

## **BROCCOLI**

Broccoli is a hardy vegetable of the cabbage family that is high in vitamins A and D. It develops best during cool seasons of the year.

### **1. Climate:**

Broccoli is cool season crop. It grows best around 20°C. Continuous rain and high temperature will increase disease problem and obstruct head development. There are some heat tolerant varieties that can grow well in fairly warm season.

### **2. Soil:**

Broccoli requires deep sandy loam or clay loam soil with is rich in organic matters and good drainage. It is best to rotate broccoli with other crops that are not crucifers.

### **3. Seedling care:**

The usual planting rate is 300gms of seed per hectare.

Sow the seed in the nursery or on the seedling bed. Thin the seedlings to 3 cm apart 2 – 3 days after germination.

### **4. Transplanting and Spacing:**

Transplant the seedlings at 4 – 5 true leaves stage about 25 to 30 days after seeding. Space them 40 – 45 cm apart in the double rows of 60 – 70 cm apart on each high bed of 90 – 100 cm wide.

The seedling must be sufficiently watered several hours before transplanting to make easier to remove the plant from the seedling bed. Thus, the roots of seedling may hold as much soil as possible, so as to prevent wilting during transplanting.

Irrigation must apply immediately after the transplanting.

### **5.Fertilizer:**

Broccoli thrives best on soil of good fertility. Therefore Manure and chemical fertilizer. The table below shows an example of fertilizer application: (Kg/ha)

Fertilizer	Total	Basal – Fertilizer	Top Dressing
Manure	30000	30,000	-
Urea	200	100	100
Single Super phosphate	150	150	-
Potassium	150	150	-

Side – dressing schedule:

1<sup>st</sup> application: Should be applied in a circle around the plant after it recovered from transplanting.

2<sup>nd</sup> application: Should be applied in bands on shoulders of the bed 2 week after 1<sup>st</sup> side dressing.

3<sup>rd</sup> application: Should be applied on both sides of the furrows when the flower buds start to form.

## **6. Management:**

Broccoli is shallow rooted crop. Therefore, irrigation should be applied frequently to prevent the plant from injures in dry soil. Drainage must be carried out in the rainy season. It is necessary to remove side shoots as soon as possible to improve the yield and quality of main head.

## **7. Harvesting:**

The quality of broccoli heads are usually harvested when they reach full size and firm; never wait until the clustered buds begin to open. When cutting, include 25 cm of the edible portion of the stem. It is best to harvest the heads in the early morning. Packing should be started as soon as possible after cutting.

**Note:** The above information is provided based on research and field observation. Variations in local condition may affect the information and suggestions contained above and for which the company should not be held liable. In case of doubt, it is recommended to carry out ordinary trial production in order to test local growing condition in different seasons and area.