

HOW TO GROW

How to Grow Broccoli Plants	1
How to Grow Cabbage Family Vegetables	4
How to Grow Beets	6
How to Grow Carrots	8
How to Grow Pansy or Pansies	10
How to Grow Sweet Peas	11
How to Grow Collards and Kale	16
How to Grow Lettuce	18
How to Grow Radishes	20

How to Grow Broccoli Plants

Broccoli is a tasty and nutritious cool weather crop, popular in home gardens. It is a member of the mustard family, and was originally cultivated from wild cabbage. Like other members of the mustard family, it has a strong, distinct flavor.

Medical studies show that the Broccoli plant is beneficial to your health. The studies suggest that they help to guard against cancer, especially colon and rectal cancers.

In addition to all of the other benefits of Broccoli, it is also low in calories.

Did you Know? One U.S. President openly proclaimed his distaste for Broccoli. While he made a seemingly innocent statement of his food preferences, it created quite a stir. Who is the President? If you guessed George Bush(the first George), you are correct.

Days to Maturity:

Broccoli will form its first head in about 85 - 90 days. After picking the primary head, most varieties will produce secondary shoots with much smaller heads all season long.

How to Grow Broccoli Plants:

Broccoli is a cool weather crop. Broccoli prefers full sun and a rich garden soil. It grows best in the spring and fall. Fall crops will survive long after the first frost, and even after the first snowfall. Flavor is best in cool and cold weather.

Sow Broccoli seeds as early as the ground can be worked. We recommend an early indoor start 3-4 weeks before the last frost. As soon as the garden is ready for planting, transplant seedlings. Spring frosts will not affect them.

Keep soil moist during the growing season. Fertilize with a general purpose fertilizer every 3-4 weeks.

Harvest compact heads before they begin to flower. As soon as the first floret begins to open, broccoli loses its sweet flavor and becomes bitter. Harvest side shoots in the same manner.

Broccoli grows slowly in hot weather. It forms few heads during this period. Most home gardeners avoid growing broccoli during the hot humid months of summer.

Insects and Pests:

Broccoli is extremely susceptible to insects. The most common insect problems are aphids, and cabbage loopers.

Cabbage loopers are the larva stage of a moth. Those white moths that visit your garden and yard are the culprits. Some people call them white butterflies. Try placing a screen or insect netting over the plant, so the moth can not lay her eggs. Commercial growers apply insecticides to control them.

Aphids are controlled by frequent spraying. Organic controls in the form of soap or garlic sprays are also effective.

Disease:

Broccoli plants are fairly resistant to most plant diseases.

Hardiness:

Broccoli thrives in cool and even cold weather. It can be among the first plants in your garden each spring. Start them indoors, and plant them before the last frost, freeze or snow. They will survive below thirty degrees. In the fall, they will be your last crops to survive the increasingly frequent frosts.

How to Grow Cabbage Family Vegetables

The cabbage family comprises a number of hardy vegetables. They thrive in the cooler weather of spring and autumn. They may go dormant in the hottest days of summer. As hardy as they come, members of the cabbage family will withstand frost and freezes. Some say their flavor improves after a frost. They are among the last of the vegetables harvested in the fall, and can even be picked after a light snow. Members of this family have a strong flavor.

A member of the mustard family, cabbage has a strong, distinct flavor. Medical studies are showing that members of the cabbage family are beneficial to your health. The studies suggest that they help to guard against cancer, especially colon and rectal cancers. Of particular note in this category is broccoli.

Varieties:

- [Broccoli](#)- A favorite member of the cabbage family. Broccoli is planted for its immature flower or head. Pick it before the flower starts to unfold or it will turn bitter. If planted in early spring, you can get a large head in the spring, followed by many sideshoots all the way into late fall season.
- Brussels Sprouts- This vegetable grows into a tall plant with a large stalk. By breaking off the lower leaves at the stalk, you encourage a round sprout to develop. While not too difficult to grow, this vegetable is susceptible to major aphid infestations, just as this flavorful vegetable is maturing. Spraying is all but a must. Brussels Sprouts were developed in Brussels in the 14th Century.
- Cabbage- Cabbages are red or white, with white being the most common. Easy to grow in cool weather, they tend to rot in hot weather. Cabbage is highly susceptible to cabbage loopers. They are best grown as a fall crop. Cabbages harvested in the fall are often picked as the snow begins to fly.
- Chinese Cabbage- Oriental varieties are growing in popularity.
- [Cauliflower](#)- Cauliflower is grown for the white "flower", or head. It is best grown as a fall crop. Tie the leaves around the developing head to blanch it into a creamy white color.

