



# GROWING RADISH

*Radishes are a varied and versatile crop for quick growth and harvest, with colours ranging from white, pink, purple and black, they are great for growing in-between slow growing crops and catch cropping between harvests. Crunchy, spicy and fresh, great raw but can also be cooked.*

## Seed Sowing

Sow your seeds directly from February till August. In milder areas or undercover, sow them till September. Plant seeds 1 cm deep in rows around 15 cm apart, sow seeds every 5 cm, later thinning to 2 cm spacing. Eat the thinned plants; they are small but delicious. You can sow in modules, but they are so fast-growing it hardly seems worth the extra step. Sow every few weeks for regular harvests and to avoid gluts.

## Transplanting

Ensure your seed bed is free from weeds. Sheltered sunny sites are best, but they will tolerate some shade and can be grown between taller plants. Plant your seedlings in rows around 15 cm apart; plants should be 2.5 cm apart in the row and water well.

## Plant Care

Keep them weed-free and watered during hot spells; lack of water can make them bolt and go woody. You can mulch around the plants to keep in moisture and prevent weeds.

## Challenges

Protect from slugs and snails, as they like direct-sown seeds. Avoid watering in the evening, as this will encourage overnight slugs and snails. Encourage predators like ground beetles, lizards, slow worms, and, if you're lucky enough, hedgehogs into your growing space by creating suitable wildlife habitat.

## Harvest

From seed, they take around 4-6 weeks to fully grow, but younger plants can be harvested to thin out the rows.

## Culinary Ideas

Radish is more often eaten raw in salads but can also be cooked. The French technique to parboil and smother in butter, and then roast with garlic and parsley is also nice. The Koreans ferment a large white radish called daikon to make Kimchi.

## Seed Saving

To save seed, you will need to know if it's an annual or biennial type. If it's biennial, you will need to select your best radish and store it in sand over winter to prevent it from being eaten by pests, then plant it out in the spring. For annual radish, you can leave it in place. Crops will have to be isolated before flowering to prevent cross-pollination. The seeds form in pods; when they turn crisp and brown, they will rattle. That's the best time to harvest and store in a cool, dry place for up to 4 years.