

# MOLES SEEDS

## Cabbage

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ535

Cabbage is a versatile vegetable with many varieties cropping throughout the year. It can be classified by types or by cropping period:

Please refer to our catalogue or website for full details of varieties and programming.

### Pointed Cabbage

Conical in shape, sometimes called spring cabbage, they can in fact be cropped over a long period.

### Ballhead

Round compact heads, generally sown February to May, for cropping summer to autumn and can be stored for winter sales.

### Red

Ballhead red cabbage is sown February to April for cropping summer to autumn and can be stored into winter.

### Savoy

Easily recognisable from their dark blistered leaves. Mainly grown for winter harvest but some varieties mature as early as August and some as late as March. Sow February to May.

### Winter

These have flatter heads than ball headed cabbages and are sown May for cutting November onwards.

### Propagation and Growing-on

Cabbages like a fertile, well draining, moisture retentive, firm soil. The main crop beds should be dug over and firmed a few months before planting. Organic matter should be added during the previous season but not too close to the time of planting.

Seed can be sown either into modules or a seed tray all under cover. Germination usually takes 7-12 days.

Seedlings are ready for transplanting when they have 5 or 6 leaves. Using a dibber make a hole big enough to accommodate the root ball firming the soil around the plant.

The spacing between plants depends on the end product, for compact heads space at 30cm, 45cm for large heads and only 15cm for spring cabbage to encourage the pointed conical shape. Population ranges from 20,000 per acre (50,000 per hectare) for Savoys and Winter cabbage, to around 40,000 per acre (100,000 per hectare) for other types.

All young seedlings and transplants should be protected from cabbage root fly. The most successful way to do this is with protective discs around the base of the stem, often called 'collars'.

Keep young plants well watered until established and then only water during dry periods. Keep weeds under control in the beds. Earth up spring and winter cabbages in winter and firm down any which have been loosened by wind and frost.

### Harvesting

Harvest cabbages by cutting close to ground level with a kitchen knife, if you cut a cross on the stump a secondary crop of small cabbages can appear from the cut surface.

### Pest and Disease

- Cabbage Root Fly
- Cabbage Caterpillars
- Birds (especially pigeons)
- Slugs and Snails
- Club Root (resistant varieties available)
- Downy Mildew
- White Blister
- Black Rot
- Leaf Spot
- Heartless Cabbages
- Split Hearts

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)

