

# Garlic Soak: Pre-Plant Prep

Two-step method to prime cloves for strong root growth and a cleaner start.  
Prep ~4 hrs • Soak: 3–4 h + 20 min • Plant: pointy end up • Zone 9b friendly

## Ingredients / Gear:

- Garlic heads (choose large, firm bulbs)
- Bowl or jar(s) for soaking
- Liquid fertilizer (fish or seaweed emulsion, mixed to label rate)
- 3% hydrogen peroxide (undiluted)
- Strainer or colander
- Labels (optional, for multiple varieties)
- Gloves (optional)

## Instructions:

1. **Break apart bulbs** — Separate into individual cloves; keep papery skins on.
2. **Sort & prep** — Choose large, firm cloves; set aside damaged or mushy ones.
3. **Mix fertilizer bath** — Combine water + liquid fertilizer at the product's *normal label rate*.
4. **Fertilizer soak (long)** — Fully submerge cloves for *a few hours*, swirling once or twice.
5. **Drain well** — Strain and let excess solution drip off.
6. **Peroxide soak (short)** — Move cloves to *undiluted 3% hydrogen peroxide* for ~20 minutes.
7. **Final drain** — Strain; do not rinse.
8. **Plant immediately** — Set pointy tip up, 2–3" deep; space ~6" apart (stagger in raised beds).
9. **Water & mulch** — Water to settle soil; add 2–3" mulch to regulate moisture and temperature.

## Tips:

1. Keep soaks separate — never mix fertilizer and peroxide in one container.
2. Handle gently; the basal plate (root end) is delicate after soaking.
3. Zone 9b timing: late October–November is ideal for planting.

