

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing turnips

Turnips are a unique vegetable in which both parts, the root and the leafy greens on the top, can be eaten. Some turnips are grown primarily for their turnip greens, while others are grown to harvest the root. Turnips are commonly used in soups or stews and the turnip greens can be used in salads or cooked.

### To plant:

Since turnips are a root plant, they don't always transplant well from indoors to the garden. Turnips are hardy and can withstand frost, so sow directly into the garden five weeks before the last frost date. Plant seeds ½ inch deep and 1 inch apart in rows set 1 foot apart. Turnips can be grown twice, during the spring and during the fall. Do not grow turnips over the summer. If growing in the fall, plant the seeds near the end of the summer. Stagger turnip planting to every 10 days to allow for a continual harvest. Prior to planting, be sure to till the soil and remove any debris to allow space for the turnip root to grow underground.

### To grow:

Once seedlings appear, thin to every 4 inches. Provide ample watering for the turnips because one of the biggest causes of a root with a woody texture is dry soil. Like most vegetables, turnips prefer full sun but if they are grown solely for their leaves, they will tolerate partial shade. Turnips can have issues with pests like slugs, snails and aphids, but the turnip growing season is short so typically the vegetable is harvested before the pests become an issue.



[Purple Top White Globe Turnip seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

### To harvest:

Turnips are ready to harvest 40 to 55 days after planting. If harvesting the leaves, they are ready when they reach 4-6 inches in height. If only harvesting the leaves, cut them from the plant when they reach the desired size, leaving 1 inch of leaves above the crown of the plant. More leaves will grow in their place. If harvesting the whole plant, gently dig the turnip from the ground. If harvesting for both the root and the leaves, the turnip should be about 2 inches in diameter, but if the leaves have been harvested first, the turnip should be 3 inches in diameter when it is ready to be pulled. Pick turnips when they are smaller for a milder, sweeter flavor.

### What turnips crave:

Prior to planting, work compost and an all-purpose fertilizer like a 10-10-10 variety into the top 6 inches of soil. How you fertilize turnips will depend on what you are growing them for. If you are only growing



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turnips for the turnip greens, use a fertilizer high in nitrogen as it encourages leafy growth. Apply a side dressing of 34-0-0 or 21-0-0 six weeks after the plant emerges. Use a more balanced fertilizer if growing for the roots.

## Where to buy turnip seeds:

Urban Farmer sells different types of turnips on our website at [ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)!



[Golden Ball Turnip seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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