

Cool Season Crops for Vegetable Gardens



Matt Jones

Horticulture Extension Agent NC Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center



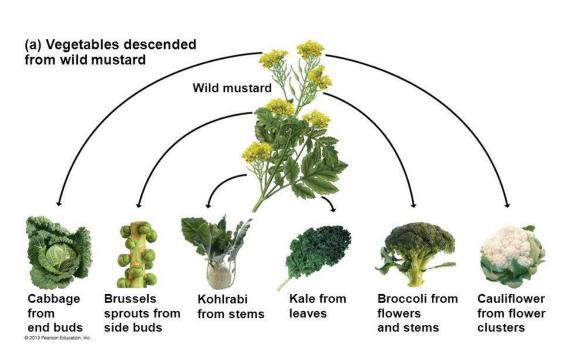




Broccoli

Brassica oleracea var. italica (Brassicaceae)

Figure 1.13a







Relatives: Cruciferous crops (cabbage, mustard, etc.)

What you eat: Immature inflorescence



Planting Broccoli

Start Seeds Indoors

- 1/4 in. deep
- Seed heating mat 65-85° F
- 4-6 weeks before planting

Transplants (purchased or grown yourself)

- August-September ideal
 - Spring (Feb-Apr) more prone to crown problems
- Plant as deep as root ball or pot
- 18-24" between plants, 3' between rows









Growing Broccoli

Fertilizer

- Soil Test
 - If unavailable, 2.5 lbs. 10-10-10 per 100 ft²
 - pH 5.8-6.5
- Side Dressing
 - 0.3 lb. actual N /100 ft. of row 4 weeks after transplant
 - = 3 lbs. of blood meal
 - $= 2 lbs. of CaNO_3 (15.5-0-0)$

Watering

- 1" per week equivalent
- Consistent moisture needed for crown development
- Moisten to a depth of 6 inches









Harvesting Broccoli

Harvest

- 50-90 days after transplant
- Main heads 3-6" diameter
- Cut 6" below top of head

Storage

- 45-50°F 7-10 days
- Freeze









Broccoli Cultivars (Calabrese)

Early Season

- 'Packman'
- 'Emerald Star'

Mid-Season

- 'Emerald Crown'
- 'Patron'

Late Season

- 'Greenbelt'
- 'Marathon'

Full Season

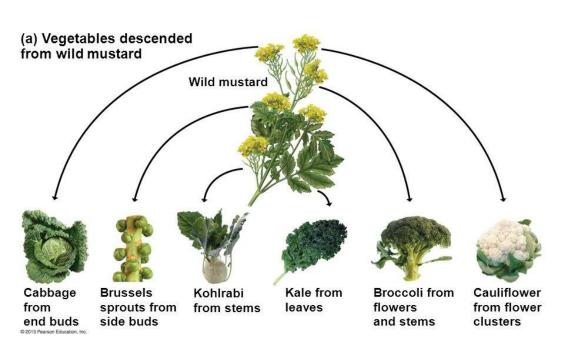
- 'Lieutenant'
- 'Belstar'
- 'Green Magic'



Cabbage

Brassica oleracea var. capitata (Brassicaceae)

Figure 1.13a







Relatives: Cruciferous crops (broccoli, turnip, mustard, etc.)

What you eat: Leaves and large terminal buds



Planting Cabbage

Start Seeds Indoors or Direct Seed (Fall)

- ¼ in. deep
- Seed heating mat 45-85° F
- 6 weeks before planting
- https://go.ncsu.edu/veggieseedresources

Transplants (purchased or grown yourself)

- Feb to Mid-Apr, Mid-Jul to Mid-Sep
- Plant as deep as root ball or pot
- 18-24" between plants, 3' between rows









Growing Cabbage

Fertilizer

- Soil Test
 - If unavailable, 1.5 lbs. 10-10-10 per 100 ft²
 - pH 5.8-6.5

Side Dressing

0.3 lb. actual N /100 ft. of row 4 weeks after transplant

- = 3 lbs. of blood meal
- = 2 lbs. of CaNO₃ (15.5-0-0)

