## Sowing instructions

## Beetroot

Outdoor sowing: mid-April - mid-July

Germination temp: 16-22°C

Germination: 7-21 days

Sowing depth: 1-2½ cm

Row spacing: 30 cm

<u>Planting position:</u> sunny

Days till harvest: 90 - 120

Outdoor sowing can start after all danger of hard frost has passed and the soil has warmed up in mid of April - mid of July in a sunny site with loose, free draining soil and remove most stones to give the roots free range to grow. Sow successively small amounts.

Before sowing the seeds can be soaked in warm water for  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 hour to speed up germination. Sow thinly  $1-2\frac{1}{2}$  cm deep in rows 30 cm apart, giving each seed 5 cm space. Germination can take 7-21 days depending on the germination temperature. Each seed will result in 3 or more seedlings. Remove all the weakest seedlings, leaving the strongest one for each seed to grown on. When seedlings are about 5 cm tall thin them to 10-15 cm apart (depending on round or globe variety).

Beetroots need a lot of water. Water thoroughly in dry conditions. It can be necessary to protect the seedlings against birds. Harvest beetroot when they are young and when the foliage starts to limp. Turn the foliage of by hand to about 5 cm above the root to prevent bleeding and rotting of the beetroots. Beetroot is best eaten fresh but storage is possible in a dry cool dark place. Keep them in layers in boxes and separate each layer with sand. This way you can store them for about one month.