

LEEK



Bleu de Solaise or **Blue Green Solaise.** French heirloom. Blue-green leaves turn violet in cold weather. Requires a long growing season. **300 seeds**

D'hiver de Saint-Victor. Very resistant to the cold. Similar in many ways to Bleu de Solaise, but more intense colouration **300 seeds**

Monstrueux de Carentan or **Schnittporree** (*Giant Carentan*). Pre 1879. Vilmorin has this selected from Large Rouen Leek. "The largest and hardiest variety. Leaves same length as London Flag, but much thicker and darker green. The long, thick neck is excellent for soups, stems, or creamed." **Organic Grown Seed - 300 seeds**

Jaune Gros de Poitou By 1853. A selection of the Broad Southern Leek "A very large sort of leek, some of its leaves being more than 6 inches broad and five feet long measuring from the lower part of the stem; they are of a yellowish green colour. The stem blanches yellowish-white and its substance is more tender than the other varieties – received from M. Vilmorin." RHS Journal 1853 **150 seeds**

THE ROOTS OF VEGETABLES: Lyon The Lyon Leek was introduced by Messrs Stuart and Mein, Seedsmen and Nurserymen of Kelso, prior to 1883. An advert placed by that company in the Gardener's Chronicle in January of that year reads as follows:

"The Lyon Leek is unquestionably the finest in existence, being of enormous size, splendid mild flavour, and perfectly hardy. The blanched part is firm, crisp and white as snow, 14 to 20 inches in length, and 3 to 4 inches in diameter. Weight of Leek 2 to 5lb. Splendid for exhibition as well as general use."

A few years ago, a gentleman in Scotland was good enough to send me a few seeds of this splendid variety of leek, since that time I have grown a breadth of it each year, and I may safely venture to say, that considering its size a quality, and its merit of not running to seed so readily as other kinds which are more commonly cultivated, that it is the best kind of Leek with which I am acquainted, either for general use or for the exhibition table.

Mr George Thomas Myles, Gardener's Chronicle 1885

"Some wonderfully fine Leeks called The Lyon were shown by Mr G Mikes, Wycombe Abbey. They were as fine as could be possibly grown, being fully 4 inches in diameter at the base, and the blanch part was quite 12 inches long."

The Garden Magazine 1883

It was suggested in 1890 that the Lyon was only an improvement on Henry's Prize Leek, which was, at that time, much valued for exhibition purposes. The **Prizetaker Leek**, which appeared in seed catalogues during the 1890's is now recognised as being a superior selection of the Lyon Leek **300 seeds**

NEW FOR 2006: Mézières. Very beautiful variety which is very tolerant of the winter and one of the more appreciated varieties around the suburbs of Paris, large size, long, very white, and of excellent quality. **300 seeds**

Vilmorin Catalogue of 1912

Musselburgh (*Scotch Flag*) Raised by James Hardcastle of Musselburgh, in about 1834 and introduced by Messrs Sutton and Son in 1851. Considered by many to be merely an improved form of the common leek **300 seeds**

All Leek Varieties - £1.45p Per Packet

CULTIVATION: Sow in March 1/2 inch deep in drills. When 8 inches high (June-July) transplant to final location. Dig holes 6 inches deep and 9 inches asunder (15 inches between rows). Place leeks into the hole, and without replacing the soil, water thoroughly.

400 Seeds per Gram.

Average Duration of Germination Power: 3 years

ONION

Globe or Round Type

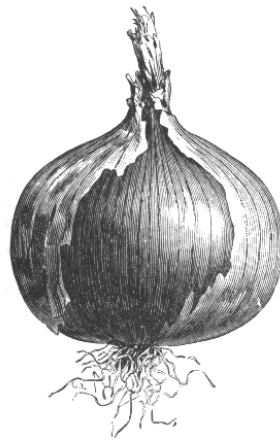
Ailsa Craig. 1887 "A large and handsome variety. The skin is a pale straw colour. The flesh is white. The bulbs are irregular in form, some being globe shaped, others inclined to a flat oval. Mild. Seed should be started in a hot bed or in a box in the house for their full development." **300 seeds**

Bedfordshire Champion. I 1869 "One of the best & most popular of the large Onions. In shape it resembles James's Keeping but is paler in colour and milder in flavour". **300 seeds**

Anglo-Spanish Type

Paille des Vertus (*Brown Spanish/Portugal*). By 1793. Much of the winter supply of onion for Europe originally depended on this variety. The (now lost) Strasburg and Deptford Onions were forms of this variety **200 seeds**

Reliance, Autumn Queen or **Oakey.** 1880. "Selected by Mr Allen, Gardener to Lord Suffield from seed of onions bought at the Nottingham Goose Fair, & now brought up to the very highest type of White Spanish." **300 Seeds**

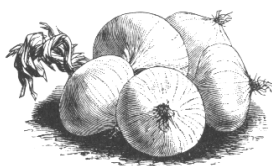


Tripoli Type

Giant Zittau. Listed by Benary in 1876. "A magnificent variety of fine yellow skin, attains a large size, remains sound until June"

300 seeds

White or Silver-skinned Type



Barletta. 18thc "These are very early & quickly form white flattened bulbs with rounded bases which have a mild sweet flavour & are very suitable for pickling"

300 seeds

Bianca di Maggiola, Queen

or **La Reine** 1873 "A distinct white-skinned variety, remarkable for quick growth & excellent keeping qualities. If sown in February it will produce Onions from one to two ins. in diameter early in the summer, which will keep sound till the following year".

