

# Start your own vegetable garden (Part 2)

In the previous edition of *Ubisi Mail*, we looked at the preparation of a vegetable garden and making your own compost heap to fertilise the garden. You are now ready to start planting vegetables.

Everyone uses onions in their home when they cook. Onions are a very good source of vitamins, especially vitamin C. Select the section of your garden that you want to use for onions.

Water the ground, so that it is moist (not muddy). If you want to plant more than one row of onions, make sure that the rows are spaced between 20 and 40 cm from each other. Make the rows with a spade or hoe. They should be about 15 cm deep (about half the spade's head).

If you have not yet put compost in the ground, fertilise the onion patch by putting a layer of compost into the furrows. Cover it with soil, using your hoe. Water the ground again. If you put fertiliser in your garden when you prepared it, you will not need to fertilise it again.

Start planting the seedlings (small onion plants) by spacing them about 5 to 10 cm from each other. You should be able to place a matchbox between the seedlings, without the matchbox touching the seedlings on either side. Put the seedlings in the ground so that the roots are sufficiently covered with soil.

## Topdressing and water

After about six weeks, you will need to apply some topdressing to your onion patch. Topdressing is a layer of fresh soil or mineral-enriched soil which covers the first soil in which your onions are planted. It can be fresh soil that you dig from another patch of land, or it can be shop-bought. Put enough topdressing on so that you cannot see the older soil beneath it. Water your onion patch every day during the cooler hours, before 10:00 am or after 16:00 pm.

## Pests and diseases

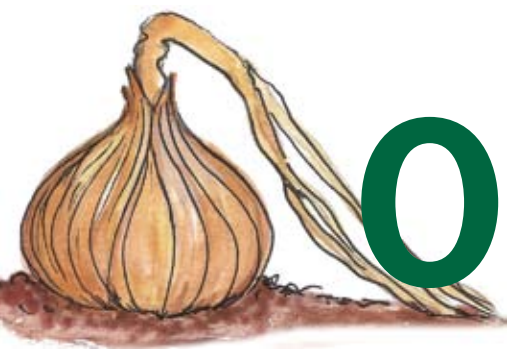
Onions should be protected against thrips (a small insect that feeds on plants). Onions can also get diseases from downy mildew, which affect the leaves at the top; white bulb rot which causes the onion itself to rot below the ground; and purple blotch which affects the leaves. You can buy pest killers and treatments from your local cooperative or garden shop.

## Harvesting

Onions can be harvested six to eight months after planting. This is about 180 to 230 days in the ground. Mark the day on your calendar on which you planted the onions.

When the leaves are yellow and fall over (they don't stand upright anymore), the onions are ready for harvesting. Put the onions in a dry place. Do not let the onions lie on the ground. They will also need to remain dry at the bottom. Place them on a sieve or in a container that is above the ground.

In the next edition of *Ubisi Mail*, we will look at planting your own tomatoes. 



# Onions

- Make rows 15 cm deep and 20-40 cm apart. Put a layer of compost into the rows and cover with soil. Water the ground
- Plant the seedlings 5-10 cm from each other. Cover the roots with soil. Water every day
- Apply topdressing after six weeks
- Harvest six to eight months after planting when the leaves are yellow and fall over. Put the onions in a dry place above the ground.

## Pests and diseases

Thrips: Spray with a pesticide.

### Plant uie

- Maak rye van 15 cm diep met 20-40 cm spatie tussenin. Sit 'n laag kompos in elke ry en gooi dit toe met grond. Lei die grond nat
- Plant die saailinge 5-10 cm uit mekaar. Bedek die wortels met grond. Gooi dit elke dag nat
- Sit na ses weke 'n laag bogrond op
- Oes ses tot agt maande nadat dit geplant is, wanneer die blare geel is en omval. Sit die uie op 'n droë plek, bokant die grond.

### Peste en siektes

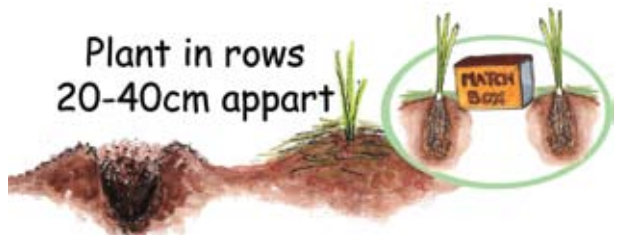
Luise: S্পuit met 'n insekdoder.



