

# GROWER'S NOTES

BY PAPERPOT CO.



## BABY KALE

### CROP AND JANG SEEDER DATA:

<b>JANG ROLLER</b>	LJ24
<b>JANG GEAR RATIO</b>	14 Front - 9 Rear
<b>JANG BRUSH POSITION</b>	Down
<b>IN ROW SPACING</b>	1/2"
<b>ROWS PER 100' X 30" BED</b>	10
<b>SEED PER 100' X 30' BED</b>	315 g (+/-)
<b>RECOMMENDED CULTIVARS</b>	Red Russian Kale, KX-1 Kale
<b>DAYS TO MATURITY</b>	30 (+/-) *time from seeding to being ready for harvest
<b>HARVEST WINDOW</b>	14 days (+/-) *time crop is at ideal stage for harvest
<b>TOTAL DAYS IN FIELD</b>	44 (+/-) *DTM + harvest window
<b>TARGET HARVEST SIZE</b>	3-5" leaf
<b>HARVEST UNIT</b>	pound
<b>TARGET CROP YIELD</b>	45 pounds (+/-) *total from two cuttings
<b>PRICE PER UNIT</b>	\$10 *depending on local market pricing
<b>REVENUE PER BED</b>	\$450 *depending on local market pricing

### SUGGESTED TOOLS:

<b>SEEDING</b>	Jang JP-1 or Jang JP-5 Seeder
<b>TILTHING</b>	Power Harrow or Precision Depth Roller (With no tractor: Tither)
<b>AERATION</b>	Meadow Creature Broadfork
<b>BED SHAPING</b>	Bed Preparation Rake
<b>WEED CONTROL</b>	Flame Weeder
<b>CULTIVATION</b>	Flex Tine Weeder
<b>HARVEST</b>	Quick Cut Greens Harvester

## **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, baby kale 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.

## **SEEDING**

- Set up the Jang seeder: LJ24 roller, gears 14 front and 9 rear, brush down.
- For the JP1, roll out each of the 10 rows evenly spaced across the bed.
- For the JP5, fill all five hoopers and seed the bed in just two passes.

## **IRRIGATION**

- Water the beds with overhead irrigation, or four rows of drip. This will chase away any pre existing flea beetles on the soil.
- After the first watering, IMMEDIATELY cover the beds with floating row cover (or insect netting in the warm season). The cover will only come off for cultivation and harvest times. Weigh down the edges with sand bags every 5 feet. This ensures flea beetles will never have a chance to damage the greens.
- More frequent, yet shallow waterings will support rapid growth and better flavour.
- It is important to water throughout hot days during the warm season.

## **CULTIVATION**

- 10 days after direct seeding, cultivate using a flex tine weeder (2 passes per bed).
- Repeat this process again after another 5 days.
- Make sure to return row cover immediately after cultivation to keep away pests.

## **HARVEST**

- Target size for harvest is a 3-5" leaf with no more than 1" of stem.
- The JP5 seeder works well with the Quick Cut Greens Harvester. One pass along each side of the bed effectively cuts 5 rows of greens at a time.
- Keep the blades sharp, and make sure the harvester stays out of the dirt.
- Gently rake the bed clean after the first cutting to ensure a cleaner second cutting.

## **WASHING AND PACKING**

- Agitate the greens by hand (or use a bubbler) for no more than 4 minutes in the wash tube, while scanning for debris, bugs, or damaged greens.
- Adding Sanidate 5.0 sanitizer to the water will kill any possible pathogens, and will also help improve the shelf life.
- After drying and bagging (usually in 1/2 lb or 1 lb bags), store the greens at 35°.
- Attempt to sell baby kale within 3 days of harvest for highest quality.