

## Cultural Details: Cauliflower

VHT011

Cauliflower needs care to grow properly; compared to cabbages, it is more prone to physiological disorders, weed control is more difficult, and the crop maturity may be uneven. Viridis Hortus offers a good selection of varieties to cover a very wide cropping period, see the catalogue for specific sowing/cropping times.

Cauliflower seed (approx. 330 per gram) can be sown in the open ground, in modules, peat blocks or pots. Caulis require a firm, fertile soil (pH 6.5-7.0) which is moisture retentive and free draining with a medium nitrogen level. Seed will germinate in the range 10-30oC, with an optimum of 21oC. The ideal sowing depth is 12.5mm. Seed will germinate in 7-12 days, sometimes longer, depending on soil temperature.

Optimum spacing depends on the time of year, the cultivar, and the market requirement for the finished item. As a rough guide, Summer crops at 24x60cm (field system), 53x53 (bed system), Autumn crops 68.5x68.5cm (field), 60x60 (bed) for large heads, down to 55x55cm for compact heads. Winter hardy crops around 67- 67cm to 74x74cm, depending on cultivar.

Pests and Diseases to look out for

- Cabbage root fly
- Cabbage aphid
- Peach potato aphid
- Caterpillars
- Pigeons
- Slugs and snails
- Whiptail
- Clubroot
- Downy Mildew
- Cauliflower mosaic virus
- Wire stem

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.