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**Broccoli – Marathon**

**Marathon has a high dome, small bead and heavy head. Heat tolerant but unique because it keeps growing even in cooler temperatures, so it is perfect for a fall crop in the South.**

**Spacing: 24" A one-inch layer of mulch keeps the soil surface much cooler and reduces the threat of bolting.**

**Irrigation: Regular, steady watering of 1-1½" per week is important during hot, dry weather. Overhead watering in hot weather can drop the temperature around the plants 10° F, due to evaporation, which is good for young plants, but should be avoided once heads start forming (to reduce the risk of soft rots setting into the crowns.)**

**Fertilization: Broccoli is a heavy feeder. See *tips* below.**

**Matures in 75 days. Fertilize when first head is cut to get more side shoots and an extended harvest.**

**For companion planting benefits, plant broccoli with herbs, potatoes, or onions; avoid planting with tomatoes or pole beans.**

**Extra Growing *Tips*:**

**The trick to producing good broccoli is to keep it growing steadily. Two to three weeks after transplanting, top dress with compost tea or side-dress with blood meal or fish emulsion, and water deeply. Repeat monthly until a week before harvesting the flower head. This regimen also encourages large and tender side shoots, which you can harvest until hot weather or a heavy ground freeze ends the broccoli season.**

**Cultivate around young plants to get rid of weeds and keep the soil loose. If daytime temperatures exceed 75°F, put down a thick layer of organic mulch to cool the soil and conserve moisture. Broccoli needs steady 1 - 1½ inches of water a week (slightly less during fall months.) A lack of water will result in tough stems, so soak plants extra well during dry spells.**