

MOLES SEEDS

Cauliflower

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ550

Cauliflower needs care to grow properly; compared with cabbages, it is more prone to physiological disorders, weed control is more difficult, and the crop maturity may be uneven.

We offer a good selection of varieties to cover a very wide cropping period - see the catalogue for specific sowing/cropping times.

Propagation and Growing-on

Cauliflower seed (approx 330 per gram) can be sown in the open ground, in modules, peat blocks or pots. Cauliflowers require a firm, fertile soil (pH 6.5-7.0) which is moisture retentive and free draining with a medium nitrogen level.

Seed will germinate in the range 18-25°C, with an optimum of 21°C. The ideal sowing depth is 12.5mm. Seed will germinate in 7-12 days, sometimes longer, depending on soil temperature.

Optimum spacing depends on the time of year, the cultivar, and the market requirement for the finished item. As a rough guide, Summer crops at 24x60cm (field system), 53x53 (bed system), Autumn crops 68.5x68.5cm (field), 60x60 (bed) for large heads, down to 55x55cm for compact heads. Winter hardy crops around 67-67cm to 74x74cm, depending on cultivar.

Pest and Disease

- Cabbage root fly
- Cabbage aphid
- Peach potato aphid
- Caterpillars
- Pigeons
- Slugs and snails
- Whiptail
- Clubroot (resistant varieties available)
- Downy Mildew
- Cauliflower mosaic virus
- Wirestem

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)

