

How to grow purple/ red cabbage

Purple cabbage thrives in well drained fertile soils with a slightly acidic to neutral ph. Planting soil is prepared by incorporating organic matter like compost to enhance nutrient content and soil structure.

Planting and management

Purple cabbage can be grown from seeds or transplants. Seeds are started in a nursery for about 6 weeks and transplanted into the garden once they develop several true leaves. Alternatively, seeds can be planted directly in the garden. The seedlings are planted about 18 to 24 inches apart in rows spaced 24 to 26 inches apart to allow sufficient room for growth.

Watering. Keep the soil consistently moist but not water logged.

Apply a balanced fertilizer or compost at planting and provide additional side dressing with nitrogen rich fertilizer when the plants are about half way to maturity.

Monitor for common cabbage pests like cabbage worms and aphids and employ organic or chemical control when needed. Crop rotation and field hygiene can help prevent diseases like black root and plant rot.

Harvesting and storage

Purple cabbage is typically ready for harvest 80 to 120 days after planting. Harvesting is done by cutting the entire head from the base using a knife.

After harvesting, the heads are stored in a cool place like a refrigerator to extend their shelf life.