

globe artichokes:

Sow: It is best to plant offsets rather than grow from seed. Plant in spring, 2ft apart.

Soil: This is a long-term crop so manure the soil heavily in autumn, incorporating plenty of sand if you are growing on heavy clay.

Sun: Full sun, sheltered location.

Grow: Water well and feed with comfrey tea every two weeks. Cut stems down in autumn and draw soil over crown.

Harvest: From second year onwards, just before flowers begin to open.

Pests: Blackfly can be a problem. Encourage predatory insects to keep the pests in check.

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