

PLANT PROFILE

Onion



Latin Name: Allium Cepa

Soil type: Fertile well drained soil, prepare by adding well-rotted manure, garden compost or general-purpose fertiliser

Soil Ph: Neutral, Alkaline, onions do not thrive on acid soil

Aspect: Full sun and sheltered site

Hardiness: Onions can be planted out in the autumn to overwinter which will enable a slightly earlier crop

Propagation: Can be grown from seed but usually grown by planting onion sets (immature onions) 5-10cm apart, in rows 20-24cm apart. Ensure tips are just showing and firm soil around them

Harvesting: Lift bulbs late summer to early autumn when the foliage starts to turn yellow and bend over

Storage: Lay bulbs on a rack in full sun outdoors or in a well-ventilated greenhouse until foliage dry and papery approx. 2 weeks. Store in a light, cool, dry space

Other characteristics: Cold tolerant

Pests: Birds can lift sets so cover with fleece, alternatively start onion sets in trays of six and plant out when more established

Disease: Onion white rot, Leek rust, Onion powdery mildew

Uses: Edible