

## **Never Enough Garlic**

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Garlic needs fertile well drained soils with no weed competition. We plant sometime in October and as a rule have done the raised-bed method using a 6x6 or 6x8 spacing. This method allows for a good stocking density but is dependent on a lot of hand labor. All fertility needs to be in place when the beds are being made as side-dressing during the growing season would be labor intensive.

This coming year ('09/'10) I will be trailing row cropping garlic, like onions, to both ease fertility management, labor and disease potential. We will see how it works.

In July the scapes (bulbil and curled portion of stalk) are cut for market and to promote a larger bulb as well.

In August\* when the lower leaves start to brown, but while there are still four or five green ones, the beds are lifted, bulbs are pulled, bundled, and washed. The bundles are then hung in the top floor of the barn with several fans moving the air to promote drying.

As time and weather allows, the garlic is trimmed, graded and sold.

\*coincidentally, a day or two after the barn swallows leave, never fail.