



Parsnip Planting Guide

About Parsnip

Parsnips are root vegetables related to both carrots and parsley. While they are considered a biennial plant they are usually grown as an annual. They're often used in chicken broths and soups, but can also be baked, sauteed, steamed, mashed, roasted, or fried.

When to Plant

Parsnips need plenty of time to grow, so sow your seeds as soon as the ground is workable. Ensure that the soil is at least 46 degrees F so the seeds will germinate well. Avoid sowing in cold or wet soils as the seed can easily rot.

Where to Plant

Full sun is preferred but parsnips will tolerate partial shade. Grow in soil that has been turned to 12" deep where all lumps and rocks have been removed, otherwise the roots may split and fork. Parsnip prefers soil with a pH of 6.0-6.8. If the soil is not ideal, add some compost or organic matter to amend,

How to Plant

Plant the seeds 1/4" deep with about 2 seeds per inch. Seedlings will emerge within 2-3 weeks.

Caring for Parsnip

Thin seedlings to stand 3-6" apart. Water during the summer if rainfall is less than 1" per week. Be sure to keep planting site free of weeds. Parsnips mature entirely within approximately 16 weeks from planting and this will be apparent when the foliage begins to die back. Leave them in the ground for a few frosts to improve flavor, but harvest before the ground freezes. If you decide to leave them in the ground for winter, cover with a thick layer of mulch and harvest immediately after the ground thaws in the spring. Loosen the soil around the roots with a fork before lifting them to avoid damaging the roots. Use immediately or store parsnips in a box of barely moist soil, peat, or sand. Store in a cool place for up to 4 months,