## PLANTING GUIDE: BEETROOT, CAULIFLOWER & BROCOLLI

## **BEET ROOT (Beta Vulgaris) (CRIMSON GLOBE, DETROIT)**



**Introduction:** The leaves of the beet plant are dark green and have a distinct dark red vein that runs the length of the leaves. Beet leaves are edible and prepared similarly to spinach. Beets are most often grown for their edible, fleshy root. Most are around or oval, but there are some types that are long and cylindrical. The root color is usually a deep magenta or purple-red; white and gold cultivars also exist. The sweet taste of beets reflects their high sugar content making them important raw materials for the production of refined sugar; they have the highest sugar content of all vegetables, yet are very low in calories.

**Climate**: Moist cool weather, with moderate rainfall, is suitable for optimum growth and development of good texture and size.

**Soil:** Well cultivated, friable rich, deep loam soils with good organic matter content are best suited.

Manure/Fertilizer: Apply 15-20 ton FFM/compost ha and mix well in soil before sowing. Depending on soil nutrient status applies 100-120 kg. TSP/ha, along with 50 kg CAN/HA and top dress with 50kg CAN 4 weeks after sowing.

Seed: 500g/acre

**Sowing:** Sow seeds thinly 1.25cm deep in 25-39 cm row spacing. Later on, when the plants are about 5-7cm high, thin out the seedling to 10-12 apart in rows.

**Crop management:** Keep the field well watered. Water stress result in fibrous, small quality roots.

**Harvesting**: Beet root will be ready to harvest in about 75-80 days after sowing. Delay in harvest in fibrous, big sized roots

**Yield:** Approximately 25-30 tons/ha.