SAKATA
PASSION in Seed

Nairobi*

F1 Hybrid Cauliflower

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- **VERY ADAPTABLE**
- **LARGE FRAME**
- **DENSE CURD**
- **GOOD WEIGHT**

Nairobi* is the latest addition to the Sakata cauliflower range. This variety is very adaptable with a large frame for protection against all the elements. **Nairobi*** has a very good wrap that is protecting the neat, tuct curd that gives it good weight.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- Please contact your area representative for a sowing guide and more technical information

CHARACTERISTIC	NAIROBI*
KIND	F1 hybrid cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* L. convar. *botrytis* (L.) Alef. var. *botrytis* L.)
SEASON	Summer and winter
MATURITY	Late (winter: 90 - 100 days and summer: 70 - 85 days)
CURD SIZE	Medium to large
CURD SHAPE	Semi-dome
CURD WEIGHT	600 – 1000 g (depending on spacing and days)
CURD COMPACTNESS	Dense
CURD COVER	Good
CURD COLOUR	Cream-white
CURD TYPE	Dence with good tuct
PLANT SIZE	Large
FIELD HOLDING	Good
YIELD POTENTIAL	Very high
SUGGESTED SPACING	35 000 to 45 000 plants per ha
MARKET SEGMENT	Pre-packing & Processing
SPECIAL FEATURES	Good weight, big frame and good wrap.

* Characteristics given are affected by production methods such as soil type, nutrition, planting population, planting date and climatic conditions. Please read disclaimer.

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GENERAL TIPS FOR CAULIFLOWER PRODUCTION

Climatic requirements

Cauliflower has very similar temperature and moisture requirements for optimum growth and development as cabbage but is usually much less adapted to extreme heat or cold. The average minimum for cauliflower is about 7 ^{0}C. The plant can recover completely when light frost occurs at a young stage. However, if mature heads are not protected by leaves they can be easily damaged by a few days of frost, especially during sudden cold periods. Quality and yield are poorly affected by hot weather and cauliflower maturing in summer will often have poorer attributes. Production is therefore favoured from autumn through to spring, except in very cold areas. Growers in cooler areas are able to take advantage of good production during summer when there is a demand for quality cauliflowers. However, there are particular varieties that have been bred for heat tolerance and can, therefore, produce good quality heads during summer months (thanks to a better wrap (as shown below) and a faster maturing rate).

Transplanting

In summer, 4-week old seedlings are ideal, whilst in winter this may be extended up to 8 weeks. A good norm to follow is to transplant after the development of the first true leaf. Hardening-off is especially necessary when the plants are to be planted out during warm conditions. Seedlings should be carefully inspected before transplanting into the field. Check that the terminal bud is not damaged as this results in blind unproductive plants that should be discarded. The ideal seedling should be healthy, have no more than 3 true leaves, be 125 - 150 mm tall, have a straight stocky stem and not be root-bound.

Crop rotation

Crop rotation is important in reducing soil-borne pathogens and pests surviving in infected plant residues and with a specific host range.

Rotations are often designed to include a green-manure crop in order to increase the organic content of the soil. Crops belonging to the family Brassicaceae (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprout, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, turnip, radish, kale, horseradish, watercress & various mustards) should not be planted in the same field more than once every three years but can follow any unrelated crop in a rotational system. Cruciferous weeds must be rigorously controlled during the period when brassica crops are not grown otherwise much of the benefit of crop rotation can be lost. Green mealies and legumes are the most suitable green-manure crops for brassicas. These crops should be ploughed in while they are still green and at least 8 weeks before planting a new crop.

Riceyness of cauliflower

Symptoms

- The curd appears uneven and fuzzy and the floral parts may begin to grow up through the head prematurely

Causes

- Planting a variety in the incorrect slot
- Environmental and water stress

Control

- Plant varieties in their suggested slot

Hollow stem

Also known as boron deficiency to some – is very common, especially in summer when plants tend to grow much faster due to the higher temperatures. Broccoli and cauliflower have a high requirement for boron, which makes this deficiency very common. The name is self-explanatory, as the plants grow, the stems become hollow and necrotic due to internal splits in the stem. With the hollow stems, brownish water-soaked lesions appear on the broccoli florets and cauliflower curds. This disorder also leads to a much shorter shelf-life, since the product will start rotting from the inside. Hollow stem symptoms tend to develop as the soil profile dries out after some extended rainfall. Hollow stem is also more common when there is an excessive amount of nitrogen present. Nitrogen is one of the most important elements for growth stimulation, and when this growth is over stimulated, other elements such as calcium and boron (responsible for strength and elasticity of cell walls) become diluted in the new tissues, leading to cell breakdown and splitting of the stems.

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