

Brussels Sprout Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 1.5 (Early establishment) and continue into mid sprout growth (stage 4.5) at fortnightly intervals.

Sample volume: 20 petioles in the early stages; reduce the sample size to 15 as the plant matures. Select the youngest fully expanded leaf (YFEL), usually the tallest leaf in young plants. Collect 1 leaf per plant. Return to the same representative sampling area for subsequent samples. Strip the leaf matter away leaving the petiole and midrib for analysis.

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
1		<i>Leaf development (main shoot)</i>	
	1.5		5th true leaf unfolded
3		<i>Stem elongation from rosette stage</i>	
	3.3	Stem elongation	Main shoot has reached 30% of the expected height typical for the variety
	3.6		Main shoot has reached 60% of the expected height typical for the variety
	3.8	Budding	Main shoot has reached 80% of the expected height typical for the variety
	3.9		Main shoot has reached the height typical for the variety
4		<i>Development of harvestable vegetative plant parts</i>	
	4.1	Early sprout growth	10% of the sprouts tightly closed
	4.3	Mid sprout growth	30% of the sprouts tightly closed
	4.5		50% of the sprouts tightly closed
	4.8		80% of the sprouts tightly closed
	5.9	Mature sprouts	Sprouts below terminal bud tightly closed

Growth Stage numbering system is in accordance to the extended BBCH, a uniform coding of phenologically similar growth stages for all plant species

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