



5518 President George Bush Hwy  
Rowlett, TX 75089  
(972) 475-5888  
[www.covingtonnursery.com](http://www.covingtonnursery.com)

## SUCCESSFUL ONION PLANTING

### Need:

Rich, well-drained soil—Covington's Soil Builder w/shale  
Hi-Yield Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0) or  
Organic –Hi-Yield Blood Meal (12-0-0) or  
Organic –Hi-Yield Cottonseed Meal (6-1-1)

Onion sets  
Ferti-lome Gardener's Special (11-15-11) or  
Organic –Happy Frog Organic Fertilizer

**Plant onions in January** - Small onion transplants can grow very well in northeast Texas soils and are hardy in cool temperatures well below freezing.

### Preparing the Soil:

Onions are best grown in full sun (minimum 6 hours) in well amended beds that have good drainage. Raised beds at least 8" high work well. One way to ensure good drainage is by using expanded shale which is included in our soil builder. When preparing the soil at planting time, dig a 4" trench for the length of the area you wish to grow onions in, spread Ferti-lome Gardener's Special (11-15-11) along the trenches at the rate of 1/2 cup per 10 linear feet of row, and cover that fertilizer with 2" of soil, then plant your transplants. For organic gardeners, we recommend our Happy Frog organic fertilizer.

### Planting:

Set plants out approximately 1" deep with a 4" spacing. If you wanted to harvest some of the onions as green onions during the growing season, you may plant the plants as closely as 2" apart and pull every other onion to use as salad onions, leaving the remainder to become larger onions. Transplants should be set out four to six weeks before the last average spring freeze. 1015 Yellow and Candy onions tend to be the sweetest, with Granex onions having more bite.

### Fertilization and Growing Tips:

Onions require a strong nitrogen feeding to produce well. Apply Hi-Yield Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0) at the rate of one pound per 20" of row, **three weeks after planting and every 4-6 weeks thereafter**. Any fertilizer containing sulfur will tend to give onions a sharper bite. For organic gardeners, top dress with Hi-Yield Blood Meal or Cottonseed Meal on the same schedule as above.

Always water strongly after feeding and maintain moisture during the growing season. When bulbs form, they can stand a much drier climate, however. Withhold watering the last 3 weeks before harvesting so your onions will store well.

Onions are fully mature when their tops have fallen over. After pulling from the ground, allow the onions to dry, clip the roots and cut the tops back to one inch. The key to preserving onions and to prevent bruising is to keep them cool, dry and separated. If your onions have flowered, they will be edible, but smaller. Use these onions as soon as possible because the green flower stalk which emerges through the center of the bulb will make storage almost impossible.