Watering

- 1" per week equivalent
- Consistent moisture needed for head development
- Moisten to a depth of 6 inches









Harvesting Cabbage

Harvest

- 50-80 days after transplant
- When heads are of useable size for cultivar
- Cut below a few loose leaves
- Prone to splitting if harvested too late or too much moisture
- Remove from sunlight ASAP

Storage

- 34°F up to five months
- Ferment into sauerkraut or kimchi







Cabbage Cultivars

Green

- 'Bravo'
- 'Blue Thunder'
- 'Early Jersey Wakefield'
- 'Platinum Dynasty'
- 'Thunderhead'

Red

- 'Cardinal'
- 'Red Dynasty'
- 'Red Rookie'
- 'Ruby Perfection'



Chinese Cabbage

Brassica rapa subsp. (Brassicaceae)



Napa Cabbage

B. rapa subsp. pekinensis



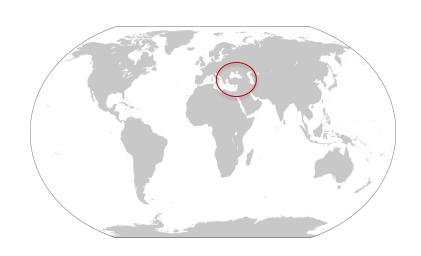
Bok choi, Pak choi, etc.

B. rapa subsp. chinensis



Kale

Brassica oleracea vars. (Brassicaceae)





Relatives: Cruciferous crops (cabbage, mustard, etc.)

What you eat: Leaves







Growing and Harvesting Kale

Direct Seed or Transplant

- Mid Feb. to June, Late Aug to mid Oct.
- Seeds: 1-2" apart; ½" deep (or scatter!)
- Grow as baby green or to mature leaf size

Harvest

- Seeds mature in 40-60 days
- Re-sow every 2-4 weeks
- Harvest when 4-6" tall

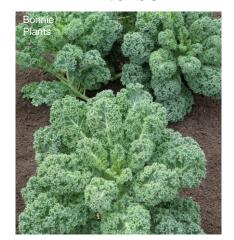








'Winterbor'



Classic cold-hardy varieties



'Dwarf Blue Curled Vates'

Types of Kale

More flavorful but less cold-hardy varieties



'Red Russian'



'Toscano'

- Frost improves flavor in most varieties
- Leaves may be damaged in extreme cold, but plants recover







Caterpillar Pests of Cole Crops





Imported Cabbageworm

Pieris rapae

Cabbage Looper
Trichoplusia ni



Caterpillar Pests of Cole Crops





Cross-striped Cabbageworm

Evergestis rimosalis

Diamonback Moth

Plutella xylostella



Caterpillar Pests of Cole Crops

Hosts

Cruciferous vegetables

Signs & Symptoms

- Windowpane chewing patterns on the undersides of leaves (young larvae)
- Chewing hole (older larvae)
- Frass (droppings)

Management

- Handpick
- Floating row covers
- Bt kurstaki









Radish

Raphanus raphanistrum var. sativus (Brassicaceae)







Relatives: Cruciferous crops (mustards, etc.)

What you eat: Storage roots, leaves



Planting Radish

Direct Seeding

- Feb. to June, Aug. to mid-Sept.
- ½ " deep
- 1" between seeds, 1-2' between rows
- Thin to 2-3" spacing when at two true leaf stage
- Germinate in a few days
 - Test for compost
- Plant every 7-10 days for continuous harvest









Growing Radish

Fertilizer

- Soil Test
 - If unavailable, 1.5 lbs. 10-10-10 per 100 ft²
 - pH 5.8-6.5

Watering

- 1" per week equivalent
- Consistent moisture needed for root development
- Water stress: tough and poor flavor

