

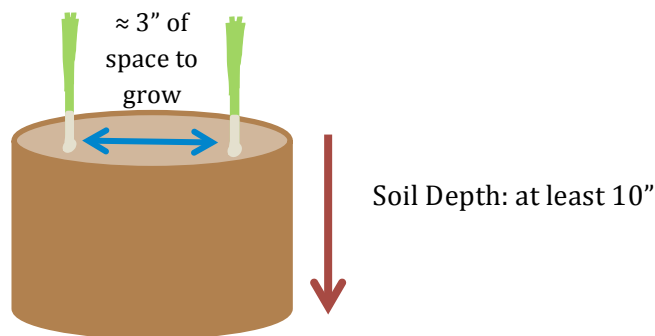
# Growing Onions in a Container

## Selecting Your Container

Onion containers should have **at least 10 inches of soil depth**. The diameter can be as large as you can accommodate, but keep in mind that each onion needs **about 3 inches of space to grow**.

- A 5-gallon bucket works fine for growing 6 or 8 onions.
- A large planter box works great, or even a plastic tub.

Be sure your container has **good drainage** holes and try to elevate it a little bit off the ground.



## Selecting Your Location

Place onion containers where they will receive the **maximum hours of direct sunlight per day**. Onions grown indoors will require added day length hours and heat units by artificial light, so it is best to grow them outdoors and let Mother Nature take care of the temperature curve.

## Soil Requirements

- Onions grown in containers will do best in **well-drained loamy soil** with a **slightly acid to neutral pH**.
- Enrich the soil with lots of mature compost and a balanced fertilizer before planting.

## Fertilizer Requirements

1. At planting, spread 1 cup of a balanced fertilizer 10-20-10 over a 10 square foot area and incorporate in the soil. If using a weed and feed product, do not incorporate any deeper than 1".
2. After one month, feed your area with a cup of 21-0-0 (Ammonium Sulfate) and repeat each month until the onions start bulbing.

## Planting

- Plant your plants 2" apart in all directions to enjoy some **green onions** before your full size onions.
  - Enjoy your onions in as early as 4 weeks. During the growing season, you can pull out every other plant and enjoy as green onions or scallions. All of the plant is edible, so don't forget to use the tops as well.



- The remaining bulbs will then have enough room to make 4" bulbs later in the season. Onions need about **3" - 4" of space** to grow to full size.
- A 5' X 5' square container, for example, will handle approximately 60 plants.

## Watering

- The onions require approximately **1" - 2" of water per week**. Be sure to check the soil, as onion plants often look healthy even when they need water.
  - If you use **mulch**, onions will not need as much water. However, they should be checked regularly and watered if needed, particularly during hot, dry spells.
- Check for moisture by inserting your finger in the soil. If you don't feel moisture by your first knuckle, then it is time to water.