



Broccoli

Produced by:



THE LAND
CONNECTION

When to Start Seeds:

Plant seeds indoors in mid-March for spring planting, mid-July for fall planting

When to Plant Starts or Seedlings Outdoors:

Mid-April for spring planting, mid-August for fall planting using plants that are at least 4-6 weeks old

Container Size for Container Gardening:

Use a 1-3 gallon container that is approximately 8-10 inches wide and at least 12 inches deep

Ground Spacing for In-Ground Gardening:

12-18 inches of space between plants

Hours of Sunlight:	8-12 per day
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Amount of Water:	5-7 cups per week
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Harvest:

Days Until Harvest: 40 days from planting outdoors

Broccoli is the flower of the plant. Before flower buds open, use a knife to cut the stem near the ground. Dunk in cold water as soon as possible. Store in the fridge drawer for 10-14 day. Rinse with water before cooking/eating.



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The information provided in this card is not exact for every growing experience and was designed for Champaign, Illinois in Zone 5b. You should read your seed packet or consult your local Extension agent for questions specific to your growing conditions.

Planting:

Plant seeds in 2-inch square by 3-inch deep containers with potting soil or seed starting mix. Seeds should be planted 1/4 inch below the soil and kept damp and warm (75 degrees Fahrenheit) until plants appear. When daytime temperatures are 55-75 degrees Fahrenheit, overnight isn't below freezing, and plants are 4-6 weeks old, you can plant in ground 12-18 inches apart or one plant per 8- or 10-inch wide by 12-inch deep container.

Care:

Keep the area around the plant free of weeds. Use a liquid fertilizer 4 weeks after growing begins. Give plants a little water every 3-4 days, either from rain or faucet, trying to maintain about 5-7 cups of water per week. Water plants in the morning if possible since plants produce nutrients during the day and need water to do this. Broccoli prefers cool temperatures and may begin to wilt when it gets too hot. Move the container to an area with less sunlight on hot days.

Pests & Disease:

Watch for flea beetles, black bugs the size of a sesame seed, and cabbage loopers, 1 inch green worms. Using a fabric row cover is the best insect and rabbit control. Many diseases can be managed by providing fertilizer and water regularly, having good airflow without overcrowded plants, and keeping water off of the leaves.