

# Artichoke Planting & Care

Artichokes are a cool season perennial vegetable. The mature plants look like large thistles and reach 3-5 feet in height and cover several square feet with large, prickly, deep cut green leaves. Artichokes are primarily grown for the soft, fleshy flower bud, but this handsome plant is often used ornamentally in the garden. Given the proper conditions, each plant will produce several stalks with many flower heads and will remain productive for several years.



## PREPARING THE SOIL

Artichokes grow best in rich, well-drained soils supplied with plenty of organic matter. We recommend **Master Nursery Bumper Crop**. One cubic foot will enable you to prepare a 3 ft. x 3 ft. area - enough for one artichoke plant.

Also important when planting is an initial treatment of **Master Nursery Bone Meal**. Mix one cup of bone meal into the soil beneath each plant for strong root development. Water new transplants immediately and thoroughly.

## PLANTING

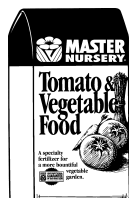
Early winter to early spring is the perfect time for planting artichokes. Plant in a full sun or ½ day shade location. Artichokes need plenty of room - space them about 4 ft. apart. Place the plants in the soil so the base of the new leafy shoots is just above the ground.

## WATERING & FEEDING

After growth begins, water plants thoroughly about once a week. Regular soakings are much more beneficial than frequent lighter sprinklings and the plants want to dry out between waterings. For a balanced supply of nutrients, feed the plants monthly with **Master Nursery Tomato & Vegetable Food**.

## HARVESTING

For eating, cut artichokes while the buds are tight and about 2-4 inches in diameter. Cut each bud with 1-2 inches of the stalk. For cut flowers or display, leave the buds on the plant to open into beautiful purple thistle blossoms. For cut flowers, harvest with 1-2 feet of stalk. Buds will open more rapidly in hot weather. After harvesting the last artichokes from a stem, the stem will wither and the leaves will die back to the ground. This is the time to cut the stem and leaves to the ground, usually in mid to late summer. New shoots will grow from the base producing a new plant with next year's crop.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- **Bumper Crop**
- **Master Nursery Bone Meal**
- **Master Nursery Tomato & Vegetable Food**



**Alden Lane Nursery**

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