

Guide to Flowering Kale

Flowering Kale (*Braccia oleracea*) is a cool weather favorite for fall planting because of the spectacular growth habit and color pattern. Ruffled and feathered leaves grow into large rosettes with rosy red, purple or white centers surrounded by green or blue-green outer leaves. They are bred for their ornamental value only and not meant for consumption and not to be confused with edible kale. The leaves are noted as quite bitter.



Flowering kale compliments other fall season favorites such as asters, mums and pansies. The cool weather is what brings on the brightest leaf color. If you purchase them early and they have just a small amount of center coloring, don't worry, in just a short time, the bright coloring they are famous for will be on display!

Plant in full sun and keep soil evenly moist. They do not like to dry out. Plant so the base of leaves rests on top of the soil for the most pleasing look. No fertilizing is necessary. Too much fertilizer can interfere with the coloring and cause the stem below the leaves to be elongated.

Flowering Kale can handle quite cold temperatures. Even temperatures below the freezing mark. They can even stay attractive through winter, if the winter weather is not severe.