

Onion

Allium cepa · Onion family

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual from seed or seedlings
MATURITY 100–175 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, taper
before harvest



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



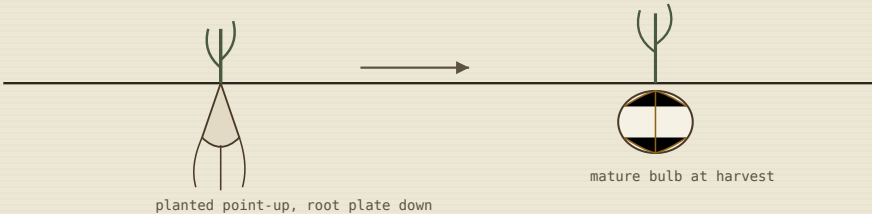
SPACING
10cm × 30cm



DEPTH
1cm

01 Day-length matters

Onions form bulbs in response to day length — short-day varieties for warmer zones, long-day for cooler ones. Getting this wrong means small or no bulbs.



02 Planting

METHOD	Sow seed or plant seedlings shallowly; choose a variety suited to your day length.
SOIL	Loose, well-drained, weed-free.
TIMING	Sow or plant in autumn to late winter depending on zone and variety.

03 Growing care

- Keep beds weed-free — onions compete poorly with weeds.
- Water regularly, then stop 2–3 weeks before harvest.
- Feed lightly early on; avoid nitrogen once bulbing starts.
- Bend tops over gently once bulbing is well underway.

04 Problems

- **Onion thrips** — silvery leaf streaking; blast off with water, encourage predators.
- **White rot** — soil-borne; rotate beds for years if it appears.
- **Bolting** — cold snap after planting; plant at the right time for your zone.
- **Splitting bulbs** — inconsistent watering.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Tops yellow and fall over, necks soften.
METHOD	Lift with a fork once most tops have fallen.
CURING	Cure 2–3 weeks in a warm, airy, shaded spot until necks are papery.
STORAGE	Cool, dark, ventilated. Keeps 4–8 months.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
CarrotBeetrootBrassicas	BeansPeas	Avoid replanting alliums in the same bed for 3–4 years.
Lettuce		