

GROWER'S NOTES

BY PAPERPOT CO.



SPINACH

CROP AND JANG SEEDER DATA:

JANG ROLLER	F24
JANG GEAR RATIO	14 Front - 9 Rear
JANG BRUSH POSITION	Medium
IN ROW SPACING	1/2"
ROWS PER 100' X 30" BED	6
SEED PER 100' X 30' BED	190 g (+/-)
RECOMMENDED CULTIVARS	Space, Red Kitten, Gazelle, Flamingo
DAYS TO MATURITY	55 (+/-) *time from seeding to being ready for harvest
HARVEST WINDOW	28 days (+/-) *time crop is at ideal stage for harvest
TOTAL DAYS IN FIELD	83 (+/-) *DTM + harvest window
TARGET HARVEST SIZE	3-4" leaf
HARVEST UNIT	pound
TARGET CROP YIELD	60 pounds (+/-) *total from three cuttings
PRICE PER UNIT	\$10 *depending on local market pricing
REVENUE PER BED	\$600 *depending on local market pricing

SUGGESTED TOOLS:

SEEDING	Jang JP-1 or Jang JP-5 Seeder
TILTHING	Power Harrow or Precision Depth Roller (With no tractor: Tither)
AERATION	Meadow Creature Broadfork
BED SHAPING	Bed Preparation Rake
WEED CONTROL	Flame Weeder
CULTIVATION	Flex Tine Weeder
HARVEST	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, 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.

SEEDING

- Set up the Jang seeder: F24 roller, gears 14 front and 9 rear, brush down.
- For the JP1, roll out each of the six rows evenly spaced across the bed.
- 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.

IRRIGATION

- Water the beds 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 crop 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.
- If the variety of spinach 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.
- Keep the blades sharp, and make sure the harvester stays out of the dirt.

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.
- 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 spinach within 3 days of harvest for highest quality.