

How To Plant & Grow Artichokes

Artichokes are a cool season perennial vegetable. The mature plants look like large thistles and reach 3-5 feet in height and cover several square feet with large, prickly, deep cut grey green leaves. Artichokes are primarily grown for the soft fleshy flower bud, but this handsome plant is often used ornamentally in the garden. Given the proper conditions, each plant will produce several stalks with many flower heads and will remain productive for several years.



Preparing the Soil

Artichokes grow best in rich, well drained soils supplied with plenty of organic matter. We recommend *MASTER NURSERY PAY DIRT*. One cubic foot will enable you to prepare a 3 ft. by 3 ft. area, enough for one artichoke plant.

Also important when planting is an initial treatment of *MASTER NURSERY BONE MEAL*. Use one cup bone meal beneath each plant for strong root development. Mix it well into the soil beneath the roots. Water new transplants immediately and thoroughly.

Planting

Early winter to early spring is the perfect time for planting artichokes. Plant divisions in a sunny location or in one that receives a half day shade. Artichokes need plenty of room: space them about four feet apart. Place the plants in the soil so the base of the new leafy shoots is just above the ground.

Watering & Feeding

After growth begins, water plants thoroughly once per week. Regular soakings are much more beneficial than frequent lighter sprinklings.

For a balanced supply of nutrients, feed the plants monthly with *MASTER NURSERY TOMATO & VEGETABLE FOOD*.

Harvesting

Cut artichokes while the buds are tight and about 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Cut each bud with 1 to 2 inches of the stalk. If left on the plant, the green bracts loosen and their purple flowers show. Buds will open more rapidly in hot weather. After harvesting the last artichokes from a stem, it will wither and the leaves will die back to the ground. This is the time to cut the stem and leaves to the ground, usually mid to late summer. New shoots will grow from the base producing a new plant with next year's crop.



What you will need:

- Master Nursery Pay Dirt
- Master Nursery Bone Meal
- Master Nursery Tomato and Vegetable Food