

Leek

Allium ampeloprasum · Onion family

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate
TYPE Biennial, grown as annual from seedlings
MATURITY 120–150 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



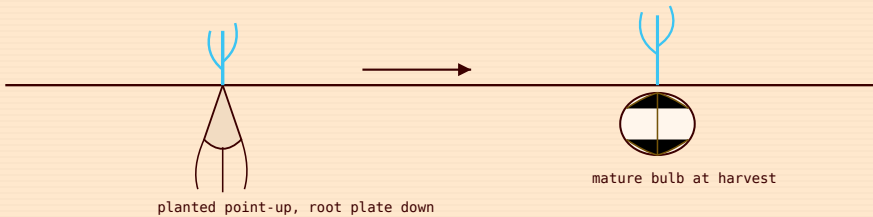
SPACING
15cm × 30cm



DEPTH
15cm trench

01 Trenching for length

Plant seedlings deep into a narrow trench or hole, backfilling gradually. The buried stem stays white and tender — the deeper it's blanched, the longer the usable white shaft.



02 Planting

METHOD	Drop seedlings into 15cm deep holes and water in — don't backfill fully, just let rain settle soil around roots.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, deeply cultivated.
TIMING	Transplant seedlings in spring to early summer.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Mound soil up around the stems as they grow to extend the white shaft.
- Water deeply and regularly through summer.
- Feed with compost or aged manure mid-season.
- Weed by hand — shallow roots dislike disturbance.

04 Problems

- **Rust** — orange leaf spots; improve airflow, avoid overhead watering.
- **Leek moth** — larvae tunnel leaves; net young plants.
- **Bolting** — from cold stress; plant at the right time.
- **Thin stems** — overcrowding or poor feeding.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Shaft reaches 2–3cm across, any time from autumn onward.
METHOD	Loosen soil with a fork, then lift.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Cool, humid spot or fridge, 2–3 weeks. Can stay in the ground over winter.
PRESERVING	See Root Cellaring (curing and storing alliums) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Carrot Celery Onion	Beans Peas	Rotate with legumes and brassicas; avoid other alliums for 3 years.