

Parsnips prefer full sun, average soil and loose loam, they can be slow to germinate and the seeds don't last long (about one year) – so **plant your seeds right away!**

**Parsnips will also do well planted near: Peas; Bush Beans; Peppers; Tomatoes; Rosemary; and Sage.**

Sow your parsnip seeds 1/2 inch deep and about 1-2 inches apart. Intersperse your radish and lettuce seeds between your slow growing parsnip. Parsnips take about 100 days to harvest, so plant in early-June through to July for a fall harvest.

Harvest just before the first frost for the best tasting parsnips. The starch in parsnips turns to sugar and is released as the cold weather arrives (they become sweeter).

Last season (2023), I found a lone parsnip plant growing unexpectedly in a garden bed. Growing root vegetables to seed in this region isn't always easy—I have been trying to grow carrot (a relative of parsnip)—to seed for a number of years without any luck. The plants don't tend to survive our harsh winter in order to continue growing into a second year. But the winters have been warming, and since parsnips grow quite far down into the earth, this lone root survived into the spring and continued to thrive across the summer.

**By July, the plant had grown to over 4 feet tall and was producing thousands of seeds!**

Parsnip seeds don't last long (seed viability is about 1 year) so I'm excited to share them. To help support your growing parsnips, this bundle also contains radish and lettuce seed (both good friends to parsnip) to intercrop among your growing plants (both have short growing seasons and shallow roots that feed higher in the soil and won't interfere with your growing parsnip roots).



#### **Some information to hold onto about Parsnips:**

Parsnip is closely related to carrot and parsley. It is a biennial plant usually grown as an annual; we tend to harvest (and eat) the root vegetable before it has a chance to go to seed the next year.

Parsnip was used as an early sweetener. It is not native to our region and was introduced to North America by both French and British colonists. The plant has potential to outcompete native species, and, given its toxicity, you should be careful to plant parsnip in containers or an enclosed garden.

**Be careful when handling parsnip plants: they produce a sap containing phototoxic chemicals that can cause skin blisters when exposed to sunlight. Always wear gloves when handling parsnip plants (especially be careful not to touch your eyes after handling).**