



# Kale: Alive Vates Grex

Don Tipping at Siskiyou Seeds developed this cold hardy, sweet, frilly blue-green population through crossing 6 different strains of Scotch curled and Vates types of kale (including Winterbor (F1), Starbor(F1), Easy Pick (F1), Darkibor (F1), Dwarf Blue, Scotch Curled, Meadowlark, and Nash's Green). Through years of heavy roguing and selection, Don is hoping to create a workhorse OP kale variety that can be a viable alternative to commercial hybrids.



## Starting and Ending Population Size:

*Starting Population:* 200 plants

*Seed Harvest Population:* Seeds should be harvested from a minimum of 80 plants

### Seedling Stage & Early Growth

*Rogue plants for:*

Low vigour (5-10% of population)

Undesirable leaf shape, colour

### Plant Maturity

*Select plants for:*

Frilly blue-green leaves

Ease of harvest

Plant height (24-30" tall)



### Special Planting Notes

Plant a trial of the kale earlier in the season, so you can get a sense of how it grows and tastes. Then, for your seed crop, start seedlings in early-July and transplant late-July/early August - this may seem late, but if plants get too overgrown, you risk a greater crop loss when overwintering.

### Seed Harvest

*Rogue plants for:*

Damage from over-wintering

Poor pollination/seed set

*Select Plants for:*

Cold-hardiness

### What is a Grex?

A grex is an interbreeding population of several distinct varieties. Alive Vates Grex is a result of crossing 6 varieties of kale, and selecting out of the incredible diversity in that population. This means that this is your own breeding project, and you can steer this population in whatever direction suits your farm's needs.

## DETAILED ROGUEING AND SELECTION INSTRUCTIONS

**At seedling and early growth stage:** Remove any plants with low vigour, late germination, or slow growth. As plants develop, pay special attention to growth habit and remove any plants with leaf shape or colour that you do not prefer relative to the rest of the population.

**At plant maturity:** As kale plants reach maturity, continue to remove plants that exhibit undesirable characteristics related to leaf shape, leaf colour, ease of harvest, and flavour. Alive Vates Grex is extremely variable, but should have a tall open-growth habit with frilly blue-green leaves, that are high off the ground to help keep winter splash-back of mud off the leaves. If specific plants are showing signs of disease or are particularly susceptible to pests, remove those plants as well.

**Over-wintering and seed harvest:** Depending on your climate, you can overwinter the kale in the field, or in cold storage. If overwintering in the field, cover plants for the winter; the plants that survive will be naturally selected for cold-hardiness. If overwintering in cold storage, remove plants periodically before replanting that look damaged or diseased. At flowering and seed maturity, remove any plants with signs of reproductive problems such as poor flowering or poor seed set.

