

Kale: Olympic Red



Seedling & early growth

Rogue plants:

Low vigour (5-10% of population)
Off-type leaf shape, colour



Plant maturity

Select plants:

Tall, open growth habit
24-30 inch height
Tightly curled, blue-green
leaves with long petioles
Purple stems (see pictures)



Seed harvest

Rogue plants:

Damage from overwintering
Reproductive maladies

Select plants:

Cold hardiness



Starting & Ending Population size

Starting population size: 160 (Stable seed stock)
265 (Poor seed stock)

Harvest population size: Seeds should be harvested from a minimum of **80 plants**.

A note about taste:

When rouging and selecting kale, special attention should be given to the edible part, sweetness, tenderness, and texture.

Further Roguing & Selection Information

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 vastly different leaf shape or colour compared to the rest of the population.

At plant maturity: As kale plants reach maturity, remove off-types which can be spotted on the basis of leaf shape, compactness, uniformity, and color (some off-types may not be spotted until the outer leaves are stripped off). Olympic red has a tall, open growth habit with frosty blue-green leaves overlaid with purple and contrasting magenta stems. It is not as frilly as Redbor and has tightly curled leaves with long petioles that reach a height of 24-30 inches. Plants should also be selected for flavour and tenderness, Olympic red is slightly sweeter than most red kales.

Over wintering and seed harvest: After overwintering and vernalization, remove any plants that look damaged or are showing signs of disease. Select for cold hardiness. At flowering and seed maturity, remove any plants with signs of reproductive maladies such as poor flowering or poor seed set.

Special note: Olympic Red is still very variable and you should expect a fair number of off-types within your population.



***These are suggested tips and strategies for selecting a true to type Olympic Red kale, you are welcome to look for other characteristics that you find appealing or suit your farm, market or growing condition. Please make note of it if you do so.

