



About Turnips

Turnips, a fast growing, cool-weather vegetable, can take a month less to harvest than their cool-season cousin the Rutabaga. They are generally easy to grow, and all parts of the plant are edible.

When to Plant

Sow turnip seeds directly into the garden 2-3 weeks before the average last frost date in spring for a late spring or early summer harvest, or sow the seeds in later summer for an autumn harvest.

Where to Plant

Select a site that gets full sun. Soil should be well-draining, light, and loosened to a depth of 10-45", and free of any clumps of grass and stones. If the soil is heavy or poor, consider using a soil amendment such as composted organic matter or aged manure.

How to Plant

Turnips should be directly sown into the ground; they do not transplant well. Scatter turnip seeds and cover with no more than 1/2" of fine soil. Lightly compress soil and keep evenly moist. Seedlings will emerge in 7-14 days.

Caring for Turnips

Keep your planting site free of weeds by weeding frequently and/or mulch heavily to prevent their seeds from germinating. Try to avoid disturbing the soil around the plants when weeding. Once seedlings are 2-4" high, thin them to 4-6" apart. Turnips do not require much care, but consistent soil moisture is key. Keep the soil moist but not saturated. Provide plants about 1" of water per week to prevent the roots from becoming tough and bitter. Harvest your turnips once they have reached 2-3" in diameter. Early varieties will be ready in about 5 weeks, and 6-10 weeks for main crop varieties. For turnip greens, wait until the roots develop. If you are harvesting turnip greens, know that this can slow the production of the root, and may take longer to harvest.