

PRODUCT DATA SHEET

Rocket

Botanical name	Eruca sativa
Seeding rate	When grown for oil/seed production: 400-430 plants/m ² or 6 kg/ha When grown as a vegetable/green manure: 580-630 plants/m ² or 8 kg/ha
Row spacing	When grown for oil/seed production: 20 cm When grown as a vegetable: 12.5-37.5 cm When grown for green manure: 12.5 cm
Sowing period	When grown for oil/seed production: spring from mid-April When grown as a vegetable: April to September When grown for green manure: mid-July to September
Sowing depth	1 cm



General information and usage

- ▶ Other names: Arugula
- ▶ Difference between the various uses
 - Green manure/catch crop: fast-germinating plant species for effective ground cover, most commonly cultivated as a catch crop in Germany
 - Vegetable: the leaves are gaining popularity for use in salads
 - Leaf flavour is more intense under dry growing conditions and from older plants
 - The leaves are rich in glucosinulates
 - Oil & seed production: rare but possible

Botany

- ▶ Family: Cruciferous plants (Brassicaceae)
- ▶ Genus: Eruca
- ▶ Origin: Mediterranean region

Morphology

- ▶ Annual, herbaceous cruciferous plant with a height of 15-50 cm (depending on the variety and use)
- ▶ Forms a flat, delicately branched root network
- ▶ Soft green, elongated, pear-shaped, slightly hairy leaves with dandelion-like lobes
- ▶ Multi-edged stem with fine hairs
- ▶ Inflorescence: Raceme
 - Whitish to reddish flowers, 1-3 cm long, flowering from May to August
- ▶ Cross-pollination

Climate requirements

- ▶ Robust crop with no special requirements
- ▶ More intense leaf flavour under dry conditions
 - If the intended use is as salad greens, various irrigation options should be provided
 - Rocket needs 30-70 days of vegetative growth for use as salad greens (depending on the maturity group)
- ▶ Germination period 7-10 days, optimal soil germination temperature 10-15°C

Soil requirements

- ▶ Humus-rich, loose sandy soils or sandy loams are preferred
- ▶ Waterlogged, cold and inactive soils are unsuitable
 - Ideal pH value is 6.5-7.0

Crop rotation

- ▶ Not suitable for crop rotations with other cruciferous plants, especially when used as the main crop
- ▶ When used as a main crop, maintain cultivation breaks of 3-4 years



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Soil preparation

- The aim is to have a well-distributed, even, finely crumbled and weed-free seedbed, which allows for direct sowing for vegetable cultivation

Objective	New cultivation
Measures	Secondary processing: use a tiller or rotary harrow for an evenly crumbled, well-distributed seedbed.



Sowing

- Emergence is generally about one week after sowing

Crop protection

- In the case of massive weed pressure, use herbicides before sowing
- Weeds can be controlled mechanically
 - In this case, the row spacing must be adjusted
- Early sowing can protect against the green peach aphid, a pest
- Well-designed, varied and diverse crop rotation is an effective measure against fungal diseases

Fertilisation

- No pronounced need for fertiliser → *Eruca sativa* is a classic light feeder
- Fertilisers can even be harmful and cause some diseases

Harvest and treatment

- Leaf mass yield (use as salad greens): 1,000-2,000 kg/ha
 - Optimal leaf length for harvesting is 10-12 cm
 - Harvest period: From May to mid-September (from about 30-70 days after sowing)
- Seed yield: 1,200-1,600 kg/ha
 - Combine header height "as low as necessary, as high as possible"
 - Typical seed moisture content at harvest is 11-35%
 - Dry the crop gently down to a target moisture content of 10%, max. temperature 70°C, do not exceed 45°C in the harvested seeds



Any questions? Please feel free to contact us!

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