

# GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

SPRING & SUMMER  
Vegetables



## MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ORDER!

Your vegetable plants have been carefully grown for you by our specialist nurserymen in their own individual cells or pots of compost, to avoid any root disturbance when you plant them out. Please unpack and check your order carefully and contact us within seven days if there are any problems.



### GROWING TIPS:

- ❁ Sending plants by post may cause them a little stress, so unpack them immediately and, if dry, stand them for a few minutes in about 2.5cm (1in) of water, until the compost is fully moist again.
- ❁ Many of these seedlings are intolerant of frost, in mild areas they can be planted out immediately, but it is advisable to keep some fleece handy just in case there are still any chilly nights.
- ❁ In colder areas it is best to first plant them in a tray of compost, as above, and, for a few days at least, to harden them off by standing them outside in the day and bringing them in again at night.
- ❁ Choose and prepare an area and soil ahead of planting. Remove weeds, dig in compost or manure, add a dressing of a balanced fertiliser and break the soil down to a crumbly texture.
- ❁ Avoid planting when soils are too wet or frozen.
- ❁ Keep all plants well-watered until they are fully established.

### A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR PLANTS...

- ❁ You may notice a slight yellowing of the foliage or that they look a little drawn, but this is quite natural after they have been in a dark box and is nothing to be worried about, they will soon recover.
- ❁ Like many gardeners we refuse to use harmful chemical pesticides on our plants and rely on biological controls instead. Although QC check before despatch, this is all done by hand and as a result it's possible that a few caterpillars, aphids or bugs might slip through. The good news is that we don't charge extra for these! However, we do apologise and hope as fellow gardeners you can understand.

## PLANTING OUT

**POTTED PLANTS** If growing in containers the minimum size pot that is suitable is 30cm (12in) and if using a grow bag, plant a maximum of two plants per bag. All tomato varieties that are classed as indeterminate will need some training so the side shoots will need pinching out and the main stem supporting. Once the main stem reaches 1.8m (6ft) pinch out the growing tip. Water and feed regularly with a balanced tomato fertiliser and harvest the fruits as they ripen.

**GREENHOUSE VARIETIES** Our tomato, cucumber and pepper plants have been nurtured on the nursery for several months, so that you receive large, bushy 9cm potted plants ready for immediate potting on or planting out.

**GRAFTED PLANTS** Plant them into pots, a greenhouse border or outside after it has been prepared by digging in lots of organic material. The grafted union must be kept above the soil level to ensure suckers and adventitious roots do not develop.

**OUTDOOR VARIETIES** Many of these plants are intolerant of frost, in mild areas they can be planted out immediately, but it is advisable to keep some fleece handy just in case there are still any chilly nights.

Soil should be well-drained and, ideally, use ground that was dug, manured, if necessary, in the previous autumn or early winter. Rake in some general-purpose fertiliser, such as Growmore, a few days before planting. When planting, make holes with a trowel and, after inserting the plants, firm them in well. After planting give them a thorough watering to settle them in. Unless stated otherwise, set each one so the top of the compost level is just below the surface.



### FURTHER INFORMATION BY VARIETY:

**ARTICHOKES** Plant Jerusalem Artichoke tubers horizontally, 10-15 cm (4-6in) deep, 30 cm (12in) apart, allowing 30 cm (12in) between rows. Globe Artichoke plants should be planted allowing 60-90cm (2-3ft).

**ASPARAGUS** Trim off any broken or damaged roots and soak them for an hour or so in a bucket of water. Aim to plant out as soon as possible. If it is necessary to delay planting for any reason, crowns can be kept for a few days in a cool but frost-free place, such as a shed, if covered with damp material, such as newspaper or sacking. They must not be allowed to dry out.

Asparagus does best in an open and sunny site but where there is some shelter from strong winds. As it is a long-term crop, it pays to prepare the site well, ideally in the autumn before planting. A rich but well-drained soil is necessary for good results, so incorporate plenty of well-rotted organic matter, such as farmyard manure or garden compost. If the soil is heavy, dig in plenty of sharp sand or horticultural grit. Immediately before planting apply a dressing of a balanced compound fertiliser, such as Growmore.

To plant crowns, dig a trench about 20cm (8in) deep and wide enough to take the roots when spread out flat. If you are planting more than one row, space them 90cm (3ft) apart. Now create a mound about 7cm (3in) high along the bottom of each trench. Set the crowns 40cm (16in) apart on this mound, with their roots spread out, and then cover them with 5cm (2in) of soil, firming them in as you go.

**AUBERGINE** These will arrive potted into 9cm pots. Plants can be grown in containers 30cm (12in) in diameter or grow in grow bags, indoors or out (once all danger of frost has passed).

**BEETROOT** Set out plants 10cm (4in) apart in rows 30cm (12in) apart.

**BRASSICAS** Be sure to plant seedlings firmly. In areas where cabbage root fly is prevalent it is advisable to protect them in some way, such as by covering with fleece or Enviromesh or by placing 'collars' around the bases of the stems. Protect from butterflies (and thus caterpillars) with Enviromesh or netting through the summer months.