Did you know? There are also varieties of cabbage and even cauliflower that are grown as a flower? These are varieties that have colorful leaves and flowers.

Days to Maturity:

Varies by early (65 - 70 days) to late season varieties (90 - 100 days).

Insects and Pests:

The cabbage family is extremely susceptible to insects. Among the most common are aphids, and cabbage loopers. Cabbage loopers are the larva stage of a moth. Those white moths that visit your garden and yard are the culprits. Some people call them white butterflies. Effective treatment in the home garden is to place a screen over the plant so the moth can not lay her eggs. Commercial growers apply insecticides to control them. Aphids are controlled by frequent spraying. Organic controls in the form of soap or garlic sprays are also effective.

Disease:

Cabbage falls victim to rotting during hot and humid weather. Other family members are fairly resistant to most diseases.

Did you Know? One U.S. President openly proclaimed his distaste for Broccoli. While he made a seemingly innocent statement of his food preferences, it created quite a stir. Who is the President? If you guessed George Bush, you are correct.

Hardiness:

All members of the cabbage family like cool and even cold weather. They can be among the first plants in your garden each spring. Start them indoors, and plant them before the last frost, freeze or snow. They will survive below thirty degrees. In the fall, they will be your last crops to survive the increasingly frequent frosts.

While the cabbage family thrives on cool weather, many varieties will rot, or go dormant during hot weather.

How to Grow Beets

How many of you out there like beets? Okay, so Beets may not be the most popular vegetable on the planet. But those who like Beets, really love them. Home gardeners quickly discover, that Beet plants are easy to grow. Big, bulbous beet roots reach maturity quickly, and take up little space.

Almost all varieties of beets are a deep rich red. There is one white variety on the market. Beets are commonly known to bleed, or leak, their deep red juices. This juice can cause stains, so be careful where you set them.

Did you know? Beets are one of eight vegetables that makes V8 taste so great.

Varieties:

- There are several varieties of beets. Most are round in shape, with deep red color.
 - A few varieties are deep red and cylindrical, making them easier to cut uniform slices.
 - There is also an uncommon white beet.
-

Planting Beet Seeds:

Plant Beet seeds thinly, 1/2 inch deep. After germination, thin to 2 to 3 inches apart. Rows should be spaced 1 1/2 feet apart.

Growing Beet Plants:

Apply a general purpose fertilizer while sowing, and again two to three weeks later. Beets should be kept weed free. It is easy for weeds to overshadow the shorter beet leaves.

Do not overcrowd beets. Overcrowding will affect the development of the beet root, causing it to grow deeper and slender, rather than forming a big round bulb.

Tip: Keep the soil lightly watered. Too little water will result in a tough and leathery crop.

Days to Maturity:

Approximately 55 to 60 days for most varieties.

Insects and Pests:

Aphids and beetles will occasionally infest the plants. Treatment with insecticide is effective.

Mice and squirrels and a few other pests will sometimes nibble on your Beet crop.

Disease:

Mildew and leaf spots are an occasional problem. Treat with fungicides.

Harvesting Beet Roots:

Begin to harvest beets when they are two inches in diameter, thinning the row as you go. Beets are tender when young. A big, round beet root will look really impressive, but will certainly not taste impressive, as they will get tough quickly.

Hardiness:

Beets are sensitive to frost. But, they are a root crop. Should Jack Frost pay an unexpected visit, the beets are still harvestable.

How to Grow Carrots

Want to learn how to grow carrots? You've come the right place. Smart, health conscious gardeners grow them. They are a favorite of weight watchers and health conscious crowd.

Carrots are loaded with vitamins, and they are nutritious. On top of being good for you, carrots taste good, too. They can be nibbled and munched upon whenever the urge arises. Bunnies like them because they know just how good and healthy carrots are.

