

HOW TO GROW CHIVES !

Chives are, of course, small members of the onion family, Alliaceae. They share many physical traits with onions, including the hollow, tubular leaves, the bristled flowers, bulbous roots, and overall flavour. Chives are classed into two groups — onion chives and garlic chives. Both are grown for their leaves and edible flowers rather than their bulbs. The latter tend to have flattened leaves and white flowers, whereas onion chives have distinctive pink flowers with tubular petals.

Difficulty

Easy. Great for containers.

Timing

Start seeds indoors 8 weeks before the last frost or direct sow in containers or straight in the ground. Starting indoors allows you to control the size of the initial clump, and gives the plants a bit of time to develop before harvests begin in mid-summer.

Sowing

Sow as any other onions — three seeds to a cell, or lightly covered with soil in larger pots or outdoors in spring.

Soil

Tolerant of a wide range of soils, but loose, well-drained, fertile soil is best. Aim for a pH of 6.0-7.0.

Growing

Grown outdoors, chives need almost no attention except in very hot, dry weather, when they should be kept well-watered. If growing in containers, clumps will need to be broken up and transplanted on each spring or fall.

Harvest

Cut as needed, but cut all the way to the base of the stem. Chives will continuously grow back new leaves, and one large clump in the corner of the garden will suffice for most households.

Storage

Do not bother trying to dry chives, as they tend to turn to flavourless dust. Rather, treat like basil — chop the chives and freeze them with water in ice cube trays. The cubes can be stored in bags or other containers in the freezer until needed. Chives can be freeze-dried particularly well, but must be kept out of the light or they will deteriorate rapidly.

McKENZIE



HOW TO GROW CHIVES !

Seed info

The ideal temperature for germination is 15-20°C. Chive seeds, like all onion seeds, are not long-lived, but fresh seeds should germinate evenly.

Growing for seed

This is very simple, as the seeds are abundant and easy to shake free from the flower heads. Chives do not cross-pollinate with other Allium species.

Pests & Disease

Almost trouble free. Once established, chives will take care of themselves.

Source:

www.westcoastseeds.com



As part of your garden this year, plant and grow an extra row of your favourite veggies and donate the harvest to your local food bank. Help us help all those in need.

Special thanks to McKenzie Seeds for their great growing information and their long-time support for Plant • Grow • Share A Row