

## PAPERPOT GROWERS NOTES • PAPERPOT TRANSPLANTER

# Basil

Three rows of transplanted basil on a 30" bed, cut from the top for seven weeks of harvest.

CHAIN POT

6"

IN-ROW

6"

ROWS / 30"

BED

3

TRAYS / BED

2.2

TOP PLATE

264 • 3 mm • 4  
mm

SEEDS / CELL

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.
- Basil do best in a bed freshly amended. Layer on 1" of compost (enough to mostly cover the native soil) or sprinkle on alfalfa meal and pelleted chicken manure.
- If you layer compost, don't tilth it in, so surface weed seed stays smothered. If you add amendments, tilth the top 1-2" to mix them in.
- Irrigate for 10 to 14 days\* to germinate weed seed in the top layer of soil, then flame weed once the weed cotyledons are up.

## Seeding

- Set a germination tray with 6" paper chain pots and fill with potting mix.
- Set up the Kwik Klik Slide with the Paperpot bottom plate and the **Paperpot 264, 3 mm thick, 4 mm holes** top plate.
- Pour seed on the top plate and work it until one seed sits in each hole. Line the seeder up over the tray and slide the plate to drop seed into every cell at once.
- Water the tray, then germinate at 77-86°F. Emergence takes about 4 days.
- Move trays to greenhouse benches as soon as you see germination.
- Keep the greenhouse above 65°F at night.

## CROP DATA

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cultivars          | Genovese, Everleaf            |
| Seed / bed         | 570 seeds                     |
| Germination        | 4-10 days at 77-86°F          |
| Days to transplant | 30 days                       |
| Days to maturity   | 70 days                       |
| Harvest window     | 49 days                       |
| Days in field      | 89 days                       |
| Harvest unit       | 50 g bags (6-8" tip cuttings) |
| Yield / bed        | 400 bags                      |

## Transplanting

- Wait for soil temperatures above 60°F (70°F is ideal).
- Water the trays thoroughly before heading to the field.
- Plant three rows of basil with the Paperpot Transplanter: 10" between rows, 5" from the outer rows to the bed edge.
- New to the transplanter? See the [how-to guide and videos](#).

## Irrigation

- Water the bed in with four lines of drip. Overhead watering can bring on downy mildew in basil.
- Frequent, shallow waterings support fast growth.

## Cultivation

- 10-14 days after transplanting, cultivate with a wheel hoe and bio-disc cultivator, which works on and between the rows in one pass. Repeat 7-10 days later.
- A flex tine weeder or collinear hoe also works.

## Harvest

- Start harvesting when plants are 6-12" tall with at least 3 nodes.
- Straddle the bed and cut or pinch the top third of each plant. Leave the lower plant to keep producing.
- Harvest dry; basil isn't washed. On long harvests, shade the totes so the basil doesn't wilt.

## Packing

- Pack 50 g per plastic bag and leave the bags open so moisture doesn't blacken the leaves.
- Brown paper grocery bags work for bulk restaurant orders and can be closed.
- Store at 41-56°F. Colder than that blackens the leaves.

### SUGGESTED TOOLS

|               |                                                               |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seeding       | Kwik Klik Slide, Paperpot germination trays, paper chain pots |
| Transplanting | Paperpot Transplanter                                         |
| Aeration      | Broadfork                                                     |
| Tilthing      | Tilther, power harrow or precision depth roller               |
| Bed shaping   | Bed prep rake                                                 |
| Weed control  | Flame weeder                                                  |
| Cultivation   | Wheel hoe with bio-disc, flex tine weeder or collinear hoe    |

\*All timing varies with your climate, soil and season. Bed figures are for a 100' x 30" bed. Days in field = days to maturity + harvest window - days to transplant.

### MORE PAPERPOT GUIDES

Transplanter how-to, Kwik Klik Slide instructions, skip spacing and tech sheets are free at [paperpot.co](https://paperpot.co).  
Paperpot tools and paper chain pots: [shop.moderngrower.co](https://shop.moderngrower.co)