

# Cabbage

## Field Production

Crop group: Brassica (cabbage family) – cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, pechay

### Rotation

Follow this crop with cucurbits, lettuce, sweet pepper, tomato, eggplant or sweet corn. Avoid following with broccoli, cauliflower or pechay.

### Climate & Soil

Cabbage can be grown on any soil type with a good structure and fertility. Ideally grow in well-drained clay loam or sandy loam with plenty of organic matter and a pH from 6 to 6.8. Cabbage grows well in areas 600 to 1,900m above sea level.

### Land preparation

Plow and harrow two times, one week apart to break down soil clods, level the area and remove weeds.

Prepare raised beds, leaving about 0.5m between beds. In low and mid-elevations, the beds should be 0.5 m wide and in high elevations, the beds should be 0.75-1m wide. Create drainage canals along the sides of the area.

Water the beds well enough to moisten the soil in preparation for transplanting. With two rows per bed, dig planting holes equal to the depth of the seedling tray.

**Organic mulching:** You can apply organic mulch about 2.5cm thick on the surface of the soil to minimize evaporation of moisture in the soil and suppress the growth of weeds.

Hagonoy weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) was found in trials to be the best mulching material, and may have some disease suppressive effect. Rice straw, rice hull, and kakawate leaves can also be used. The mulch should be applied to the top of the bed one week prior to transplanting.

### Transplanting / Crop establishment

Hardened seedlings are ready to transplant when they are 10cm tall with stem approximately 3mm in diameter. Water the seedlings well before removing from the tray. Water



Transplanting cabbages in the field.

the beds well enough to moisten the soil in preparation for transplanting. In low and mid-elevations, plant cabbage seedlings on the 0.5m wide beds in two rows with 35-40cm spacing between the plants.

In high elevations, plant the cabbage seedlings 35-40 cm apart in three rows on the 0.75-1m wide beds.

Create drainage canals along the sides of the area.

Transplant late in the afternoon, or morning – if it's cloudy. Dig planting holes equal to the depth of the seedling tray, add fertilizer to the hole and mix it in so that raw fertilizer will not touch the seedling roots, and gently put seedlings in the hole. Gather the soil around the seedlings and tamp gently to keep them secure and even with the soil surface.

**Water immediately to establish good root-soil contact.** Drench around the plants with fungicide as needed.



