

GROWING GUIDE FOR KOHLRABI

Binomial Name:	Brassica
Varieties:	Early White Vienna
Start:	Seed or seedling
Germination:	4 - 7 days, 7°C to 30°C
Seed Life (viability):	4 years
Soil:	Well drained, fertile
Sunlight:	Full sun
Sow Seeds:	3cm apart
Transplant/Thin to:	15cm apart
Ave. Days to Harvest:	50 - 60
Good Companions:	Asparagus, bush beans, beetroot, celery, leek, lettuce, onion, pea, petunia, potato, radish, spinach
Bad Companions:	Cucumber, tomato

This cool-season cole crop produces a turnip-flavoured swollen stem in as little as 6 weeks. In addition to spring crops, you can tuck in transplants or sow seeds anywhere that space becomes available in summer. The bizarre 'alien-from-outer-space' appearance also makes it a show-stopper in ornamental plantings.

Sowing & Growing:

Prefers well-drained, fertile soil high in organic matter and with a pH 6.0 to 7.5. Can tolerate slightly alkaline soil. This heavy feeder also needs plentiful, consistent moisture. Prefers cooler weather but is sensitive to extreme cold. Even a brief exposure to freezing temperatures can cause plants to bolt. A week of temperatures below 10°C can also induce flowering.

Begin direct-seeding about a month before last frost. Plant about 1cm deep and 3cm apart in rows 30cm apart. Thin to about 15cm spacing's. For autumn harvests, transplant or direct-seed into the garden in summer as space becomes available. Crops planted midsummer for autumn harvest generally have fewer insect problems and are a less bitter flavour.

Harvesting:

The edible portion of kohlrabi is the rounded, swollen stem that develops just above the soil line. Harvest kohlrabi when the stem widens to 5cm. The fruit will become tough and fibrous if allowed to mature too much.

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