# Cabbage

*Brassica oleracea* (Cruciferae)

**Fast Facts:**

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| Acres in Washington: 266<br>Number of Growers: 96<br>Per Acre value: $2500<br>*Statistics Provided by the Washington Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS). |

**Description of crop:**

Cabbage is a biennial that is grown as an annual crop. It is a cool-season vegetable that thrives in damp weather. Cabbage usually is direct-seeded rather than sown as a transplant. If the cabbage is intended for the fresh market, it is harvested by hand sometimes with the use of harvest aids, such as conveyor belts, in large fields. If the cabbage is grown for processing, it is planted from the first of May to the end of June. The cabbage is then harvested by machine or harvest aids from late August to the end of October. This long planting period and long harvest window provides the processor with a continuous, manageable supply of fresh produce. If cabbage is for the fresh market, it must be cosmetically perfect and free of insect damage.

**Key pests:**

Insect pests in cabbage include the cabbage maggot, cabbage looper, cabbage aphid, turnip aphid, wireworm and armyworms. Weed pests are: shepherdspurse, lambsquarter, pigweeds, pineapple weed, annual grasses and wild mustard. Wild mustard is especially difficult to control due to the fact that any herbicide that affects it will also affect cabbage. Diseases include black leg and club root.

**Key pesticides:**

For the cabbage maggot and wireworm, growers use Lorsban. For control of the cabbage looper, growers use Javelin or Capture. For aphids, grower can apply Assail, or Capture. For armyworm, growers use Sevin, Lorsban or Asana. Bacillus thuringiensis or Bts are also used for insect pest control. For black leg, growers can apply Cabrio and for club root growers use Terrachlor. For most weeds, growers use Treflan.

**Critical pest control issues:**

Bts must be used in different formulations to prevent resistance development. It is critical to start with certified seed to reduce the incidence of disease. It is also important to maintain good sanitation practices especially in the destruction of any plant matter that shows sign of disease. Any infected plant debris should be

burned and equipment and people that come in contact with contaminated plant material should be decontaminated prior to introduction to healthy plants. Rotation programs need to be rigorously followed. This usually involves choosing an area where cruciferous crops have not been grown before. Do not compost debris from affected leaves. Club root control is benefited by application of hydrated lime to bring soil pH to 7.3 or above.

**Expert contacts**:

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**Location of production**:

Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Cowlitz, Island, Whatcom, Snohomish, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom, King, Pierce, Skamania, Clark, Klickitat, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Grant, Franklin, Adams, Benton and Yakima counties.

Cabbage

# Cabbage Production in Washington State


Area of Cabbage Production