

Celery

Apium graveolens · Apiaceae family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Biennial grown as an annual
MATURITY 16–20 weeks



SUN
Full sun–part
shade



WATER
Heavy,
consistent



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



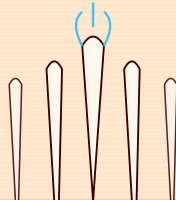
SPACING
20–25cm



DEPTH
0.5cm (seed)

01 Stalk bunch

Celery grows as a tight bunch of upright stalks from a central crown, with the outer stalks maturing first — harvest outer stalks individually or cut the whole bunch at soil level.



outer stalks mature first, inner stalks follow

02 Planting

METHOD	Start seed indoors 10–12 weeks before the last frost — celery is slow to germinate and grow. Transplant seedlings once well established.
SOIL	Rich, moisture-retentive, high in organic matter. Celery is a heavy feeder and does not tolerate drying out.
TIMING	Sow in the cooler months; celery bolts quickly in hot, dry conditions.

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.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply and consistently — irregular watering causes stringy, hollow stalks.
- Mulch well to retain moisture and keep roots cool.
- Feed regularly with compost or liquid feed through the growing season.
- Blanching (wrapping stalks or hilling soil) is optional and mostly affects colour and mildness, not essential for a good harvest.

04 Problems

- **Bolting** — triggered by heat or inconsistent water; keep soil consistently moist.
- **Hollow, stringy stalks** — usually a sign of underwatering or nutrient stress.
- **Slugs and snails** — drawn to the moist growing conditions celery needs; monitor closely.
- **Septoria leaf spot** — fungal spotting on leaves; improve airflow and avoid wetting foliage.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Stalks reach a usable size, generally 20cm or more, with firm, crisp texture.
METHOD	Cut outer stalks individually as needed, or cut the whole bunch at soil level for a single harvest.
CURING	None needed — use fresh or store promptly.
STORAGE	Fridge, wrapped in foil or standing upright in water, 1–2 weeks with basic care, up to 3–4 weeks with proper technique.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (blanching and freezing a glut) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Leek

Tomato

Cabbage

Beans

AVOID NEARBY

Carrot

Parsnip

ROTATION NOTE

Rotate with the wider bed — avoid following other Apiaceae family crops like carrot or parsnip in the same spot.