

PAPERPOT GROWERS NOTES • PAPERPOT TRANSPLANTER

Spinach

Multi-seeded 2" chains of spinach, four rows to the bed, cut three times.

CHAIN POT

2"

IN-ROW

2"

ROWS / 30"

BED
4

TRAYS / BED

8

TOP PLATE

264 • 3 mm • 7
mm

SEEDS / CELL

3-4

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 reapplying. If not, either 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 2" 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, 7 mm holes** top plate.
- Pour seed on the top plate and work it until 3-4 seeds 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 for 5 days at 70°F.
- Move trays to greenhouse benches as soon as you see germination.

CROP DATA

Cultivars	Space, Red Kitten, Gazelle, Flamingo
Seed / bed	8,532 seeds
Germination	5 days at 70°F
Days to transplant	28 days
Days to maturity	55 days
Harvest window	28 days
Days in field	55 days
Harvest unit	Pound
Yield / bed	60 lb (3 cuttings of about 20 lb)

Transplanting

- Water the trays thoroughly before heading to the field.
- Plant four rows of spinach with the Paperpot Transplanter: 7.5" between rows, 3.75" from the outer rows to the bed edge.
- New to the transplanter? See the [how-to guide and videos](#).

Irrigation

- Water the bed in thoroughly with overhead irrigation or four lines of drip.
- Frequent, shallow waterings help prevent bolting.
- In warm weather, water through hot days and cover with shade cloth.

Cultivation

- 14 days after transplanting, cultivate with a flex tine weeder (2 passes per bed). Repeat 7 days later.

Harvest

- First cutting comes about 25 days after transplanting. Cut at a 3-4" leaf with no more than 1" of stem.
- Upright varieties can be cut with the Quick Cut Greens Harvester. Otherwise, gather a handful and cut with a knife at least 1" above the soil so you don't cut the growing point.

Washing and packing

- Agitate by hand (or with a bubbler) for no more than 1 minute. Spinach gets waterlogged if it sits longer.
- Spin dry, bag and store at 35°F. Sell within 3 days of harvest.

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	Flex tine weeder or collinear hoe
Harvest	Quick Cut Greens Harvester or harvest knife

*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. Paperpot tools and paper chain pots: shop.moderngrower.co