



OKRA

BASIC CARE

If planting from seed, soak seeds for several hours to increase germination.

SUN

Full exposure for at least 8 hours a day

WATER

- Okra is very sun and heat tolerant, but should be watered regularly for continued production of pods, especially when young.
- Once they're a little more settled and mature, okra plants can go up to a week without water.

HARVESTING

- Okra should be ready to begin harvesting after 60-70 days.
- Wear gloves/long sleeves if possible, as most okra have tiny spines that irritate skin.
- Do not pull okra off, use scissors to cut just above the top of the pod.
- Harvest the pods when they are 2-3 inches long and not yet hard.
 - > If you allow pods to stay on the plant too long, they can be dried and saved for seeds.
 - > It is better to harvest small than too large, as pods get woody.

STORING

- Eat immediately! Young okra pods are delicious raw, but all okra pods should be cooked soon after harvesting to keep them from getting slimy.
- If you have too much okra to eat immediately, they can be stored in a bag in the freezer until you're ready to use them.

COMMON PROBLEMS

GROWING OKRA FOR MULTIPLE YEARS

If you grow okra for multiple years, grow it in a different container or row the following year for soil health.

PLANT STOPS PRODUCING (HOT WEATHER)

Outside temperatures above 95F can kill off pollen, which means that okra pods won't form on the plant. If your plant isn't producing pods or the flowers keep dying off during a heat spell, control other stress factors by giving plants regular even water. The plant should start producing again once it gets a little cooler.

PLANT STOPS PRODUCING (COLD WEATHER)

Okra do not like cold weather. Okra seeds won't germinate in soil less than 65F and established okra plants don't like it when it gets cold outside. Once they stop producing in the fall, save and dry pods for seeds and pull out the okra plant.