

MOLES SEEDS

Calabrese and Broccoli

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ540

This series of plants are divided as follows:

- Sprouting Broccoli** Mainly small, mainly purple heads which crop continuously and can occupy the ground for almost a year.
- Calabrese** Calabrese are smaller, compacter types, producing larger crowns (depending on crop density- see crop spacing). The area down to Calabrese production has expanded rapidly in recent years.

Sprouting Broccoli

Sow mid-April to end-May to plant out in June/July in modules or blocks. For early production, sow March for planting April to harvest in November.

For direct sowing, sow April to mid-June for harvesting January to May. Expected germination time 7-12 days, depending on soil temperature.

The crop requires a fertile, deep, firm soil which is free-draining but water-retentive. Optimum pH is 6.5. Avoid shallow, sandy soils, and exposed sites. Plant spacing is between 60x60 and 76x60 cm.

Target plant population 12,000 per acre (30,000 per hectare).

Calabrese

For large crowns, sow end-March to mid-July in blocks or modules, for harvesting July to September. For direct sowing, sow from April to June. Do not use bare root transplants, as they are prone to bolt. Spacing between 30x30 and 40x60cm.

For smaller crowns suitable for freezing, sow March to mid May direct-drilled to harvest June to September. Early crops can be enhanced with the aid of crop covers. Expected germination time 7-10 days depending on soil temperatures. Spacing 30x10cm.

Cut the main crown when in tight bud. Sideshoots will subsequently develop. Lower crop density gives a longer period of harvest, as more secondary heads are produced. The heads must be cut whilst in tight bud; once per week in cool weather, and twice a week is essential in warm weather.

Target plant population 30,000 per acre (75,000 per hectare).

Pest and disease

Club root, Soft rot, Canker, Whiptail, Downy mildew, Aphids, Caterpillars, Cabbage rootfly, Pollen beetle, Flea beetle.

In general, being a shorter-term crop, calabrese is less likely to be troubled by aphids or caterpillars.

Sprouting broccoli crops may be damaged by pigeons over the winter.

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)

