



Collard Greens Planting Guide

About Collard Greens

Collard greens are a biennial cool season vegetable, and some varieties may be perennial if planted in a warmer region. Similar to kale, this leafy vegetable often grows over 2' tall and is known for its thick, slightly bitter, edible leaves.

When to Plant

Collards are frost tolerant, so it is best to plant in late summer to early autumn for winter harvest in the south. In more northern areas, collards may be planted a little earlier for fall or winter harvest. If adequate moisture and care is provided, they may also be planted in early spring for summer harvest. Start seeds 4-6 weeks before the last frost in spring or 10-12 weeks before the first frost in fall.

Where to Plant

Seeds may be started indoors or in a separate area outside before transplanting to your garden- this ensures control of the spacing between plants. Collard greens prefer a growing environment with moist, fertile soil. They require full sun and thrive in temperatures between 65-75 degrees F.

How to Plant

Start seedlings in individual pots or flats. Sow seed 1/4-1/2" deep in moist soil, not wet. Germination should take place in 5-10 days. Transplant when plants reach 4-6" tall with 2-4 leaves and daytime temperatures reach 50 degrees F. Set transplants slightly deeper than when sown. Space plants 18-20" apart in all directions and space rows 24-42" apart.

Caring for Collard Greens

Collard greens prefer a soil pH range of 6.0 to 7.5. They require full sun, but can tolerate partial shade. Add 3-4" of compost to plant bed before transplanting and be sure to give them 1-1 1/2" of water weekly. Harvest leaves when they are about 10" long and dark green in color. Pick the lower leaves first, working your way up.