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What the profile lists

A third official RHS page names both crops, and still points gardeners to two cultivation guides.

The Brassica oleracea Italica Group plant profile is headed as asparagus broccoli. Other common names on that official page: “asparagus broccoli, calabrese, Cape broccoli, Italian broccoli, purple cauliflower, sprouting broccoli.” The profile then points on to “broccoli cultivation or calabrese cultivation.” The list is kept beside the two growing guides, not used to flatten them.

On the official profile	Official wording
What the plant is	“A semi-evergreen, biennial plant grown as an annual/biennial vegetable, with lobed grey green leaves and edible heads of grey-green florets.” Usually available to harvest “from early summer into autumn.”
Size on this page	Maximum height 1–1.5 metres. Maximum spread 0.5–1 metres. Time to maturity: 1 year. These official profile figures are not used to correct the 60cm or 90cm figures in the growing guides, or the 60–90 cm figure in Encyclopaedia Britannica.
Place and soil	Position: full sun. Soil types: chalk, clay, loam, sand. Moisture: moist but well-drained. pH: alkaline or neutral. Native to GB/Ireland: No.
How to start	“Sow seed outdoors in deep, fertile but firm, soil that isn’t too acidic.” If space is limited, start in modules or seedtrays and plant out at “about 5 or 6 leaves.” “May need staking.” Propagation by seed. “No pruning required.”

A short quiz

1. Does the official common-name list include both calabrese and sprouting broccoli?
2. What does the same official profile say under Native to GB/Ireland?
3. Is the profile’s 1–1.5 metre maximum used on this sheet to overwrite the growing-guide sizes?

Answers. Yes. No. No — the official figures are left on their own lines.

Wording from the Royal Horticultural Society, Brassica oleracea Italica Group plant profile, re-checked 18 November 2026. broccoli.vegetables.im is independent of the Society. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.