

How to Soak Garlic Before Planting

Lucky Cat Creations Gardening Guide

What You'll Need

- Garlic heads (select large, healthy bulbs)
- Bowl or jar(s)
- Liquid fertilizer (fish emulsion or seaweed, mixed to label strength)
- 3% hydrogen peroxide (standard brown bottle)
- Strainer or colander
- Labels (optional, for multiple varieties)
- Gloves (optional)

Step-by-Step Instructions

- 1 Break apart the bulbs: Separate into individual cloves, keeping skins intact.
- 2 Sort & prep: Choose large, firm cloves and discard damaged ones.
- 3 Mix your fertilizer bath: Combine water with liquid fertilizer at normal strength.
- 4 Fertilizer soak (long soak): Submerge cloves for several hours, gently stirring once or twice.
- 5 Drain well: Pour cloves into a strainer and let excess solution drip off.
- 6 Hydrogen peroxide soak (short soak): Submerge cloves in undiluted 3% hydrogen peroxide for ~20 minutes.
- 7 Final drain: Strain off peroxide; do not rinse.
- 8 Plant right away: Pointy side up, 2–3 inches deep, spaced 6 inches apart.
- 9 Water & mulch: Water thoroughly and cover with 2–3 inches of mulch.
- 10 Aftercare: Keep soil moist and feed again in spring as growth resumes.

Tips & Notes

- Do not mix fertilizer and peroxide in the same container — keep the two soaks separate.
- Label containers if soaking multiple garlic varieties.
- Handle soaked cloves gently to avoid damaging the basal plate (root end).