

GROWING GINGER

Ginger is a rhizome that grows underground from a seed piece (sometimes called the “mother”). The seed rhizome looks similar to the mature ginger you find in the grocery store however unlike the supermarket ginger, this seed ginger is certified disease-free and certified organic.

Ginger is a tropical plant with a long growing season and the seed is pre-sprouted indoors early in the year to insure a harvest before the weather turn cold. The rhizome is generally harvested in late September through November in order to enjoy the fresh baby ginger before it develops a thick skin. The fragrant leaves and stalks can also be used for teas and flavoring if harvested before cold weather causes the tops to die back.

Ginger plants require warm soil, room to grow and plenty of fertilizer. Ginger can be grown in the ground or in containers.

KEYS TO SUCCESS:

- Do not plant outdoors until soil temperatures are at least 55 degrees F and the air temperature is warming into the 70's.
- Ginger requires the soil to be hilled up around the base of the stem three or four times during the growing season.
- Ginger does not like any weed competition!
- Ginger requires three to four fertilizer applications during the growing season (see “FERTILIZING below).
- Ginger plants can grow 3' - 4' tall and the rhizome can spread up to 1'. Give in-ground plants 5" to 10" between seed or a use large container or flexible grow bags for container grown plants.
- Ginger likes plenty of moisture but does not like wet feet. Make sure your soil, whether in the ground or in a container, is well-drained.

PRE-SPROUTING YOUR GINGER SEED

- Pre-sprouting your ginger seed indoors gives you a jump start on the long season required to grow ginger.
- To pre-sprout, place the ginger seed in a shallow tray lined and covered with wet coir (ground coconut husks). Keep watered and warm until your outdoor growing conditions are ideal and the pre-sprouted seeds can be planted in the ground.
- If you are growing in containers, use the same technique directing in the containers until the conditions are right and the containers can be placed outdoors.

PLANTING IN THE GROUND:

- Plant in rows or beds three feet apart
- Dig a trench min. 6" deep and mix fertilizers/compost in the bottom of the trench
- Place pre-sprouted ginger seed 5 to 10 inches apart in the trench
- Cover with approx. 2" of soil
- See “HILLING” below

PLANTING IN CONTAINERS:

- Use well-drained, soilless media in containers. We recommend using a good quality, low-salt coconut fiber (also called “coir”).
- Use flexible grow bags or large pots to allow the rhizomes to grow up and out and to allow enough room for hilling.
- To plant, fill the bag or pot with 4" to 6" of soilless media and mix in fertilizer and gypsum. Cover with approx. 2" of media.
- See “HILLING” below.

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SUN REQUIREMENTS:

Ginger enjoys partial sun – strong morning sunlight and afternoon shade or dappled shade all day. Ginger can be grown in full sun, but make sure the soil temperatures do not get above 90 degrees F in the summer.

WATERING:

Ginger needs plenty of moisture, but does not like to sit in wet soil. Amend heavy clay soils to allow good drainage. Water plants enough to keep soil evenly moist.

FERTILIZING:

- Use a mild, balanced fertilizer (such as a 5-5-5 or 4-6-4) at planting time and at each hilling.
- Well-aged compost is beneficial, but do not add materials that are actively decomposing. Decomposing materials will use nutrients in the soil and may cause soil to heat up. Compost alone will not supply all the nutritional needs of ginger.
- Apply fertilizer at a rate of 1 to 2 lbs (depending on soil fertility) per planting row foot. A good quality composted poultry-based manure is commonly used.
- Early in the growing season, ginger appreciates more nitrogen to support leafy growth. In August and September when the rhizomes are forming, ginger benefits from added potassium.

HILLING GINGER:

- In approximately 4 to 6 weeks after planting, check the base of the ginger shoots. When a bright pink color is observed at the stem base, hill the plant with 4" of soil and apply fertilizer.
- Every 2 to 4 weeks, repeat hilling and fertilizing.

HARVESTING:

- Beginning in late September and/or with cooler weather, the ginger tops will begin to die back. For baby ginger, harvest the rhizomes by loosening the soil approximately 12" from the base of the plant with a shovel or garden fork, then grasp the stems near the ground and pull the entire plant from the ground or container by the stalks.
- Rhizomes left in the ground after the tops have died will start to form a thick brown skin.
- Harvest yields depend on fertility, water, hilling, competition with weeds, and temperatures. Harvests yields depend on the growing conditions and fertility program, but typically range from 1:8 to 1:12 ratio of seed to harvest.

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USDA Certified Organic Ginger Seed



Pre-sprouting Ginger Indoors In Coir



Pre-sprouted Seeds Placed in a Trench



Hilled Ginger Ready For Harvest



One Seed Piece Produces Lots of Fresh Baby Ginger!