

# MOLES SEEDS

## Brussels Sprout

Cultural Leaflet: 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 your sprout crop.

We offer a good selection of varieties to cover a wide cropping period, many selected with disease resistance, including clubroot) in mind. Please see the catalogue for specific sowing and cropping details.

### Propagation and Growing-on

Brussels sprout seed should first be sown undercover into modules before being transplanted to the 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.

An approximate target population 14,000 plants per acre (35,000 per hectare).

### 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.

### Pest and Disease

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

On a small scale production, crop covers can be used to reduce attack from pests.

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

(09/15)

