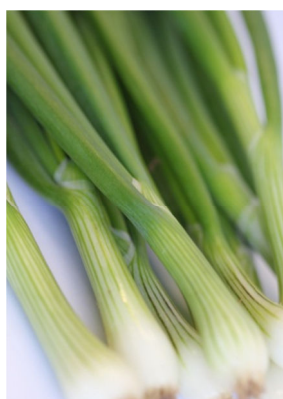


Salad Onion Growing Guide

Allium cepa/Allium fistulosum



Also known as spring onions or scallions, salad onions are members of the *Allium* genus which do not develop a bulb fully. They tend to be milder and sweeter than bulb onions, they are high in vitamins including vitamin A and K and minerals including folate, calcium and iron.

UK Market

Most salad onions are sold in bunches, however some are also used in pre-packs and prepared.

Soil Types

Salad onions are best suited to growing on light sandy soils which are well drained. They do not tolerate acid soil conditions, pH 7 is ideal.

Growing

Salad onions are direct drilled, most growers now use air drills. They are normally drilled in 4 twin rows or 7 single rows in each 72 inch bed, with a

seed density of 110 -160 seeds per metre depending on drilling time. This helps disease control as the onions are well spaced out in the rows giving greater air movement between the leaves

Seed Germination Guide (°C)	Soil Temperature	10	15	20	25	30
Optimum Range			↗			

The density used varies depending on the time of year the crop is drilled, summer drilled crops are normally drilled at a lower density around 1.25 million per acre (3.1 million per hectare) and the crops drilled later for overwintering are normally drilled at a higher density around 1.75 million seeds per acre (4.32 million per hectare) due to possible losses through the winter.

Fertiliser use

Source: The Fertiliser Manual (RB209).

Nutrient	Soil index						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
	kg/ha						
Nitrogen(N) – all soil types ^a	130	120	110	100	80	50	20
Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	200	150	100	50	*	*	0
Potash (K ₂ O)	275	225	175 (2-) 125M (2+)	35	0	0	0
Magnesium MgO	150	100	0	0	0	0	0

^a The recommendations assume an overall application. A starter fertiliser containing nitrogen and phosphate may be beneficial.

* at P Index 4 and 5, phosphate up to 60 kg P₂O₅/ha fertiliser as starter fertiliser may be justified.

At SNS Index 0 on light sands where spring soil mineral nitrogen levels are 40 kg N/ha or less a further 15 kg N/ha can be supplied.

Apply no more than 100 kg N/ha in the seedbed. The remainder should be applied as a top-dressing when the crop is fully established.

For the autumn sown crop care must be taken not to apply too much nitrogen as the crops are prone to disease. Apply not more than 40 kg N/ha. If the crop is planted on organic or peaty soils or where large amounts of crop residue have been incorporated no seedbed nitrogen is required. The remainder should be applied the following spring.

Salad Onion Growing Guide

Allium cepa/*Allium fistulosum*

Varieties available from Elsoms Seeds

NEW Starlight (*Allium cepa*)

An upright and very vigorous cepa type. Well suited for overwintering, Starlight has a distinctive upright dark green leaf and better winter hardiness than the Lisbon types.

White Lisbon (*Allium cepa*)

Elsoms own selection of salad onion. It produces white stems and neat foliage, excellent for bunching.

Parade (*Allium fistulosum*)

A variety which does not bulb. Producing strong, upright, dark green leaves it can be used for early to late sowings.

Performer (*Allium fistulosum*)

Performer does not bulb, it produces dark green upright leaves. It also has a good resistance to mildew.

Sowing Date	<i>cepa</i> types	<i>fistulosum</i> types	Harvest Period
Early February	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	1 st July
10 th March	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	15 th July
10 th April	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	1 st August
25 th April	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	15 th August
18 th May	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	1 st September
1 st June	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	17 th September
18 th June	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	1 st October
30 th June	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	20 th October
5 th July	White Lisbon	Parade/Performer	November
10 th July	White Lisbon		November/December
15 th July	White Lisbon/Starlight		January
15 th August	White Lisbon/Starlight		April
25 th August	White Lisbon/Starlight		May
5 th September	White Lisbon/Starlight		June

This should be used as a guide only as weather conditions could bring drillings to maturity together or give gaps in continuity. In early/mid July period it is advisable to sow one sowing of White Lisbon and one sowing of White Lisbon Winter Hardy for the mid winter period.

Further information

For further information on the different varieties, seed treatments, pests and disease please contact your regional vegetable seed specialist or see the Elsoms Seeds catalogue.

Links

Elsoms Seeds website and catalogue:

<http://www.elsoms.com/>

The Fertiliser Manual (RB209)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/landmanage/land-soil/nutrient/nmu01.htm>

Assured Produce: *the growing partnership* (contains crop specific protocols):

<http://www.assuredproduce.co.uk>

The information provided in this sheet is intended for general guidance only and is correct to the best of our knowledge. Please be aware that variations in the growing environment and climatic conditions can render this information inaccurate. For more specific advice about fertiliser use please contact a FACTS certified advisor.

KCW/OCT12