

# Collard Green

*Brassica oleracea*



## General Information

- Edible plant
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate-high
- Temperature: Can withstand some frost but will not survive temperatures below freezing for extended time. Grows well in moderate to high heat
- Days to harvest: Harvest 75-85 days after planting. You can harvest leaves individually or the whole plant. If you harvest leaves, the plant will continue to grow new leaves as you pick them.
- Harvest season: Summer to late fall

## Planting Guide

- Planting Season: Start planting at cooler temperatures, before or after summer months (Feb-March or Aug-Sept). Try to avoid frost
- Location: Full sun, part shade okay.
- Spacing: 18 inches between each individual plant in a row, and rows spaced at least 3 feet apart from each other.
- Soil and Fertilizer: Apply compost or slow-release fertilizer every 4-6 weeks to keep plants healthy for repeated harvests. Collard does well in slightly acidic soil (6-6.8 pH), which can also help combat disease.

## Care Guide

- Irrigation: Keep the soil constantly moist. Plants will need 1-1.5 inches of water per week. Mulch can be added to help keep the soil moist and keep the leaves clean.
- Pruning: Although collard does not need pruning like woody plants, continually trimming the leaves for harvest encourages the plant to keep producing new leaves, so it is a good idea to continue to harvest for consistently higher yield. Cut off larger, more mature leaves, while leaving younger ones to grow.
- Pests: Common pests like aphids, worms, and even slugs plague the collard plant. These can be sprayed off with water, or combated with insecticidal soap
- Disease: Like other plants, diseases that affect the collard plant tend to build up in the soil, so it is a good idea to rotate where you plant the collard or other cruciferous plants (kale, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, bok choy) each year. Additionally, certain diseases like clubroot start to die with slightly acidic soil (between 6-6.5 pH), so consider using this to your advantage.

## Sources:

<https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-grow-collard-greens-4125810>

<https://www.gardeningchannel.com/how-to-grow-collard-greens/>

<https://harvesttotable.com/harvest-store-collards/>