

CABBAGE PLANTING GUIDE



Factors to consider when choosing cabbage

- Head size
- Head weight
- Yield potential
- Pest and disease tolerance/resistance
- Market availability
- Preferences

Soil & Climate for Cabbage Production

- Well drained, fertile, sandy loam rich in organic matter with PH of 6.5 - 7.5 is ideal for cultivation
- For early maturing crop, sandy loam soils are considered best. For late maturing crop clay loam soil/heavy soils are best
- Optimum temperatures for seed germination are 25-30°C
- Optimum temperatures for growth & head formation in Cabbage are 15-20°C
- Heat tolerant varieties of Cabbage can form compact head under tropical conditions in day temperatures of 30-35°C
- Well drained soils, with high organic matter that exhibit high water holding capacity are suitable
- Soils with pH more than 6.8 should be adjusted by broadcasting hydrated lime 2-3 days prior to planting.

Nursery Management

- There are two techniques currently for raising seedlings; use of seed trays and use of normal ground.
- Sowing should be done in a well-controlled & protected nursery raised with a width of 1m.

- The soil should be well prepared into a fine tilth and sowing lines of 10cm and 2-3cm depth made.
- The seeds should be placed on the soil 2cm apart to take between 40-50 plants per sowing line.
- The seedbed can be covered by use of dry grass/gunny bags and watered gently to avoid splashes
- Ensure watering is done very early in the morning and frequently after 4 days.
- During nursery stage expect soil borne pests and diseases that you need to protect the seed from.
- Damping off is also a common issue that prevents development of seedlings.
- Expect infestation of cutworms after transplanting is done



Transplanting

- Transplant seedlings when 10 - 15cm tall or have 5 or 6 leaves
- Water the bed the previous day before transplanting them to their permanent position.
- Transplant the cabbage plants in the evening to minimise shock. Keep as much soil around the roots as you can.
- Spacing can vary depending on market requirement but standard spacing of 60cm x 60cm is recommended





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- Apply 8-10 MT/acre of well decomposed farm yard manure and mix well with the soil
- Apply base fertilizers rich in phosphorus on the planting hole such as N:P:K at a rate of 10gms per hole
- Top-dress 3-4 weeks after transplanting with nitrogenous fertilizers
- Irrigation should be done early or mid-morning

Harvesting

Cabbages are mature and ready for harvest after 65 to 75 days from transplanting.

Cut at the lowest point possible, leaving the loose outer leaves attached at the stalk



