

Brussels Sprouts

Cultural Details: ZZ525

Brussels Sprouts require a firm, well cultivated soil, with plenty of organic matter incorporated early in the season but not too close to the time of planting out. Liming may be necessary to raise the pH of the soil deterring clubroot, a common fungal disease affecting Brassicas. Crop rotation is also an essential practice to avoid the build up of diseases in the soil which could affect you Sprout crop.

Moles Seeds offer a good selection of varieties to cover a wide cropping period, many also with disease resistance. Please see the catalogue for specific sowing and cropping details.

Sowing

Brussels Spouts seed should first be sown undercover into modules or seed beds before being transplanted to permanent main cropping bed. The ideal sowing depth is 2cm germinating in 7-12 days in temperatures of 10 – 25°C.

Seedlings are ready to plant out when they are 10-15cm high. Water the bed rows the day before transplanting and plant seedlings with the bottom leaves just above the soil surface. Spacing varies depending on the requirement of the finished item. Close planting will produce smaller sprouts which will mature together ideal for bulk picking. Wider spacing will yield larger sprouts to be picked in succession over a longer period. Spacing depends also depends on the variety.

Routine Care

To encourage smaller sprouts that will mature together, pinch out the growing tip when the lower sprouts are 1cm in diameter.

To encourage sprouts to fill out top-dress the soil in midsummer with sulphate of ammonia. Once plants are established they should not require any further watering unless there is a period of drought. To over-winter plants stake stems especially if planted on light sandy soils.

Common Problems

Brussels Sprouts are affected by the usual pests and diseases that affect the majority of brassicas:

Cabbage Root Fly	Birds
Cabbage White Butterfly Caterpillars	Flea Beetle
Clubroot – resistant varieties available	Downy Mildew
Powdery Mildew	White Blister
Cabbage Whitefly	

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.