



Winter Vegetable Gardening Tips from Joyce Gemmell

Brussels Sprouts Brassica family

Brussels sprouts are grown for the miniature cabbage-like buds that develop on the 2 - 3 foot stem. They need a long cool growing season. Most gardeners find them to be disappointing if planted in the spring as temperatures rise too quickly for the maturing plant.

If planted in the fall (Oct. to Nov.) they can take 90 to 100 days to mature from transplants. Raising transplants from seed takes 5 to 8 weeks and if it is still warm, they may need a little shade until temperatures drop.

Brussels sprouts like a well drained, fertile soil and should be sidedressed with a complete fertilizer or good compost when half grown.

Space transplants 18 to 24 inches apart in rows 2 -3 feet apart. Set transplants a little deeper but don't bury the root ball. Water each plant in and water daily for the first week. Water deeply once a week during the winter if there is no rain.

Before sprouts crowd each other, break off the lower leaves over a period of a few weeks, starting at the bottom and working up the stem, leaving the uppermost foliage. Pick when 1 - 2 inches in diameter and firm.

Varieties: **Long Island Improved** (100 days) semi-dwarf, old commercial variety; **Jade Cross "E"** (96 days) tall hybrid, better bud spacing; **Prince Marvel** (90 days) hybrid, tall (35") .

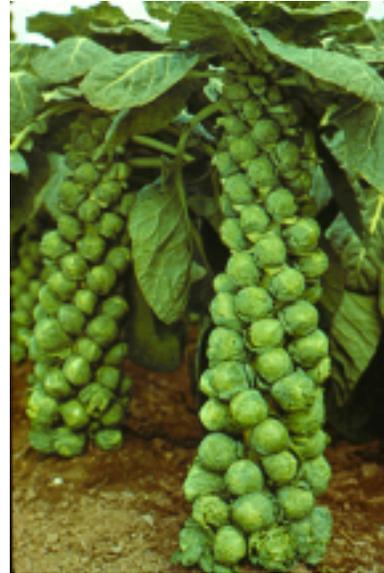
Brussels sprouts should not be grown in soil where other Brassicas have been before. All crops of this genus should be planted on a rotation pattern to avoid diseases building up in the soil.



Planting Dates:
From Sunset *Western Garden Book*

Transplant from February to March or from
September to November

Commercial growers top the plants when the lower sprouts are about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. The crop is ready for harvest about a month later when sprouts are $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 inch in diameter. This produces a stalk of fairly uniform sprouts for an once-over harvest.



Also check out ...

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.cole-crops.html>

Nutritional Information...

Brussels Sprouts

Nutritional value per 100 g (3.5 oz)

Energy	179 kJ (43 kcal)
Carbohydrates	8.95 g
Sugars	2.2 g
Dietary fiber	3.8 g
Fat	0.30 g
Protein	3.38 g
Vitamin A equiv.	38 µg (4%)
Thiamine (Vit. B1)	0.139 mg (11%)
Riboflavin (Vit. B2)	0.090 mg (6%)
Niacin (Vit. B3)	0.745 mg (5%)
Pantothenic acid (B5)	0.309 mg (6%)
Folate (Vit. B9)	61 µg (15%)
Vitamin C	85 mg (142%)
Vitamin E	0.88 mg (6%)
Calcium	42 mg (4%)
Iron	1.4 mg (11%)
Magnesium	23 mg (6%)
Phosphorus	69 mg (10%)
Potassium	389 mg (8%)
Sodium	25 mg (1%)
Zinc	0.42 mg (4%)

Percentages are relative to US recommendations for adults.

Source: Wikipedia : USDA Nutrient database