

**Allium sativum**

Gorgeous Garlic

Garlic is a must have staple in any kitchen! Growing it in your veggie garden or amongst you garden beds is really easy to ensure you always have fresh cloves for maximum flavour.

Garlic, a member of the onion family, is best planted out from March until mid-May in a full sun position. Being a hungry plant it requires fertile, compost enriched soil and regular water to ensure you reap plump succulent bulbs.

When planting, ensure the clove is placed in a 4-5cm deep hole and water well. Sprouting of the leaves should take place 10-20 days after planting. Ensure you keep watering regularly, it is very important not to let the plants dry out at any stage as this will lead to inferior bulbs. As soon as the tips of the leaves show signs of drying, this should be around the end of the year if planted in autumn, stop watering. When the leaves of the plant begin lying down you’re ready to harvest! Once lifted, cure the garlic by tying them in a bundle and hanging them in a well ventilated dark room until dry.

Garlic is the most favoured and widely used of all kitchen herbs and can be well paired with all savoury dishes. It has the most amazing medicinal powers that can treat almost all the disorders of the body; it is a natural antibiotic, a beneficial tonic, antiseptic and used as a preventative medicine.

*Egyptian Pink Garlic*, although made up of smaller bulbs, carries that powerful garlic flavour and aroma that spice up most dishes. These store well as long as they are placed in cool, dark, well ventilated pantry space. Harvested healthy bulbs can produce anything from 20 – 25 cloves.

*Giant Garlic* is milder in flavour than Egyptian Garlic and produces around 4 – 8 cloves per bulb, its size however makes it a pleasure to work with in the kitchen. They are easy to slice and perfect for slow roasting or grilling whole where their mild, sweet flavour makes them a delicious vegetable or side dish. The scapes, or bulb tops, also produce interesting additions to recipes as they are tender and sweet. Giant Garlic does need more space when planted and the bulbs need to be set about 20 cm apart. Aesthetically Giant Garlic also produces a beautiful flower spike or bud that is around 1 .2 metres in height .If you are not planting them for these decretive buds, remove the scape so that more energy is passed into the bulbs.

 It is said that “Piety is like garlic ...a little goes a long way”. With garlic being easy to grow and harvest this rewarding herb is great to share like piety amongst family and friends!