

BRASSICAS



- Brassica is the family name for vegetable plants that include broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi and cauliflower. They can crop from the summer, all through winter to the following spring, depending on the variety.
- There are general rules that apply to all brassicas, such as they need neutral to alkaline soils. They also prefer a compact soil structure to keep them well anchored, particularly relevant to prevent 'root-rock' caused by strong winds (especially in winter), and also to keep out insects that attack their roots,
- Brassicas benefit from being in a different location each year to prevent the soil from becoming exhausted, and you can easily find good advice on the internet regarding crop-rotation systems. If you prefer a book, I highly recommend 'Grow Your Own Veg' by Carol Klein.
- Netting and collars are necessary to prevent losing your crops to birds (especially pigeons) and cabbage root flies which attack the roots (another reason to firm the soil around them when planting. The nets should be secured to ensure that birds can't become trapped in them, and also the smaller the holes, the more pests it protects them against: Really fine nets like 'Enviromesh' keep out even the smallest bugs, preventing whitefly from ruining your crops.

