

## BROCCOLI “Di Cicco” Variety PLANTING GUIDE (originally from Italy)

### HOW TO PLANT:

1. **Remove any weeds from the bed** (trowels & gloves in Garden Box-see map).
2. **Discuss where your two vegetables will be planted with respect to sunlight.** Tall plants can create afternoon shade. How can we plant so that both veggie types receive good sun? Mentally divide your plot in half. Plant the tall veggies on the north OR east side of your plot if possible. **Broccoli plants can reach 2 ½ ft tall!!**
3. **Row spacing.** Most plots will accommodate 1 row of broccoli. **Space rows 18” apart.** Consider where your rows will be relative to the drip irrigation lines, which should be arranged to provide even watering.
4. **Seed depth.** **1/8”** (this is VERY SHALLOW, so no hole is necessary). Students should sprinkle seed on top of soil and then lightly sprinkle soil on top.
5. **Seed spacing.** Sprinkle a group of **4 seeds every 18”**. Sprinkle with soil.
6. **Mark your hole.** Place a craft stick NEXT TO each seed grouping (do not place sticks directly on top of seeds). Sticks tell us where we need to pay attention (i.e. watch for seedlings and where NOT to step).
7. **Water the beds (if desired) using watering can or hose (see garden map).** The drip irrigation system will provide water on a regular basis so it is not necessary. Show kids where the holes are in the irrigation lines.
8. **Clean and return any used trowels and gloves to the Garden Box.** Please keep gloves together in pairs as found.

### MONITORING:

1. **Appearance of seedlings.** Seedlings should appear in **7-14 days**.
2. **Thin seedlings** (once 2” tall) to **1 every 18”**
3. **Harvest main head when it is 3” in diameter.** This will encourage large numbers of side florets.
4. **Observe your plants regularly.**
5. **Insects.** Look for insects that might munch on the leaves!

### HARVEST:

- ~ **48 days** (Di Cecco Broccoli post-planting to harvest)
- Teachers and Garden Liaisons should remain in contact with each other for periodic updates and eventually the HARVEST!

According to Botanical Interests seed company. For best flavor and texture, harvest Little Finger carrots at their optimal size of 3" long. Peak harvest period lasts about 3 weeks. Late summer sown carrots are sweetened after having been kissed by light frost, but please harvest before soil freezes, which would destroy the crop. If you live in a climate that doesn't fall below 20°F, you can leave carrots in the ground for storage provided they are heavily mulched, and harvest as needed.

<https://www.botanicalinterests.com/product/broccoli-di-cicco-organic-heirloom-seeds/srch:di+cicco>