

Garlic Bulbs

In the Northwest, garlic is typically planted as cloves in the fall but can also be planted in the early spring months. If it is planted in the spring, the bulbs in the fall will not have very many cloves and will be smaller. Garlic requires full sun (at least 6 hours per day). To prepare the planting area, loosen the soil to improve drainage.

Plant large cloves that are clean and dry and plant them the same day the bulb is broken apart. Cloves showing any discoloration, stippling, or bruising should be discarded. Plant the cloves so that the tops are 2 inches below the soil line, and place the garlic clove flat-side down and pointed-side up in the hole. Garlic should be planted 4–6 inches apart in rows that are spaced 12–24 inches apart.

Hardneck Garlic

Grows best in zone 6 and north. It is more flavorful than softneck and produces fewer cloves that are larger and easier to peel.

Elephant Garlic

Elephant garlic is very large, approximately 10 centimeters in diameter, and averages five cloves per bulb. This softball-sized bulb can weigh as much as one pound, and the bulb wrapper is white to yellow and paper thin. The cloves are milder and sweeter than true garlic varieties and have a yellow hue. Elephant garlic is often thought to have the flavor of onion and leeks mixed with soft notes of garlic.

Softneck Garlic

Softneck varieties are easy to grow and tolerate a wide variety of climate conditions and are especially good for warmer climates.

Early Italian Purple

It is said to be a fairly mild garlic, with flavor and pungency middle of the scale but with rich tones. This flavor, combined with the color and long storage life, has made Italian Purple a favorite garlic for gardeners. It translates well when used either fresh or in cooking.

Inchelium

Produces a large, flattened bulb, 6-7 centimeters in diameter, which contains anywhere from 12 to 20 plump cloves arranged in layers. The outer ivory bulb wrappers are several sheets thick which protect the bulb, enhancing its storage quality. Inchelium garlic has a mild pungent taste with a medium level of spiciness.

Late Italian

This variety is medium in size with a short round bulb. The skin is very tight. Nice mild flavor with medium heat. A very late maturing variety that is perfect to extend the garlic season.

Nootka Rose

Bold, robust taste with medium to hot flavor. Bulbs tend to the larger size for a Silverskin and will typically have 15-20 cloves per bulb.

Silver Rose

Flavor is rich and bold, yet mild in pungency. After a few months of storage, the flavor becomes hotter when used raw. The bulbs are large and firm, with silver rose colored skin. They are great for braiding.

Revised 3.10.2023