

## **4 Easy Steps to Growing Garlic:**

*Garlic, a member of the allium family and an ancient bulbous vegetable, grows from individual cloves broken off from a whole bulb. Each clove will multiply in the ground, forming a new bulb that consists of 5-10 cloves. Garlic is easy to grow and requires very little space in the garden.*



1. **Soil Prep** – Plant cloves in mid-autumn in a sunny location in a fertile, well-drained soil; sandy loam is ideal. A raised bed works very well. Work in several inches of compost or composed manure into the soil, along with 10-10-10 fertilizer.



2. **Planting** - separate cloves, space them 4-6" apart. Rows should be spaced 6" apart. The cloves should be planted with the pointed end up and the blunt end down. Push each clove 1-2" into the ground, firm the soil around it. Cover with the soil and water the bed if it is dry.



3. **Mulch** - lay down a protective mulch of straw, chopped leaves or grass clippings after planting. Mulch will protect the bulbs from sudden temperature changes, prevent the ground heaving, keep weeds at bay and help retain soil moisture. In our cold-winter regions the mulch should be approximately 4 inches thick to help protect the garlic roots.



4. **Spring Care** - When the leaves begin to grow, feed the garlic plants to encourage good growth. Work in a high-N fertilizer that decomposes slowly, such as blood meal or Osmocote gently into the soil near each plant. If the mulch has decomposed, add a layer to help retain moisture and keep weeds down. Cut the stalks with the bulbils off in the late spring to ensure that all the food the plant produces will go into the garlic bulb itself. In June the garlic plants stop producing new leaves and begin to form bulbs. Remove any remaining mulch and stop watering. The garlic will store better if you allow the soil around the bulbs to dry out.