



## Plant Resources

# Onion, Scallion, & Shallot Growing Guide

The onion family tolerates cold well, so planting as early as mid-April is fine—early planting encourages larger bulb growth.

Onion Types	
<b>Regular</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regular onions are sold as small bulbs called ‘sets’.</li><li>• A <b>set</b> is a small, dormant onion, and there are about 150 sets per pound.</li><li>• Plant them just deep enough so the tip is level with the soil surface.</li><li>• Space them 2" - 4" apart, either in rows or in a bed.</li></ul>
<b>Scallions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scallions are simply the same onions, picked while the bulbs are still small. If you plant the sets 2" apart, you can harvest every other one in summer for scallions, leaving the rest spaced 4" apart to grow into larger bulbs.</li></ul>
<b>Shallots</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shallots are a type of mild onion, with the bulbs growing in clusters. They don't like hot weather, so early season planting is important.</li><li>• They are quick to mature.</li></ul>
<b>Sweet Onions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sweet onions are specific varieties that have more mild flavor. <b>They don't store well.</b></li><li>• We sell these as ‘live sets’. The live sets should be planted soon after you buy them 2" apart and pull every other plant in the summer.</li></ul>

# Planting

- Plant onions shallow. The roots grow near the surface. When you cultivate your garden, go easy around the onions or you'll be cutting roots.
- After they start to grow, **mulch** to...
  - Save moisture,
  - Reduce weeds
  - Protect from sunburn.

**Scallions** and **sweet onions** should be harvested and used right away, or stored green in a refrigerator.

FAQ

# Harvesting

<b>Harvest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Onions and shallots should be stored directly after harvest.</li></ul>
<b>Storage</b>	<b>To get the best storage life:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pull or dig them during dry weather.</li><li>• Leave them outside for a few days, roots and leaves still attached.</li><li>• Protect them from rain and direct sun, so the bulb won't sunburn. This will help to dry and cure the bulb. They are dry when the neck (where the leaves emerge from the bulb) is dry.</li><li>• Once the bulbs are cured, the leaves and roots can be removed. They can be stored for several months in a dry and cool place. Keep them from being stacked too deeply, so they can get air – hanging mesh bags work for this.</li></ul>

**Scandia**  
20021 St Croix Trail N,  
Scandia, MN 55073  
(651) 433-2431



**Stillwater**  
2100 Tower Dr W,  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 439-2140



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