



Growing Rutabaga

Number 0013

February 18, 2010



Rutabagas Are Not That Fussy

Rutabaga, yellow or winter turnips, are not as fussy as many other root vegetables about the soil they grow in. In fact, too much organic matter and high nitrogen can cause poorly shaped roots. They do like a raised bed with soft soil.

Growing Rutabaga

Plant seeds in the garden in early July for harvest after frost in the fall. The larger seeds germinate sooner and develop faster.

They germinate in about a week. After a couple of weeks the plants will need thinning down with scissors to the strongest ones at least 6 inches apart.

Discoloured centres in the roots are a sign that there may be a deficiency of boron. Soil additives can be used for this.

Rutabagas can grow in containers.

Varieties to Plant

Vesey's offers Helenor, York and Laurentian varieties of Rutabaga.

Problems You Might Encounter

To reduce the possibility of spreading insects and diseases, you should plant turnip, rutabaga, or related vegetables in the same location no more than once every three years.

Harvesting and Storage

They can take a bit of frost but the roots should be picked before they freeze. Cut off the leaves, wash and dry. They will last most of the winter if they are kept in a cool place in moist sand. You can also dip the root in warm water with melted paraffin wax floating on the surface. This will keep the root moist.

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

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