



Artichokes Planting Guide

About Artichokes

The artichoke is an edible thistle flower bud eaten before it opens. If left alone until full maturity, it blooms a beautiful purple thistle.

When to Plant

Artichokes are grown successfully in warmer climates, so January to March is prime planting time. Colder zones will need to start indoors under fluorescent lighting 2 months before the last frost.

Where to Plant

Start seeds in a tall pot, as artichokes send down a long tap root. Artichokes do not favor soil disturbances, so choose your pots wisely and only transplant once to their outdoor location. In areas with hot, dry summers your plants will need afternoon shade each day,

How to Plant

Amend your soil with organic compost and keep it evenly moist, allowing soil to dry between watering. For zones 9-11, direct sow seeds 1/2" deep and thin to 6' apart. Thin to their final spacing of 5-6' apart in warmer zones, while zones 6 and colder can plant their artichokes more closely, 2-3' apart.

Caring for Artichokes

Keep soil moist throughout the growing season. Fertilize with a high-potassium liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks during periods of active growth to encourage flower buds to form. Keep beds weed free and use a thick layer of mulch. As buds form, remove mulch and apply a 4" thick layer of compost around each plant. To harvest, cut stems about 1 1/2' below the bud. After harvesting all buds, cut back leaving a third of the plant. Artichokes bear best the 2nd year and should be started from new plants every 3-5 years.