

Leek

Allium ampeloprasum · Onion family

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual from seedlings
MATURITY 120–150 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



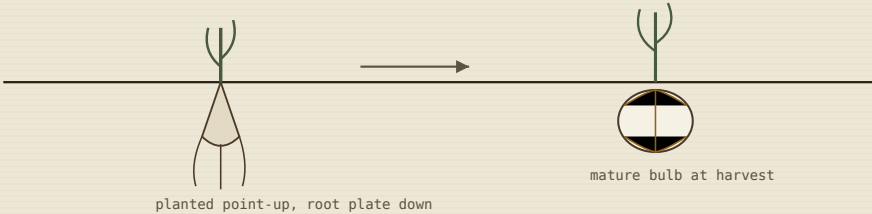
SPACING
15cm × 30cm



DEPTH
15cm trench

01 Trenching for length

Plant seedlings deep into a narrow trench or hole, backfilling gradually. The buried stem stays white and tender — the deeper it's blanched, the longer the usable white shaft.



02 Planting

METHOD	Drop seedlings into 15cm deep holes and water in — don't backfill fully, just let rain settle soil around roots.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, deeply cultivated.
TIMING	Transplant seedlings in spring to early summer.

03 Growing care

- Mound soil up around the stems as they grow to extend the white shaft.
- Water deeply and regularly through summer.
- Feed with compost or aged manure mid-season.
- Weed by hand — shallow roots dislike disturbance.

04 Problems

- **Rust** — orange leaf spots; improve airflow, avoid overhead watering.
- **Leek moth** — larvae tunnel leaves; net young plants.
- **Bolting** — from cold stress; plant at the right time.
- **Thin stems** — overcrowding or poor feeding.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Shaft reaches 2–3cm across, any time from autumn onward.
METHOD	Loosen soil with a fork, then lift.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Cool, humid spot or fridge, 2–3 weeks. Can stay in the ground over winter.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Carrot Celery Onion	Beans Peas	Rotate with legumes and brassicas; avoid other alliums for 3 years.