

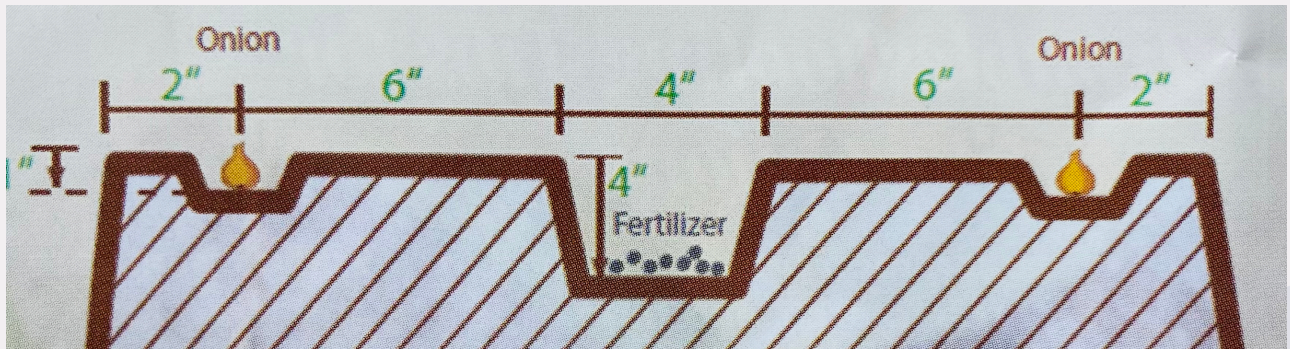
# How to Plant Onions



**\*Keep onions cool and dry until ready to plant.**

## Location:

- Sunny site
- Raised beds or 4" high x 20" wide raised rows are best.
- Containers need at least 10" of depth.
- Soil should be well-draining, loose and crumbly.



## Prepping Planting Area:

- Onions need fertilizer from the get go! Espoma Bulb-Tone works great, or choose a fertilizer where the middle number is higher than the other two. (1/2 cup of fertilizer per 10 linear feet of row.
- Create a trench for fertilizer by following the graphic above (graphic courtesy Dixondale farms).
- Sprinkle fertilizer in trench and cover with 2" of soil.
- Dig a 4" deep x 4" wide trench for the fertilizer, leaving about 6" on either side of the trench to place your onions.
- Leaving a 2" wide margin on the adjacent side of the onion bulb is also advised.

## Planting Onions

- Plant onions, bulb side down, 1" deep and no deeper.
- For full, mature onions in gardens, space onions 4" apart.
- For mature onions in containers, space no less than 3" apart.
- If you'd like a few smaller onions that you can harvest earlier to use as green onions, space them 2" apart, and pull every other onion during the growing season. You can use these early harvests and leave the rest to grow to maturity.

## Watering & Follow Up Fertilizer

- Water thoroughly after planting and regularly after.
- Test for soil moisture with your 'moisture meter' (your finger). If soil is dry up to your first knuckle, water.
- Every 2-3 weeks follow up with a 1/2 cup of fertilizer per 10 ft. of linear row.
- Recommended fertilizer depends on soil type.
  - Alkaline soil: Ammonium Sulfate ( 21-0-0)
  - Acidic soil: Calcium Nitrate (15.5-0-0)
- Always water after fertilizing
- Stop fertilizing when onions start to bulb. (Soil will begin to crack )

## Harvesting/Storing Onions

- Onions are ready to be harvested when the tops begin to turn yellow or brown and start to fall over.
- Dry onions in sun for a couple of days, laying tops of one row over the bulbs of another to prevent sunscald.
- Store in a well-ventilated, cool, and dry storage area. When necks are completely dry, cut tops to 1" and trim roots.