

## Alabama Blue

### COLLARDS *Brassica oleracea*

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Winter hardy from Virginia southward, heat tolerant, and well-suited to greenhouse growing, collards are one of the most versatile greens. The flavor is sweetened by frosts.

**Culture:** Sow indoors in pots or flats beginning in late winter. For fall crops, sow in late summer, 10–12 weeks before the first hard freeze, indoors or outside under row cover, keeping the beds moist during germination. Harden off and transplant when the plants have 3–4 true leaves. Apply deep mulch. Provide fertile, well-drained soil and even moisture.

**Harvest:** Clip individual leaves before they are 12" long. Old leaves become tough and stringy.

**Seed Savers:** To save seeds for home planting, isolate from other collards and from broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, and kohlrabi by at least ½ mile.

Soil  
Temp.  
65–85°F

Sowing  
Depth  
¼"

Final Plant  
Spacing  
12"

Final Row  
Spacing  
24"

Light  
Full Sun

Days to  
Emerge  
4–10

