



About Endive

Endive is a pleasantly bitter-leafed vegetable that is eaten like other greens; sauteed, chopped into soups and stews, or as part of a green salad.

When to Plant

For best results, start indoors as early as 8-10 before the last spring frost and sow outdoors 4-6 weeks before. The goal is to harvest before daytime temperatures exceed 85 degrees F. Endives are ready to harvest generally 80-90 days after they're sown.

Where to Plant

While endive prefers full sun, partial shade is tolerated and sometimes needed if temperatures are above 75 degrees F. Start seeds in foam seedling trays and transplant into the garden after 4-5 weeks. Endive prefers well-drained, loose soil with a pH of 6.5 or above.

How to Plant

Add compost to planting area before sowing. Sow seeds about 1/2-1" deep and 3" apart with rows 18" apart. Cover with fine soil.

Caring for Endive

Make sure soil stays sufficiently moist. Wait for seeds to germinate and for plants to grow several inches tall before thinning. Depending on the variety, plants may need to be thinned to as far as 8" apart. About midseason, side dress plants with compost to promote continued growth. Harvest 80-90 days after planting. If harvesting in the Fall, be sure to harvest before any frost. Endive can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. You can freeze, can, or dry the leaves.