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# virginia home food production



## GARLIC

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

### ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

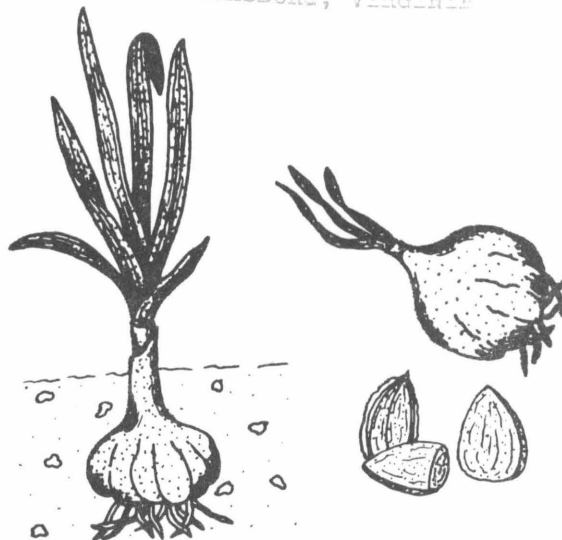
**LIGHT:** sunny, (will tolerate partial shade)

**SOIL:** well-drained loam, moderate organic matter

**FERTILITY:** medium-rich  
pH: 5.5-7.0

**TEMPERATURES:** cool (45-60°F) during early development, medium hot (60-75°F) during bulbing

**MOISTURE:** moist, but not waterlogged



**FERTILIZER NEEDS:** medium feeder, sidedress one to two weeks after bulb enlargement begins (1½ oz. ( 10-10-10 ) per 10 ft. of row)

### CULTURE

**PLANTING:** Use cloves which are divisions of the mature bulb. Divide just before planting. Plant very early in spring in well-drained soils. Young plants are frost tolerant.

**SPACING:** 3-5" x 12-24" (cover to a depth of 1")

**HARDINESS:** hardy perennial, (grown as an annual)

### **CULTURAL PRACTICES:**

Garlic, a member of the onion family, may be grown successfully in most Virginia home gardens. There are early (White or Mexican) cultivars and (Pink or Italian) cultivars. The early cultivar does not store well and has poorer quality, but outyields the later type. Garlic must be planted very early in Virginia (March or April) to permit full development. Fall preparation of the soil is desirable if the soil can be fertilized and planted with minimum tillage in the spring.

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Garlic is started by planting cloves that are divisions of the large bulb. Each bulb contains a dozen or more cloves; each clove is planted seperately. The larger cloves yield larger sized mature bulbs at harvest. Do not divide the bulb until ready to plant--early seperation decreases yields. Select "seed bulbs" that are large, smooth, fresh, and free of disease.

Plant the cloves 3-5" apart in an upright position (to assure a straight neck), and cover them to a depth of about 1 inch. Allow 12-24" between rows.

Garlic grows best on well-drained garden loam soils that are fertile and high in organic matter. Gardeners that grow good onion crops can grow garlic. Garlic does well at high fertilizer levels. When preparing soil for planting, apply 4-5 lbs. of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet. Bulbs will be small if the soil is excessively dry, and irregular in shape if the soil becomes compacted.

Harvest bulbs when the tops start to dry, usually in August. Place in trays with screens or slatted bottoms, and remove tops when dry. Mature bulbs are best stored under cool, dry conditions.

Garlic is used both cooked and raw in a wide variety of dishes.

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### **COMMON PROBLEMS**

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DISEASES: bulb rot (poorly drained soils)

INSECTS: thrips, root maggots

CULTURAL: bulb rot (from bruising, insufficient drying).

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