

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower and Kohlrabi

Culture

These are cool-season crops, with the harvest period generally in the spring and fall.

A spring crop in Ohio generally is not possible due to too-cool temperatures, which can cause premature heading, or buttoning. The temperature range causing this condition averages 50-60°F for a period of 10-14 days and only affects plants that are past the juvenile stage. Postjuvenile plants are considered to be those exceeding 3-4 true leaves, depending on variety.

Transplants are grown 4-6 weeks before planting in the field. One ounce of cauliflower seed will provide 3,000 transplants. Field seeding begins in April and ends in mid-July. Field seeding on heavy soils requires continuous moist conditions to ensure proper emergence. Allow 15-20 days ahead of transplanting to achieve equal maturity.

Varieties

Broccoli

Spring

Packman
Windsor

Summer

Packman
Premium Crop
Gypsy

Fall

Premium Crop
Windsor

Cauliflower

Fremont
Amazing
Snow Crown
Icon
Reavella

Brussels sprouts

Jade Cross strains
Prince Marvel
Oliver

Lime and Fertilizer

Mineral soils: Maintain soil pH between 6.0-6.8.

Muck soils: Maintain soil pH between 5.2-5.6.

Disk in prior to planting: 75-150 lb N/A, 75-150 lb P₂O₅ and 75-150 lb K₂O. Phosphorus and potassium rates are best determined by soil test. Sidedress at 30-60 lb N/A at 4-5 true leaves, and again at the first sign of head formation or before row closure.

Boron for Cole Crops

Cauliflower and broccoli have a high demand for boron. On extremely acid soils, those low in organic matter or on soils where the pH is above 7.2, boron is likely to be deficient. Apply 1.0 lb of actual boron/A (10 lb Borax/A) at planting or mixed with the fertilizer. Rates greater than 1 lb/A may cause boron toxicity to subsequent crops. On muck soils, apply 1 lb/A actual boron (using solubor) around the six true-leaf stage.

Seeding and Spacing Broccoli

Rows: 16 inches apart.

In-row: 5-6 inches apart.

On raised beds: Double rows, 3-ft centers, 2 rows 10 inches apart. In-row, 4-8 inches apart. Seed 1 seed every 5-6 inches, about 77,000 seeds per acre.

Cauliflower

Rows: 36 inches.

In-row: 12-24 inches between plants.

Brussels Sprouts

Transplants

Rows: 3 ft apart.

In-row: 15 inches apart in the row.

Direct Seeding

Seed about 15 days ahead of transplanting. Plant 3-4 seeds per eventual plant. (This will take about 0.5-1.5 lb of seed/A). Thin plants to desired plant populations.

Disease Control

See "Disease Control" under "Cabbage," pages 113-114.

Insect Control

See "Insect Control" under "Cabbage," pages 114-122.

Weed Control

See "Weed Control" under "Cabbage," pages 123-124.