

Clemson Spineless Okra

Abelmoschus esculentus 'Clemson Spineless'

At a Glance

Height: 4 to 6 feet tall

Pod Type: Spineless, tender green pods

Days to Maturity: 55-65 days

Best For: Frying, pickling, soups, and stews

Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 70-90F for best germination

Soil Type: Well-drained, moderately fertile soil

Light Requirements: Full sun

Planting Depth: 1/2 to 1 inch deep

Seeding Rate: Thin to 12-18 inches apart

Plant Spacing: Rows 3 feet apart

Moisture Needs: Moderate; drought tolerant once established

Average Germination Time: 7-14 days

How to Grow

When to Plant: Direct sow after last frost when soil is very warm.

Location: Full sun in fertile, well-drained soil.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart.

Watering: Moderate; deep water during dry spells.

Fertilizer: Light feeding mid-season promotes pod production.

Tips for Success

Harvest pods frequently when 3-4 inches long for best flavor.

Wear gloves when harvesting to avoid irritation from tiny spines.

Mulch to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds.

Prune the top to encourage branching for more pods.

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Fun Fact

Clemson Spineless is the most popular okra variety, winning an All-America Selections award in 1939 for its productivity and tender pods.

Companion Planting

Pairs well with peppers, basil, and cucumbers. Avoid planting near fennel as it may stunt growth.

Harvesting and Use

Pick pods every 2-3 days while young and tender. Great for frying, pickling, or adding to gumbo.

Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow outdoors after soil warms
- Thin seedlings to 12-18 inches apart
- Harvest pods when 3-4 inches long
- Mulch and water during dry spells