

# PLANTING CAULIFLOWER

Cauliflower is quirky. Among the brassicas it is the trickiest to grow, which is why you see it less often in gardens than you do its cousins cabbage, broccoli and kale. But it has the mildest, most delicate flavor, a pleasant texture and, besides that, unusual beauty.

Cauliflower is, in fact, a giant flower cluster, more or less. A cauliflower's curd, or head, is essentially a large mass of dense, multi-branched, immature floral material whose development stops before it forms buds. An uncut cauliflower head may eventually bloom if it does not rot first, and leaves may sprout within the curd in very hot weather, but your goal is to grow a head with a tight, smooth, hard surface.

Sensitivity to climate is what makes cauliflower such a princess in the garden. Spring seedlings, which should be started indoors, are a bit less frost-hardy than those of other brassicas. They should be sturdy and unstressed but no more than four weeks old when they are transplanted into the garden.

Plant spring crops 18 inches apart in a fertile soil with a neutral pH, with plenty of organic matter for good moisture retention. Once established, the plants themselves will happily endure both cool and hot weather, but proper head formation can be thwarted by extremes of either. Sometimes you just have to let cauliflower wait out a hot spell. When it eases off, heads may appear.

The crucial thing with cauliflower is never to let growth be checked. Keep moisture even, and top dress with manure-based fertilizer if the plants grow too slowly. Fremont is a good choice. You can also set out transplants in mid-to-late July for a fall crop. Set these two feet apart for good air circulation, to help forestall disease, and keep them well watered.

Hot sun will cause it to yellow and you may have to fold or tie a few big inner leaves over the curd to shield it, even with the lush-leaved "self-blanching" varieties. Let a head sit too long on the plant and the smooth curd will start to open up. Dark, fungal smudges may appear as deterioration sets in. Think of cauliflower as a gorgeous white linen suit, easy to sully and an effort to maintain. But what would a summer be without it?

Source: .Kitchen Gardening



# PROFILE

## THE CLAREMONT JAS PRODUCERS MARKETING GROUP (PMO)

The PMO has been in operation for approximately one year. The Group is comprised of Small farmers, men and women from the Communities of Claremont and Moneague, St. Ann. There are at a ratio of 4:1 and range in age from 25-55 years. The PMO produces high quality crops for sale to the open market and to hotels in the region. Crops produced include sweet potatoes, corn, yam, cabbage, cassava and hot peppers. The Group was helped in their formation by Mr. Cyril Chambers, of Agro Grace. Meetings are held once per month at the RADA's Parish Office in Claremont. Agro Grace is the principal provider of production inputs and technical support to the Group. This year the range of crops will increase with an emphasis on lettuce and cauliflower. The current leader of the Group is Mrs. Rheema Rattigan who has proven to be quite firm and resolute in her tasks.



# ACTARA

Actara is a systemic insecticide that is recommended for vegetables, fruit trees ornamentals and tobacco. Actara controls: soil insects, beetles, wireworms, ensign scales and ants.

# MEDICATING THE BROILER BIRD



Greater effort is required to prevent diseases from invading the broiler flock considering that chickens are extremely susceptible to diseases, more so than other categories of livestock.

In our Jamaican condition, the broiler farmers should be concern about common diseases like coccidiosis, and a wide range of respiratory conditions such as Infectious Bronchitis, Newcastle Disease, and Chicken Pox.

Nationally, the veterinary division is on guard against the dreaded Avian Influenza (Bird flu) that has the potential to wipe out the entire chicken industry. The four main classification of antibiotics used in prevention and control of diseases in chickens are;

- TERRAMYCIN (Oxytetracycline)** - active against a wide range of infection, corrects respiratory disorders.
- NEOMYCIN** - Usually combined with other antibiotics (e.g. Neo-Oxytetracycline) to kill bacteria in the intestinal tract.



