



Chicory Planting Guide

About Chicory

Chicory is a very versatile plant that is equally cherished as a flower and as an herb. Chicory seeds can be planted in the most challenging of conditions, and actually tend to thrive in less-than-ideal soil. Though chicory is most famously used in teas, it has also traditionally been used to flavor coffee as well.

When to Plant

Chicory seeds can be started indoors 5-6 weeks before they are moved outside. Direct sow your seeds 2-3 weeks before the last frost has passed.

Where to Plant

Chicory performs best in full sun in fertile, medium moisture, well-drained soil. They achieve some drought tolerance once established. These little blooms are a great choice for cottage gardens or naturalized areas.

How to Plant

If direct sowing, plant chicory seeds 1/4" deep and 6" apart in rows set 2' apart. If starting seeds indoors, lightly press into the soil without covering them. They should germinate within 1-3 weeks and you can gently transplant them, being mindful of their long taproot, when outdoor soil temperatures reach 65-75 degrees F.

Caring for Chicory

Spread a 2" layer of mulch between rows to discourage weed growth and help maintain soil moisture. Remove weeds as they appear. Water once a week to a 1" depth, allowing the soil to dry out slightly in between waterings. Harvest the leaves before the middle rib thickens and becomes hairy. Dig up roots for consumption in mid- to late autumn, as cool weather increases the size and quality of the roots.