



### **OKRA**

#### **Abelmoschus Esculentus**

Warm Season Crop

Preferred Climate	Warm   Warm to hot
Days to Germination	Up to 12 days
Sowing Depth	3/4 " inch
Spacing	12-18 inches
Days to Maturity	60 days

#### **PLANTING NOTES**

It is best to directly sow okra seeds directly into the ground well after the risk of frost has passed. If you want to add additional fertilizer, use fish emulsion about every 3 weeks with a ratio of 3-4-4, Soak seeds overnight before planting to soften up the hard outer coat. This will also help speed up germination. Okra likes to heat, but keep the soil moist up until germination.

### **STORING**

Pods have a short storage life. They will keep for 7-10 days in a perforated plastic bag at 45-50°F.

## **JOE'S FAVORITE VARIETIES**

- Clemson spineless
- Cajun jewel
- Jade
- Jing orange

### **JOE'S TRUSTED SOURCES**

Johnny's Seed High Mowing

### **TOOLS & GEAR**

- Planting board
- Soil knife
- Snow fencing
- Sleeves for harvesting or protective gear
- Harvest basket
- Micro snips

### PESTS AND DISEASE

#### **COMMON OKRA PESTS**

Chipmunk Squirrels Chickens Stinkbugs

#### COMMON OKRA DISEASES

Fusarium wilt is occasionally a problem in hot climates and can be managed with crop rotation. Remove and destroy affected plants.

# **GROWTH**

Depending on the variety, Okra can get very tall and bushy, so be sure to thin them out to about 12 inches between plants just about 2 weeks after sowing.

#### **HARVESTING**

Okra is ready for harvest when the pods are between 2 and 4 inches in length. Make sure you monitor your okra daily as they grow really fast and can double in size very quickly There are irritants in the stems so it's important to wear protection of you have sensitive skin.



#### Hands-On

After viewing the course lesson on okra, fill out the table below, jot down notes, and write down questions for Joe that you'd like to bring to coaching or post in the community.

Varieties I want to grow:	
Date to plant:	
Pests to look out for in my region	
Diseases to watch for	
Notes	
Questions	