

garlic.

Sow: Plant cloves in October or February – autumn-planted garlic is generally bigger. Plant up to 4 inches deep.

Soil: Rots in heavy soils, so add sand and organic matter before planting if you are on clay. Dislikes heavily manured soil: try adding some bonfire ash before planting.

Sun: Full sun.

Grow: Snip off loop-the-loop flowerheads.

Harvest: When the lower leaves turn yellow, pull up and leave to dry in the sun for 10 days. Then remove the outer layer of skin before storing in a cool place.

Problems: Onion white rot, a furry white mould, can devastate the crop if the soil is too damp. Do not grow garlic or other alliums in an affected bed for eight years. Rust can weaken the plant in severe cases.

For more advice on growing and cooking garlic, visit the Stylish Gardening Blog: fennelandfern.co.uk