300 seeds

Paris Silver Skin. By 1859. (Syn White Egyptian) "Flesh pure white covered with a very thin silvery skin, the shape of the bulb is perfectly globular with a thin tight neck". "Silver-skinned" Onions appear as early as 1786

600 seeds

Early White Nocera or Aprilatica. By 1849 "It is very small, occasionally roundish, but generally oblate; skin white, beneath it the layers are striped with bright green lines. The leaves are very small, sometimes the bulb has only a single leaf, frequently no more than two, and if there are more than four the plant has lost its true character."

1859

300 seeds

White Lisbon. Circa 1800. Mainly grown as a spring onion, however if autumn sown seedlings are transplanted in late spring, large specimens can be had by the end of summer.

"This has been called the early Lisbon and the White Lisbon. It varies in shape, but is, for the most part, globular, it attains to a large size and is of a bright white colour. Its skin being smooth and thin. It grows about two-thirds below the surface of the ground, and has very strong fibres, with a coarse thick neck, and large leaves which preserve their verdure late" 1819

Organic Grown Seed - 600 seeds

Blood-Red Type

Braunschweiger Dunkelblutrote or Rouge Fonce (Dark Red Brunswick) By 1859. Long keeping variety that is moderately productive. "Of all others this is the sort is the strongest flavoured. It keeps remarkably well."

The EEC common catalogue list these as the same variety, Vilmorin had them as separate varieties with Rouge Fonce being also known as the Dutch Blood Red or St Thomas Onion. St Thomas's Onion is listed by Loudon in 1849. 300 seeds



Niort Pale Red (Rouge Paile de Niort). By 1858. (Syn Amiens, Pale Red) "Large, flat, round. Skin brownish red. Heavy; better when Spring sown as the bulbs from the Autumn sown seed split up during the summer."

300 seeds

Rossa piatta d'Italia or Bassano (Blood Red Flat Italian).

Possibly the "Blood Red" variety noted in 1800, if not by 1870. Half-late variety that is not a particularly good keeping variety. Best sown in the Autumn

300 seeds

Rossa di Firenze or Rossa di Toscana (Long Red Florence). Torpedo-shaped red onion. 19th century. May be synonymous with the Ox-horn Onion listed by Vilmorin in 1885

300 seeds

Other Types

Cuisse de Poulet du Poitou. (Torpedo Shallot?). A shallot/onion (our supplier has them as "Echalions") easily grown from seed. 150 seeds

Perennial Welsh or Hollow Leek.

"When the leaves wither, the roots, as you will observe, very much resemble shallots. They are generally planted very thick in beds, in a convenient corner of the garden; one bulb, in a season, will increase and form a cluster from six to ten or more, as the soil and situation may suit their growth."

200 seeds



Red Welch, or French. Red variety of the following (by 1894 but probably much earlier)

200 seeds

Welch. By 1777, but probably much earlier. "grown chiefly as a scallion, or spring salad onion. It has scarcely any bulb, but large succulent, fistular leaves, strong in flavour".

200 seeds

All Onion (seed) Varieties £1.45p per packet

CULTIVATION: Lay the land in 4-foot beds. Nicely finished and slightly convex. Sow in drills nine inches apart in March or April as early as the state of weather will allow. Cover the seed half an inch and beat or tread firmly. Thin to space about 6 inches asunder (not necessary for salad onions. Although larger bulbs will be obtained by periodic thinning).

250 Seeds per Gram.

Average Duration of Germination Power: 2 years

Chives. (*Allium schoenoprasum*) "A pretty plant with dense heads of purplish flowers. In its wild state its foliage is scanty, but under cultivation becomes very abundant. In which state it is a favourite cottage pot-herb."

£1.35 - 250 Seeds

CULTIVATION. Seed is best started into growth under glass, and in March or April. (although they can be set out in the ground in drills). The small seedling being set aside, (one to another) some 1 inch, in trays or pans. When large enough to be planted they should be placed from 6 to 9 inches asunder in sun or partial shade.

250 Seeds per Gram.

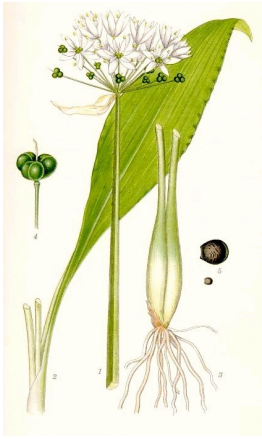
Average Duration of Germination Power: 2 years

Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*). "Garlic chives are an hardy perennial. Their foliage being flat rather than hollow, attaining some 12 inches in height. The flower stalks ascending to 30 inches high, topp'd with greenish-white flower heads. The mild garlic flavour of the foliage enhances many foods."

CULTIVATION. Seed is best started into growth under glass, and in March or April. (although they can be set out in the ground in drills). The small seedling being set aside, (one to another) some 1 inch, in trays or pans. When large enough to be planted they should be placed from 6 to 9 inches asunder in sun or partial shade.

250 Seeds per Gram.

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Ramson or Wild Garlic. *"The leaves of Ramsons be stamped and eaten of diuers in the Low-countries, with fish for a sauce, euen as we do eate greene-sauce made with sorrell. The same leanes may very well be eaten in April and May with butter, of such as are of a strong constitution, and labouring men."* **300 seeds**

BULBS: ❁ A beautiful wild Allium with pure white starry flowers. To 12 inches May/June.

25 Bulbs £9.00. 50 £15.00.

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