

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA . COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE & HUMAN RESOURCES
United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating
45-260 Waikalua Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

HORTICULTURE -- Oahu County Leaflet No. 17

November 1981

RADISHES FOR THE HOME GARDEN

One of the easiest and fastest growing vegetable crop is the radish. Red radish is always popular to grow since it takes only 3 to 4 weeks to harvest the first crop. Daikon, a form of white radish, is also popular with many islanders, since both the foliage and the root can be consumed. Radish is a cool-weather crop and can be grown most of the year in Hawaii.

Cultivars

The common red, round turnip type cultivars of radish grown are 'Cherry Belle,' 'Early Scarlet Globe,' 'Red Boy,' 'Sparkler,' and 'Comet.' The long white form called 'White Icicle,' and a white round form called 'Burpee White' are also quick growing forms of radish. Daikon cultivars recommended for growing in Hawaii include the 'Minowase Summer Cross' and other 'Minowase' cultivars. 'Chinese Half-long' type radish, 'Top White Globe,' and 'Tokyo Cross' are some round type radish, often called turnip, which also could be grown.

Soil

A sandy soil mixed with well rotted organic matter is best suited for growing radish. The organic matter should be applied to the previous crop to give it time to rot further before the radish is sown. If this is not possible, the well matured compost should be worked into the soil from four to six weeks before sowing. Till the soil very deeply and if bed culture is preferred, mound the soil 8 to 12 inches high and 24 inches wide. Two rows of daikon can be planted by using this elevated bed type culture. Extensive soil preparation is not necessary if growing red radish. Fresh manure should never be used in the soil where radishes are planted. The radishes can be grown in quite a wide pH range from 5.5 to 6.8. Although any well-structured soil will produce an acceptable crop, heavy clay soil makes the washing more difficult and the bright red color is lost from the skin when the red radish dries.

Fertilizer

A fertilizer such as 10-20-20 should be raked into the top of the seedbed for red radish. Fertilizer should be mixed thoroughly in the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches when growing daikon. Side dress with 10-20-20 type of fertilizer 4 weeks after planting for daikon only. No additional fertilizer is needed for red radish. It is very important that nutrients be readily available to the plants constantly to produce the enlarged roots quickly.

Planting

Red radish may be planted in rows as close as 4 inches with 1-1/4 to 2 inches between the plants if the seedbeds are well supplied with nutrients and water. Long type daikon should be sown 8 to 10 inches apart and 'Chinese Half-long' type should be planted 4 to 5 inches apart. Space the row about 18 inches apart.

Pests

Rarely are insects a problem in radish. Aphids, grasshopper and cabbage webworm may be the most destructive insects, but remember that radishes grow very quickly so chemicals should be avoided when possible. Insecticides such as malathion, diazinon and carbaryl can be used on radishes. Remember to read the manufacturer's recommendations, rates and withholding periods before spraying.

White rust is the most important foliage disease on radishes. A fungicide such as zineb can be used to control white rust.

Harvesting

Red radishes grow very quickly and can be harvested from 21 to 30 days under normal growing conditions. Daikon matures in 60 to 80 days and the 'Chinese Half-long' daikon matures in 45 to 60 days. They should not be kept in the ground after maturity as the enlarged root tends to crack and become pithy and sometimes even pungent.

H. Dale Sato
County Extension Agent
Urban Horticulture Program