

LETTUCES, LEAF TYPES

Cultural Information

General

Climate Requirement: Different varieties of lettuce tolerate and require quite different climatic conditions, Most leaf lettuce are likely to bolt (run to seed) in a hot climate which will tend to force growers to alter variety selection or growing practices.	
Frost Sensitivity: Dependent on variety some are hardier than others to the effects of frost.	
Seed Requirement Direct Plant (kg/ha): 2	Seed Planting Depth (cm): 1.5
Seed Requirement Transplant (g/ha): 1000	Seeds per gram (approx): 800-1000
Plant Population: 33000-75000 per Ha usually about 42000	
Row spacing: 2-4 rows per 1.5-2 m beds	Plant Spacing: 25-35 cm
Potential Disease Problems: A range of diseases including Downy Mildew, Big vein, Corky root, Anthracnose, Septoria can all be problems in field grown crops.	

Germination Information

Germination Temperature: Range 8-26 C, Optimum 15-22 C	
Days to Emergence: 5-7 days	Emergence to Transplant: 22-35 days
Plant to Maturity: Dependent on season and variety 44-70 days	
Transplant Recommendation: Transplanting of cell grown plants is commonly practised, however direct seeding is also possible with pelleted or raw seed.	

Soil and Nutrition

Salinity Sensitivity: Moderate tolerance	Optimum pH: 6.0-7
Nutrient Removal (kg/ha) (At average yield, greater if yield is higher)	
Vegetative:	
Harvested Product: N 110 Kg, P 30 Kg, K 120 Kg, Ca 50Kg,Mg 15Kg. per Ha	
Total Nutrient Removal	
N 110 Kg, P 30 Kg, K 120 Kg, Ca 50Kg,Mg 15Kg. per Ha	
Fertiliser Application: 50 % of total nutrient input including not more than 40% of N should be applied as a pre-plant banded application. The balance as two side dresses in the last 1/2 of the crop cycle.	

Irrigation Requirement

Irrigation System: Sprinkler irrigation is preferred, however flood irrigation or trickle is sometimes used
Water Usage (average): 2.2-3.4 Ml per ha

Yield Potential

Average Yield: 75-85 % of plants harvested
Packing: Leaf lettuce are usually sold in cartons of 12-20 plants usually 16 in a 48-56 litre carton.

This information is subject to the following disclaimer.