

# virginia home food production



## KOHLRABI

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

May 1981

426-005

### ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

LIGHT: sunny

SOIL: well-drained loam

FERTILITY: rich

pH: 6.0 - 7.0

TEMPERATURE: cool days

MOISTURE: average



### CULTURE

PLANTING: sow seed when danger of frost is past. Transplants well.

SPACING: 4" x 15-18"

HARDINESS: hardy annual

FERTILIZER NEEDS: sidedress with (4-12-4) after thinning.

CULTURAL PRACTICES:

Kohlrabi is a fast-growing vegetable that likes cool days for best results, but will grow equally well in hot or cold weather. The edible portion is a large bulb 2-2½" across produced on a stem above the ground.

The soil should be high in humus, manure, compost or other organic matter. Good bulb texture and flavor is dependent on the proper amount of water. Always keep the soil moderately moist. Dry soils will produce woody, strong-flavored bulbs.

Due to kohlrabi's fast-growing nature, you should be able to make several sowings throughout the growing season.

### COMMON PROBLEMS

DISEASES: none of importance

INSECTS: Flea Beetles

CULTURAL: woody bulbs (dry soil, picked too late)

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and September 30, 1977, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. W. R. Van Dresser, Dean, Extension Division, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061; M. C. Harding, Sr., Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia 23803.

LD  
5655  
A762  
no. 426-005  
VPI  
Spec

---

**NUTRITIONAL VALUE**

---

Unavailable

AMOUNT TO RAISE PER PERSON: 10 plants  
per person

---

**HARVESTING AND STORAGE**

---

DAYS TO MATURITY: 80 days

HARVEST: Pick the bulbs when they  
are young, tender and no  
more than 2½" in diameter.

APPROXIMATE YIELDS: 1 bulb per plant  
(approximately 30 per 10 foot row)

STORAGE: store extra harvests in a  
cool basement, or bury the  
bulbs deep in the soil and  
cover the soil with hay or  
straw

PRESERVATION: freeze

Prepared by: A.R. McDaniel, P.D. Relf,  
Kris Deimel