

Daikon

Raphanus sativus (Cruciferae)

Fast Facts:

Number of Growers: less than 50
Acres in Washington: less than 200
Per Acre Value: \$900-\$1000
Percent of U.S. Acreage: less than 1%

Description of crop:

Daikon, also called Chinese, Japanese or winter radish, differs from the common radish in that it is larger, slower in development and produces a root that remains crisp and tender much longer. The roots reach up to 2 -4 inches in diameter and up to 16 inches long, and can be stored for weeks without the leaves if kept in a cool place. The word daikon literally means large root in Japanese.

Daikon is a mild flavored, root vegetable which can have three distinct shapes: spherical, oblong, and cylindrical. In the U.S it is commonly shaped like a giant carrot. Most of the common varieties are white but some daikons are yellow, green or black. In the Orient, radishes are used in many different ways; stir-frys, soups, pickling and as a dried vegetable. In the U.S. they are generally eaten raw, cooked, sliced in relishes or used in salads. They tend to be sweet and juicy but some varieties will be slightly hotter than the traditional radish.

Daikons are a cool season, late-summer to early fall crop, however; there are varieties that are heat resistant. In western Washington, it is planted in early July for harvest several months later. This later planting also helps avoid many common pest problems. When grown in gardens among cucumbers and squash, daikon repels certain beetles and when planted near tomatoes they repel mites. Daikon is harvested by hand and is generally tied and bundled. It is grown and sold for local markets or at farmers markets.

Key pests:

Weeds are the key pests in daikon. These include: lambsquarter, pigweed, Canada thistle, shepherdspurse, mustard, smartweed, chickweed and quackgrass. Insect pests that affect daikon are the cabbage maggot, diamondback moth, flea beetle, cabbage and alfalfa loopers and wireworms. Diseases that affect daikon are downy mildew and white rust.

Key pesticides:

Broadleaf weeds are controlled with Treflan. Cabbage maggots are controlled with Lorsban, the diamondback moth with Sevin and azadiractin the cabbage and

alfalfa loopers with Javelin and wireworms with diazinon. Downy mildew is controlled with Bravo and white rust with Quadris or Ridomil.

Critical pest

control issues:

Daikon should be grown in ground where no crucifer crops or related weeds have been present in the field for at least 2-4 years. Cruciferous weeds include both wild radish and wild mustards.

Expert contacts: Bee Cha

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206 205 3100

Location

of production: King, Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish, Thurston, Yakima and Pierce counties.







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Daikon Production in Washington State

