

Florence Fennel Growing Guide

Foeniculum vulgare var. azoricum



Florence Fennel has a mild, sweet anise-like flavour. It is commonly associated with Italian and Mediterranean cooking and can also be eaten raw in salads.

UK Market

Most if not all fennel in the UK is cut for the fresh market.

Soil Types

Fennel seeds well structured soil, a light loamy soil is ideal although well structured heavy soils can be suitable. Fennel ideally needs a minimum rotation of three years, although if this is not possible two years can be suitable.

Growing

Early season fennel is normally sown in 4 cm blocks or modules with later crops either continuing to be sown in modules or direct drilled. Early in the season 8 weeks are needed to produce a usable plant, this decreases in the summer and autumn where 4 weeks are needed. Most fennel is planted or drilled at 30 cm x 25 cm (12 inches by 10 inches) a density of 52,000 per acre (128,500 per hectare).

Early crops are sown in March for planting in late April/May for production in June. Main Season crops are sown in modules from May to August for planting June to September while direct drilled crops are drilled from the late April or early May with production from July until November.

The length of time needed to produce a crop varies dependant on when the crop is direct drilled, 100-135 days are needed to produce an early crop, whereas summer crops need around 90 days and autumn crops need 90-110 growing days.

Fertiliser usage

Source: Assured Produce Crop specific Protocol 2010 - Fennel

Nutrient (kg/ha)	Soil Index					
	0	1	2	3	4	4+
Nitrogen ¹						
Phosphate	200	150	125	100	60	nil
Potash	400	300	300	200	100	nil
Magnesium						
Sands/light loams	90	60	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other soils 90	60	30	nil	nil	nil	nil

¹ 190-250 kg/ha required in total, half applied in the seedbed and half in the form of top dressings.

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Varieties available from Elsoms seeds

Solaris F1

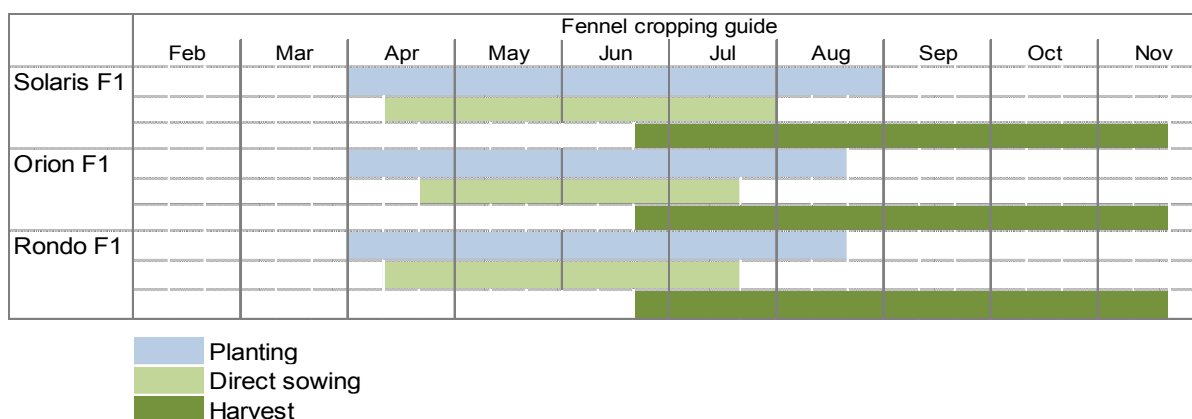
A fast growing early variety. Ideally suited for spring and early summer. Maturity is approximately 73 days after transplanting.

Rondo F1

This variety is early and suitable for summer cropping. It produces bulbs of a good round shape, it matures approximately 75 days after transplanted.

Orion F1

Orion F1 is suited for autumn use, it has round, white and firm bulbs with high yields. Maturity occurs approximately 87 days after transplanting.



Further information

For further information on the different varieties, seed treatments, pests and disease please contact your regional vegetable seed specialist or see the Elsoms Seeds catalogue.

Links

Elsoms Seeds website and catalogue:

<http://www.elsoms.com/>

Assured produce crop specific protocols:

<http://www.assuredproduce.co.uk/ap/scheme/standards.aspx>

The information provided in this sheet is intended for general guidance only and is correct to the best of our knowledge. Please be aware that variations in the growing environment and climatic conditions can render this information inaccurate. For more specific advice about fertiliser use please contact a FACTS certified advisor.

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