GROWING GARLIC

Garlic prefers a sunny location with at least 6 hours of sun a day, but can grow with as little as 4 hours of sun. It likes moist, well-drained soil. Extended dry spells may result in smaller bulb size at harvest. Garlic is classified as either hardneck or softneck. Hardneck garlic requires a longer chilling period and is usually planted in the fall. Softneck does not need as long a cooling period and can be planted in the spring. Both are ready to harvest by mid to late July.

Each garlic bulb is made up of several cloves. Plant the individual cloves, pointed end up, 3 inches deep, and 3-4 inches apart. Fertilize every 3 weeks with a balanced fertilizer. Hardneck garlic will produce flower stalks (scapes) which should be cut off when they appear. This will help to increase the size of the bulb. (The scapes are edible; they can be chopped and used like garlic).

Garlic is ready to harvest when the leaves start to turn brown. Stop watering several days before harvest to allow the soil to dry out, then dig the garlic and cure it in a warm, ventilated, area for about 2 weeks. Once it has dried, trim the leaves and roots about 1 inch from the bulb and store in a cool, dark space, such as a basement or unheated closet.

McCord's Garden Center & Landscaping

McCord's Garden Center and Landscaping
2720 McShane Drive, Monument, CO 80132
(719) 375-3573 | www.mccordgardens.com