



SOW LOCAL SEEDS
Homegrown Heirlooms

LEEK SEED PRODUCTION



SOW THE SEEDS

Start with organic potting mix. Add worm castings to the potting mix. Scatter seeds on the surface of the soil and keep it moist. The seeds should germinate in 7-14 days at 22°C.



TRANSPLANT TO THE GARDEN

Your leek seedlings are ready to plant out once they reach the thickness of a pencil. Harden them off over a couple days. Prepare your beds and add worm castings when planting. Space plants 6-9in apart. Water them in.



GROW AND ROGUE

When grown in fertile organic soil, leeks require little care and have few pests. Remove plants that don't meet the key characteristics of the variety you're growing (off-colour, off-size, low vigour, low resistance to pests/climate, etc.).



OVERWINTER

Leeks are biennials, flowering in the second year, after an extended period of cold weather. Hardy leek varieties do well without any cover. Losses during the winter are natural selection for cold hardy genetics! Left is a 7ft tall leek stem going to flower after overwintering.



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POLLINATION

Leeks are insect pollinated, cross-pollinators. Wasps are important pollinators. Isolate your seed crop from other leek populations by a minimum of 800ft and harvest seeds from a minimum of 20-50 plants to maintain the variety traits or 80+ plants for healthy future genetics.



SCREENING

Harvest your seed months after pollination, when at least half of the seed on the plant is black, dry and mature (see above). Remove whole heads and let them to dry further for a few weeks. Use different sized screens to sift out stems, bugs and large debris. Kitchen strainers work too.



FLOATING

Screens remove debris based on size. Floating sorts materials by density. Pour seeds into a cup. Fill with water and stir, soaking everything. Let it settle. Heavy, viable seeds sink. Light chaff and immature seeds float to the top. Discard the floaties.



DRYING

Pour off the water and dry your seeds on a coffee filter or cotton rag. Floating should be done quickly as leaving seeds in water too long can encourage germination. Once dry, these clean seeds are ready to be tested for germination rates.