

BROCCOLI

SQUARE FOOT PLANTING: 1 plant per square foot

SEED DEPTH: ¼ inch **GERMINATION:** 4-7 days

GROWTH

- Plant seedlings every 3 weeks, from mid-April through late May, to spread out your harvest over the season.
- Broccoli plants enjoy moist soil. Refrain from getting the heads of broccoli wet when watering. This can attract unwelcome diseases and give the broccoli florets “sunburn.”
- Broccoli has a preference for acidic soils: to maximize broccoli growth, add minor amounts of fish emulsion, or manure-compost and water to the soil. NOTE: Add manure-compost or fish emulsion at your own discretion and at most once every two weeks.
- Broccoli prefers full sunlight, but is prone to bolting in high heat. Planting in partial shade can help prevent this.

HARVEST

- The broccoli variety supplied by Growing Places will produce many small broccoli florets, 2-3 inches in diameter. When they are dark green and the buds are tight, they are ready for harvest. If

harvested regularly, the plant will continue to produce more florets throughout the season.

- Traditional broccoli varieties will produce a single larger head, 4-8 inches across.
- If the buds on the broccoli florets/head begin to swell, this is a sign that the broccoli is about to flower. Harvest immediately.
- To harvest, use a sharp knife and cut the broccoli head off about 2-3 inches below the head at a single thick stem.

STORAGE

- Store unwashed in a plastic bag in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Broccoli tastes best if used within the first few days of harvest; however, it can be stored up to a week.
- For long-term storage, broccoli freezes well. Blanch for 3-4 minutes, then rinse in icy cold water and pat dry. Place blanched broccoli in an airtight container such as a freezer bag and seal closed. Defrost broccoli when needed.

USE

- Soak head or florets upside down in cold, salted water to remove any hidden pests.

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MORE ON GROWING BROCCOLI

Johnny's Selected Seeds: Broccoli

http://www.johnnyseeds.com/c-12-broccoli.aspx?source=W_veg_ddcat#

Seed Savers Exchange: Broccoli

<http://www.seedsavers.org/onlinestore/broccoli/>