

Savoy 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; savoy cabbage is characterised by a highly blistered leaf and is grown through most of the year to supply the fresh market with a limited amount used for processing.

Soil Types

Savoy 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 which can help suppress club root disease. If the soil is acidic (below pH7) liming may be needed to increase the pH.

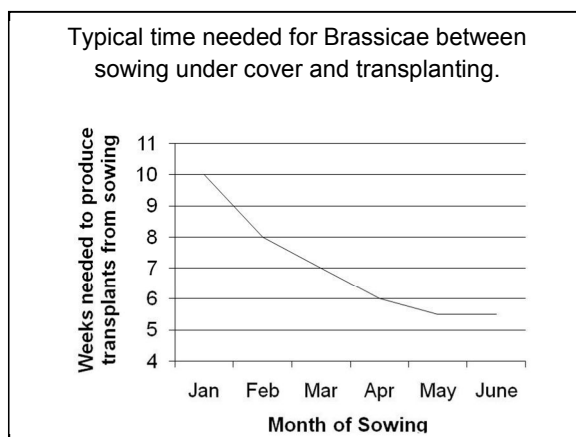
Growing

Savoy cabbages are among the most frost hardy in the cabbage group as a result of using the combinations of early and late varieties UK grown savoy is normally available from July to March.

Savoy cabbages are mostly now module grown and then transplanted. They are normally planted in 20 inch rows and with 16 to 20 inches between the plants depending on the time of year grown, varieties grown later in the season tend to be grown further apart. The early and main crops are planted in March at 18,000 plants per acre (44,500 plants per hectare), the later crops planted in May and are grown at approximately 15,500 plants per acre (38,300 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 to May where 5 to 6 weeks may be needed.



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
Headed cabbage post-December 31st	240	310	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+)	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.

^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.

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^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

NEW Sabrosa F1

Sabrosa has dark green deeply savoyed leaves and produces a neat head from a compact frame.

Barbosa F1

Barbosa is a compact winter hardy variety that produces an excellent quality head. It is suitable for production in the late autumn and early winter period.

Variety	Approx. time from planting to maturity	Approx. length of cut (days)	Suggested Savoy Harvest Period									
			Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Alcosa F1	71	7	█	█								
Famosa F1	78	14		█	█							
Clarissa F1	108	20-25			█	█	█					
NEW Sabrosa F1	140	30				█	█	█	█			
Firensa F1	150	40					█	█	█	█		
Barbosa F1	160	40						█	█	█	█	
Wirosa F1	162	45							█	█	█	█
Paresa F1	195	70								█	█	█
Wintessa F1	199	70									█	█

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/foodfarm/landmanage/land-soil/nutrient/nmu01.htm>

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