

## *Know Your Winter Onions*

If you want to have an early crop of onions next summer, late September and early October is the perfect time to get planting. Over-wintered onions are special types, bred to grow slowly through the winter then put on a spurt of growth in spring to give a harvestable crop in June or early July.

The easiest way to start over-wintered onions is from sets (baby onions). There are several varieties available. Two of the best are Senshyu, a yellow skinned type, and Red Winter which, as you might guess, is red skinned.

Planting is the same as for onion sets in spring. Put the sets in the soil so just the tips are showing, spacing about 10-15cm apart. Be patient, it may take four or more weeks for the sets to sprout. Growth will remain slow until mid-March but then the sets should 'wake-up' and grow away strongly. From late April bulbs should begin to swell with most varieties reaching full size around mid-summer.

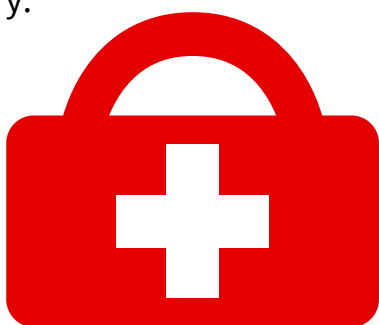
An advantage of over-wintered onions is that they are less susceptible (but not immune) to white rot, the fungus disease affecting alliums (onion family vegetables) lurking in the soil on many allotments.



### *Staying Safe On Your Allotment*

Staying safe has become even more important in recent times, so here are a few top tips;

- Keep a first aid kit handy with a few plasters and antiseptic just in case of cuts and grazes.
- It's a good idea to let someone know that you are on your allotment plot, especially on locked sites.
- Keep up to date with your tetanus jab- you should get a booster every ten years and these are available for free from your local GP surgery.



### *Reporting Issues to the Police*

North Yorkshire Police have recently introduced a new facility to report non-emergency issues using an online form rather than having to phone the 101 non-emergency number.

We urge all tenants to report all issues of antisocial behaviour, theft or vandalism, no matter how small, so that the Police can form an accurate picture of hot spots and allocate their resources accordingly.

With this new form it should be easy to make a report and keep them informed.

You can find it here:  
<https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/do-it-online/report-it/>

