

# Common Chives

*Allium schoenoprasum*

## At a Glance

Height: 12 to 18 inches tall

Leaf Type: Thin, grass-like edible leaves

Bloom Time: Late spring to early summer (purple flowers)

Days to Maturity: 80-90 days from seed, faster from transplants

Best For: Culinary herb gardens, borders, and pollinator gardens

## Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 60-70F for best germination

Soil Type: Well-drained, rich soil with organic matter

Light Requirements: Full sun to partial shade

Planting Depth: 1/4 inch deep

Seeding Rate: Thin to 6-8 inches apart

Moisture Needs: Moderate; keep soil evenly moist

Average Germination Time: 10-14 days

## How to Grow

When to Plant: Direct sow in spring or start indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost.

Location: Full sun for best growth.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 6-8 inches apart.

Watering: Keep soil evenly moist but not soggy.

Fertilizer: Light feeding with compost or balanced fertilizer mid-season.

## Tips for Success

Divide clumps every 2-3 years to maintain vigor.

Cut leaves regularly to encourage fresh growth.

Chive flowers are edible and attract pollinators.

Can be grown in containers or as edging plants.

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## Fun Fact

Chives are one of the easiest perennial herbs to grow and their blossoms make beautiful garnishes and infused vinegars.

## Companion Planting

Pairs well with carrots, tomatoes, and roses by helping repel pests like aphids.

## Harvesting and Use

Snip leaves as needed once they reach 6 inches tall. Flowers can be harvested for salads and herb butters.

## Quick Planting Checklist

- Sow in spring or start indoors early
- Thin seedlings to 6-8 inches apart
- Cut leaves regularly for fresh growth
- Divide clumps every few years