

HOW TO GROW GARLIC IN A CONTAINER

I'm going to show you how easy it is to grow garlic in a container. There are two kinds of garlic, hard neck and soft neck. Hard neck needs a prolonged cold spell, since we don't get much of a winter, make things easy for yourself and plant soft neck. If you don't know which is which, lots of seed companies sell garlic online.

Start off with a container that's at least 10 or 12 inches deep, and ideally wider at the top than the bottom. Fill it with a good potting mix. I prefer organic, but use whatever you choose. Garlic is a heavy feeder, so I amend with an organic fertilizer that's high in nitrogen. Make holes about 3" deep. Plant the garlic pointy end up, being sure to leave on the papery cover. Plant them about 4 to 6" apart. Top with another layer of compost, and water it all in, then top with mulch. Then you can pretty much forget about it until spring.

Plant October to November in full sun.

What variety of garlic should you choose?

Soft neck garlic varieties for Houston

For Houston's warm, relatively mild winters, I would strongly favor softneck garlic. Texas A&M guidance specifically says softnecks are better suited to mild Texas winters, and the Upper Gulf Coast recommendation is also softneck.

Best softneck varieties for Houston

Variety	My take for Houston	Flavor	Storage
Lorz Italian	★ Excellent choice	Rich, moderately hot	Very good
Creole Red / Creole	★ Excellent	Strong, spicy, slightly sweet	Very good
California Early	★ Very reliable	Mild-medium	Good
Texas Rose	★ Excellent	Mild, slightly sweet	Good

By Sue Hull, September 2026