Lee Okra

Abelmoschus esculentus 'Lee'



Lee Okra fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Dwarf Lee Okra

Description:

A wonderful heirloom variety perfect for short season growing; compact, upright and well branched plants produce green, lightly ribbed pods with a mild and crunchy flavor; great in strews, soups, preserves or pickled; excellent for container gardens

Edible Qualities

Lee Okra is an annual vegetable plant that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces green pointy pods which are typically harvested when mature. The pods have a mild taste and a crunchy texture.

The pods are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Preserves
- Pickling

Planting & Growing

Lee Okra will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. This fast-growing vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant is typically grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant is a heavy feeder that requires frequent fertilizing throughout the growing season to perform at its best. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and it is considered by many to be an heirloom variety. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Lee Okra is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.