

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing celery

Celery is a low-calorie, high-nutrient vegetable used for its seeds, stalks and leaves. The vegetable is most often used as a garnish or a healthy snack, and it's popular amongst grocery shoppers for its cheap cost. Celery tastes better grown from the garden, but to grow celery requires patience and skill. Celery has a long growing season, requires lots of water and has tricky-to-plant seeds.

To plant:

Celery seeds are very small and difficult to plant. To aid in planting, mix the seeds with a little bit of sand and then sprinkle the mixture over soil. Cover the seeds lightly with soil. Celery should be started indoors eight to 10 weeks before the last frost date, and it can be transplanted to the garden when temperatures are consistently topping 50 degrees. Space celery 1 foot apart in rows set 2 or 2 ½ feet apart.

To grow:

Make sure celery is planted in the lowest area of the garden, as it requires lots of water. Add compost and mulch around the plants to help retain moisture. Sometimes, celery stalks will split if they do not receive enough moisture.

Some gardeners prefer to blanch their celery, which makes the stalks more tender. However, blanching reduces the vitamins in the plant as it turns the plant from green to white. To blanch, mound soil around the base of the plant each week.

To harvest:

Celery can take up to 140 days before it is ready to harvest. Begin to harvest the celery when the lower stalks are 6 inches



[Tango Celery seeds](#)
[available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

long, but the stalks are still close together. Upper stalks should reach at least 18 inches before they are ready to be picked, with a diameter of 3 inches. To harvest the celery, cut the stalks below where they join together. Gardeners can also harvest the celery leaves.

What celery craves:

Celery likes six hours of sun a day, but plant it in a place where it will be shaded during the hottest part of the day. Celery requires regular fertilization and plenty of water. Keep the soil evenly moist. Celery does best in soil with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0.

Where to buy celery seeds:

Urban Farmer sells different kinds of celery seeds. Check out our website at [ufseeds.com!](http://ufseeds.com)



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