

AUTUMN SOWN VEGETABLES

BROAD BEANS - Aquadulce Claudia

Sow direct into a prepared bed from the end of October to early November. Sow seeds 5cm (2 inch) deep, either in a zigzag 'band' 23 cm x 23 cm (9 x 9 inches) and then another band 60 cm (24 inches) away; OR evenly spaced at 30 cm (12 inch) in all directions. Put up a stake and string structure to support them. Cover if snow threatens or the young plants will be flattened!

ONION SETS - Senshyu, Shakespeare and Red Winter

We check all onions sets before bagging them but it is inevitable that bruised ones get into the bags. **Please empty them out into a seed tray after purchase. Store them in a light, dry and airy place and keep checking and removing any that look a bit damaged or soft until you are ready to plant them out.**

Senshyu is a Japanese over-wintering onion. It is a straw coloured onion, semi-globe in shape with a mild flavour. **Shakespeare** is a British bred brown skinned variety that keeps well. **Red Winter** has a superb flavour and keeps well. Red onions sets have a more tender skin than the yellow ones. Keep checking yours once bought. They bruise easily.

Plant direct in a raked bed from September to October, placing the sets 10cm (4 inches) in rows 25cm (10 inches) apart. There is no need to fertilise before planting. Never plant in recently manured soil. Do not push the set into the soil as this can damage the base, especially on heavy soils. Use a dibber or trowel to plant them out, tucking them into the soil with the tip just showing. Then cover the newly planted bed with a thin layer of organic matter that just hides the tips. **Keep weed-free!** Tim Foster warns that for every day of weed competition, your onion yields will reduce by 4%.

GARLIC

We are selling **Mersley Wight**, a silverskin variety, large and strong, stores well.

Garlic grows best in a sunny site in light, well-drained soil. Plant from early to mid-October. Add a little general purpose fertilizer in the autumn before planting. You will buy a large bulb, so split this into cloves and plant these individually. Plant each clove upright, with the flat base down and use a dibber or trowel to ease them into the soil to bury the tips at intervals of 15cm (6 inches). Make sure the pointy tips are about 1 inch under the surface. They need very little after care, just nip off the flower head if it appears. **Make sure to water as they grow, especially if we have a dry spring. Like onions, keep them well weeded.**