Varieties:

- There is a variety of carrot for everyone. Carrot varieties are largely categorized by length.
 - Short varieties come as small as two inches, and are as wide as they are long. These are the carrot of choice for gardeners who have hard clay or rocky soils.
 - The longer varieties do best in rich, well worked soil rich in compost. The long, fat carrots are the most popular of home gardeners.
 - While most carrots are orange, there is a yellow and a red variety for those looking for a different type to try.
 - Baby carrots are a shorter type of carrot.
 - There is even a Chinese baby carrot to choose from.
-

Planting Carrots:

Prior to planting carrot seeds, work the soil deeply. Add liberal amounts of compost. If compost is not available, add peat moss. Remove any rocks, stones and debris which may impede the downward formation of the roots.

Carrot seed are among the smallest, finest of garden seeds. They are very difficult to space. Sow them very thinly, about 1/4 inch deep. Cover them with a fine garden soil. Or sprinkle them on top of the soil, and lightly water them into the soil. Space rows 1 to 1 1/2 feet apart. We recommend double rows spaced 1 1/2 feet apart, and then wider rows, to afford easy access.

Broadcast sowing is also popular with carrots. With broadcast sowing, sprinkle or spread the seeds across the area you are planting. Seeds fall randomly, and do not develop in rows.

Whichever method you use, it is important to thin the seedlings before crowding impairs their growth. After the seeds have germinated, thin to two inches apart.

Care and Feeding of Carrot Plants:

Keep carrots well weeded early in the season. They are easily overcrowded, with any competing weeds usually winning out.

While they may not show it, carrots need a good supply of water, in soil that drains well. They also respond well to fertilizer applied prior to sowing carrot seeds, and a couple of times during the season.

Tip: Make sure to mark the rows well, as carrots take a long time to germinate. We suggest you plant a few radishes in the rows to "mark" them. After the carrots have germinated, the radishes can be harvested.

Days to Maturity:

Carrot roots are ready to pick approximately 65 to 75 days, depending upon variety.

Insects and Pests:

The most common problem is the maggot stage of the Carrot fly. This 1/4 inch white maggot eats along the outside of the carrot.

Bunnies are well known to enjoy carrots. Experienced gardeners know that bunnies much prefer other crops like the leaves of beans and lettuce. Mice and moles will also nip at the tops of the carrot roots.

Disease:

There are some diseases, particularly viruses, that can occasionally infest your crop. To the home gardener this is usually infrequent, except in wet weather, or poorly drained soils.

Harvesting:

Begin to harvest carrots as "baby" size, thinning the row as you harvest. Once you begin picking, you can harvest as needed. After the plants have died off, the carrots do not need to be harvested right away. They can remain in the soil for weeks or more.

In the "old days" before refrigeration, carrots were kept in the soil, and covered with a thick layer of leaves. Then, they were dug up as needed, for consumption. Carrots kept in the ground will last well into the winter months.

Note: Keeping carrots in the ground for long periods can affect flavor.

Hardiness:

Carrots are somewhat hardy. They will withstand cold weather and a light frost.

How to Grow Pansy or Pansies

Annual

Pansies are one of the earliest flowering plants, blooming right alongside your spring bulbs. These members of the violet family herald in the new garden season with a wide variety of bright, brilliant colors. They include almost all colors of the rainbow including black, and many bi-colors. There are so many combinations of these profuse bloomers that we don't think any two are alike!

Pansies are popular, easy, and fun to grow. Fill an area or entire bed with Pansies for a striking spring effect! They also are great in windowsills and containers.

Propagation:

Pansy are grown from seeds. Pansy plants like full to partial sun. Pansies can be directly seeded into your flower garden or seeded indoors for transplanting later. For spring blooms, you need to start your Pansies in pots and containers indoors six to eight weeks before the last frost.

Sow Pansy seeds early in the season and cover lightly with 1/8" soil. Water thoroughly once. They germinate slowly.

Note: We highly recommend a [heated germination mat](#), to increase the speed of germination, and for a higher germination rate.

Transplant Pansy into your garden after the last frost date for your area. Space them 6" apart. They will tolerate a little crowding. If you are creating a flower bed, you may want to create a pattern or color scheme prior to planting. Or, use mixed varieties.

How to Grow Pansies:

Pansies prefer cool to warm climates, and wilt a bit in mid-summer heat. In warmer areas, we recommend partial shade. Pansy plants tolerate a variety of soils. Add a general purpose fertilizer when planting them, then once a month after that.

Once your Pansies are established, they should grow well, even if left unattended. Soil should be moist, but not wet. Water them during dry periods, once or twice per week. Keep them well weeded.

