

How to grow prize winning Shallots

Early March set out the shallot sets into seed trays loosely filled with a multipurpose compost. I find a half seed tray works best. Depending on the size of the shallots you will get between 6 or 9 shallots in a half tray.



Leave about half of the shallot exposed, and water well in to firm the compost around the sets. Leave in a light place out of the frost an unheated greenhouse or cold frame will be fine, occasionally water just to keep slightly damp but don't over-water. After approx 3—4 weeks they will have sprouted and shoots will be between 3 – 6 inches tall.

Remove them from the seed tray and you will find a mass of tangled roots, be careful not to damage these whilst you separate each set from its neighbour.



Dig an individual hole for each shallot at least the depth of the roots. It is essential that when planting the shallots the roots are allowed to go straight down. Hold the shallot above the hole so that it will end up just sitting above the ground and firm the soil back around the roots. The holes should be approx 12 inches apart in each direction.

Water well in and leave to grow. Shallots should be ready to harvest by the end of June or early July depending on the weather.

Dry in the normal way and save some of the best for next years crop.



First Prize in the Ditton Show 2013 .



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