



## ONIONS

### When to Grow?

Sow: Late February - early April and October

Harvest: August – September and June

### Salad Onions

Sow: March - July

Harvest: June - October

### Where to Grow?

Prepare an onion bed in an open sunny area. Dig in Autumn, mix in high quality compost and rake. If soil is acidic lime may need to be added.

Autumn application of compost results in less nutrient leaching than from manures and slurries due to the slow-release forms of many of the nutrients in composts. Time your compost applications so that increased nutrient availability meets the nutrient requirements of your crop rotation programme.

### How to Grow?

Seed bulbs can be planted out approximately 4 inches apart and ½ inch below the surface leaving the tip of the bulb just visible.

Salad onions can be planted approximately 1 inch apart in rows 4 inch apart.

### Compost

Compost contains plant nutrients and organic matter. These ingredients have beneficial effects on the following crop when applied to soil. Compost contains slow release nitrogen, phosphate and sulphur. It contains readily available potash that can provide all the crop's needs plus smaller but useful amounts of magnesium, calcium and trace elements (zinc, copper, manganese & boron).

For crops with sensitive seeds, as with manures or NPK fertilisers, it is advisable to mix the compost with the soil at least two weeks prior to sowing in case the germination of affected by any temporary raised salt content of the soil.



### Top Tips

- Plant beside or around vulnerable crops - the strong smelling onion can deter a variety of pests and mask the smell of other crops.
- Use netting to deter birds.
- Control weeds - dense weed growth will decrease yield.
- Water if weather is dry.