Remove spent blooms to promote additional blooms and extend the blooming period. This will also keep the appearance neat and beautiful. Also see [deadheading blooms](#).

Pansy are hardy annuals. They will often survive the first frost if it is light. They will not survive a hard frost or freeze.

Insect and Disease:

Pansies seldom have problems with insects and disease. If insect or disease problems occur, treat early with organic or chemical insect repellents and fungicide.

How to Grow Sweet Peas

Sweet Peas are one of the favorite vegetables of kids and adults. Kids and adults love them straight from the garden. You can pick peas off the vine, shell them and eat them raw, for a delicious, and healthy snack. Peas are one of the hardier vegetables. Sometimes called snow peas, they get their name as young seedlings can survive frosts, freezes and even snow!

There are numerous varieties of peas. Some pea plants require fencing or support. Others are described as "Self-supporting". Read the directions on the package to identify what you are buying. We recommend you fence them regardless of type. This helps to keep the pea pods off the ground, and results in cleaner peas. Inexpensive chicken wire fence and a few stakes are all you need. Or, use a [veggie-cage](#).

Varieties of Sweet Peas:

- Regular Sweet Peas- These nutritious vegetables are grown for their seeds. There are many varieties to choose from. Some are better for canning and freezing, while others are best fresh.
 - Edible Podded- Eat the pea pod and all. The pod is sweet and tender (if picked while still young). It also contains pea seeds. Best of all, they are far easier to prepare. Simply pick them, wash them off, and cook them. No shelling is needed.
 - Chinese Peas- Similar to edible podded peas, you eat the crispy pod of these chinese varieties. The difference, is the pea inside is very tiny.
-

Days to Maturity:

Ranges from 55 to 70 days, depending on variety. Early varieties have less seeds in the pod, usually three to four. Later varieties may have 8 to 10 seeds.

Hills and Mounding:

Early spring crops benefit by creating a long hill or mound. This slight elevation helps to warm the soil. Most importantly, it keeps excess water and spring rain from rotting the seeds before they sprout.

Don't worry if there is cold weather or even snow. Young pea plants are hardy, and will survive temperatures into the 20's.

How to Grow Sweet Peas:

Growing sweet peas is easy. Select an area of your vegetable garden that gets full sun. They prefer rich garden soil. Mound soil for spring planting, if your area receives heavy and frequent spring rains.

Sow sweet pea seeds as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring. Space seeds 1" to 1 1/2" apart. We suggest planting double rows, with the double rows about 2 feet apart. The fence for them to climb up, is later placed between the double rows.

Apply a side dressing of fertilizer to give these plants a fast start as soon as they germinate. Apply a general purpose fertilizer every three to four weeks.

Planted in the early spring, the soil is usually contains plenty of moisture until warmer, drier weather sets in. Water deeply, as needed.

Sweet Peas do not grow well in hot weather. However, fall crops will do well. Make sure to plant them with enough growing time to mature prior to heavy freezes.

Harvest as sweet peas, and edible podded varieties, while young and tender. Sweet Peas lose their sweetness and become hard, if left on the vine too long.

Insects and Pests:

Pea seedlings are a popular food for birds. As the seedlings grow, birds will sometimes eat the tender tips. We recommend placing chicken wire or bird netting over the young seedlings.

Boring insects will sometimes enter the pea pod. Occasional aphid infestations can also occur, but this is uncommon. Sevin or Diazinon is effective.

In wet weather, slugs will climb the vines and suck on the pea pods. Use snail and slug pellets. For organic control, make a beer trap. Put a little beer in a small can or bowl. Tuna cans work great. Bury the trap, up to the lip, in the garden soil. Snails and slugs will be attracted to it, fall in and drown.

Disease:

With summer heat and humidity, comes diseases that can befall these plants just before, or during the ripening of the crop. Fungicides can be used in areas of high heat and humidity. However, we recommend you find out whether it is a problem in your area first.

Hardiness:

Peas are very "cold weather" hardy. Plant them early in the season. They will withstand frost, light freezes, and even snow cover. Planted early enough you can complete one crop by early July, and still have time for a fall crop in most areas.

Peas do not like heat. In hot weather the plant stunts or slows its growth. Any peas that develop and mature are not as sweet.

How to Grow Kohlrabi

Kohlrabi is a closely guarded secret. And, we are letting the cat out of the bag.

