

Ornamental Brassica (Kale)

Plant type:	Half hardy annual
Uses:	Bedding plant and mixed container
Plant height:	20 – 30cm
Sowing:	May to early July for September - October sales. Large pot sales require the earlier sowing time. 15 – 20°C. Cover with an average layer of medium Vermiculite. Germination 1 - 2 weeks. Seedling emergence is very fast.

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Sowing to transplanting	10 – 14 days
Sowing to colour sales	11 – 12 weeks for 11 – 13cm pot size
Ball 230 to colour sales	5 – 8 weeks for 9cm pot size

Growing on:

Temperature	13 – 15°C optimum. Plants respond to cool nights and are best grown outdoors. Low temperatures give the best leaf colour.
pH	6.0
Feeding	Constant balanced NPK feeding. Many growers prefer to incorporate a slow release fertiliser in the compost. It is important to maintain good nitrogen levels until the temperatures cool in September and the plant starts to colour, or plants will show yellowing and lose lower leaves. Nitrogen levels can be reduced once colouration starts.
Growth regulation	This will be required if temperatures are warm. Plants will respond to Daminozide. First applications can start after the transplanted plant has established. Several applications may be necessary. No further growth regulant should be added after the plants begin to develop colour.
Pack/Pot size	9 - 13cm upto 2 litre specimens
Planting out spacing	20 - 30cm

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Culture Information

Advice	Seedlings can be transplanted to the depth of the first pair of leaves. Transplant plugs before roots become restricted in the plugs. Often transplanted directly into the marketing container. A clay-based compost gives the plants extra stability. Allow to dry between watering and water early in the morning to avoid wet overnight foliage.
Common diseases	Downy Mildew and Botrytis – where plants are kept wet and poorly ventilated.
Common pests	Inspect for Flea Beetle, Caterpillar and Cabbage Aphid. Some growers prefer to take preventative measures against Cabbage Root Fly 7 – 10 days after potting on and immediately after planting out.

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