

Kohl rabi Growing Guide

Brassica oleracea var gongylodes



Kohl rabi is a versatile vegetable, part of the cabbage family and is related to cauliflower and broccoli. The swelling is part of the stem, not the root.

UK Market

The market for kohl rabi in the UK is mainly for fresh product with bulbs of 8-12 cm, with very little used for processing.

Soil Types

Kohl rabi prefer loamy moist soils, but can grow well on sandier soils provided they are irrigated sufficiently.

Growing

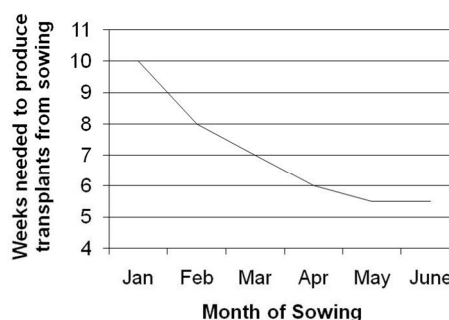
Kohl Rabi is normally harvested from early June to the middle of September, although the crop could be extended later depending on growing conditions. It is normally sown from the end of April to early July for planting from early June to mid August.

Most kohl rabi are grown in modules and then planted out into the field. They are normally grown in 15 inch rows with 9 inches between the plants, this results in approximately 46,500 plants per acre (114,900 plants per hectare).

Transplant production:

The time needed between sowing and transplantation varies depending on the time of the year. It normally takes 8 weeks in February for the plants to be mature enough for planting, decreasing until 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.



Fertiliser usage

There is very little research and guidelines for the fertiliser use in the UK, however it is reported that the crop requires levels of fertiliser similar to that of cabbage. Fertiliser levels of 50-65kg nitrogen, 40-50kg P₂O₅ and 70-90 kg K₂O per acre have been suggested. The elements magnesium, manganese and sulphur are also reported to be important in production.

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Varieties available from Elsoms

Kolibri F1

A mid early purple skinned variety, with a flattish round shape, it has white flesh of excellent quality.

Korist F1

A very early light green skinned variety with white flesh which holds well. It has a flattish round shape with a mild crisp flesh.

Variety	Skin colour	Flesh colour	Suggested outdoor planting/maturity times						
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Kolibri F1	Purple	White							
Korist F1	White	White							

Planting

Maturity



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: *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.

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