Harvesting and Storage

- Ready in 20-25 days
- ¾ -1" diameter
- Remove leaves, refrigerate up to two weeks









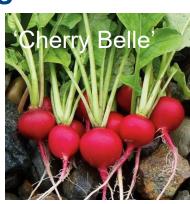
Radish Cultivars

European or "Spring" Radishes

- · 'Bacchus'
- 'Cherry Belle'
- 'Red Flame'
- 'Scarlet Globe'

Daikon and Storage Radishes

- 'April Cross'
- 'Long Black Spanish'
- 'Everest'









Beets

Beta vulgaris subsp. vulgaris (Amaranthaceae)









Relatives: Chard, spinach, amaranth, quinoa

What you eat: Storage roots, leaves



Planting Beets and Chard

Direct Seeding

- Mar. to Apr., Aug. to Mid-Sept.
- Soak for 24 hours, plant ½ -1' deep
- 1-2" between , 10-30' between rows
- Thin to 3" spacing when 3-4" tall









Growing Beets and Chard

Beets need full sun!

Fertilizer

- Soil Test
 - If unavailable, 1 lb. 10-10-10 per 100 ft²
 - Side-dress 0.5 b blood meal 4-6 weeks after planting
 - pH 5.8-6.5

Watering

- 1" per week equivalent
- Consistent moisture needed for root development

Harvesting and Storage

- Beets: 50-70 Days, <2" diameter
- Chard: at useable size. Multiple harvests





Beet Cultivars

Beets

- 'Red Ace'
- 'Ruby Queen'
- 'Bull's Blood'(Greens)

Spinach

- 'Bloomsdale Long Standing'
- 'Early Hybrid #7'



Chard

- 'Lucullus'
- 'Fordhook Giant'
- 'Rainbow Chard'



Carrots

Daucus carota subsp. sativa (Apiaceae)



Relatives: Parsnip, parsley, coriander, dill, celery, fennel, cumin

What you eat: Storage roots







Planting Carrots

- Feb. to Mar., Mid-June –
 Mid-Sep.
- Plant ¼- ½" in rows, 12 18" between
- Thin to 2-3 in. by cutting when seedlings 2 in. tall









Growing Carrots

Fertilizer

- Soil Test
 - If unavailable, 1.5 lbs. 10-10-10 per 100 ft²
 - pH 5.8-6.5

Watering

- 1" per week equivalent
- Consistent moisture needed for root development
- Reduce watering near harvest time



Weed carefully!



Harvesting Carrots

Harvest

- 75-80 days after planting
- ¾ in.-1 ¼ in. diameter at shoulder

Storage

- Remove greens!
- Refrigerator for several weeks
- In ground for 2 months









Carrot Cultivars



Imperator



Nantes



Chantenay



Oxheart



Danvers



Deep Purple





NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Aster YellowsVirus spread by leafhoppers

Kyle Kittelberger Bugguide.net



Macrosteles quadrilineatus

Carrot Problems





Root-Knot Nematodes



Parsley Worm

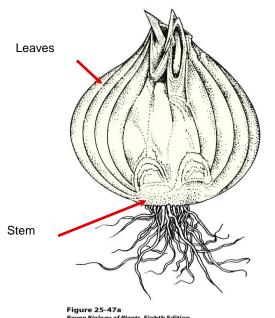
= Swallowtail Leave it alone!



Onions

Allium cepa (Amaryllidaceae)







Raven Biology of Plants, Eighth Edition © 2013 W. H. Freeman and Company

Relatives: Garlic, leeks, chives, shallots

What you eat: Storage leaves (bulb), green leaves (scallions)







Planting Onions

Direct Seed

- August-March (Bulb)
- Sept., Feb. to Mar. (Scallions)
- ½ " deep, 1" in row, 1-2' between rows
- Thin to 3" spacing for bulbs, harvest others as green onions

Onion Sets (Bulbs for Transplanting)

- March
- 3" spacing, planted 1.5" deep









Growing Onions

Need full sun!

