



Ornamental Cabbage Planting Guide

About Ornamental Cabbage

This leafy green, red, or white biennial plant is grown as an annual vegetable crop for its dense-leaved heads. It is closely related to broccoli and cauliflower and can be prepared in many different ways for eating; it can be pickled, fermented, steamed, stewed, sauteed, braised, or eaten raw.

When to Plant

Cabbage seeds should be started inside around 6-8 weeks before the last frost in early spring. Harden them off and transplant outside 2-3 weeks before your last expected frost.

Where to Plant

Start seeds indoors with lots of bright sunlight or grow lights if necessary. When transplanting outdoors, choose a sunny spot with well-draining, friable soil.

How to Plant

Plant 3-4 seeds indoors about 1/4" deep. Amend the soil outside with lots of compost about a week before planting. When plants are 3-4" tall, transplant outdoors with about 24" in between larger heads. They may be slightly closer for smaller heads.

Caring for Ornamental Cabbage

Cabbage plants require about 2" of water per week. The optimum soil temperature for growth is 60-65 degrees F. If cold weather is expected, cover plants. If using fertilizer, use one that is nitrogen-rich. Harvest after about 70 days or when the heads reach desired size and are firm. Cut cabbage at its base with a sharp knife. Remove any yellow leaves and immediately place indoors or in shade.