

2021 Vegetable Trial: Kale

Name _____
Address _____
County _____

Directions

Kale is generally started indoors, to get an earlier crop, as it does best in cool weather. In our climate, seeds should be started by mid-March. Plant seeds one-half inch deep and keep moist. Transplants can be set out in late April or early May. They can tolerate a light frost. Plant twelve inches apart in rows 18" to 24" apart in full sun or light shade. Kale can also be direct seeded in mid-summer for a fall crop. Kale is a low maintenance crop, although it is best to see that it gets an inch of water a week. Spray with Bt if cabbage butterfly larvae are a problem. Kale can be harvested at any time by picking off-side leaves. Do not injure the growing point of the plant unless you are done harvesting. Kale can generally be harvested late into the fall in October and November. Frost improves the flavor, but the leaves will grow slower. Deer like kale!

By Norma Rudesill

For this trial: Start seeds indoors. Transplant outside three plants of each variety for trial purposes. Harvest individual leaves after plants are about 10" tall. Count number of cuttings and rank varieties according to average yield.

For more information on growing kale use this reference: <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene57dc.html>

Kale may be prepared in a variety of ways. For evaluation purposes, please use the same method on each variety. Consistent care for all four varieties gives best results for evaluating plants.

What date did you plant the seeds? _____ Did you mulch? _____ What kind? _____
Did you fertilize? _____ If so, what kind? _____ What dates did you fertilize? _____
What pest prevention was used? _____
Did you grow plants in containers? _____ If so, would you recommend this method of planting again? _____

Please rate your soil.

Use one or two numbers that best describe your soil type: 1= sandy, 2 = silty, 3= loamy, 4= peaty, 5= clay, 6 = chalky, 7 = potting soil: _____

Soil Drainage: 1 = good, 2= adequate, 3= poor: _____ Soil Compaction: 1= low compaction, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable compaction: _____

Please rate weather during growing season.

Temperature: 1 = warmer than average, 2= average, 3= colder than average _____ Comments: _____

Moisture: 1 = wetter than average, two = average, 3= dryer than average _____ Comments: _____

Length of growing season: 1= longer than average, 2= average, 3 = shorter than average _____ Comments: _____

Photos are welcome. We especially like shots of insects, diseases, and those that compare varieties. Please email digital copies to p.wastell@gmail.com.

Do you have suggestions for further vegetable, herb, and flower trials? _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY October 31, 2021

Return to: Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Educator
Pierce County UW-Extension
P. O. Box 69, 412 W. Kinne St.
Ellsworth, WI 54011

| Kale Trial Evaluation 2021 | Black Magic | Redbor | West Landse | Winterbor |
|---|-------------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| Germination: (1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable) | | | | |
| Number of cuttings? | | | | |
| Yield: (1=productive, 2 = acceptable, 3 = unacceptable production) | | | | |
| Leaf Color? | | | | |
| Leaf texture: Course, medium, or fine? | | | | |
| Cooked Taste (1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable) | | | | |
| Describe flavor | | | | |
| Raw taste (1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable) | | | | |
| Describe flavor | | | | |
| Did you preserve? (yes or no) (freezing, drying, pickling, etc.) | | | | |
| Quality of preserved kale? 1-good, 2= acceptable, 3=not acceptable | | | | |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | | | | |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | | | | |
| Would you purchase this variety again? | | | | |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | | | | |
| Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems) | | | | |