



BEETROOT

When to Grow?

Sow: Mid April - late June
Harvest: Mid June - late September
(When they reach tennis ball size)

Germination: 10-14 days

Where to Grow?

Prepare a sunny spot in non-acidic soil. Dig soil and add high quality compost in Autumn.

Autumn application of compost results in less nutrient leaching than from manures and slurries due to the slow-release forms of many of the nutrients in composts. Time your compost applications so that increased nutrient availability meets the nutrient requirements of your crop rotation programme.

How to Grow?

Rake and prepare bed.

Plant 2 seeds together every 4 inches in rows approximately 1 foot apart.

When seedlings are 1 inch high thin them out leaving one plant every 4 inches.

In dry spells or in raised beds water moderately every two weeks to avoid woodiness and splitting.

Compost

Compost contains plant nutrients and organic matter. These ingredients have beneficial effects on the following crop when applied to soil. Compost contains slow release nitrogen, phosphate and sulphur. It contains readily available potash that can provide all the crop's needs plus smaller but useful amounts of magnesium, calcium and trace elements (zinc, copper, manganese & boron).

For crops with sensitive seeds, as with manures or NPK fertilisers, it is advisable to mix the compost with the soil at least two weeks prior to sowing in case the germination of affected by any temporary raised salt content of the soil.

Top Tips

- Keep the bed weed free.
- Protect from birds in the early growing season.
- When picking twist off stalks leaving a 2 inch crown, as cutting will cause bleeding.
- A solution of water and crushed garlic, ratio 10:1 with one liquidized clove can deter slugs and prevent 'damping off' of young shoots caused by fungus.