

Brassica Empire series

Brassica oleracea F1

- Broad range of round-leaved, serrated and fringed varieties
- Wide spectrum of trendy, earthy colours
- Tall, robust stems and a sturdy leaf structure
- Very uniform varieties and a high level of harvestable product
- Long vase life and a strong reduction of the typical Brassica scent



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The Brassica Empire series is the latest generation of high quality ornamental cabbages, which has rapidly made a name for itself throughout the floriculture supply chain. Extensive breeding efforts have resulted in a Brassica series with a great appearance, tall sturdy stems of at least 80 cm and a hardier leaf structure. In addition, Empire has better disease resistance and a strong reduction of the typical Brassica odour. Sow outside in spring, after which you can continue sowing in the greenhouse during summer. With a high level of uniformity and an ideal stem length, Brassica Empire ensures an efficient harvest and a higher average percentage of harvestable product. After harvest, the vase life of the Empire series is also above average.

Flower profile:

Series:	Empire
Genus & species:	Brassica oleracea
Family:	Brassicaceae
Common name:	Flowering Kale
Usage:	Ornamental; commercial cut flower
Stem length:	80 cm
Breeder:	Evanthia Genetics
Starting material:	Raw seed / Coated seed

Discover all varieties of the Brassica Empire F1 series and get inspired by the round-leaved, serrated or fringed varieties with trendy earthy colour combinations.



Agathana

- Compact variety
- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Akilina

- Early to medium leaf colouring speed.



Alexandra

- Compact variety
- Early to medium leaf colouring speed.



Anna

- Compact variety
- Early to medium leaf colouring speed.



Antonina

- Compact variety
- Early to medium leaf colouring speed.



Arina

- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Bogdana

- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Boika

- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Fedora

- Compact variety
- Highly decorative green at an early stage.
- Leaf colouration (white/green) at the very last stage.



Gruska

- Highly decorative green at an early stage.
- Leaf colouration (white/green) at the very last stage



Katinka

- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Katya

- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Ksenia

- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Kysia

- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Luba

- Compact variety
- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Olga

- Compact variety
- Medium to late leaf colouring speed.



Selena

- Medium leaf colouring speed.



Sofia

- Compact variety
- Early to medium leaf colouring speed.



Tekla

- Early to medium leaf colouring speed.



Zaneta

- Medium leaf colouring speed.

Brassica oleracea F1 — Cultivation manual

Cut flower culture

Culture location: open field / greenhouse

Sowing method DS/TP

Sowing season outdoors mid/late spring
indoors mid summer

Germ temp. 21-24°C (70-75°F)

Growing temp. 16-21°C - see note*

Plug crop time

15 to 18 days

Crop duration

12 to 16 weeks from sowing

Seed requirement

Indoors 80-90 seeds/ m²

Outdoors 100-110 seeds/m²

Pests/diseases

Cabbage butterflies, caterpillars, thrips, aphids, clubroot, Sclerotinia, downy mildew, powdery mildew.

Fertilization (f)

Calcium-based fertilizer - medium requirement. Later in the culture supplement fertilizer with potassium (K). At the end of the culture, reduce fertilization. High N delays the colouring process.

Sowing details

Direct sowing (DS)

Sow : 100-110 seeds per m²
(indoors 80-90 sds/m²)

On rows: 12,5 cm apart

Pre-sow and transplant (TP):

Sowl : 1 seed/plug (tray 288 or 200)

Soil : well-drained fertile soil
pH 6,5 - 7

cover: light cover

Days 0 - 4

(m) moist to wet

(t) 21-24°C (70-75°F)

Days 5 - 14

(m) moist

(t) 21-24°C (70-75°F)

(l) 11.000-27.000 lux (1000-2500 fc)

(f) 100 ppm N, < 0.7 EC

Days 15 - 18

(m) normal to moist

(t) 21-24°C (70-75°F)

(l) 27.000-54.000 lux (2500-5000 fc)

(f) 175 - 225 ppm N, 1.2-1.5 EC

Transplant at 2-3 true leaf stage.

If left in plug tray too long, plant deeper in order to maintain straight stems.

Growing on

Soil/media

well-drained fertile soil,
pH 6,5 - 7

Netting

Support is advised.

Pinching

Pinching is not advised.

Plants density

Row distance 12,5 cm.

64 - 80 plants per m² (or less).

Moisture (m)

Depending on soil type, gradually reduce irrigation to prevent root diseases.

Temperature (t)

21-24°C (70-75°F) initially for stem elongation; lower to 16°C (60°F) for colouring of the crop.

Light (l)

Brassica is daylength neutral. When light conditions are low, supplemental lighting is required to avoid stretched and weak plants

Cultivation tips

- On lighter soils it is possible to sow or plant later.
- The Empire varieties have an improved tolerance to fungi when compared to other strains in the market.
- Brassica is very versatile: many cultivation methods can be applied.
- Different varieties and forms are available for early/late large/dense crops.

Notes

- Towards the end of the culture lower temperatures (10-12°C (50-54°F) are needed for colouring of the crop.
- Check out the product overview page for compact Brassica types. To create Brassica with a more rosy look, increase plant density. This will result in an even more compact flower head and taller stems. Ask our crop advisors for the right balance.

Harvest

- Harvest late summer/autumn when the centre is well-developed.

For post harvest treatments, see:

www.vbn.nl/en/list-pre-treatments/

This information is for general guidance only, and is in some cases specific for North European conditions. No guarantee is given for the result of the crop, nor is liability accepted for the consequences of applying the indications given.