

ALLOTINABOX®

SEED HELP

No.1 LEEK

These beauties are part of the Onion Plant Group, and are ready to start growing undercover in February right through to May. Not only are Leeks completely delicious, but also they are fun to grow and extremely versatile (did we mention we love a bowl of hot steaming leek and spud soup or try it chilled, no really?)

If you want to grow them down your plot, they put on a proud show and often, if like us, you'll get a comment or three by the neighbours, like how's your leeks doing" or 'cracking colour', It don't half make you smile.

So how do we get your first silvery lovelies into the ground or growing in your patch? Start out by getting these late varieties under cover in March to April, sowing them 3cm apart in a container (guttering is a fantastic tool for this job & you can even attach it to the wall) or in the garden under cover.

In June or July plant them out in your onion patch, or if you've got a mini Veg patch in the garden try them next to any root varieties, or in the same bed as your spuds. Planting out' as it's commonly know is about teasing the leeks out of their original home (your Leeks should be about 15-20cm by now) trim all the roots to about 4cm, then make a hole in the ground or in your container about 15cm deep. We use a old sawn off spade, sharpened a point to make the hole, but if you've got hanging round your garden or flat then what are you waiting for, you want this hole to be about 5cm wide. Lower the leek into the hole and fill the hole(s) with water, but hold on don't put the soil in! Just add the water they'll do fine.

Your leeks should be primed and ready for action in about 4 months (ours normally are anyway). So with a fork carefully pick the tastiest specimens out whilst taking care not to damage any of the leeks left for another day.

