

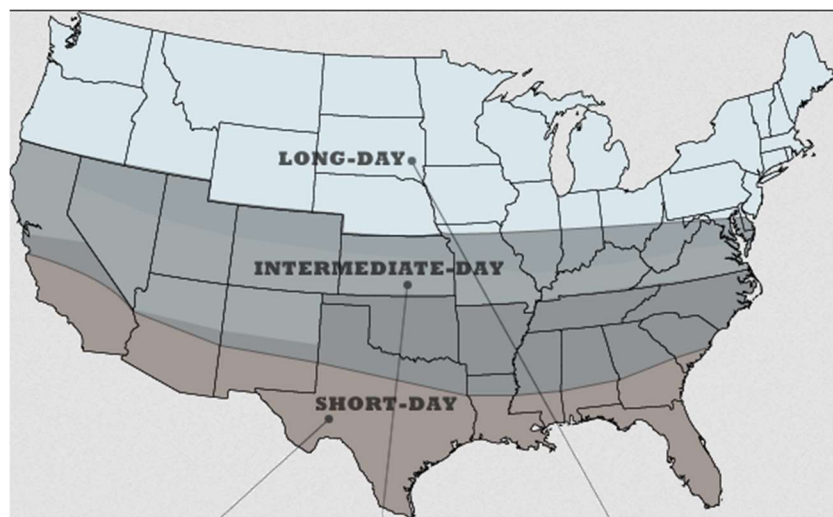
Bulb Onions Demystified: An explanation of seed stock

Latitude Matters: Of the hundreds of varieties of bulb onions, each one is adapted to form bulbs at different latitudes as a result of how much day light they receive. Regardless of when you plant, bulbing only occurs in the summer. You can plant onions at any time and get greens, but plants only bulb once per year.

The categories of latitude adaptation are:

- **SHORT DAY** (25-35 degrees lat.)_ Bulb formation initiates at 10-12 hours daylight.
- **INTERMEDIATE DAY** (32-42 degrees lat.)_ Bulb formation initiates at 12-14 hours daylight.
- **LONG DAY** (37-47 degrees lat.)_ Bulb formation initiates at 14-16 hours daylight.

In NC, we are in **Intermediate Day territory at 35 degrees latitude**. We can plant Short Day or Intermediate Day varieties and get bulbs but NOT Long Day varieties. Long day varieties will only produce green onions for us here since our longest day length on the Summer Solstice is 14.5 hours. The caveat is that each latitude adaptation categorization is general; there *are some* Long Day varieties that do perform here at 35 degrees. You'll have to trial each variety and make your own performance notes.



Temperature Matters: After selecting appropriate varieties adapted to your latitude, storage of planting stock and growing temperatures in the fields are critically important to bulb onion production. **As it pertains to ONION SETS** (tiny quarter-sized onions), storage temperature dictates whether or not your sets will yield bulbs or bolt/flower. Onions sets are physiologically over a year old. Proper storage temperatures for holding onion sets so they will bulb are 32-33 degrees OR above 65 degrees. Any storage temperatures in between 33-65 will trigger the sets to bolt once planted. This is disappointing if you're expecting bulbs out of sets only to find out in May that you will not be getting the bulb crop of your dreams. Bolting onions will still produce a bulb, but it will not be as large as plants that do not bolt.

Age of Stock Matters: For bulb production, the rule of onion is: **If you are under a year old, you will bulb 100% of the time if you receive the right amount of daylight. If you are older than a year, you may bulb, bolt (flower) or do both.** Whether or not you bulb or bolt hinges on temperature of storage or of field conditions. This means.... Onions from seed and plants will bulb every time. Onions grown from sets might bolt if they are planted in the fall and winter temperatures are irregular or if storage temperatures of the sets we not optimum.

So What Do I Plant?

For Scallions & Green Onions:

PLANT SETS.

Plant in fall or spring. These are the quarter-sized tiny onions sold in a bag. Nothing will be faster than a set in producing gorgeous green onions. In 30-60 days, you'll have something to eat or sell. Fall-planted stock can be harvested immediately, over-wintered for extended harvesting or left for bulb production the following year knowing that they may bolt.

For Bulbs:

PLANT SEEDS, SETS OR BUNCHES (plants).

Plant in spring only. For bunched onion plants, we are working With Dixondale Farms for 2022. Local market farmers all agree that their bulb crops from Dixondale stock is exceptional and always meets and exceeds expectations. The varieties offered by Dixondale are not available by other suppliers and round out our bulb onion offerings nicely. We hope you'll enjoy the selection!