

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing rutabaga

Rutabagas are a cross between turnips and cabbage. They are in the mustard family and they have a golden root that tastes like peppery cabbage and sweetens as it is cooked.

To plant:

Plant the rutabagas by direct sowing the seeds in the late spring after all dangers of frost have passed. Plant the seeds about 1/2 inch deep.

To grow:

Once seedlings reach 3 to 4 inches tall, thin them to leave enough space for the bulbs to mature. The thinned seedlings can be added to a salad or stir fry and are safe to consume. Rutabagas require at least one inch of water a week to allow for adequate root development. They don't grow well in hot, dry weather. If the plant becomes dried out, its bulb will crack and it won't taste as sweet when harvested.

Although rutabagas aren't as bothered by pests and diseases as other members of the Brassica family, you should still rotate the area in which you grow your Brassicas after each season. Several different bugs can chew on the leaves of the rutabaga, so if you plan on harvesting the greens, consider using a row cover to keep the harmful bugs away from the plant. Rutabagas can take up to 3 or 4 months to come to maturity, which is a long growing season.

To harvest:

In addition to its roots, rutabaga greens also



[Rutabaga seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

can be harvested. The greens can be harvested anytime after they have reached 4 inches tall. As long as you don't harm the top of the bulb, the greens will regrow. The bulb is ready to harvest when it measures 3 inches in diameter. Larger bulbs will be tougher to eat. If you leave them in the ground past a frost or two, the bulbs will taste sweeter.

What rutabaga craves:

There are a few tips when it comes to fertilizing rutabaga. The key is to add a light dressing of fertilizer to the area you plan to plant your rutabaga seeds a few weeks prior to planting. Then apply another serving of fertilizer to the seeds' soil and water it in one month after planting. Add a side of compost in the middle of the growing season.

Where to buy rutabaga seeds:

Urban Farmer offers rutabaga seeds that produce high yields of yellow roots with



100%
Non-GMO Seed



One Day
Shipping



100%
Satisfaction Guarantee



Family
Owned +Operated

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deep purple crowns, and flesh that turns orange when cooked.

Check out rutabaga seeds on our website at ufseeds.com!



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