

Cultural Details: **Chinese Cabbage**

Introduction

This oriental brassica is both fast growing and highly productive if given the right conditions.

It requires an open situation with fertile, well-drained, moisture-retentive soil (pH 6.5 or 5.8 on peaty soils). Being fast-growing the soil must be rich in organic matter and high in nitrogen.

It is susceptible to excessive salt concentrations, and never does well in poor, dry soil. Being generally shallow-rooted, water is important so water little and often.

Chinese Cabbage is very temperature-sensitive, especially in relation to bolting, but improved F1 cultivars and crop management should minimise this risk. Temperature during propagation should be 18°C min., then when planting out in modules at the 2-3 leaf stage, a min. of 7°C is required. The crop can be stored in a cold store at 1°C and 90-95% R.H. for 2-3 weeks.

Cultural Instructions

Sow from June (see catalogue) - 300 seeds per gram. Minimum germination temperature is 18°C, with an optimum of 20-25°C. Sow into blocks or modules - do not transplant bare-root seedlings. Germination should take about 7-12 days. Plant up the young plants at approx 30cm within and 30-40cm between rows. The crop matures around 8-10 weeks after sowing.

Pests & Diseases to look out for

In general the crop is subject to the same range of pests and diseases as western brassicas:

Damping off

Clubroot

White rust

Wire-stem

Downy and powdery mildew

Cabbage aphid

Cabbage root fly

Caterpillars

Pigeons

Slugs & Snails

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