

New Gippsland Seeds & Bulbs



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JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE CULTURAL NOTES

(Helianthus tuberosum)

A tuberous rooted relative of the ornamental Sunflower that produces prolific crops of underground tubers that are harvested by digging in the Autumn. Plants grow to 2 metres or more in height.

METHOD

By planting tubers from an established crop.

SITE

Preferably in full sun, but can tolerate some shade.

SOIL

Almost any soil will be satisfactory, but friable soils with a good organic matter content will produce the best tubers.

FERTILISERS and MANURES.

Do not apply manures immediately prior to planting, but at least 6 weeks beforehand. Soil that was well manured for a previous crop is ideal. Complete artificial fertilisers, e.g. N:P:K 6:6:6 at 100 grams per square metre, will assist balanced growth.

PLANTING

Rows – At least 1 metre apart

Within Row – Space tubers 30 to 40 cm. apart.

Depth – 8 to 10 cm.

TIME of PLANTING

Any time before tuber commences sprouting in Spring. The earlier the better.

WATERING

Plants appreciate regular watering for best growth, but they are very hardy and will survive near drought conditions.

HARVEST

Any time from 4 to 6 weeks after flowering. (Pinch off flower buds as they appear). Tubers can be dug as required in well drained soils, but in those inclined to become waterlogged, dig all the tubers when the plants die off, storing in damp sawdust or similar.

Ensure all tubers are removed from the bed to prevent unwanted plants.

REPLANTING

Save some tubers for replanting, or purchase new supplies for good stock.

PEST & DISEASES.

Jerusalem Artichokes seem to suffer from very little except for some tuber rot in very wet conditions. Rodents have been known to eat exposed tubers.