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Guidelines for Planting Garlic

Fall is the perfect time to plant your own garlic.

There are a few rules one must follow for harvest next summer:

Incorporate lots of organic material such as Bumper Crop and Lobster Compost

Add Azomite® to the soil for Micronutrients to insure larger and better tasting garlic.

Garlic likes rich, well-drained soil, so preparation is the key. An important aspect is timing dependent on the weather. Cold soil is preferred, so you might not plant until late October or early November. Dig a trench and set your cloves 2" deep and 4" apart, pointy side up.

You can feed with Fish Emulsion or any organic plant food. We have a number of choices like Planttone® or Coast of Maine fertilizer. Place 3-4" pine needles over the sets, this will help produce a better root system and provide insulation and reduced "heaving". Garlic starts to grow immediately and roots become established before the winter months.

If you use "scapes" in your recipes, plant "Hard Neck" varieties. The scapes are the flower stalks that you should remove to encourage bigger cloves. Soft neck varieties, can be dried and strung for storage.

Harvesting will depend on the spring weather, normally late June or July. When the foliage wanes, you can dig up a couple to determine maturation, If they're sizable, use a pitchfork to lift them out of the ground, then rinse off the soil and begin the drying process. Laying them on a counter or table is preferred, don't hang them up, you want them to dry slowly and evenly. Save some of the bulbs for next year's planting in a cool, dry place and you're good to go.

