

# leeks.

**Sow:** Starting sowing indoors in February. Continue outdoors in April, 2cm deep.

**Soil:** Work in plenty of well-rotted manure the previous autumn.

**Sun:** Full sun.

**Grow:** Harden off well before planting out, when 20cm high. Make a 20cm deep hole and drop the leek into it, watering gently. This 'blanches' the stem white. Water well until established and feed with nettle/seaweed tea every fortnight.

**Harvest:** From late summer through to the next spring. Leeks are tough and frost-hardy.

**Problems:** In hot weather, leaves can develop rust, which slows growth. Do not compost infected plants and practice good crop rotation. If Leek moth caterpillars start tunnelling into leaves, net plants to protect them.

For more advice on growing and cooking leeks, visit the Stylish Gardening Blog: [fennelandfern.co.uk](http://fennelandfern.co.uk)