

SCALLIONS

Gardening tips provided by
Jefferson Farm & Gardens

Overview

Scallions, *Allium spp.*, are a cool season vegetable of the onion family and are related to garlic, shallots, and leeks. Scallions are known as bunching onions or green onions. Scallions have been bred for their long white shanks that do not produce a bulb wider than the base of the leaves; however, they are often mistaken for immature onions. The flavor is milder than that of bulbing onions, and the green tops are used as garnishes.

Choosing Varieties

There are a few varieties of scallions available that differ in days until maturity, height, and cold tolerance, as well as other traits. A few available varieties are:

- Evergreen Hardy White (cold tolerant)
- Green Onion Parade (heavy yielding)
- Ishikura Improved (long uniform white shank)
- Onion Lilia (deep purple shank and bulb)

It is recommended to try a few varieties to determine overall plant performance and personal preference.

Planting Tips

Scallions are cool season vegetables that can survive a light frost.

In Missouri, scallion seeds can be planted in mid-March. They should be planted no more than ½ inch deep and thinned to 2-4 inches apart in rows with about 6 inches between rows. To extend the harvesting season of scallions, plant repeatedly every two weeks.

Soil Fertility and Pest Control

Scallion seeds should be planted in well-drained soils and would benefit from the addition of nutrients either in the form of a complete fertilizer or aged compost.

Scallions are non-competitive and should be kept free of weeds. After seedlings have become established, a thin layer of mulch can be put over the rows to retain moisture and control weeds. Scallions should receive enough water to keep them vigorously growing without waterlogging the soil.



Onion thrips have been known to attack foliage and leave light-colored blotches on leaves. Insecticidal soaps can be used to control thrips (be sure to follow product labels).

To prevent neck and root rot, be sure to rotate members of the onion family with other crops each year.

Harvesting

A good rule to follow for harvesting scallions is to harvest them when they are the size of a pencil. By loosening the soil around the plants, they can be easily pulled from the ground.

Seed Sources

Scallion seeds can be ordered from mail order companies via phone or website. Johnny's Selected Seeds (1-877-564-6697, johnnyseeds.com) and Park Seed Company (1-800-213-0076, parkseed.com) are two companies that sell scallion varieties.