

# Chives



Chives are members of the onion family and are grown for their foliage. They are perennials best grown from seeds. They do best with bright sun but will tolerate bright shade. Chives are tricky. They grow very slowly and take a long time to raise from seed. But they are enduring plants that will give you years of service if you care for them properly. Don't overwater them.

There are two basic chives: onion and garlic. Onion chives are challenging in this area. They grow slowly and prefer a pot to being planted in the ground. The flowers of onion chives are lavender. The flavor is more like a green bunching onion. Garlic chives are better adapted to this area but prefer to be grown in the ground. The plant is somewhat taller than the onion chive and the flavor is more pungent with a hint of garlic. The flowers of garlic chives are white.

With no flower to guide you, how can you tell the difference between onion chives and garlic chives? Run the leaf between your fingers. If the leaf is round, it's an onion chive. If it's flat, it's a garlic chive.

Harvesting chives: Do not trim the tips! They won't grow back. Cut the leaves off right where they meet the stem—right where the color changes from green to white. The plant will grow new leaves.

