# Brassicaceae Family

- Commonly known as the mustard, crucifer, or the cabbage family.
- Medium size family
- Includes crops, ornamentals, and invasive weeds

## **CROPS**

A wide variety of economically important vegetables with many genera and species

Examples: cabbage, broccoli, kale, cauliflower, Bok choy, Brussels sprouts, and mustard plant







#### **ORNAMENTALS**

Flowers and vegetables are used to decorate home gardens and public spaces.





**Ornamental Cabbage and Kale** 









Wild Mustard Plants account for the majority of the invasive weed Species.

Can be toxic to livestock.

#### **COMMON TRAITS**

Predominantly herbaceous plants

Simple alternating leaves

A common flower structure

Dicots (two embryonic leaves)

Annuals, biennials, or perennials.

Flower Diagram





## **BROCCOLI**

# **KALE**





## MUSTARD GREENS

# PURPOSES/USES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BRASSICACEAE FAMILY

FOOD—vegetables, flowers
OILS--for skin, cooking, biodiesel fuels
MEDICINES—prevention and treatment
of cancer, asthma, autoimmune diseases
SPICES—from mustard seed plants
ORNAMENTALS--decoration

### PREFERRED GROWING CONDITIONS

Temperate/cold regions of N. Hemisphere centered in Mediterranean, C. and SW Asia

Grow best in early spring and Fall with moderate temperatures

Well drained, fertile soil high in nitrogen and composted material, regular water (drip irrigation)

#### **Brassica** Genus Common Pests

Aphids
Diamond Back Moths
Cabbageworms
Cabbage Looper
Armyworms
Maggots
Wireworm

## Brassica Genus Common Diseases

- Bacterial Soft Rot.
- Blackleg.
- Powdery Mildew.
- •Turnip Mosaic Virus.
- •Black Rot.
- Damping-Off.
- •Rhizopus Rot.