

Onion

Written by New Castle County Master Gardeners Rick Judd and Gail Hermenau

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General Information

- **Scientific Name:** *Allium cepa*
 - **Family:** Alliaceae, Amaryllidaceae
- Cool season
- **Planting Window:** mid-March to mid-April
- **pH** = 5.5-7.0
- **Planting Depth:**
 - Seeds: 1/2 inch, direct sow in soil
 - Sets: lay in hole, roots down, cover with soil halfway up the bulb
- **MPD:** 3 inches (in both directions)
- Can be companion planted with cabbage family members, beets, tomatoes and lettuce
- **Tip:** onions like rich, composted soil!

Onion photos courtesy of Gail Hermenau.



Successful Cultivators

- **Cultivars:**
 - Seeds: White Lisbon Bunching (60 days)
 - Sets: available sets Stuttgarter
- To harvest, pull from ground when tops are brown
- Harvest green onions mid-May through late June; harvest large onions late July through late August
- If storing onions, allow tops to wilt, cut off 1-2 inches above bulb and dry for one week

Common Pests and Diseases

- Onion maggot - use floating row covers to prevent flies from infesting plants

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