



**CORNELL
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION OF
ONEIDA COUNTY**

HOME GROWN FACTS

121 Second Street Oriskany, NY 13424-9799
(315) 736-3394 or (315) 337-2531 FAX: (315) 736-2580

GROWING SHALLOTS



An easy-to-grow gourmet favorite, these perennial onions produce a cluster of smaller bulbs instead of one large bulb. You can re-plant small bulbs for next year's crop.

Site Characteristics

Sunlight:

- full sun
- part shade

Soil conditions:

- requires well-drained soil

Well-drained, average fertility, high in organic matter, neutral pH. Optimum pH is 6.2 to 6.8. Requires plentiful, even moisture for good yields.

Hardiness zones:

- 2 to 9

Plant Traits

Lifecycle: perennial

Usually grown as an annual.

Ease-of-care: moderately difficult

Easy if you have rich well-drained soil and good weed control.

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Potato onions may grow more than 3 feet tall under optimum conditions.

Spread: 0.5 to 1 feet

Foliage color: medium green

Foliage texture: medium

Shape: upright

Tolerates:

- Frost

Growing Information

How to plant:

Propagate by seed, division or separation - Divide and replant at harvest, or save bulbs over winter to plant in spring. Plants seldom produce viable seed in temperate regions.

Germination temperature: 45 F to 95 F

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

Days to emergence: 4 to 5

Seed can be saved 1 year. - Longer if stored properly in cool, dry location.

Maintenance and care:

Can be direct-seeded, grown from transplants started inside, or from sets -- small bulbs grown from seed the previous season.

Choose a weed-free, well-drained location. Raised beds are ideal. Shallots are good for intercropping with other garden plants, especially early-maturing spring greens. Do not plant where other onion family crops have been grown in the past 3 years.

Direct seed ½ inch deep, ½ to 1 inch apart, in rows 10 to 18 inches apart, 2 to 4 weeks before average last frost. This rate will usually produce a single bulb from each plant. To produce clusters of bulbs, increase spacings to 6 to 8 inches.

Plant sets in fall or early- to mid-spring. Break bulbs into individual cloves and plant about 1 inch deep so that tops are just covered, 6 inches apart, rows 12" apart. You can cut large cloves into smaller pieces as long as head has some root on it. Mulch to reduce soil heaving and protect plants.

Shallots have shallow root systems and need consistent moisture and good weed control. (Be careful. Grass and shallot seedlings can be difficult to distinguish.) Water weekly if weather is dry, and mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Pests:

Rarely damaged.

Onion maggot - Locate new plants in a part of the garden different from previous year's location. If that is not possible remove infested soil and replace with fresh soil. Use floating row covers to prevent onion maggot infestations

Thrips

Diseases:

Rarely damaged.

Varieties

French varieties have pinkish brown skin and pinkish purple flesh.

Dutch varieties have orangish yellow skin, and are larger and more strongly flavored than the French varieties. Potato onions are closely related to shallots, though they lack the gourmet reputation of their close cousins. Most are heirloom varieties with red, white or yellow bulbs.

Some varieties maintain quality in storage longer than others.

This publication may contain pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold, and/or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialist or your regional DEC office. **READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE.**

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