

Leek (Organic)

Varna organic leek grows so quickly that it can be harvested at the green onion stage for gourmet baby leeks when planted close together. Otherwise, grow this Bulgarian type leek out to full size at 45cm (18") tall. The highly uniform, flavourful leeks are very cylindrical and quite thick. The dark green leaves are upright and rigid, with good tolerance to leaf diseases.

Matures in 60-80 days

Season: Cool season

Exposure: Full sun

Difficulty: Easy



Growing

Sow seeds 5mm (¼") deep, about 1cm (½") apart. Transplant when 20cm (8") tall. Space 20cm (8") apart in rows 45cm (18") apart. Rows can be as narrow as 20cm (8") if planted in raised beds or in other situations where weeding will be simple.

Traditional garden wisdom recommends using a dibber to make holes 15cm (6") deep. Transplants are then set at the bottom of the hole and the hole is left unfilled – rain will fill it in as the leek grows. To blanch further up the stem, hill soil up around the stem as the leek grows, or mulch with straw.

Saving

To produce seed from leeks, select several perfect leeks and store them through winter. Ideally, store leeks in a cool, dry space away from sunlight. Replant leeks in early spring using the same spacing used in their first year of growth. Staking leeks to prevent lodging during flowering is recommended. Seed maturity occurs in the second growing season when capsules split open to expose mature black seeds. To harvest, cut the scape about 15-20cm (6-8") below the seed head. Dry seeds for at least seven days. Put the seeds into a dated and labeled envelope and return to Brock!