

Garlic Production Guide

Usually Garlic will produce anywhere from 3-6 times the amount of garlic you put into the ground for seed, depending on the weather conditions of the season. Each pound of hardneck seed garlic has from 35-50 cloves. As each clove grows into its own plant and bulb of garlic, each pound will yield 35-50 garlic bulbs (approx 4-7 pounds)

10 pounds of garlic, plant 2-3 pounds of garlic
25 pounds of garlic, plant 5-7 pounds of garlic
50 pounds of garlic, plant 10-12 pounds of garlic
100 pounds of garlic, plant 20-25 pounds of seed garlic
200 pounds of garlic, plant 40-50 pounds of seed garlic
500 pounds of garlic, plant 100-125 pounds of garlic

1. First, pick your site. Garlic prefers rich, well-drained, and weed-free soil located in full sun. Ideally, pick a spot that is in full sun from winter through spring. It can be difficult to grow a crop in your weediest beds, so consider this when location scouting during the summer.

2. Consider your mulching options. Compost, aged manure, and weed-free hay or straw mulch are good choices. Give yourself plenty of time to get this figured out--don't leave it for later lest you forget!

3. A few days prior to planting, prep your site. You want to build up planting beds with plenty of compost for your garlic to grow.

Planting Garlic

Pick a sunny day in early to mid-October, when the soil is still warm. Try to leave enough time before the ground freezes solid for the garlic to set roots. (Garlic can be planted any time before the ground freezes solid, though, ideally 3-6 weeks prior.)

Begin by breaking apart the heads of garlic into cloves. Count the cloves and determine the amount of space you need. **Most hardneck varieties have 50-90 cloves per pound.** Garlic prefers full sun, so choose a spot that will get full sun for the spring and early summer. Each clove will be planted at 6" spacing, in rows 12" apart. Weed and work a proper amount of garden space. After cultivating the space, mark the rows. Plant cloves root side down, 2" deep, at least 6" apart, in rows 12" apart. Water and cover with mulch. It is also helpful if you peel off the outer skin just from the top of the garlic clove because it grows out faster when it germinates in the spring. Your garlic will need to be tended to in the spring, once the ground warms and it begins to grow. Then once it's grown into the scapes will come up and you can harvest the scapes as a crop as well.

Garlic Seed Saving

For Garlic seed saving you want to make sure to save the bigger bulbs with larger cloves for planting. Larger cloves are better for planting because they will produce larger bulbs of garlic, giving you a bigger yield. After you have selected your best cloves for planting make sure to store them in a dry, well ventilated area until you plant since too much moisture can cause mold to form on them.