

GARLIC

Many people love to have their own garlic growing as part of their vegetable garden, and no wonder, it's so easy to grow. Start with some quality seed garlic from NZ Bulbs, and you can't go wrong.

PRINTANOR GARLIC

The main type of regular garlic grown in New Zealand is the cultivar 'Printanor', a strong growing, flavoursome variety that is suited to winter planting.



Printanor Garlic

Prepare your soil so it is nice and fine to a depth of 15cm. Break the garlic bulbs into individual cloves and plant them in rows spaced about 8cm apart. Planting depth is 20-25mm. You can plant them any time from mid June to mid July.

Rows should be 40cm apart from each other so that the plants can get plenty of light as they grow larger. Good light

is important for best results, so don't plant the cloves in a shady area.

Don't fertilise under the cloves before planting as the fertiliser can burn the emerging roots. Apply fertiliser along the rows at around 10 grams per metre. You can do this after planting and again in mid spring, to give the plants a boost. A balanced N:P:K 15:10:10 fertiliser is just right.

Garlic does not like wet conditions, so water little and often as needed. In the winter months the rain will likely provide enough water. If you are in an area of higher rainfall then planting on raised rows 10 cm high will help a lot to prevent waterlogging. Don't water after mid-December, it's time to let the plants harden off by then.

Harvest when the top is becoming soft at the base where it joins the bulb. Leave the tops on after harvest, and keep in a warm airy place until they have dried off further, about three weeks later.

Store long term in a dry place out of direct sun.

ELEPHANT GARLIC

Elephant garlic is actually a type of leek. The similarity to leeks can be seen in the large strap-like leaves and tall plant, but elephant garlic forms a bulb at the base. This can be a single large bulb or may be split into 5-6 large segments. Large single bulbs are best re-planted and will split eventually into segments. Segments can be used in cooking or re-planted, each growing into a full sized bulb during the next growing season. It has a milder flavour than regular garlic.



Elephant Garlic

Growing is very similar to regular garlic, but it can be planted earlier, from May onwards. Plant the cloves in rows, 12 cm apart and 30mm deep. The plants grow to 70cm with flower stems much higher again, so the rows should be 40cm apart to let in plenty of light.

Fertilise on the surface after planting, at 10 grams per metre of row and repeat in mid spring. A balanced N:P:K 15:10:10 fertiliser is ideal.

Water is important, so keep them watered if you get a dry spell in spring or early summer. You can keep watering longer than regular garlic, through to mid January is OK. On the other hand they don't want to be drowning, so plant in raised rows if you are in a high rain area or have poor drainage.

Remove any flower stems or the plant will put a lot of energy into them instead of growing a plump bulb.

They're ready to harvest when the leaves start to yellow a little in summer. After harvesting, allow them to dry in a warm airy place for some weeks before breaking the bulbs up into the cloves ready for use or re-planting.

Store long term at room temperatures in a dry place.