

Garlic, *Allium sativum*, can be planted either in late fall or in early spring. Garlic likes rich, well-drained garden soil and full sun. Each clove in a bulb is planted separately. For the biggest bulbs at harvest, plant the largest cloves. Plant pointy end up, 6-8" apart and 2-4" deep. Larger cloves should be planted deeper and farther apart. Also, plant deeper in the fall than in the spring, and/or cover with mulch after planting. Fertilize with an organic vegetable food in the spring and keep weeded. Harvest when the leafy tops die back, usually in July, then air dry the bulbs and remove the tops or braid them together. Store in a cool dry place.

ELEPHANT GARLIC, *Allium ampeloprasum babbingtonii*, is probably more closely related to the leek than to ordinary garlic. The bulbs are fist-sized and can weigh over a pound. Sweeter and less intense than true garlic, elephant garlic has been called "garlic for people who don't like garlic". **Very mild.**

SOFTNECK GARLIC is the most common type; almost all supermarket garlic is softneck. Softneck varieties are easier to grow and keep longer than most hardneck varieties. They are distinguished by white, papery skin and many cloves, often with larger outer cloves and smaller inner ones. Their "soft" necks make these varieties good for braiding and wreaths.

SOFTNECK: ARTICHOKE varieties have rough skins and large bulbs with 12-20 cloves.

California Favorite variety from Gilroy, California, America's commercial garlic-growing center. Many cloves around a pronounced central stem. Nice flavor, good to eat raw. **Mild.**

Transylvanian A sharp bite you can really sink your teeth into! Found in a Romanian farmer's market, this is a good consistent producer in colder climates. Strong aroma and sharp flavor hold up well when cooked. **Hot.**

SOFTNECK: SILVERSKIN varieties have very white wrappers and an abundance of small cloves. Silverskins tend to be the best varieties for braiding and to store the longest.

Nootka Rose Silverskin. Heirloom from the San Juan Islands with 15-20 cloves and strong flavor. When grown in lean conditions, cloves are streaked with rose to mahogany. Beautiful in braids. **Medium to hot.**