

Chives

Allium schoenoprasum · Onion family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Perennial, direct sown or divided
MATURITY 60 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Moderate



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



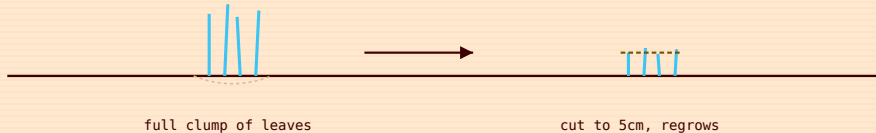
SPACING
15–20cm



DEPTH
0.5cm

01 A perennial clump, not a bulb

Unlike bulb onions, chives are perennial and grown for their hollow, grass-like leaves. Snip rather than pull, and a single clump keeps producing for years.



02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow in a clump, or plant divisions from an established patch.
SOIL	Fertile, well-drained.
TIMING	Sow or divide in spring; established clumps die back over winter and resprout.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Onion thrips** — silvery streaking; hose off.
- **Rust** — orange spotting; improve airflow.
- **Powdery mildew** — humid, crowded conditions; divide clumps to improve airflow.
- **Overcrowding** — a clump left too long produces thinner leaves; divide regularly.

03 Growing care

- Cut leaves to about 5cm above the ground rather than pulling the plant.
- Remove flower heads to keep leaf production going, or leave some — the flowers are edible and draw in beneficial insects.
- Divide clumps every 2–4 years to keep them vigorous.
- Keep soil evenly moist through the growing season.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Leaves 15–20cm tall, roughly 60 days after sowing for a first cut.
METHOD	Snip leaves 3–5cm above the base with scissors; regrows for repeated harvests.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge, a few days fresh; freezes well chopped for longer storage.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (chopped and frozen) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Carrot Tomato Lettuce	Beans Peas	Perennial clump — left in place for years rather than rotated annually.