

GROWING BROCCOLI AND CAULIFLOWER FROM SPRING THROUGH FALL

Jim Golonka
Golonka Farm
6 State Road, Whately, MA
gonlonkafarm@comcast.net

Golonka Farm is a small, very diversified farm with about 95% of our sales being retail. Our goal is to grow and offer, for sale, a wide range of produce throughout the growing season. One crop we have been growing, and consistently offering for sale, is broccoli.

The first planting of broccoli is started in the greenhouse around March 10th in 72s. The next five or six plantings are in 98s. The last 2 plantings are outdoors in seed beds. Each planting consists of 2 or 3 varieties of different maturity.

Fertilization consists of discing in 100-120 pounds of NPK after plowing. Treflan is then applied with a field cultivator for weed control. Transplanting is done with a mechanical transplanter set at 14" plant spacing on 36" rows. Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and kohlrabi are planted together.

Soon after transplanting in the spring, root maggot control with Lorsban is applied using a banded soil drench. About three weeks after transplanting, 300 pounds of Ammonium Sulfate is applied as a side dress.

The keys to growing broccoli and cauliflower are maintaining high fertility, proper soil moisture and variety selection, good root maggot control and a little luck. Anything that stresses the plant will result in smaller heads.