

Pointed cabbage/Greens Growing Guide

Brassica oleracea var capitata



Cabbages are in the Brassica genus and are closely related to other vegetables such as broccoli and Brussels sprouts. They are a low calorie vegetable which is high in minerals such as potassium and high in vitamins A and C.

UK Market

Cabbages have many different uses; the pointed cabbages are supplied into the fresh market and greens are normally supplied to the fresh and processing markets.

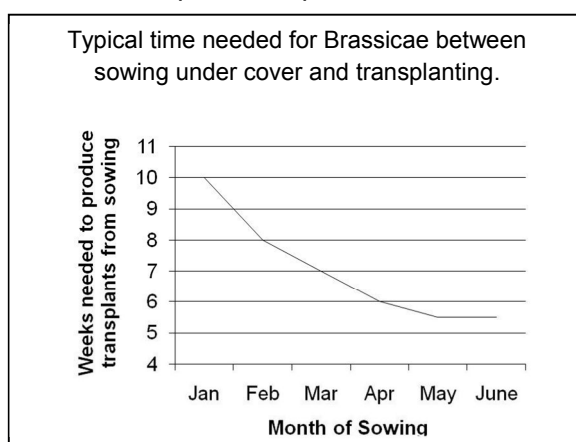
Soil Types

Cabbages can be grown throughout the UK in a range of soils, good drainage is important for growth. If the soil is acidic then liming can be used to increase the pH, a soil pH of 7-7.5 is important as it helps to suppress club root disease.

Growing

Pointed cabbages are usually raised in modules before planting out into the field, they are normally sown February to July for production from the end of May. They are planted with approximately 12 inches between plants in 18 inch rows, resulting in approximately 24,000 plants per acre (59,300 plants per hectare).

Greens are either planted or often directly drilled into the ground; they are normally sown from the middle of June to the end of July for production from autumn to spring. The greens are sown with approximately 10 inches between plants and 12 to 18 inches between rows, this will result in approximately 35,000 to 80,000 plants per acre (86,500 to 198,000 plants per hectare).



Post-harvest Treatment

Pointed cabbages and greens are not normally stored, they tend to be supplied directly to the customer from the field.

Fertiliser usage

Source: The Fertiliser Manual (RB209), 8th edition (2011).

Nutrient	Soil index						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
	kg/ha						
Nitrogen ^b (N) - all soil types							
Head cabbage pre-December 31st	325	290	260	220	170	70	0 ^a
Head cabbage post-December 31st	240	210	180	140	90	0 ^a	0 ^a
Collards pre-December 31st	210	190	180	160	140	90	0 ^a
Collards post-December 31st	310	290	270	240	210	140	90
Phosphate ^c (P ₂ O ₅)	200	150	100	50	0	0	0
Potash ^c (K ₂ O)	300	250	200 (2-) 150 (2+)	60	0	0	0
Magnesium (MgO)	150	100	0	0	0	0	0

^a A small amount of nitrogen may be needed if there is little nitrogen in the 1-30 cm of soil.

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^b Nitrogen – On light soils where leaching may occur or when crops are established by direct seeding no more than 100 kg N/ha should be applied prior to seeding or transplanting. On retentive soils in drier parts of the country where leaching risk is low and spring planted brassicas are established from modules, more nitrogen can be applied prior to planting. The remainder of the nitrogen requirement should be applied after establishment but before the surface soil dries out to ensure that it is utilised by the crop.

^c Phosphate and potash requirements are for average crops and it is important to calculate specific phosphate and potash removals based on yields especially for the larger yielding cabbage crops.

Post-December 31st crops

Apply no more than 100 kg N/ha at sowing or transplanting, less if there is risk of frost damage. The remaining nitrogen should be applied to reflect crop growth. Further top dressings of nitrogen will depend on the harvest date and expected yield – some nitrogen will be required to support growth during the winter particularly for crops harvested in late winter. For crops harvested in late spring more of the top-dressing should be left until the beginning of re-growth in spring.

Sulphur

Consider applying up to 50 kg SO₃/ha in situations where sulphur content of soils is low, i.e. on light soils following wet winters where there is no history of organic manure application.

Varieties available from Elsoms seeds

Pointed types (not recommended for autumn sowings)

Caraflex F1

A sweet tasting new variety with a smooth conical shape.

Dual purpose

Duncan F1

Produces greens and hearts with a good shelf life, suitable to all year round production

Excel F1

A standard for the green/semi-hearted market and is used for all year round production.

Jason F1

Suited for winter and spring production, a leafy type producing high early yields of spring greens. Not suitable in south-west UK.

Leafy greens

Sparkel F1

It is slower to produce hearts and may suitable for pre-pack, fresh and processing markets.

Pointed cabbage cropping guide												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pointed types												
Hispi F1												
Caraflex F1												
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Excel F1												
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	Harvest											

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/>

The Fertiliser Manual (RB209)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/rb209-fertiliser-manual-110412.pdf>

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. KCW/JAN12