

BROCCOLI

HARVEST

Spring, June

Fall, September-November



LIGHT

Broccoli requires full sun, with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily. It performs best in spring and fall, when temperatures are cooler. Too little light can result in leggy plants or small, poorly formed heads.



SOIL

Plant in well-draining, nutrient-rich soil like Uncle Mike's Organic Growing Blend. For in-ground planting, work compost or aged manure into the top 6–12 inches of soil before sowing or transplanting. For patio pots or raised beds, we recommend Uncle Mike's Organic Potting Mix.



WATER

Water consistently to keep the soil evenly moist. Irregular watering can lead to bolting or poor head formation. Water at the base to avoid wetting the crown, which can attract pests. Adjust watering based on weather and soil type.



FERTILIZER

Broccoli is a heavy feeder and does well with high nitrogen fertilizers applied regularly every 3–4 weeks. We recommend using Kelp Meal, Espoma's Plant Tone, or Organic Plant Magic.



TEMPERATURE

Broccoli grows best in cool temps between 55°–75°F. Exposure to prolonged heat can cause bolting. Spring and fall are the ideal growing seasons, with fall crops typically producing the highest-quality heads.



ISSUES + FIXES

Bolting is often caused by heat or stress. Watch for cabbage worms, cabbage loopers, and aphids. Caterpillars are best controlled with Bt or Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew, while aphids can be treated with Neem Max or All Seasons Horticultural Spray.



SUPPORT & PRUNING

Broccoli typically doesn't need pruning or support. Remove yellow or damaged leaves as needed.



SOWING

Start seeds indoors 5 to 7 weeks before the last frost for spring planting, or sow outdoors in late summer for a fall harvest. Transplant once seedlings have 4 to 6 true leaves and nighttime temps stay above 50°F. Harden off plants before moving them outside.



HARVESTING

Harvest broccoli when the central head is tight, firm, and measures 4 to 8 inches across, before the buds start to open. In the morning, make a slanted cut about 6 inches down the stem to avoid disease and moisture loss. Leaving a portion of the stem encourages many varieties to produce smaller side shoots for continued harvest.