"Rabi" as it is fondly nicknamed by growers, is easy to grow, nutritious and it tastes good too! If you like celery, you will like it's celery like, nutty flavor. Best of all, it is perhaps the hardiest of garden vegetables, and will grow long after your other garden vegetables have succumbed to the cold and frost. Rabi is popular in Europe. It is not high on the home garden list elsewhere. Now that we have let the cat out of the bag, I'm sure you will grow it next season.

Did you know? In German, Kohl means cabbage and rabi means turnip.

As a member of the cabbage family, Kohlrabi prefers cool weather. If the weather in your area allows, you can get a spring and a fall crop. Most growth will occur in cool weather. If you can only have one crop, we recommend the fall crop, as the rabi will grow best, and taste it's best, if it matures in cool weather.

Did you know? Kohlrabi is not a root crop. The bulb is actually the stem just above soil level. It swells out into this tender, sweet tasting vegetable, which can be eaten raw or cooked.

Nutrition:

One cup equals 40 calories. It is an excellent source of Vitamin C, and fiber. It also is a good source of potassium. All of this in a vegetable that tastes good!

Varieties of Kohlrabi:

Green, white, and purple skinned varieties exist. They are all a white inside.

Sowing Kohlrabi Seeds:

Sow outdoors as soon as the soil can be worked. If you have a short growing season, start seedlings indoors. Transplant them outside a couple of weeks before the last frost. You should plan to harvest your spring crop before hot summer weather sets in.

For a fall crop, directly sow seeds into the garden. Plan your harvest for a week or two after the first fall frost is expected in your area.

Sow seeds thinly 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep, in double rows 1 1/2 feet apart. Thin seedlings to six inches apart.

Days to Maturity: 44-55 days.

How to Grow Kohlrabi:

Select a location with full sun.

Work plenty of compost and manure into your garden. Work in a general purpose fertilizer to promote quick growth. Kohlrabi does not need a deep soil, as it is the stem that grows into a bulb.

Provide plenty of water and a well drained soil.

Insects and Pests:

There are few insect problems in this fast growing vegetable.

Disease:

Kohlrabi is generally disease free.

Harvesting:

Harvest Kohlrabi as the root gets larger than a tennis ball. General size range is three to five inches. Pick as much as you need, and let the remainder continue to grow.

The leaves are also edible. They can be added to salads, or boiled like spinach.

Hardiness:

Long after hardy Swiss Chard succumbs to the cold and freezes of late autumn, the hardy Kohlrabi lives on. A little snow is of little worry for this hardy plant. If the weather is expected to go into the low twenties, you can cover any remaining plants for a day or two until the temperature inches up a bit.

How to Grow Collards and Kale

As a member of the cabbage family, Collards and Kale plants are much less known. Collard and Kale are closely related. They are strong flavored, open leafed cabbage. They do not form a large, round head. Some varieties of Kale are used in flower gardens, as they make colorful flowers.

Despite being easier to grow than regular cabbage, why isn't it popular? The answer is taste. Both of these vegetables have a strong taste, and can be quite bitter, especially in the warmer weather.

Varieties:

- Collard-There are few varieties to choose from. Many garden stores and seed catalogs do not carry them. You may have to search a little for it.
- Kale- There are two major types: Curled leaves and plain or "straight" leaves.
- There is also a flowering, or ornamental Kale, that is popular in flower beds and rock gardens. They produce colorful leaves or "flowers".

Sowing Collard and Kale Seeds:

Many areas can grow a spring and a fall crop. All members of the cabbage family can withstand frosts and freezes. Plan to place your seeds or seedlings in your garden as one of the first crops. If you time your crop right, you will have a couple weeks in the middle of summers' heat and humidity when you are not growing Collards or Kale. This is actually good, as these plants do not like high heat and dry conditions.

TIP: If you plant early in the year, consider using a raised row or bed to allow better drainage during early spring rains.

Indoors: Start your spring crop indoors four to six weeks before planting outdoors. Plan to plant your seedlings outdoors very early in the season. It can be planted outdoors before the last frost date for your area.

Plant seeds in containers 1/2 inch deep, in sterile starting mix. Water thoroughly once, then lightly after the seeds have sprouted. Provide plenty of sunlight or artificial grow lights so the plants do not become spindly. Boost your plants health with a light application of liquid fertilizer once or twice during this period.

