



Wild Garlic

allium ursinum - ‘

Ramsons - Wild or Bear Garlic’

Pennard
Growing the Dream

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- A perennial found growing prolifically in woodlands in the spring, usually found in damp ground & in the shade of trees, being a very shade-tolerant vegetable. It's aroma is the biggest give away & smells very much the same as normal garlic.
- It will tolerate growing in the open, but as soon as the Spring sunshine warms up, the leaves will burn off and it will retreat to its bulb. It is worth growing wild garlic in the deepest shade you can find, where it should remain productive until midsummer.
- The wide elliptical leaves & small delicate star-shaped white flowers are easy to distinguish but if you are at all unsure simply pluck a leaf, break & sniff to get that familiar garlic whiff.
- Unlike common cultivated garlic, it is the leaves & flowers of Wild Garlic that are eaten rather than the bulbs, which are edible but unpleasant. The taste of the leaves & flowers is more delicate, like that of garlic chives. The leaves are most flavoursome harvested in April or May before the flowers appear.

Growing Wild Garlic

- Wild garlic can be raised from seed or grown from bulbs. Seeds should be sown in Late Summer, into early Autumn, sow into pots or modules, cover with a fine layer of compost, water well & put somewhere where slugs can't get to it, it should be up within about 2-3 weeks. Grow it over the winter somewhere cool (a cold frame would do) & it should kick into action next spring, although it may not flower until the year after.
- (Bulbs) If you plant the bulbs, do so in spring or late autumn, digging them in small clumps say 12 cm (8 in) apart, keep reasonably moist.
- (Plants) Plant already growing wild garlic plants directly into the soil during its growing season in the same way as bulbs. (Early Spring to early Summer)
- The bulbs do not store like those of cultivated garlic, they dry out and die quite quickly if they are not stored moist, but do transplant very well in their green form: that is immediately after flowering, or in early spring whilst the bulbs are growing.