

Radish *Raphanus sativus*

Planting radishes is as close as you're likely to get to instant gratification in the vegetable garden—which is what makes them popular with children and beginning gardeners. And, because radish seeds can be sown in the gaps between larger, later maturing cool-weather plants such as broccoli, or intercropped with parsnips, they take up virtually no space.

TIP – Keep your radishes growing as fast as possible. Thin seedlings shortly after the seeds sprout and water them regularly, and they will reward you with crisp, tangy flavor, often in less than a month

Location and soil Radishes grow best in full sun. They tolerate a range of soil conditions but prefer sandy loams and loose, well-drained soils. A raised bed, which warms up faster than surrounding ground, is ideal.

When to Plant Sow seed directly into the garden beginning about 5 weeks before the last frost date. For a continuous crop, sow a short row every week for as long as average daytime temperatures remain above 40° and below 80°F.

Seed depth and Spacing Sprinkle the seeds sparingly in rows, so seeds are ½ to 1 inch apart. Cover with ½ inch of soil.

Germination Seeds can germinate in soils as cold as 40°F but it may take as much as 4 weeks, leaving seeds vulnerable to fungal and insect damage. When soil temperatures are between 60° and 85°F seedlings emerge in 3 to 6 days.

Thinning Thinning is important with radishes, as competition delays growth. And the faster the roots form the better they'll taste. Thin seedlings to 1½ to 2 inches apart when they are 1 inch tall, and use the thinned seedlings in salads.

Care Water regularly to encourage steady growth. If the weather turns unseasonably warm mulch the radish bed with straw to conserve moisture and keep the soil cool.

Fertilize Radishes are not heavy feeders. Plant them in a bed amended with compost and their needs should be met.

Harvest Check radishes every other day and harvest them at about 1 inch in diameter. If you leave them in the ground too long, they can get pithy or woody.

Nutrition Good source of Vitamin C.

	Easter Egg Blend	Early Scarlet Globe	National
			
Description	This mix of white, purple, pink, and red radishes are fun to grow and pretty in salads.	Scarlet from root to top, this heirloom is known for its quick maturity, uniformity, and crisp mild taste.	This white-tipped radish is easy to grow and mild when harvested young.
Root size	1 inch	1 inch	1 inch
Comments	Good choice for children's garden.	Plant successive crops, spring and fall.	Plant successive crops, spring and fall.
Days to harvest	30	22	28