

# About Your Perennial Onions

*A special gift we are thrilled to pass on  
from Anathoth's original visionary,  
Scnobia Corbett Taylor*



**Information collected by apprentice Angel Woodrum, gathered from:**

[www.vegetable-gardening-online.com/growing-egyptian-onions.html](http://www.vegetable-gardening-online.com/growing-egyptian-onions.html)

[www.egyptianwalkingonion.com](http://www.egyptianwalkingonion.com)

[www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/egyptian-walking-onions-zbcz1404](http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/egyptian-walking-onions-zbcz1404)

## **What are they, where are they from -- what's their story?**

Perennial onion bulbs! The onions will come back every year if you allow them to. These onion bulb “clumps” were harvested from the farm of Scnobia Corbett Taylor, who envisioned and donated the land for the Anathoth garden. Scnobia along with her granddaughter, Scnobia Stewart, taught the Anathoth summer crew how to harvest the bulbs which sprout in clusters from the onion in the mid-to-late summer. The onions have been in Scnobia's family for at least 100 years!

## **How to plant them:**

You can plant the whole cluster (and more readily harvest from the cluster later), or divide the tiny bulbs and plant individually. Plant either the bulbs or the clusters 4-6 inches apart, 2 inches deep in moist but well-drained soil. They can be planted in cold weather, as long as the ground isn't frozen. Plant in full sunlight. Can do well in shade but optimal conditions are sunny.

## **How to harvest for eating:**

You can harvest the greens at any time, to use like chives or green onion tops. To harvest the bulbs, only harvest one or two per bulb-cluster, and let some stay in the ground, so as to continue the growth of the onion beneath ground. When you do harvest the bulb, harvest in late summer or early fall by pulling up the entire plant.

## **How to keep it going:**

If you want to continue the life cycle of your crop, you will want to leave the plant. A head will form with about six bulbs that look like miniature onions. The head will become heavy, causing the greens to bend to the ground where the plant can self-propagate. For the laidback gardener, simply let the cluster drop the ground and let the bulbs grow from there. You can also harvest the bulb head and plant it in a different location, which is what the interns did this summer. **In general:** the onions reproduce BOTH by the bulb self-dividing at the base (so any bulbs you leave in the ground will spread) **and** by the bulb “cluster” that grows on top. **In some cases,** they do not divide at the bulb or produce clusters in their first year -- but if so, be patient and just harvest the chive-like greens – and wait for the second year for propagation options.

## **How to eat them:**

Just like a regular onion! The whole plant is edible. The greens can be used like chives and the greens of green onions. The actual onion can be used like an onion or shallot.