## Di eie

- Bula diforo tsa botebo ba 15 cm mme di arohane ka 20-40 cm. Tshela podiswa ka hara diforo mme o kwahele ka mobu. Nwesetsa seratswana sa hao
- Jala peo o e arohantse ka bohole ba 5-10 cm ho tloha ho engngwe. Kwahela metso ka mobu. Nwesetsa seratswana letsatsi le leng le le leng
- Kwahela le ho haraka seratswana ka makgethe, ka mora dibeke tse tshelatseng
- O ka kotula ka mora dikgwedi tse tshelatseng ho ya ho tse robedi ka morao ho hore o jale dimela, ha

Plant in rows  
20-40cm appart



mahaba a se a qadile ho ba masehla ka mmala mme a bile qala ho wa. Beha di eie tsa hao seabakeng se ommeng ka hodimo ho mobu.

**Dikokwana le mahloko**

Dikokonyana tse jang dimela: Di nyanyatse ka sebolaya dikokonyana.



**U-anyanisi**

- Yenza imigqa ewukujula okuwu-15 cm, ihlukanise ngo-20-40 cm. Faka ugqimba (ikhava) lukamanyolo emigqeni bese uvala ngenhlabathi. Unisele umhlabathi
- Izithombo zitshale zehlukane ngo-5-10 cm. Izimpande zivale ngenhlabathi. Nisela zonke izinsuku
- Emva kwamasono ayisithupha faka umanyolo phezulu
- Vuna ezinyangeni eziyisithupha kuya kweziyisishiyagalombili emva kokutshala uma amacembe esephuzi futhi esewa. U-anyanisi ubeke endaweni eyomile ngaphezu komhlabathi.

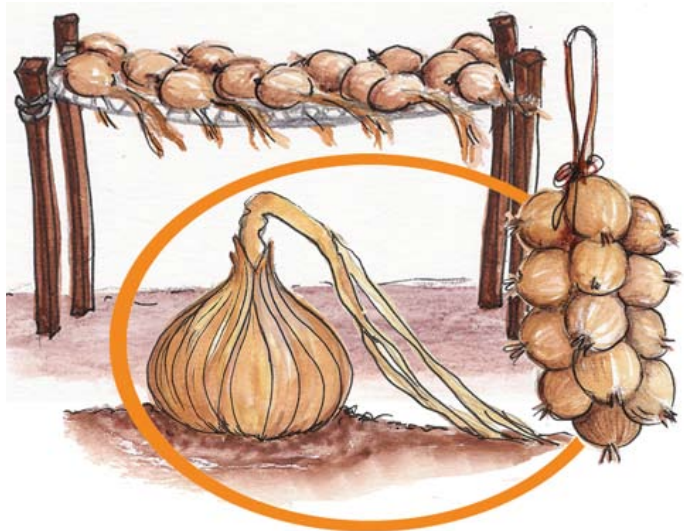
**Izilokazane ezikhathazayo kanye nezifo**

Thrips (izilokazane ezimnyama ezidla izitshalo): Zichele ngesibulali zilwanyana.



**Amatswele**

- Yenza imiqolo enobunzulu obuzii-15 cm nebhekelelene ngee-20-40 cm omnye komnye. Yombathisa ngomcu wesivundisi kuloo miqolo uze wogqume ngomhlaba. Nkckenkeshela umhlaba lowo
- Tyala izithole zibhekelelene ngee-5-10 cm esinye kwesinye. Yogquma iingcambu ngomhlaba. Nkckenkeshela yonke imihla
- Fakela umhlaba ongaphezulu emva kweeveki ezintandathu
- Vuna kwiinyanga ezintandathu ukuya kwezisibhozo emva kokutyala xa amagqabi eyelo yaye esiwa. Beka loo matswele kwindawo eyomileyo ngaphezu komhlaba.



**Izinambuzane nezifo**

lithrip: Fafazela (spreya) ngesibulali-zinambuzane. 