

Kohlrabi



Sun: Plant in full sun (6 to 8 hours). Space 6 to 8 inches apart within rows or 4 to 6 plants per 5-gallon container. Plant in March for spring harvest and mid-August through early September for fall harvest. Kohlrabi is a hardy crop and can survive a hard freeze.

Soil: Amend with organic matter to create a well-drained soil. Avoid planting in unamended sandy or heavy clay soils. If the soil test shows the pH is below 6.2, apply lime at the beginning of the growing season or as recommended.

For proper drainage in a container garden, use potting mix and ensure containers have drainage holes. Alternatively, consider using self-watering containers.

Water: Keep soil consistently moist but not saturated. Apply 1 to 2 inches of water each week. Keep leaves dry to avoid fungal diseases. Mulch helps retain moisture.

Plant: Direct sow seeds $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. When plants are established, thin to 6 to 8 inches apart. Start seedlings 3 to 4 weeks before planting, and slowly harden off 1 week before moving to the garden. If buying transplants, choose those with healthy color and a stocky appearance. Dig the planting hole as deep as the root ball. Firmly pat down the soil and water deeply.

Fertilize: In the absence of a soil test, apply an all-purpose fertilizer (8-8-8 or 10-10-10) at planting, according to label directions. Reapply beside plants, 4 to 6 inches from the stem (side-dress), 2 weeks after transplanting or 4 weeks after sowing seeds.

Insects/Diseases/Weeds: Scout plants frequently for insect and disease damage. Use insecticidal soap (for soft-bodied insects) or Bt dust or spray (for caterpillars, or worms). Spray fungicides regularly to suppress common fungal diseases. Always follow label instructions. Mulch inhibits weeds and diseases.

Harvest: Harvest at 40 to 60 days when bulbs are 2 to 3 inches in diameter. Harvest time varies depending on the variety.

Other: Known as stem turnip, kohlrabi is a rapid-maturing, cool-season vegetable that can be grown in both spring and fall.

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