# URBAN FARMER

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# From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing collards

Collards are a leafy plant similar to kale in the way they grow and taste, and the plant prefers cooler weather. All collards are green, and look similar to cabbage plants without the snowy head in the middle. Though collards are typically associated with the south as a popular side dish, the plant does well in cooler climates.

# To plant:

Since collards are a cool-weather plant, they are planted in late summer or early fall for a winter harvest in the south. In northern climates, plant collards a little earlier for a fall harvest. For a spring harvest, begin seeds indoors four to six weeks before planting outdoors. Transplant the seedlings outdoors three weeks before the last frost date. To prevent overwatering from spring rain, plant the spring crop in a raised bed. To prevent clubroot disease in the future, do not continuously plant cole crop vegetables in the same spot each year.

# To grow:

Plant collard seeds in rows set 3 feet apart and thin seedlings to 18 inches apart. The thinned seedlings can then be added to salads or other dishes. Aphids and cabbage loopers can be a problem to collards, so place a screen over the plant in its early growth to prevent the cabbage looper moths from laying eggs.

### To harvest:

Collards generally take 75 days to reach maturity, but the leaves can be harvested before. Plants can be harvested and cut to ground level when they reach 6 to 10 inches in height, or you can pick the individual leaves based on size preference.



Champion Collard seeds available at ufseeds.com

Collards have a better flavor after withstanding a few frosts, and they can tolerate temperatures into the upper 20s.

### What collards crave:

Collards need full sun, but they can be planted in poorer or average soils. To discourage clubroot disease, plant in soils with a pH of 6.5 to 6.8. Water 1 to 1.5 inches per week.

## Where to buy collard seeds: Urban Farmer sells different varieties of

Urban Farmer sells different varieties of collard seeds on our website at <u>ufseeds.com!</u>





