

TOP TIP

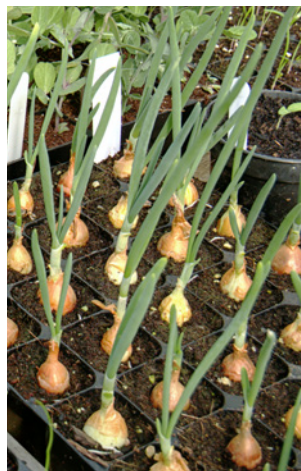
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Grow awesome onions

WITH HUW RICHARDS



How to grow onions (from sets).



Start off: Plant 1 onion set per module (cells should be around 40-50mm wide), making sure that the pointed end is facing upwards. If you are growing on a smaller scale, insert 1 set per 5-7cm pot.

Grow on: Transplant onion sets when they are around 10cm tall, at a spacing of around 15cm between each plant and row.

Harvest: Onions are ready to harvest when they have formed a good-sized bulb and some leaves are beginning to turn yellow - usually in mid-summer.

- **Sowing depth:** half to two-thirds depth of set
- **Sow under cover:** from 8-10 weeks before last frost
- **Sow direct:** from 3-4 weeks before last frost
- **Hardiness:** hardy
- **Effort:** ●●●●●

Onion leaves make a great alternative to spring onions when a salad or a topping needs a little extra kick. Choose one healthy leaf per plant and chop up finely.

How to grow salad onions.



Start off: Sow 6-7 seeds per module and cover with a light sprinkling of compost. Providing heat to encourage germination is highly recommended.

Grow on: As for onions from seed but transplant a little closer, leaving 10cm between clumps and rows.

Harvest: Start picking as soon as 8-10 weeks from sowing, once salad onions are around pencil thickness or 15cm tall. Always take the largest salad onion first to allow the smaller ones in the clump to continue growing.

- **Sowing depth:** 1cm
- **Sow under cover:** from 8-10 weeks before last frost
- **Sow direct:** from 3-4 weeks before last frost
- **Hardiness:** hardy
- **Effort:** ●●●●●

Don't forget the flowers! The allium family yields some of the most amazing flowers and these will attract beneficial insects to your plot to pollinate crops.



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Content from *The Vegetables Grower's Handbook*

