



Growing Radishes

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Radishes Add Spice

Radishes add spice and colour to salads and vegetable trays. They are fast and easy to grow, requiring very little space in the garden. They grow best in moist, well-drained, rich soil. Did you know that you can even eat the young leaves? They add a nice spicy taste to your salad greens. They come in a variety of different colours and shapes, from round, to cylindrical, red, pink, purple and white, and some even have edible seed pods that grow more than 6 inches long (Rat-tail).

When to Plant

Radishes can be planted early in the spring as soon as the ground is dry and can be easily worked, and can be continuously planted throughout the summer season. They can also be grown in containers. They do well when planted amidst carrots, parsnips, lettuce, beets, and other root vegetables and are very easy for children to grow.

Sowing the Seed

Radishes do not like hot, dry weather, but grow best in full sun or part shade. Seeds are planted $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$

inch deep. Thin the seedlings to 2 inches apart to allow room for the roots to mature. Succession planting every 10 to 14 days will provide you with radishes all summer long. Radishes can be harvested in 3 to 4 weeks. Loosen the soil around the plant and beneath the root, and then gently remove them. Do not leave them in the ground too long as they then will become too large, woody, cracked, and bitter. Keep the soil moist, not wet.

Varieties to Plant

There are many varieties of Radishes from which to choose. The spring varieties include Japanese Daikons, Munchen Bier, Madras, and Rat Tail. Summer varieties include French Breakfast, and Bartender Red Mammoth, and Fall/winter varieties include Chinese White Celestial, Chinese Winter White, Misato and Spanish. Spring varieties are planted as soon as the soil is easily worked; summer varieties are planted in June and July, whereas the fall and winter ones are planted in August and early September.

Problems and Pests

Radishes may encounter flea beetles, leaf spot, white mold, cabbage root maggots and cut worms. Planting your radish crop in a different place in your garden every year will help to prevent these problems from occurring.

Storage

Radishes should be stored with the leaves removed. They are best used immediately after picking but can be stored in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 weeks.

Learn more about growing radishes from the Cornell University site [www.gardening.cornell.edu >](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/)

Learn more about radishes on [Wikipedia >](http://en.wikipedia.org/)