



## ***GROWING ORGANIC LEEKS***



Growing any of the Allium family from seed takes an especially long time, so whenever possible, we plant from Organic Transplants. We offer the Certified Organic American Flag Leeks in “dormant transplant” form; **they require 100-120 days to mature.** Like all the alliums, they are loaded with antioxidants and phytonutrients.

**Leeks need rich, well-drained soil, high in organic matter with a pH of 6.2-6.8.** They like plentiful, even moisture for good yields, and do not like to compete with weeds, so be diligent about weeding.

**Planting your leek transplants deeply (5-8”) will reduce the need for “hilling” to blanch the base of the plants.** Just a few inches of leaf need to show above the soil line. Or, they can be planted 3-4” deep initially and then “hilled” several times during the growing season. Keeping the plant base covered is what produces its beautiful white color.

**Space the transplants about 4-5” apart.** We grow our root crops in Smart Pots, so this would mean a 20-gallon Smart Pot could accommodate 10 leeks. They can also be planted in and around other crops in raised beds.

**Leeks enjoy full sun, and appreciate a mulch cover** to help maintain soil moisture and prevent weeds. Keep them evenly watered, but not soggy.

**We always recommend adding at least 4 cups Organic Worm Castings to your planting mix.** Leeks can be fertilized after a few weeks with a balanced organic fertilizer.

**Unlike other alliums, leek leaves do not get brown and fall over when ready to harvest;** judge the maturity by the diameter of the shank...you can begin harvesting at around 1-2” diameter and simply take what you intend to use, leaving the rest in the soil until needed. Use care when harvesting; reach down and lift the leek by loosening around the roots, rather than pulling the tops to avoid breakage.

**Leeks do not need to be “cured” and will keep for several weeks when refrigerated. Enjoy!**