

PAPERPOT GROWERS NOTES • PAPERPOT TRANSPLANTER

Cabbage

Early cabbage at 12" spacing, seeded with a skip plate and kept under cover against cabbage moths.

CHAIN POT

6"

IN-ROW

12" (skip)

ROWS / 30"

BED

3

TRAYS / BED

3

TOP PLATE

Skip • 2.5 mm
• 1.5 mm

SEEDS / CELL

1 (every other
cell)

Bed preparation

- Broadfork the bed to aerate and loosen the soil.
- Smooth and shape the bed with a bed prep rake, removing any debris.
- Cabbage do best in a bed freshly amended. Layer on 1" of compost (enough to mostly cover the native soil) or sprinkle on alfalfa meal and pelleted chicken manure.
- If you layer compost, don't tilth it in, so surface weed seed stays smothered. If you add amendments, tilth the top 1-2" to mix them in.
- Irrigate for 10 to 14 days* to germinate weed seed in the top layer of soil, then flame weed once the weed cotyledons are up.

Seeding

- Set a germination tray with 6" paper chain pots and fill with potting mix.
- Set up the Kwik Klik Slide with the Paperpot bottom plate and the **Paperpot skip plate (132 holes), 2.5 mm thick, 1.5 mm holes** top plate.
- The skip plate drops seed in every other cell, for 12" between plants in the row.
- Pour seed on the top plate and work it until one seed sits in each hole. Line the seeder up over the tray and slide the plate to drop seed into every cell at once.
- Water the tray, then germinate for 72 hours at 86°F.
- Move trays to greenhouse benches as soon as you see germination.

CROP DATA

Cultivars	Early types for 12" spacing: Caraflex, Tiara, Omero
Seed / bed	396 seeds
Germination	72 hours at 86°F
Days to transplant	28 days
Days to maturity	68 days
Harvest window	14 days
Days in field	54 days
Harvest unit	Head
Yield / bed	285 heads

Transplanting

- Water the trays thoroughly before heading to the field.
- Plant three rows of cabbage with the Paperpot Transplanter: 10" between rows, 5" from the outer rows to the bed edge.
- New to the transplanter? See the [how-to guide and videos](#).

Irrigation

- Water the bed in thoroughly with overhead irrigation or four lines of drip.
- Right after watering in, cover the bed with floating row cover (insect netting in warm weather) and weigh the edges down with sandbags every 5 feet. It only comes off to cultivate and harvest, which keeps cabbage moths off.
- Keep watering through hot days in the warm season.

Cultivation

- 14-16 days after transplanting, cultivate with a collinear hoe. A flex tine weeder also works while the plants are young.
- After that the heads close the canopy and shade out weeds.
- Side-dress with a nitrogen-rich fertilizer about halfway to maturity.

Harvest

- Cut heads when they're solid and firm to hand pressure, using a freshly sharpened knife.
- Strip the large outer leaves so just the head remains.

Packing

- Cabbage doesn't need washing.
- Get it into the cooler quickly and store at 35°F until market.

SUGGESTED TOOLS

Seeding	Kwik Klik Slide, Paperpot germination trays, paper chain pots
Transplanting	Paperpot Transplanter
Aeration	Broadfork
Tilthing	Tilther, power harrow or precision depth roller
Bed shaping	Bed prep rake
Weed control	Flame weeder
Cultivation	Flex tine weeder or collinear hoe

*All timing varies with your climate, soil and season. Bed figures are for a 100' x 30" bed. Days in field = days to maturity + harvest window - days to transplant.

MORE PAPERPOT GUIDES

Transplanter how-to, Kwik Klik Slide instructions, skip spacing and tech sheets are free at paperpot.co.
Paperpot tools and paper chain pots: shop.moderngrower.co