



Allium

Star of the Garden

Allium (Amaryllidaceae *Allium*) is a large genus of onion- or garlic scented bulbous herbs of the amaryllis family. Several are important food crops, including the onion (*Allium cepa*), garlic (*A. sativum*), chive (*A. schoenoprasum*), and leek (*A. porrum*), and some are grown as ornamental garden plants. Allium grow from bulbs on a straight stem with flat, linear leaves at the base of the stem. The leaves often have an onion/garlic smell but not the flowers.

GROWING ALLIUM

Plant bulbs 5-6" deep and 9-12" apart in fall. Leaves will wither and disappear from the garden shortly after bloom. Mature bulbs may be dug up in fall, divided and replanted. They will also spread naturally if the flowers are allowed to go to seed. Allium prefer sandy, dry soils with good drainage. If you have heavy clay soil you can still add allium to your garden in a raised bed or by amending your soil.

REASONS TO GROW

- Alliums are a low-maintenance plant. They are drought-resistant and have very few pests.
- Alliums are some of the most critter-resistant plants available to gardeners.
- Each floret is filled with sweet nectar, which invites bees and other pollinators. If you're planning on attracting pollinators, alliums should be a part of your perennial garden.
- Allium add color and height to your garden
- You can use allium to create fresh or dried flower arrangements

FUN TIP

Dry and spray paint seed heads for beautiful decorations

Credits: www.britannica.com/plant/allium-plant

Allium 'Millenium'—Plant Finder (missouribotanicalgarden.org)

<https://extension.missouri.edu/news/alliums-onions-pretty-cousins>



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