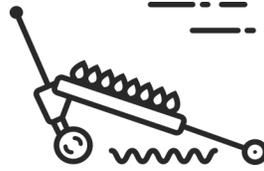


# GROWER'S NOTES

BY PAPERPOT CO.



## Spinach

### CROP & PAPERPOT DATA:

PAPER CHAIN POT	2"
ROWS PER 100' X 30" BED	4
TRAYS PER 100' X 30" BED	8
KWIK KLIK™ TOP PLATE	Plate: Paperpot (264 holes) / Thickness: 3mm / Hole Diameter: 7mm
SEEDS PER CELL	3-4
SEED PER 100' X 30' BED	8532 seeds (+/-) *Always round up when placing seed orders to ensure having enough
RECOMMENDED CULTIVARS	Space, Red Kitten, Gazelle, Flamingo
GERMINATION	5 days at 70°F
DAYS TO TRANSPLANT	28 days (+/-) *time from seeding to transplanting in the field
DAYS TO MATURITY	55 days (+/-) *time from seeding to being ready for harvest
HARVEST WINDOW	28 days (+/-) *time crop is at ideal stage for harvest after reaching maturity
TOTAL DAYS IN FIELD	55 days (+/-) *DTM + harvest window - days to transplant
HARVEST UNIT	pound
TARGET CROP YIELD	60 pounds (+/-) *average 3 cuttings per bed, 20 lb per cutting
PRICE PER UNIT	\$10 *depending on local market pricing
REVENUE PER BED	\$600 *depending on local market pricing

### SUGGESTED TOOLS:

SEEDING	Kwik Klik™ Drop Seeder, Paperpot Germination Trays, Paper Chain Pots
TRANSPLANTING	Paperpot Transplanter
TILTHING	Power Harrow or Precision Depth Roller (With no tractor: Tither)
AERATION	Meadow Creature Broadfork
SHAPING	Bed Preparation Rake
WEED CONTROL	Flame Weeder
CULTIVATION	Flex Tine Weeder or Collinear Hoe

## BED PREPARATION

- Broadfork the bed to aerate and loosen the soil.
- Smooth and shape the bed with a bed preparation 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 pelleted chicken manure.
- If layering compost, do not till in hopes of smothering any surface weed seed.
- If adding amendments, till the top 1-2" 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.

## SEEDING

- Prepare trays with 2" paper chain pots, and fill with potting mix.
- Install Paperpot bottom plate and specified top plate into Kwik Klik™ (KK) Drop Seeder.
- Pour seed onto top plate and rotate until three or four seeds fill each hole.
- Position the KK Drop Seeder over the tray, ensuring the holes are lined up with the cells, and click to drop the seeds.
- Water the trays, then place in germination chamber for 5 days at 70°.
- Transfer the trays to greenhouse tables after germination has occurred.

## TRANSPLANTING

- Thoroughly water trays before heading to the field for transplanting.
- Using the Paperpot Transplanter, plant the four rows of spinach.
- There should be 6" between rows with 3" from the outer rows to the edge of the bed.
- Reference <https://paperpot.co/learn/> for instructional videos if needed.

## IRRIGATION

- Water the beds thoroughly with overhead irrigation, or four rows of drip.
- More frequent, shallow waterings will help prevent bolting.
- It is important to water throughout warm days and keep spinach covered with shade cloth if attempting to grow in the warm season.

## CULTIVATION

- 14 days after direct seeding, cultivate using a flex tine weeder (2 passes per bed).
- Repeat this process again after another 7 days.

## 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 variety you are growing stands upright, 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.

## 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, store the spinach at 35° and sell within 3 days of harvest.