



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

***Brassica oleracea* 'White Peacock'¹**

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Introduction

The 'White Peacock' Ornamental Cabbage has an open head with finely-divided foliage (Fig. 1). It does not make the tight head common on cabbages sold in the grocery store (Capitata group). Leaves on Ornamental Cabbage are edible but more showy than the Capitata group, and they are displayed in loose, showy rosettes. Fringed leaves are bluish-green with prominent, white veins.

General Information

Scientific name: *Brassica oleracea* 'White Peacock'

Pronunciation: BRASS-ick-uh awl-lur-RAY-see

Common name(s): 'White Peacock' Flowering Kale

Family: *Cruciferae*

Plant type: annual; biennial

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Feb; Mar

Planting month for zone 8: Nov; Dec

Planting month for zone 9: Dec; Jan; Feb

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Dec; Jan; Feb

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: edging; attracts butterflies

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

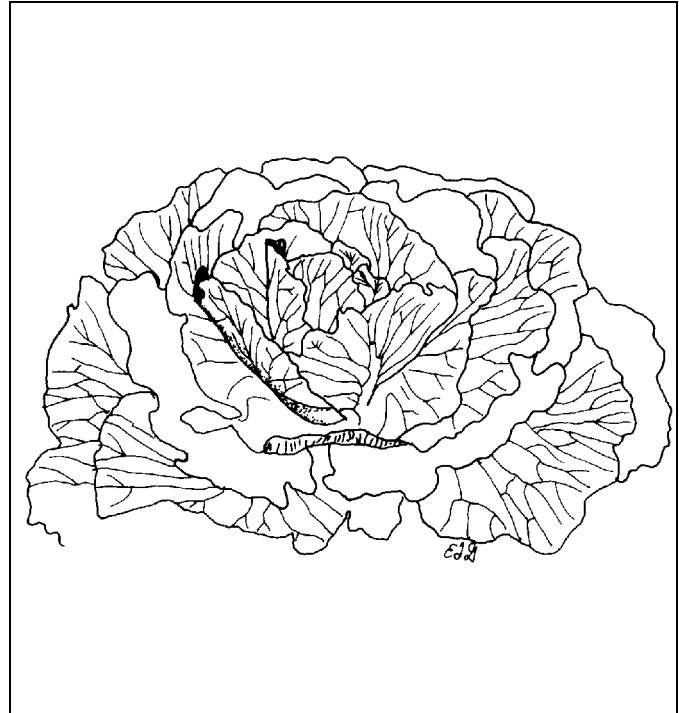


Figure 1. 'White Peacock' Flowering Kale.

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: spiral

Leaf type: simple

Description

Height: .5 to 1 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Plant habit: round

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-72, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf margin: parted
Leaf shape: orbiculate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: 8 to 12 inches
Leaf color: green; purple or red; variegated
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: yellow
Flower characteristic: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: unknown
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: usually with one stem/trunk

Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Cabbage can be used reliably as a bedding plant in the fall and spring throughout the deep south. Some die-back may occur in the coolest regions of the south and into North Florida in a very cold winter. It can be used throughout the winter in central and south Florida. When flowers begin to appear, it is time to remove the plants and replant with a more heat tolerant bedding plant. Propagation is by seed.

Pests and Diseases

Caterpillars can eat holes in the leaves. Although this does not kill the plant, it makes them unattractive.