ventilated area.

Regardless of the method you choose, try to keep the onions from touching each other. Sweet onions (due to their high water content) will not keep as long as stronger tasting more pungent onion varieties.