## SPACING FOR BRASSICAS

Variety	Within row spacing	Between row spacing
Broccoli & Calabrese	45cm (18in)	45cm (18in)
Brussels Sprouts	60cm (24in)	60cm (24in)
Cabbage	37cm (15in)	37cm (15in)
Cauliflower	45cm (18in)	45cm (18in)
Flower Sprout® /Kalettes	60cm (24in)	60cm (24in)
Kale	45cm (18in)	45cm (18in)

**BROAD BEANS** Set out plug plants 22cm (9in) apart and in rows 45cm (18in) apart.

**CELERIAC** Plant seedlings 30cm (12in) apart in rows 45cm (18in) apart, taking care not to bury the crown.

**CELERY** Plant at the base of a 30cm (12in) deep trench, 22cm (9in) apart. Soil is then easily drawn up around the stems (earthed up) as plants grow to blanch the stems, keeping leaves above the soil.

**COURGETTE/SQUASH/PUMPKIN** These will arrive potted into 9cm pots. Set out plants 60-90cm (24-36in) apart in rows 90-120cm (36-48in) apart.

**CUCUMBER/CUCAMELON** These will arrive potted into 9cm pots. Set out plants 30cm (12in) apart in rows 45cm (18in) apart.

**FRENCH BEANS** Set out plants 22cm (9in) apart in rows 45cm (18in) apart.

**HERBS** These will arrive potted into 9cm pots. Grow on in a sheltered position, whether you plan to plant in beds, borders or larger containers. Trim regularly to ensure fresh new growth.

**HORSERADISH** Grows best in a deep, well-drained soil which has had plenty of well-rotted farmyard manure or garden compost added to it. Plant the thongs as soon as possible after receipt. Plant the thongs at a slight angle with the sloping cut at the base and the flat one at the top, at about 5cm (2in) below the soils surface. Allow 60cm (2in) between thongs.

After planting top-dress with a general-purpose fertiliser, water in well and keep watered until established. Do not allow to dry out during summer months. Feed with a liquid feed with seaweed fertiliser during summer.

**LEEKs** Set out plants 15cm (6in) apart, in rows 30cm (12in) apart. At each planting site make a 15cm (6in) deep hole with a dibber and drop a seedling in. Then fill the hole with water to settle some soil around the roots. Do not fill the hole with soil, the leeks girth will quickly fill out.

**LETTUCE AND ORIENTAL VEGETABLES** Set out plants 23cm (9in) apart in square blocks or rows in sun or part shade.

**MELON** Grow under cover in moist, well drained, fertile soil or plant into grow bags. Set out plants 90cm/3ft apart.

**ONIONS** Set out plants approximately 10cm (4in) apart in rows 25cm (10in) apart. Plants grown for exhibition purposes (such as Kelsae, Exhibition, Fasto F1 and Tough Ball F1) should be planted 40cm (16in) apart in rows 50cm (20in) apart. Plant the base of the bulb about 13-20mm (1/2-3/4in) deep and firm well. Water plants in.

Onions are most demanding of fertility, so make sure the ground is well prepared with plenty of rotted manure/compost. Before planting rake in a top-dressing of a general fertiliser, such as Growmore. Keep plants well-watered when the weather is dry but stop watering when the bulbs become swollen.

Harvest when foliage begins to turn yellow and die back in August.

**PEAS** Set out plants 11cm (4.5in) apart in rows 45cm (18in) apart.

**PEPPERS/CHILLIES** These will arrive potted into 9cm pots. Under glass, they can be planted directly, 45cm (18in) apart, into a border but most people prefer to use growbags, each of which will take three plants. To grow in pots transfer to 30cm (12in) pots a few weeks after receipt.

**RUNNER/CLIMBING BEANS** When choosing a position for these beans make sure the shade they will cast will not be detrimental to other plants. To support them it is usual to erect a double row of 2.5m (8ft) canes, although wigwams of canes or nets supported by upright poles can also be used. In a double row, the two rows should be 45cm (18in) apart and, within each row, the canes should be 22cm (9in) apart. Set out one plant at the base of each cane.

**SWEDE** Plant in rich, well-dug soil allowing 45cm (18in) between each plant and between each row. Keep plants well-watered until they are established.

**SWEETCORN** Set out plants 45cm (18in) apart in a rectangular block to encourage pollination.

**SWEET POTATOES** On receipt, pot up plants in 9cm (3.5in) pots and allow to grow on for a few weeks. Plant outside in early June if weather allows. Your Sweet Potatoes will require hardening off prior to planting outside. They can be grown outside in milder areas, or undercover elsewhere. Sweet potatoes prefer to grow on ridged beds in a well-drained, hummus rich soil, avoiding an area that has had legumes growing in during the previous year. Higher yields will be produced in warm summers. Space plants 40-45cm (16-18in) with 1m (40in) between rows. Planting out too early in cold, wet soil will cause rotting.

Harvest in autumn (October) when the leaves turn yellow and die back.

**TOMATOES** These will arrive potted into 9cm pots. Under glass, they can be planted directly, 45cm (18in) apart, into a border or into growbags, each of which will take two or three plants. To grow in containers, transfer to 30cm (12in) pots a few weeks after receipt using a multi-purpose compost, and add a cane, up to 1.8m (6ft) in height to each pot, so the central stem of each plant can be supported and tied against it. Ensure plants are protected from any frost if planted straight outside.

All varieties that are classed as indeterminate will need some training so the side shoots will need pricking out. Once the main stem reaches 1.8m (6ft) pinch out the growing tip.

Water and feed regularly with a balanced tomato fertiliser and harvest the fruits as they ripen.