

Ginger

Zingiber officinale · *Ginger family*

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Perennial rhizome, grown as an annual
MATURITY 8–10 months



SUN
Part shade,
morning sun



WATER
Regular and
humid; dry off at
harvest



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



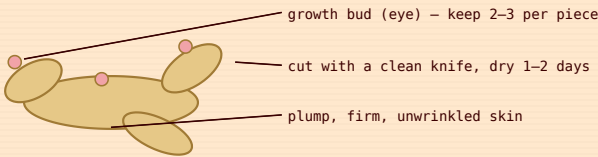
SPACING
30cm apart,
45cm between
rows



DEPTH
5cm

01 Seed rhizome

Plant a plump, firm piece of rhizome with two or three growth buds, or “eyes”. Cut with a clean knife and let the cut sides dry for a day or two before planting, eyes up.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant pieces of rhizome with 2–3 eyes, buds up, 5cm deep. Sprouting takes 4–8 weeks, so be patient and keep the soil just moist.
SOIL	Rich, loose, moist but free-draining soil with lots of compost. Raised beds and large pots suit it well.
TIMING	Plant from September to November once soil is warm. In cool zones, start it in pots under cover.
SOURCE	Buy untreated rhizomes from a nursery or organic grocer; shop ginger is often sprayed to stop sprouting.

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

- **Frost** — tender; leaves blacken and rhizomes can rot in cold, wet soil, so protect or grow in pots.
- **Rhizome rot** — rhizomes turn soft and smell sour in waterlogged soil; use well-drained beds and do not overwater.
- **Root-knot nematodes** — knobbly galls on roots and stunted plants, common in sandy soils; rotate and add plenty of compost.
- **Slow sprouting** — cool soil can delay growth for weeks; plant only when it is warm.

03 Growing care

- Keep soil evenly moist and mulch deeply to hold moisture and humidity.
- Give morning sun and afternoon shade; full sun scorches the leaves.
- Feed monthly with compost or a balanced organic fertiliser through summer.
- Hill soil over the rhizomes as they emerge, then reduce watering as the leaves yellow.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Leaves yellow and die back, usually 8–10 months after planting. Baby ginger can be dug earlier, at about 4–6 months.
METHOD	Loosen the soil with a fork and lift the clump, keeping the rhizomes intact. Save a few plump pieces to replant.
CURING	Brush off soil and let skin dry for a day. Baby ginger needs no curing, but does not keep.
STORAGE	Mature rhizomes keep 3–4 weeks in the fridge, or freeze whole for 6 months or more. Dried and ground ginger keeps longer.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying ginger slices for tea and powder) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Turmeric

Chilli

Banana

AVOID NEARBY

No strong known conflicts

ROTATION NOTE

Avoid replanting in the same spot for 2–3 years; other gingers share the same rot and nematode problems.