

Real Estate

GREEN HOUSE

The ornamental edge

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Kale is an important and a unique section in any flower show and one tends to see kale in such shows. It may be seen that children pass through various sections of flowers in any flower show without even a glance, but they do not fail to stop to observe the unique beauty of kale. Flower shows have made these plants more familiar and popular in this part of the region.

There are many varieties of hybrid ornamental kale which have been developed from edible kale. They bear loose and curly leaves with wrinkled edges that come in brilliant shades of white, pink, red, blue or violet. The leaves form a tight rosette rather than a head and are connected to short stems. Ornamental cabbage forms a head similar to that of edible cabbage with broad smooth leaves and wavy edges.



Ornamental kale besides being a popular winter annual gives a different and a unique texture to the garden with an instant appeal. It is grown for its colourful foliage and not for its flavour and is a great alternative to showy flowers. They are care-free and easy to grow plants that do well in beds and also in pots of about 30 cm. They normally grow about 30-35 cm across and give their best when placed in groups; one large ornamental kale placed at a suitable place can be a centre of attraction of any garden to create an eye-catching splash of bold hues throughout the growing season.



Propagation is usually through seeds, but when fresh seeds are taken, the success of germination is more. Both ornamental kale and cabbage have similar cultural habits. Kales are usually not considered edible as they are known to have a bitter taste; however, some people use these as garnishing and as a decorative lining for serving dishes due to their unique appeal.

Peacock, Nagoya, kamome species of ornamental kale and Osaka species of ornamental cabbage do very well in the region.

It normally takes about three months' time for the kale to bloom fully; one can have kale throughout winter by sowing seeds at different times. Seeds sown in October will give full fledged kales in December.