

Comparison of Similar Looking Plants

Brassica rapa Caisin Group [cai xin], *Brassica oleracea* Alboglabra Group [kailan] and *Brassica rapa* Pak Choi Group [xiao bai cai]



Scientific name: *Brassica rapa* Caisin Group [cai xin]

Common name: Cai Xin

Family name: Brassicaceae

Origin: Middle China



Scientific name: *Brassica oleracea* Alboglabra Group [kailan]

Common name: Kailan

Family name: Brassicaceae

Origin: Southern and Central China



Scientific name: *Brassica rapa* Pak Choi Group [xiao bai cai]

Common name: Xiao Bai Cai

Family name: Brassicaceae

Origin: China

***Brassica rapa* Caisin Group
[cai xin]**

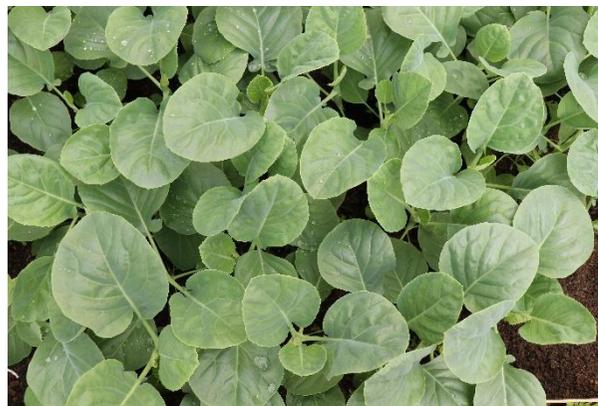
Form

- Usually erect, but sometimes prostrate
- 20 - 60 cm tall
- Herbaceous



***Brassica oleracea* Alboglabra Group
[kailan]**

- Erect
- Up to 40 cm tall in vegetative stage
- Up to 1 (-2) m tall at the end of flowering stage
- Herbaceous



***Brassica rapa* Pak Choi Group
[xiao bai cai]**

- Erect
- Up to 30 cm tall in vegetative stage
- Up to 70 cm tall in generative stage
- Herbaceous



	<p align="center"><i>Brassica rapa</i> Caisin Group [cai xin]</p>	<p align="center"><i>Brassica oleracea</i> Alboglabra Group [kailan]</p>	<p align="center"><i>Brassica rapa</i> Pak Choi Group [xiao bai cai]</p>
<p>Foliage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few leaves arranged in a rosette form • Usually 1-2 leaf layers with 2-3 leaves in a layer • Glossy bright green leaves • Young leaves are finely toothed • Mature leaves ovate to orbicular • Long, narrow and flat leaf stalk (petiole) but not clasping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternately arranged along the stem • Waxy, blue-green to dark green • Leaf blade thick and firm • Young leaves irregularly toothed • Leaf blade ovate to orbicular • Margin irregularly dentate, often undulate • Margin irregularly dentate, often undulate • Narrow leaf stalk (petiole) clasping at the base of the leaf stalk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirally arranged along the stem in a compact pattern • Non-glossy, green leaves • Leaf blade oval and slightly wavy • Margin finely toothed to smooth • Wide and thick light green leaf stalk (petiole) • Clasping at the base of the leaf stalk (petiole) 

	<i>Brassica rapa</i> Caisin Group [cai xin]	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> Alboglabra Group [kailan]	<i>Brassica rapa</i> Pak Choi Group [xiao bai cai]
Stem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thin • Usually profusely branched • Less than 1 cm in diameter • Green 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thick • Narrow-branching or forking in upper part • Light green and waxy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thick • Short, almost not visible due to the compact leaf stalk arrangement • Light green 
Flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower inflorescence located at the terminal • Yellow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower inflorescence located at the terminal • White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower inflorescence located at the terminal • Light yellow 

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Ethnobotanical Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young flowering shoots are sometimes harvested together with leaves • Young flowers are edible • Taste: leaves are sweet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unopened flower buds are sometimes harvested together with leaves, however rarely seen • Young flowers are edible • Taste: leaves are slightly bitter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unopened flower buds are sometimes harvested together with leaves, however rarely seen • Young flowers are edible • Taste: leaves are sweet

References

- PROSEA Plant Resources of South-East Asia 8:Vegetables
- PI@ntUse
[https://uses.plantnet-project.org/en/Brassica_rapa_Caisin_\(PROSEA\)](https://uses.plantnet-project.org/en/Brassica_rapa_Caisin_(PROSEA))