

Fennel

Fennel needs full sun with rich, well-drained soil and ample water. Water regularly, especially after shoots appear, and consider staking larger plants as they grow. Deer resistant.

Detailed Guide:

Soil and Location:

Fennel thrives in well-drained, rich soil that is moisture-retentive. Amend soil with compost or other organic matter. Choose a sunny location with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day.

Planting: Plant seedlings to 8-12 inches apart after they begin to bulb.

Watering and Care:

- **Post-Shoot Watering:** Water frequently after shoots appear to keep the bulb from drying out.
- **Staking:** Fennel may need to be staked as it grows taller, potentially reaching 4 feet.

Bulb Development:

- **Blanching:** Once the bulb starts to develop, consider hilling soil around it to protect it from the sun and prevent it from turning green.
- **Harvest:** Harvest fennel bulbs in late summer to early fall by cutting through the tap root at the soil line.

Other Tips:

- **Companion Planting:** Fennel can be planted near roses as it attracts ladybugs that eat aphids.
- **Seed Saving:** Fennel seeds mature in the fall and can be stored in a cool, dry place for up to 3-4 years.