Fertilizer

- Soil Test
 - If unavailable, 1 lbs. 10-10-10 per 100 ft²
 - pH 6.0-6.5
- Side Dressing (bulb)
 - When plants are about 12' tall
 - 0.5 lb. 10-10-10 or organic equivalent
 - 1.5 Tbsp sulfur per 100 ft²

Watering

- 1" per week equivalent
- Stop watering a week before expected harvest (bulb)









Harvesting Onions

Harvest

- 60-80 days after planting
- Harvest when ¾ of leaves fallen over
- Harvest in morning, leave on surface until afternoon
- Cut off all but top 1.5 in. of leaves

Storage

- Cure outside 2-3 weeks
- Knock off soil
- Store in cool, dry place









Types of Onions

Bulb Onions

- Bulb formation induced by changes in day length
- Long Day
 - Northern climates only
 - Store well
- Short Day
 - Best for NC
 - Sweeter
 - Do not store well
- Intermediate Day
 - Sweeter than long day
 - Can grow in NC

Green Onions

- Harvest leaves before bulb formation
- Any variety can be grown for green tops
- Some bred for green tops







Onion Cultivars

Short Day

- 'Granex Yellow'
- 'Texas early Grano 502'
- 'Texas Grano 1015Y'

Intermediate Day

'Hiball'

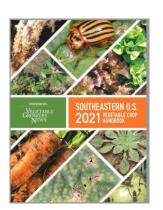


Green (Scallions)

- 'Beltsville Bunching'
- 'Evergreen Bunching'
- 'Ishikura Improved'

Many vegetable cultivars:

https://go.ncsu.edu/seveggiehandbook





Onions Problems

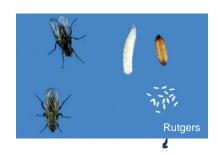
Onion Thrips







Onion Maggots





Garden (English) Peas

Pisum sativum vars. (Fabaceae)







Relatives: Austrian winter pea, beans, southern peas; redbud, Baptisia (distant)

What you eat: Immature pods, seeds







Planting Peas

Direct Seeding

- Jan. Mar.
- Fall planting challenging
- 1' deep, 1-2" apart
 - Double rows
- Simple Trellis (3-4')
- Plant every 3 weeks
- Optional: soak 6-8 hours
- Optional: Rhizobium leguminosarum inoculant









Growing Peas

Fertilizer

- Soil Test!
 - pH 6.0-6.5
 - Lacking test, 1.5 lbs. 10-10-10 per 100 ft²

Watering

- 1" per 10 days equivalent
- Need well draining soil









Harvesting Peas

Harvest

- 55-80 days after planting
- Two-hands!
- Garden: pods plump, before seeds visible or pod is yellow.
- Snap: pods plump and 2-3" seeds small (<50%)
- Snow: pods flat, seeds tiny

Storage

- Eat, freeze, or can ASAP
- Fresh: 2-3 days in fridge
- Allow garden peas to dry on pod and shell





Pea Cultivars

Garden

- 'Alaska'
- 'Mr. Big'
- 'Maestro'
- 'Green Arrow'
- 'Novella'
- 'Wando'
- 'Lincoln'

Snap

- 'Sugar Super Snap'
- 'Sugar Bon'
- 'Early Snap'

Snow

- 'Snowbird'
- 'Oregon Sugar Pod II'
- 'Dwarf Gray Sugar'



Lettuce

Lactuca sativa (Asteraceae)







Relatives: Cruciferous crops (brocoli, turnip, mustard, etc.)







