



SET THE TABLE FROM YOUR GARDEN

August 2012

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AVAILABLE NOW FOR FALL PLANTING: GARLIC AND SHALLOTS



Growing great garlic is both easy and rewarding for beginning and experienced gardeners alike. In most of the country, garlic is planted in the fall by sowing the individual cloves from whole heads of "seed garlic." Each clove will sprout into a plant that resembles a big scallion, then these seedlings are mulched and will overwinter to then grow vigorously the next spring. The plant that grows from each clove will produce a complete full head of garlic at harvest – an always wonderful and rewarding multiplying trick, courtesy of Mother Nature.

Our garlic stock comes from a small grower in Bakersfield, California who raises top-quality "seed" garlic heads to sell to other farmers and we are proud to share his fine varieties. Each is sold in 1/2 lb. quantities, consisting of 4-6 full heads, which you break apart into 45-50 fat individual cloves of garlic for planting. [View Garlic/Shallots for Fall Planting](#)



August in the Trial Garden

by Lindsay Del Carlo, Trial Garden Manager



Japanese Baby Turnips

This season we have been focusing on root vegetables because so many good cooks these days are using them to good advantage and we wanted to expand our offering of these nutritious and good tasting, versatile veggies. We finished up our trial of several Dutch varieties last month, and this month we just harvested these Japanese baby turnips. These little beauties are easy to grow and quick to mature, only taking about 45 days to harvest from seed. They are sweet and mild in flavor and can be quickly sautéed or cut in half and roasted whole. These speedy Asian turnips are a good choice to interplant with longer maturing varieties like carrots or beets.

We are also growing a new carrot variety called Purple Sun, which is long and tapered with deep purple color throughout. After its first spring trial, we are growing it again for fall harvest and the germination looks great. We will look forward to roasting some this fall along with our parsnips when we harvest them.



Purple Sun Carrots



Alpine Strawberries ready to taste

It's been a real treat to do a tasting of the first big harvest of 5 different alpine strawberry varieties. The taste and fragrance of the petite berries is just to die for. In this trial we have included an unusual pastel yellow variety from Germany which has a more delicate flavor with hints of pineapple. It been very popular with everyone who tried it, and now that we have a good source, we will be adding it in the future to the Renee's Garden seed line.

Finally, the long-awaited harvest of ripe tomatoes in the trial garden has started. We look forward to trying all the new varieties in different colors and forms. One of the first heirlooms to ripen up for picking is the impressive 'Giant Syrian.' We recently harvested the first colossal fruit and it weighed in at 1.5 pounds! This solid and meaty tomato has a full, sweet flavor. The huge red fruits keep their green shoulders even when ripe. Now that we have fallen in love with their flavor, we'll have to see what the yield is like and how the plants hold up over the season.



Giant Syrian Tomato

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Best Wishes,
Renee Shepherd



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