

# GROWER'S NOTES

BY PAPERPOT CO.



## JANG SETTINGS: SPINACH

Jang Seeder	Crop	Roller	Brush	Gear Ratio	Rows/30" Bed	Seed/100' bed
JP5 or JP1	Spinach	F24	Medium	14 Front x 9 Rear	6	190 g (+/-)

### Recommended Cultivars:

- \* Space, Red Kitten, Gazelle

### Days to Maturity:

- \* 55 (+/-)

### Target Crop Yield:

- \* 60 lb (+/-) per 100' bed (average 3 cuttings per bed, 20 lb per cutting)

### Tools Needed:

- \* JP5 or JP1 (JP5 recommended)
- \* Tilter or Power Harrow
- \* Bed prep rake
- \* Flame weeder
- \* Row cover or insect netting (depending on the season)
- \* Flex tine weeder
- \* Quick Cut Greens Harvester (or harvest knife if preferred)

### 1. Bed Preparation:

- \* Broadfork the bed to aerate and loosen the soil.
- \* Smooth and shape the bed with a bed prep rake, removing any debris
- \* If the previous crop was fertilized, spinach will do fine without reapplication. If not, here are two options:
  - \* 1) Layer on 1" of compost, enough to mostly cover the native soil
  - \* 2) Sprinkle on a combination of alfalfa meal and/or pelleted chicken manure
- \* If layering compost, do not till in hopes of smothering any surface weed seed
- \* If adding amendments, till the top 1" of soil to mix in amendments
- \* Irrigate for 10-14 days\*, allowing any weed seed in top layer of soil to germinate
- \* Flame weed the bed when the cotyledons of the weed seeds have emerged

## **2. Seeding:**

- \* Set up the Jang seeder: F24 roller, gears 14 front and 9 rear, brush medium high.
- \* For the JP1, roll out each of the six rows evenly spaced across the bed (5" between rows).
- \* For the JP5, only fill hoppers 1, 3, and 5 with seed. The bed can then be seeded in two passes with 6 perfectly spaced rows.

## **3. Irrigation:**

- \* Water the beds with overhead irrigation, or four rows of drip.
- \* If not growing in a tunnel, cover the beds with floating row cover to prevent pest pressure. The cover will only come off for cultivation and harvest times. Weigh down the edges with sand bags every 5 feet.
- \* More frequent, shallow waterings will help prevent bolting.
- \* It is important to water throughout warm days and keep crop covered with shade cloth if attempting to grow in the warm season.
- \* Spinach thrives in colder temps, doing better in early spring, late fall, and winter.

## **4. Cultivation:**

- \* 14 days after direct seeding, cultivate using a flex tine weeder (2 passes per bed).
- \* Repeat this process again after another 7 days.
- \* Make sure to return row cover immediately after cultivation to keep away pests.

## **5. Harvest:**

- \* Target size for harvest is a 3-4" (+/-) leaf with no more than 1" of stem.
- \* Approximately 25 days to first harvest (depending on season)
- \* If the crop is high enough off the ground, the quick cut greens harvester may be used for harvest. You can also harvest by hand with a harvest knife, bunching together the greens with one hand, and cutting at least 1" above the soil with the other hand, so as to avoid cutting the growing point.

## **6. Washing and Packing:**

- \* Agitate the spinach by hand (or use a bubbler) for no more than 1 minute in the wash tube, while scanning for debris, bugs, or damaged greens.
- \* Leaves can become water logged if left longer than one minute in the water.
- \* After drying and bagging (usually in 1/2lb or 1lb bags), store the greens in a refrigerated space.
- \* Attempt to sell spinach greens within 3 days of harvest for highest quality.

*\* All dates can vary based on local climate and soil conditions and time of year.*