

BEETS

Varieties

Fresh market: Red Ace, Detroit strains, Red Cloud.

See your seed dealer for the most recent variety recommendations.

Seed Treatment

Use seed treated with **Thiram** or captan seed protectants.

Soil Temperatures

Good germination is obtained when soil temperatures are at 10 to 29°C.

Seeding

Sow seed 1.5 to 2.0 cm deep in rows 30 to 38 cm apart. Precision seed or thin to leave 5 to 7.5 cm between plants. This results in a plant population of 400,000 plants/ha (16,000/acre) and requires about 7 kg/ha (2.8 kg/acre) of seed.

Fertilizer

A soil test is necessary to determine phosphate and potash requirements. See Chapter 3 for fertilizer recommendations based on soil test results. At time of seeding, broadcast and disc in 55 kg/ha (22 kg/acre) nitrogen, all of the phosphate and potash and 4.5 kg/ha (1.8 kg/acre) boron.

A deficiency of boron causes black pitting, surface cankers, heart-rot and dry rot.

Weed Control

See Table 7.7. See also the fold-out chart inside the back cover.

Insect Control

Leafminers

White maggots of a small fly feed inside the leaves, causing colourless blotches.

Control

When miners first appear, spray with one of the