Outdoors: Collard and Kale seeds can be direct sowed into the row, or seeded in a separate area and transplanted to the row after a few weeks. We recommend planting them together in a seedbed, and transplanting the seedlings. This allows for better control of the spacing of your seedlings. This is a common method for the second planting. Plant seeds 1/2 inch deep. Water well and make sure to keep the top level of soil moist, especially during the drier mid-summer planting.

Whether direct seeding or transplanting, make the final spacing 18 to 24 inches apart, in rows three feet apart. The outer leaves of a healthy plant will spread and cover a lot of space.

Tip: For direct seeding, prepare the soil first. Then, place tomato cages (to mark your planting) 18 to 24 inches apart. Sow several seeds inside the ring of the cage. Thin to two plants a week after germination, and to one plant after a couple of weeks. This avoids transplant shock, and affords proper spacing for maximum growth. Remove the tomato cages after the seedlings have begun to grow.

How to Grow Collard and Kale:

Because Collards and Kale do not form heads, it is easier to grow than cabbage. The young leaves can be harvested as the plant grows for salads, soups and other recipes.

Collard and Kale plants prefer full sunlight. Collard and Kale plants will grow in average and poorer soils. But like any plant, they respond favorably to richer soil high in nutrients. Note: Make sure to provide plenty of nitrogen for a greener crop.

Keep the soil moist, but not wet. Dry conditions lead to bitter vegetables in all of the vegetable world. Collard and Kale are no exception.

Days to Maturity:

Kale matures in 55 - 60 Days. Collard takes a little longer, and is normally harvested in 70 - 80 days. In both cases, the more tender young leaves can be harvested as soon as they reach a size that is easy for picking.

Insects and Pests:

All members of the cabbage family are extremely susceptible to insects. Collards and Kale are no exception. Among the most common are aphids, and cabbage loopers. Cabbage loopers the larva stage of a moth. Those white moths that visit your garden and yard are the culprits. Effective treatment in the home garden is to place a screen over the plant so the moth can not lay her eggs. Commercial growers apply insecticides to control them. Aphids are controlled by frequent spraying. Organic controls in the form of soap or garlic sprays are also effective.

Disease:

Collards and Kale are fairly resistant to most diseases.

Hardiness:

Collards and Kale as previously mentioned, are among the hardiest of annuals. The plants can withstand temperatures into the upper 20's. You know you have a hardy plant when you go out to the garden in December, brush a little snow away, and harvest some vegetables.

Did you Know? For all members of the cabbage family, flavor is better in cool weather. Most growers will attest that the flavor is best after a frost.

How to Grow Lettuce

Lettuce is the starting point for every good salad. It is also a basic in sandwiches, and as a decorative underlayment for other foods. It is nutritious, yet low in calories. That is why it is so popular for dieters ,and for those who want to stay trim. Dieting and health issues aside, we eat lettuce because it tastes good!

Did You Know? Generally, lettuce is only used as a fresh vegetable. It is not frozen, canned, dried, or cooked. However, one site visitor contributed a [Lettuce Soup recipe](#). Got a soup or vegetable recipe to share? Email us today!

Popular Varieties:

Good news! There are many varieties of Lettuce. They are separated into two basic groups:

Head Lettuce- This group's leaves form into a ball or head as it grows and matures. It also includes varieties which head or bunch up, balled "Loose-head". Members of this groups include:

- [Iceberg-](#) The king of lettuces
- [Romaine](#)
- [Bibb](#)
- [Buttercrunch or Butterhead](#)

Leaf Lettuce- Members of this group have leaves which make little or no attempt to group or bunch together. They commonly called "loose leaf". Members include:

- Argula
 - [Black Seeded Simpson-](#) fast and easy to grow. It's the most popular loose leaf variety
 - [Endive](#)
 - Salad Bowl
 - Grand Rapids
 - [Mesclun-](#) A combination of leaf lettuces in one seed packet.
-

Days to Maturity:

Loose leaf varieties can be ready to begin cutting in as little as three weeks. Varieties which form loose or tight heads need more time, up to several weeks. Because there are so many varieties, check the information on the seed packet for more specific growing times.

Sowing Lettuce Seeds:

Lettuce seeds are very fine. Plant in rows, spreading the seeds as thinly as possible. No matter how hard you try, they are so difficult to disperse, that thinning of the seedlings is must. You can purchase seed tapes of some of the more popular varieties which will space them properly. While it costs more, it is also a time saver. Cover the seeds with a very fine layer of loose soil or starting mixture.

