



# GROW 100 GARLIC BULBS

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the activity is for students to learn about the process of growing garlic and how different variables (i.e. spacing, depth, sunlight) can affect the results. They will also practice recording data and analyzing results.

Students will need an outdoor garden for this activity.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- 100 Garlic seeds (cloves): any variety of Hardneck or softneck, potting soil, soil amendments (compost, chicken or cow manure) & containers

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What are the two types of garlic?
- What is the best time to plant garlic?
- How deep do you plant garlic cloves?
- How far apart should you space cloves?
- When do you harvest garlic bulbs?
- What factors affect the growth of garlic?
- How can we optimize garlic growth?
- What part of the garlic is the seed?

## LESSON

Garlic is a bulb-forming plant that is easy to grow. Start by planting cloves in early fall, and then harvest the bulbs in late summer. Here are some tips on how to grow 100 garlic bulbs:

- Start with good-quality cloves. Choose cloves that are plump and have no visible mold or bruising.
- Prepare your containers by creating drainage holes on the bottom.
- Add potting soil and soil amendments to containers.
- Plant the cloves in the container in an area that gets full sun.
- Space the cloves about 4 inches apart, and plant them 2-3 inches deep.
- Water the garlic regularly, and fertilize it monthly with a balanced fertilizer. Until soil freezes in winter and then resume when it thaws.
- In spring/summer hardneck garlic varieties will have garlic scapes.
- Make sure to harvest them and try tasting and making recipes.
- When the garlic bulbs are ready to harvest, dig them up carefully with a spade or fork.
- Cure the garlic by hanging it in a well-ventilated area for 2-3 weeks.
- Store the cured garlic in a cool, dark place.

## EXTENSIONS & VARIATIONS

The best way to extend this activity for a classroom project is to divide the class into groups, and have each group grow a different variety of garlic. This will give the students a chance to taste different flavors of garlic, and learn about the different growing habits of each variety.

Another extension activity would be to have the students keep a journal documenting the growth of their garlic plants. This journal could include information such as when the cloves were planted, how often they were watered, and what the final bulbs looked like. At the end of the growing period, have students compare their results and share what they learned about garlic cultivation.

<https://www.ruralsprout.com/grow-garlic-in-pots/>

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