

Reading a Brassica Catalogue: How to Avoid Duplicate Cabbage and Kale Lines · Practical guide

Wholesale seed catalogues often list cabbage and kale lines that appear distinct in print but overlap in practice. This guide explains how to read a Brassica catalogue systematically to avoid stocking duplicate lines. It focuses on the structure of species records, group labels, and qualifiers, and provides a routine for staff to verify entries before adding new references.

Start with the species record, not the variety name

In wholesale cabbage and kale listings, Brassica greens and named Brassica oleracea selections are grouped together. Some records use horticultural group names instead of a single accepted species name. This matters when two entries could be mistaken for the same item. A shared genus does not make names interchangeable; two references under the same broad heading may still describe different material. Therefore, a duplicate check should begin at the species level and only then move to the qualifier. Always confirm that both entries sit under the same species or convar. before comparing anything else.

Separate the three types of label in a Brassica entry

Brassica entries expose several layers of naming. Reading them in order prevents near-identical entries from being stocked twice. First, there is the broad species or group label, such as Brassica oleracea convar. acephala, which covers kale-type material. Second, the horticultural group column, for example Brassica greens, Kale, and Kale (curly kale), each listed as a separate group. Third, the leaf-type and cultivar qualifier, the part of the name that distinguishes one reference from another within a group. For instance, curly kale appears as its own labelled group, Brassica oleracea convar. acephala var. sabellica, with two varieties, while plain kale sits in a related group with three varieties. These are related records, not duplicate ones.

Where the confusion usually begins

The problem is rarely the species; it is the qualifier. A broad botanical label can make two different leaf selections look like one line, or make one selection look like a new addition when it already exists under a different wording. Where the imported botanical label is broad, the catalogue advises requesting clarification against the SKU. Staff should not guess from the printed name alone. Ambiguity often arises when a shelf card shortens a name, making the reference behind it unclear to the buyer or to the person reordering.

A short comparison routine for staff

A four-step check keeps the shelf honest and the records clean. First, match the species: confirm both entries sit under the same species or convar. before comparing anything else. Second, compare the group column: Brassica greens, Kale and curly kale are separate groups, even when they share a genus. Third, read the full qualifier aloud: leaf-type and cultivar text is part of the reference, not decoration. Fourth, check the SKU: if the label remains ambiguous, the SKU resolves it; do not guess from the printed name. This routine also protects customer-facing descriptions, ensuring that shortened names do not obscure the actual reference.

Keep leaf vegetables in their own context

Some Brassica material does not sit under cabbage and kale at all. The leaf vegetable listing is a mixed botanical group covering Beta, Brassica, Cichorium and Spinacia names. It includes separate Brassica records such as Brassica juncea mustard greens, Brassica rapa ssp. pekinensis napa cabbage, and other Brassica rapa variants. The catalogue is explicit that these are not interchangeable simply because both sit under leafy greens. A napa cabbage record is not the same line as a curly kale record, and neither should be duplicated as a stocking shortcut. For resale enquiries, identify the SKU and the required weight; compare prices only within the product's recorded unit, as pack size, available quantity and final price are checked in

the quotation.

What this means for the buying decision

A gap in a Brassica range is not automatically filled by a new line. In many cases the reference already exists under a group label or a qualified botanical name. The catalogue itself sets the order: read the species, then the group, then the qualifier, and only then decide whether the shelf needs anything added. The full cabbage and kale range, including the related groups, can be reviewed through the vegetable seed catalogue available on the main website. By following this structured approach, buyers and staff can avoid duplicate lines and maintain accurate records.

Links

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