

RED BEET

Beta vulgaris var. rubra

Origin: Europe, North Africa and West Asia

Edible Portion: Root

SOWING AND PLANTING

Climatic Requirements: Cool season crop that will tolerate frosts. Best quality when grown at temperatures of 12.5-21.0°C. Very hot weather tends to produce white zoning in the roots.

Preferred Soil Type: Well structured, free draining silt and sandy loams.

Seed Required: Process – Conventional seeding 6.75kg/ha, precision seeding 5.5kg/ha. Market – Conventional seeding 11.0kg/ha, precision seeding 9.0kg/ha. Precision seeding rates are based on the use of rubbed seed.

Optimum Soil Temperature Range for Germination: 15.5-29.5°C.

Emergence Time: 4-42 days, optimum 5 days.

Plant Spacing: Process – In-row 5.0-10cm, between rows 35.0-40.0cm. Market – In-row 5.0-10.0cm, between rows 30.0-35cm.

Seeding Depth: 12.5-18.5mm.

Plants per Hectare: Process 250,000-570,000, market 286,000-667,000.

Method of Propagation: Sown in situ with gang seed drills. Precision seeding is normally undertaken using rubbed seed. The seeding rate is adjusted to eliminate the need for thinning.

Sowing Dates: Main crop – September to October. Late crops – Mid-January.

Other Sowing and Planting Information: Red beet matures more rapidly when plant stands are thin and more slowly when plant populations are high.

FERTILISER

Optimum Soil Test Levels: N = 100-150, P = 33-55, K = 12-15, Mg = 20-30, Ca = 10-15, Na = 1-10.

Base Dressing (kg/ha): N = 50.0, P = 20.0, K = 40.0. Process – The base dressing is applied as a banded application below and to one side of the seed at sowing. Market crops – The base dressing is applied broadcast and worked into the soil prior to planting.

Side Dressing (kg/ha): N = 50.0. Side dressing are not normally applied to process crops.

Trace Elements: Boron – A deficiency of this element includes a condition in the roots known as brown heart. Control

Optimum pH Range: 5.5-6.8.

Lime Requirement: For pH correction only.

Safe Fertilisers

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PESTS AND DISEASES

Important Pests and Their Control:

Alphids – chlorpyrifos, deltamethrin, permethrin/pirimiphos-methyl, pirimicarb

Cutworm – esfenvaterate

Mites – dicofol

Whitefly – buprofezin, permethrin/pirimiphos-methyl, pirimiphos-methyl

Important Diseases and Their Control:

Angular leaf spot – cupric hydroxide

Anthracnose – mancozeb

Downy mildew – captan, chlorothalonil, metalaxyl

Powdery mildew – benomyl, chlorothalonil, chlorothalonil/thiophanate-methyl, dinocap/myclobutanil, penconazole, pyrazophos, sulphur, triadimefon, tridemorph, triforine

Note: Squash and vigorous pumpkins are not normally treated with insecticides and fungicides after they have begun to run unless powdery mildew becomes epiphytotic, in which case aerial application of fungicides is undertaken.



Recommendations:

Red Beet Program

Ground preparation:

Apply; 1 tonne/ha Lime or Liquid Lime @ 20lt/ha in 300lt/water

Pre Plant

Apply 100 Kg/Ha Alroc Extra Phos

Apply 20lt/ha Vital Activator, Boom spray with 200lt/ha water

At Planting

Option 1; Apply 350 Kg/Ha NPK 9.5.7 Supablend

With 8lt Vital Phos in 200lt water Boom sprayed onto soil before planting

Option 2; Apply 300kg/ha NPK 15.3.8 Supablend

With 8lt Vital phos in 200lt water Boom sprayed onto soil before planting

In Crop Fertiliser requirements:

Nitrogen:

Safe Coated Urea @ 80kg/ha

Alroc CBM @ 150kg/ha side dressed

Multi Nutrients:

2 x applications of Vital Mix@ 8lt/ha in 200lt water

This can be folia sprayed, aerial applied or put through an irrigation system.

The above mentioned application rates can be adjusted to what is economical. These adjustments may not provide the ideal nutrient ratios but should replace some of the nutrients that are removed by the crop.

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Disclaimer

The above program will be affected by soil variation, testing errors, seasonal factors and management skills. Any recommendation should be acted upon as part of an ongoing fertiliser program. No responsibility can be accepted for any of the above matters or other matters that are beyond our control.

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