



## Garlic Growing Checklist (Fall Planting)

- **Choose Your Garlic Variety**
  - Select hardneck for cold winters, softneck for mild climates
  - Source large, healthy bulbs certified disease free
- **Prepare Your Planting Bed**
  - Pick a sunny spot with well-drained, rich soil
  - Add compost for nutrients
  - Avoid soggy or compacted areas
- **Timing**
  - Plant garlic 2–4 weeks before your first hard frost (late September–October for most zones)
  - For best results, plant after autumn equinox
- **Break and Prepare Cloves**
  - Separate bulb into cloves, leave papery skin on
  - Use largest outer cloves for planting
- **Planting**
  - Plant cloves pointy-end up, 2 inches deep
  - Space cloves 4–6 inches apart and rows 12 inches apart
  - Water after planting
- **Mulching**
  - Mulch thickly with straw, shredded leaves, or pine needles to protect from cold and prevent weeds
- **Water and Care**
  - Keep soil moist but never waterlogged
  - Limit watering as leaves yellow in summer or after scapes form (hardneck only)
  - Fertilize with nitrogen in early spring
- **Scapes (Hardneck Garlic)**

- Cut flower stalks (scapes) in early summer for bigger bulbs
- Use scapes in cooking
- **Harvest**
  - Check for readiness: lower 3–4 leaves turning brown, upper still green
  - Stop watering 2–3 weeks before harvest
  - Lift bulbs carefully, cure 2–3 weeks in shade
- **Storage**
  - Clean and trim bulbs; store in a cool, airy spot
- **Save bulbs for next year's planting**

Adapt this checklist for your zone and garlic type for the best results!

If you have gardening questions, book a call or email me at [stephanie@allaboutgardeningguides](mailto:stephanie@allaboutgardeningguides).

I charge \$25 for up to 15 minutes.