



Rosella

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Site Selection: Site should be clean and free from sticks and soil should be well -drained.

Wind Breaks: Should be established every 50 m.

Ground Preparation: Soil should be deep ripped and formed into wide beds.

A green manure crop grown and turned in before planting is beneficial.

Seed can be broadcast onto beds and thinned to 60–80 cm apart or as seedlings and transplanted into rows 80–100 cm apart.

Seeds should be planted during the early wet season as rosella is a short day-length plant and requires 12–12 ½ hours of daylight to flower.

Planting Material: Seeds are true to type – select from good seed. Plants can also be propagated from cuttings.

Irrigation: Mature plants are highly drought resistant but may require water during dry periods when soil moisture is depleted to the point where wilting occurs.

Nutrition: A side dressing of NPK and dolomite before planting will promote early growth on soils that are marginally fertile, otherwise fertiliser is rarely necessary unless the soil is completely deficient in nutrients.

Pests and Diseases: Root-knot nematodes, caterpillars, leaf spot (*Cercospora* sp), and black spot.

Harvest: The inflated and ripened outer fleshy casings (calyces) should be ready for harvest 20 days after flowering. The inside seedpod should be still green when fruit is picked, although fruit can remain on the plant until the pods mature and seeds disperse. A yield of 1.5 kg of calyces per plant can be obtained (approx 8 t/ha). Young shoots and leaves can be eaten raw or cooked as a vegetable and are harvested when required. Yield for leaves, is about 10 t/ha.

Post Harvest: Store fresh at 7-10°C at a humidity of 90–95%. Calyces can also be dried and stored, or made into jams, jellies, chutney and beverages.

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