

# SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No.29.3: Technical guideline for kohlrabi cultivation

## 1. General description:

Kohlrabi plant belongs to Cruciferae family, when the plant grows, the stem enlarges— called tuber -which contains a lot of nutrients and used as vegetable; Leaf is also edible for human beings and cattle. Kohlrabi requires growing condition that is similar to cabbage, but it can withstand 2-3<sup>0</sup>C higher temperature. Therefore planting time of kohlrabi is early or later than cabbage, so it is contributing to a period in which vegetable is short of supply between spring – summer seasons. Kohlrabi grows fast in light loamy, moderate acidic (pH level of 5.5-6.5) and well-drained land.

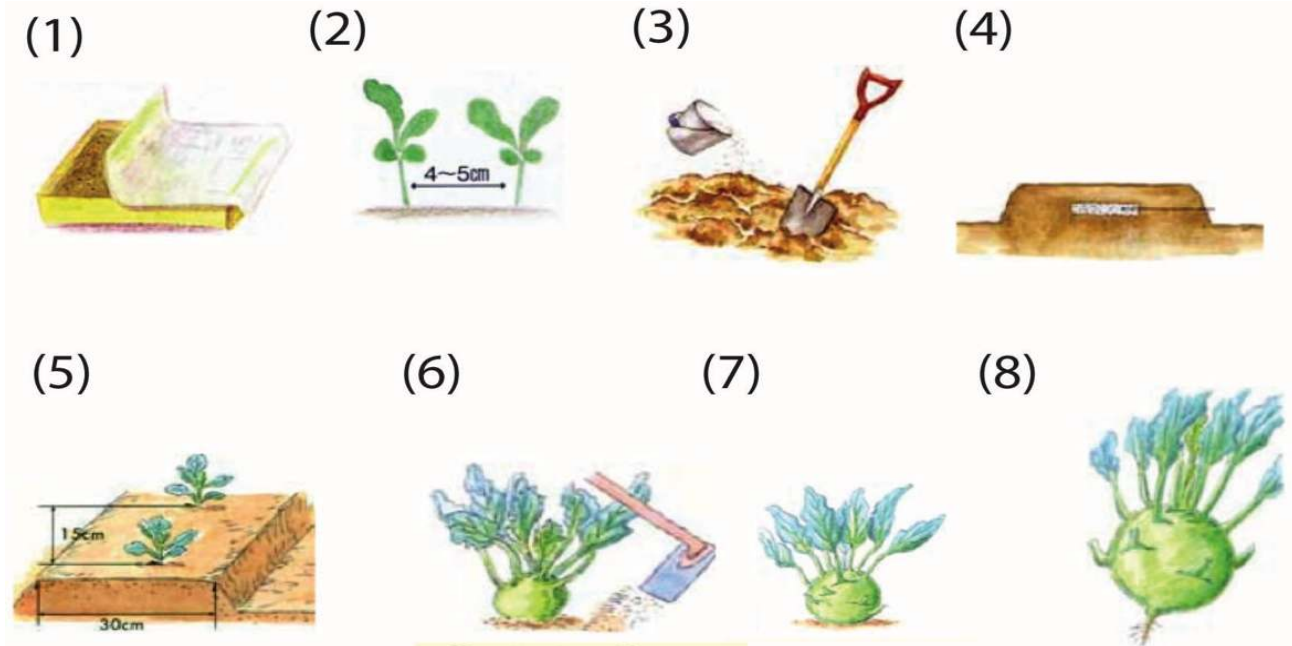
## 2. Planting season:

Main season: sowing from Sep. to the end of Oct., planting from Oct. and Nov, seedlings at age of 30-35 days will be planted.

Late season: sowing in Nov., planting in Dec., seedling at age of 25-30 days will be planted.

## 3. Seedling preparation:

(1) Seedlings can be raised by sowing seeds both in soil box and in small bed (size of 1m x 1m or 1m x 2m). Spread seeds about 2cm in distance. After seed sowing, cover the seed surface with a thin layer of soil (1mm), water the surface and cover the box with newspaper or rice straw. Remove the cover after germination.



(2) Remove small and weak seedling and then, make a 4~5cm distance between them.

#### **4. Planting, fertilizing, and tending**

(3) Hoe, crush soils into smaller ones and make a bed of 30 cm in width.

(4) Add 1~2kg of compost manure and 150g lime or ash per 1m<sup>2</sup> one week before transplanting

(5) Transplant seedlings on bed, when 4~5 of true leaves appear

(6) 2 to 4 weeks after transplanting on bed, earth up to the root and apply organic fertilizer to the one side of the row. Biogas liquefied fertilizer with a dilution ratio of 1:2~1:5 can be used for the plant to grow fast.

(7) Remove the older leaves at a lower part of tuber.

(8) Harvest them 60 - 70 days after planting

#### **5. Pest and disease control:**

Regular field sanitation; planting garlic and shallot to prevent pest attack.

Apply natural enemies such as spiders, ladybugs, etc. to limit the development of pest and disease

Catch worms by manual methods (hand capture).



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Project telephone: 0230-8500-868  
Email: [SUSFORM.NOW.LDC@gmail.com](mailto:SUSFORM.NOW.LDC@gmail.com)