

Green Cabbage 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; most of the green cabbages are grown for the fresh and pre-pack markets.

Soil Types

Cabbages can be grown throughout the UK in a range of soils. Good drainage is important especially in winter as is a pH of 7-7.5, if pH is below pH7 (acidic) liming may be needed to increase pH as this can help suppress club root.

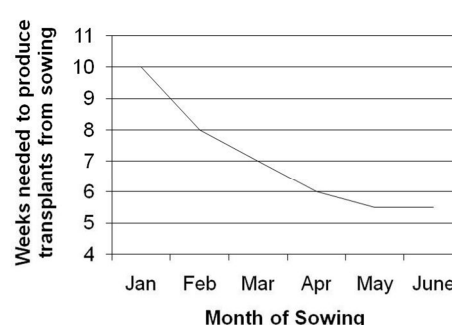
Growing

Most green cabbages are grown in modules and then transplanted into the field. The cabbages are planted at approximately 15,000 to 20,000 plants per acre (37,000 to 49,500 plants per hectare). They can be planted from March onwards for cropping from June. Some of the later varieties can be harvested through to February/March.

Transplant production:

The time needed between sowing and transplantation varies depending on the time of the year. It normally takes 10 weeks in February for the plants to be mature enough for planting, decreasing to May where 5 to 6 weeks may be needed. Crop covers can be used to enhance the maturity of the earliest planted crops.

Typical time needed for Brassicae between sowing under cover and transplanting.



Post-harvest Treatment

Green cabbages can be kept in cold storage, however they are normally only stored for a short time.

Fertiliser usage

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

Nutrient	Soil index							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	kg/ha							
Nitrogen (N) ^b - 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	
Phosphate ^c (P ₂ O ₅)	200	150	100	50	0	0	0	
Potash ^c (K ₂ O)	300	250	200 (2-) 150 (2+)	35	0	0	0	

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

^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.

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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

Variety	Approx. transplant to maturity time (days)	Suggested Planting/Maturity Period											
		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
Summer cabbage													
Surprise F1	65	█		█									
Gonzales F1	74	█	█	█	█	█	█						
Destiny F1	87		█	█	█		█	█	█				
Amazon F1	91		█	█	█		█	█	█	█			
Perfecta F1	97		█	█	█		█	█	█	█			
Drago F1	108			█	█			█	█	█			
Autumn/Winter cabbage													
Renton F1	95			█	█	█		█	█	█	█		
Stanton F1	130			█	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█
Deadon F1	110		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

Planting



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>

Assured Produce: *the growing partnership* (contains crop specific protocols):

<http://www.assuredproduce.co.uk>

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/JAN13



Deadon F1 (January King type)