



Onion Planting

Onions are a cool season vegetable that grows best in full sunlight and well-draining soils.

SOIL PREPARATION

Before transplanting, work the soil 8-10" deep. Break up the clods and rake the soil smooth. Remove all rocks and trash. Work the garden soil only when it is dry enough not to stick to garden tools.

FERTILIZING

Onions grow best when the garden soil is fertilized properly. Spread 2-3lbs of fertilizer such as Fertilome's Gardeners Special 11-15-11 over 100 sq ft. Measure and spread the fertilizer, then mix it with the top 3-5" of soil.

PLANTING

Onions can stand temperatures well below freezing. Plant your transplants when the soil thaws and temperatures no longer get below 25 degrees. Plant the onions $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep and 3" apart. Do not transplant onions more than an inch deep.

WATERING

Watering once each week usually is enough. But you may need to water more often during dry, windy weather. Water slowly and deeply to help grow strong, healthy roots.

CARE DURING THE SEASON

Weeds are easy to remove when they are 3-4" tall. When hoeing weeds and grass, do not work the soil too deeply. You may damage the onion roots. Always hand pull if possible. When the plants have 5-6 leaves, scatter some fertilizer around the plants and water it in. Each leaf forms a ring in the onion bulb. More leaves means larger onions. Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of fertilizer for each 10' of row. Scatter evenly.

PEST CONTROL

The most common pest is the onion thrip. It is a small insect that causes spots on the leaves that are usually yellow or brownish. They also cause the leaf tips to turn brown. To control this problem, use Malathion. For any other problems, bring in a specimen in a plastic sandwich bag and we will help to find the cause and treatment.



