

# Cleveland Seed Bank's

guide to growing

## \*RADISH\*

Radish is high in Vitamin C, calcium, and potassium. It was first cultivated in what we now call Southeast Asia over 4,000 years ago. Introduced along the Silk Road, different radish varieties are described in records from the Ancient Egyptians, Romans, and Greeks. The word 'radish' has its origins in the Latin term 'radicem'. The modern English spelling might be influenced by the Old French word 'radise.'

**Latin name:** *Raphanus sativus*

**Sun:** Full

**Life cycle:** Annual for eating, Biennial for seed-saving

**Direct sow or transplant:** Direct Sow

**Height:** 6-18" depending on variety

**Container Friendly:** Smaller varieties only



hummingbirdproject.org

## SOW



**Direct sow/transplant:** Direct sown is best for all root crops, including radish.

**Common mistakes:** Hesitance to thin can lead to smaller, more stressed radishes later in the growing season - be ruthless! Larger varieties need loose soil to properly grow deep.

**Days to germination:** ~ 4-8 days, depending on temperature and weather.

**When:** Radish is cold-tolerant and can be sown as soon as the soil can be worked. In NE OH, this is typically around mid-March.

**Seedling Depth:** ~ 1/2 inch deep.

**Spacing:** Sow seeds 1 inch apart. As they sprout, thin smaller varieties every 1-2 inches and thin larger varieties every 2-3 inches depending on desired root size. Eat your thinnings!

**Succession sowing:** Radish grows fast. After the first sow in March, succession sow salad types every 2-3 weeks.

**Companion planting:** Carrots are great to interplant between radish seeds. Other slow-growing crops like tomatoes, peas, and lettuce are good choices too.

## GROW

**Soil:** Radish needs loose soil to grow their thick delicious roots. Keep soil sufficiently moist (especially during summer heat spells) with a pH between 5.8-6.8.

**Trellising** Radish does not usually need support. If you are saving seed, the flower stalk might need a simple stake support.



**Containers:** Grow smaller varieties like salad types in a wide container at least 6" deep. Sow seeds every 1", thin, and succession sow as usual.

**Pests:** In early spring especially, check for cabbage root maggots near radish roots and flea beetles. These pests can both be easily prevented by using row covers.

**Diseases:** Look for evidence of white mold, clubroot, blackleg, and Alternaria leaf spot. Here in the Northeast, radish is rarely susceptible to disease.

# HARVEST



All radish varieties can be harvested and eaten at any size.

*Radish becomes tougher and more fibrous the longer it is left in soil.*

**For storage types:** Although they can be enjoyed at any stage of maturity, storage radishes are typically harvested around 50 days. Check your seed packet for the 'days to harvest' date to be sure.

**For salad types:** Plan to harvest salad cultivars 2-3 weeks after sowing. Wait to wash the roots (to prevent moisture loss) if not immediately eating.

**For radish greens:** When harvesting roots, don't forget to eat the delicious tops as well! Eat fresh or boil to remove the 'fuzzy' leaf texture.



clevelandseedbank.org

# SAVE

Radish is cross-pollinating, isolation is needed to prevent hybrids.



**1** Radish is a biennial and needs to overwinter to produce seeds. Leave in-ground and let flowers bloom during the 2nd year. Allow resulting seed pods to turn brown and dry completely before plucking them off the stalk.



**2** Open up pods by hand. Seed should not be easily nicked by a fingernail.

**3** Separate the seed from the chaff (the papery covering) using screening and winnowing techniques.



**4** Radish can be stored for 6 years.



**Preserving the harvest:** Radish can be sliced and dehydrated to eat as a snack or dried and ground down into a fine powder.

Pickling is also a great way to preserve radish.

Always check to make sure your radish is not moldy or spoiled before preserving.

# TYPES

**Storage types:** These radish varieties can get quite large and need 50+ days to mature until harvest. Many sow these in late summer to let the radish mature in cooler temperatures.

**Salad types:** Salad varieties are small and grow quicker than storage types, taking only 20+ days to harvest. Succession sow these in early spring as soon as the soil can be worked.



Daikon



Easter Egg



French Breakfast



Watermelon



Cherry Belle



Pink Beauty