Types of Lettuce





- 'Simpson Elite'
- 'Red Sails'
- 'Prizeleaf'
- 'Oak Leaf'



Romaine a.k.a. Cos

- Upright, tighter heads
- Leaf bases more flavorful



Butterhead a.k.a. Bibb

- Attractive yellow-green leaves
- Good flavor
- 'Tom Thumb' miniature and grows quickly



Growing and Harvesting Lettuce

- Feb-Mar., Aug.-September; survives to 30 F
- Plant densely 2-3" apart in containers
 - Romaine and buttercrisp 8" spacing
- Seed: ¼ in. deep
- Use fresh seed does not store well
- Even watering critical

Loose Leaf Varieties

Cut with scissors (1" above soil) in about 30 days

- Should be about 5-6 in. tall
- 2-3 successive cuttings possible
- Plant every 2-3 weeks for continuous supply until frost









Lettuce Problems

- No tolerance for hot weather
- Poor competitor against weeds
- Tip burn

Insects:

- Cabbage looper and other caterpillars (B.t., hand pick)
- Aphids (insecticidal soap)

Diseases:

Stem and root rots, leaf gray molds





NC STATE EXTENSION

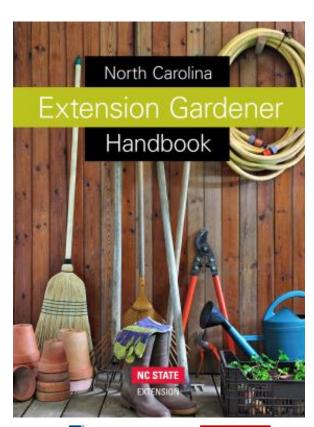
NC Extension Gardener Handbook

https://go.ncsu.edu/eg-handbook



Free Online!

Hard copy – UNC Press (\$60)







NC STATE EXTENSION

Extension Gardener

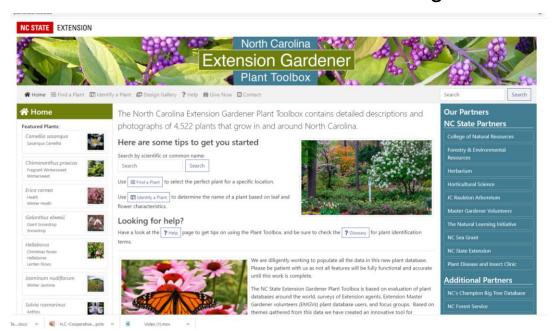
Plant Toolbox



https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/

Select

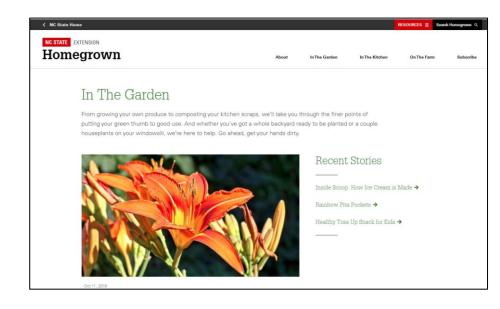
'Find a Plant' -> 'Resistance to Challenges' -> Deer



NC State Extension Homegrown

https://homegrown.extension.ncsu.edu

- In the Garden Videos
- In the Kitchen Videos
- On the Farm Videos



Need Help with Vegetable Problems?

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Chatham County

Plant Clinic: MW 1:00-4:00, F 9:00-12:00

chathamemgv@gmail.com

919-545-2715

(Except during COVID-19, email is preferred)



Send us your problems!

Questions we may ask:

- Crop and cultivar
- Describe signs and symptoms
 - Include photos!
- When you started noticing problems
- Cultural conditions
 - Light, soil, water, planting time etc.

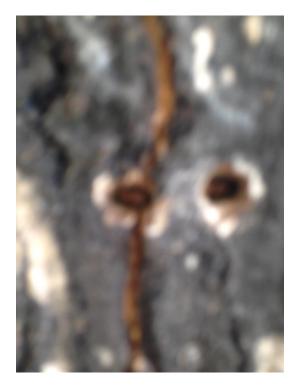




Send Us Good Photos!

Photos should:

- Include healthy and unhealthy parts
- Have a scale object
- Be in focus
- Show an up-close image
- Show the whole plant
- The more, the better



Diagnosis: cataracts?



Thank you!

matt_jones@ncsu.edu