You can also plant indoors in pots. This works well for bunching or heading types of lettuces, and will give your seedlings a more controlled environment . Given a lot of direct sunlight, it also results in a strong seedling. When transplanting in the garden, you can give it the proper spacing.

Succession planting is a common and useful practice. Lettuce are perfect candidates for succession planting. Plant small rows or sections of your garden with lettuces every week to ten days. This will provide a continuous harvest. Vary the types you plant to afford variety over the season.

Whether sowing indoors or out, you will likely want to transplant your seedlings with the proper spacing for full development without crowding. Lettuce likes cool weather and lots of moisture. Transplanting should only be done in cool, preferably cloudy weather. If the weather is hot and sunny, we recommend putting off transplanting if possible. If this is not possible, then transplant in the evening. Water thoroughly and every day after, unless it rains, for about a week.

The key to growing crisp, sweet lettuce, is to get it growing at a fast pace. That means plenty of water, and a healthy dose of fertilizer.

Tip: When transplanting lettuce in hot weather, place some form of sun shade over the plant for a couple of days. Any makeshift shade will do.

Harvesting:

Pick lettuces as soon as it is big enough to use. On loose-headed varieties, the outer leaves can be picked and the inner leaves allowed to grow. Or, use the plants pulled while thinning. Use a sharp knife or scissors. Loose leaf varieties will grow back after cutting.

How to Grow Radishes

Radishes spice up salads and vegetable trays. Their color adds appeal to many dishes, and makes them a very desirable garnish. Their sharp, zippy taste livens up salads, and are great with dips and dressings. Radishes are fast and easy growing. In addition, they take up little space in your garden. As a result, it is very popular in the back yard garden.

Tip: Radish seeds germinate in a matter of days. Many gardeners put a few radish seeds amongst the rows of carrots and other vegetables that take a long period to germinate. This "marks" the rows. As the carrot crop begins to grow, you can either pull and discard the radish, or pull and eat them (We much prefer the latter!).

Even though many kids do not like them, they are a great crop. They are easy to grow, perhaps the fastest to harvest of all vegetables. With a harvest in as little as twenty days, young gardeners are quickly rewarded for their efforts.

Varieties:

- There are a wide variety of radishes.
 - Colors are red or white.
 - While the most popular radishes are round, the french varieties are cylindrical, resembling a small carrot, but less tapered at the tip.
-

Sowing Radish Seeds:

Sow radish seeds 1/2 inch deep. Space them 1 1/2 to two inches apart. Separate rows eight to ten inches apart. We recommend double rows, with wider rows between the double rows to afford easy access.

Tip: Broadcast spreading is also common, and easy to do. Prepare a square or rectangular area and spread the seed out across the entire area. Then, lightly sprinkle loose soil over the area.

Thin seedlings to two inches apart in all directions. Radishes do not like to be crowded, and will not bulb properly if overcrowded by other radishes or weeds. Weeding is also important to proper bulb growth. Most growers don't give much thought to weeding because of their quick growth, but it is important for proper bulb growth.

Succession planting every two weeks will result in radishes all season long! Note, you may want to skip the mid-summer weeks, as radishes will not perform well in high heat. Like many other vegetables, they tend to bolt in hot weather.

Days to Maturity:

20 to 30 days. Note, some cylindrical varieties may require longer.

How to Grow Radishes:

Radishes will grow in average soils. Like other vegetables, they will respond to rich, well drained soil. While preparing your garden space, work the soil six inches or more if you are growing the long, cylindrical varieties. Add fertilizer while working the soil. Make sure to remove rocks and stones.

After the seeds germinate, thin rows to avoid crowding.

Keep rows weeded, especially in the first week or two.

Make sure to provide ample water.

Tip: Radishes will sometimes bolt or fail to form a bulb. The most common causes of this are crowding and insufficient amounts of water.

Insects and Pests:

Sucking and chewing insects can sometime infest the leaves, but not overall growth of the radish.

Root maggots can enter the roots, destroying the crop. If this occurs, plant future crops in a different location.

Disease of Radishes:

Few diseases affect radishes in their short growth cycle.

Hardiness:

While radishes thrive in cooler weather, they do not take a liking to frost. You can plant seeds just before the last frost date. If frost warnings are posted, cover them up at night.