Fowl Pox

- AMPROLIUM** - widely used coccidiostat
- SULPHAMETHAZINE** - controls many bacterial pathogens

**Neo-Oxytetracycline** combines the effectiveness of two antibiotics, Oxytetracycline and Neomycin, in one powerful water soluble treatment for the control of E-Coli and other bacteria in the digestive system of the broiler chickens.

Administered, in drinking water (preferably). Application rate/dosage is recommended on the Vetoquinol sachet.

**AUREOMYCIN** - is used in the control or treatment of a number of poultry diseases caused by organisms sensitive to Chlorotetracycline such as chronic respiratory diseases (Infectious Bronchitis, Newcastle disease).

It is effective in controlling mortality due to Fowl pox, and against Mycoplasma, a parasitic bacterium that can cause pneumonia and urinary tract infection



**Working of ACTARA :-** It travels through the root to the stem and to the leaves. When applied to the pests it reacts quickly, interfering with the insects nervous system, which, in turn, affects the digestive system. Pests stop feeding, walking and flying. Actara can be applied using a sprayer, watering can and boom sprayer. Application

Seedlings - 2 weeks before transplanting and 1 week after transplanting  
 For direct seeded crop - 2 weeks after sowing of seeds  
 For bananas - at planting of suckers and months after growth  
 Mix 1 pack actara to 20 litres or 5 gallons of water. Apply 25 - 50ml or 1 -2 ounces per plant.



# Planting & Caring for Roses *Tips*

**NEW ROSES** - Open roses immediately. For bare root roses, soak plants in room temperature water for 12 to 24 hours, to ensure re-hydration. If planting is delayed, leave roses in plastic for up to a week, in a cool, dark place. Wet roots every other day. Dig holes 12" deep and 24" in diameter, big enough to allow development room for the rooting system. Fill the hole with water, which should drain in one hour. If not, dig the hole deeper.

Build a mound in the centre of the hole to support roots, then set the plant on top, keeping the crown above ground. In clay soil, plant the roses on raised beds. Fill the hole with two thirds of the remaining soil, mixed with compost. Press down gently, add water, then place the rest of the soil mix in. Again, press down and water. Spread mulch and compost around the plant to stifle weed growth and keep in moisture. Water 3 to 4 times per week until leaves grow. Mist canes regularly, until they get started. Roses need plenty of water both above and below the soil to develop fully. If sprouting is slow, cover the plant with a transparent plastic bag to increase humidity.

**TREE ROSES** - For bareroot roses, use green moss and a bag to cover the branches and crown of the plant. Soak moss well and place at the centre of the crown, then cover with the bag. Leave the bottom end open and remove the bag, during hot, sunny conditions. Remove both moss and bag when ¼" of new growth appears. Water rose until fully leaved.

**CARE OF ROSES**  
 Watering:- Provide good drainage for the roots, and water roses well to encourage deep rooting. Early morning watering is

preferred to reduce disease outbreaks and to prevent plants from drying out.

**FERTILIZING** - Apply fertilizer as soon as plants have leaved. This should be applied along the drip line or at the edge of the mound.  
 1. Fertilize when plants are fully leaved.  
 2. Fertilize again after first bloom.

**MULCHING** - Use compost and other materials to control weeds and retain moisture.

**CULTIVATING** - Be careful not to dig too deep and into the root system. Cultivating helps to improve aeration around roots. The best time to transplant is October to December.

**PRUNING** - Encourage new blooms by removing old, faded ones. Prune late in the year, during cooler periods. Prune weak, diseased and rubbing branches. Leave newest and most healthy canes. Remove suckers,(shoot growing below union bud). This prevents them from robbing the main plant of nutrients. After one year, remove the top third of the plant

**CUTTING ROSES** - Cut roses early in the morning, when moisture and sugar levels are at their highest. Put stem in room temperature water and re-cut, under water at 5 leaf point.

**GENERAL TIPS**  
 1. Rake up fallen leaves and cut branches from bed to prevent disease.  
 2. Spray for insects and diseases  
 3. Continue watering roses.