GROWING ONIONS

Plant onion sets in the spring, usually mid to late April. Onions can take a frost, but will not tolerate a hard freeze. Mulching your bed will help keep the soil warm.

Onions require a sunny location; ideally at least 8 hours of sun a day. Prepare the soil by working some aged compost and an all-purpose fertilizer into your soil to a depth of at least 4-6 inches. Onion bulbs will not be able to grow in compacted soil. Onion sets should be planted no deeper than 1 inch below the soil line, 3-4 inches apart.

Onions prefer moist, but not soggy, soil. They are shallow rooted, so will benefit greatly from a 1-2 inch layer of mulch. Onions are heavy feeders so side-dress with an all-purpose fertilizer once a month.

Onions are ready to harvest when their leaves are starting to turn brown, or the tops are falling over; usually mid to late August. Stop watering several days before harvest to allow the soil to dry out. Dig up the onions, and let them cure in a warm, ventilated area for about 2 weeks. Once the stems have fully dried, cut them off about an inch above the onion and move the onions to a cool, dark area for storage.

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

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