

SPROUTING BROCCOLI OR BROCCOLI

Brassica oleracea var. *italica*

Variety:

Early: Early Danish Giant, De Cicco, Green Bud, Sparton Early, Coastal and Atlantic.

Mid: Green sprouting medium

Late: Waltham 29, Green Mountain, Coastal and Atlantic

Hybrid: Southern Comet, Premium Crop, Clipper, Laser (extra early and early), Corsair, Cruiser, Emerald, Corona (mid season) and Late corona, Stiff, Kayak and Green Surf (late)

Soil:

Soil with high organic matter either through incorporation of FYM or compost or green manuring crops. Broccoli is slightly tolerant to acidic soils. Optimum pH 6 to 6.8.

Seed bed preparation and seedling raising:

Refer “Procedure for necessary raising of transplanted vegetable crops”

Field preparation: Same as cauliflower

Seed rate: 300-400 g/ha (40-53.3 g/bigha)

Time of sowing: Same as cauliflower

Spacing: 60 cm x 45 cm

Manures and Fertilizers:

FYM @ 20 t, N 120 kg, P₂O₅ 80 kg and K₂O 60 kg/ha (2.7 t FYM, 35.2 kg Urea, 67.2 kg SSP, 13.6 kg MOP/bigha). Nitrogen should be applied in split doses. Molybdenum and Boron should also be applied as in case of cauliflower.

Interculture:

Irrigation: Requires more water than cauliflower. Light irrigation at regular intervals should be applied.

Weeding:

The early stage hoeing is necessary in order to provide good aeration as well as to make the plot weed-free before irrigation.

Plant Protection: Same as in cauliflower

Harvesting:

Harvesting should be done when the head is compact and green but before the opening of buds. Over matured buds will open and the heads become loose which is

unsuitable for marketing. Only the green head should be harvested leaving the whole plant intact to facilitate the growth of axillary head (cull head) which can be harvested as ratoons.

Yield:

5 to 15 t/ha, depending upon the variety, time of planting and length of harvesting period.

Benefit: Cost Ratio: 5.26