

## LETTUCE

*Lactuca sativa*

**Origin:** Mediterranean and North Africa

**Edible Portion:** Leaves and heart

### SOWING AND PLANTING

**Climatic Requirements:** Lettuce is basically a cool season crop. Crop growth is best at soil temperatures of 16-18°C. Lettuce breeding has produced varieties that are better able to handle hotter summer conditions and the colder winter conditions.

**Preferred Soil Type:** Good moisture holding capacity, well drained, fertile loams free of compaction.

**Seed Required:** Transplanted 1.7-2.2kg/ha, direct-seeded unpelleted seed 3.5kg/ha, precision-seeded pelleted seed 0.25-0.50kg/ha.

**Optimum Soil Temperature Range for Germination:** 4.0-27.0°C.

**Emergence Time:** 2-15 days, optimum 4 days.

**Plant Spacing:** Crisphead varieties – In-row 25-30cm, between rows 25-40cm, rows per bed 4-5, bed centres 2.0-2.5m. Fancy varieties – In-row 20-25cm, between rows 25-30cm, rows per bed 4-5, bed centres 1.8-2.0m

**Plants per Hectare:** 83,000 to 130,000.

**Method of Propagation:** Most commonly sown in situ with precision seeding equipment. Pelleted seed is used in order to obtain more accurate field spacing. For small areas, particularly for fancy varieties, seedlings are raised in nursery conditions and transplanted out by hand.

**Sowing Dates:** Summer varieties – September to March. Winter varieties – March to August.

### FERTILISER

**Optimum Soil Test Levels:** N = 100-150, P = 50-90, K = 12-15, Mg = 24-30, Ca = 10-15, Na = 1-10.

**Base Dressing (kg/ha):** N = 25.0, P = 80.0, K = 100.0. The base dressing is applied broadcast and worked into the soil prior to sowing or transplanting.

**Side Dressing (kg/ha):** N = 55.0. The side dressing is applied as two split applications at 21 and 35 days after emergence or transplanting. Extra nitrogen side dressing may be needed for crops grown during the colder winter growing period.

**Foliar Feed:** Foliar feed can be useful if there are known minor nutrient deficiencies.

**Optimum pH Range:** 6.0-6.8.

**Lime Requirement:** For pH correction only.

Safe Fertilisers

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## PESTS AND DISEASES

### **Important Pests and Their Control:**

Aphids – acephate, diazinon, dichlorvos, maldison, methomyl, pirimicarb

Thrips – diazinon, dichlorvos

Catepillars – acephate, diazinon, dichlorvos, methomyl

Green vegetable bug – carbaryl

Root knot nematode – oxamyl

Slugs and snails – metaldehyde, methiocarb

### **Important Diseases and Their Control:**

Botrytis rot – benomyl, carbendazim

Bacterial soft rot – copper oxychloride, cupric hydroxide

Downy mildew – copper oxychloride, cupric hydroxide, dichlofluanid, mancozeb

Pleospora leaf spot – captan, copper oxychloride, mancozeb

Ring spot – chlorothalonil, mancozeb, propineb

Sclerotinia rot – benomyl, carbendazim



### **Recommendations:**

# Safe Fertilisers – Crop Info



## Lettuce Program

**Biology Kick start;** Apply 10 lt /ha Vital Activator

### **Ground preparation:**

Apply 1 tonne/ha Lime **or** Liquid Lime @ 40lt/ha in 300lt/water  
Apply 400kg/ha Alroc DAP Supablend  
Apply 100Kg Alroc CBM  
Liquid spray 15lt Vital Phos in 300 lt water under trees

### **Side Dressing**

Liquid Lime @ 20lt/ha in 300lt/water or through your water system  
Apply 100 Kg/Ha Alroc NPK 9.5.7 Supablend

**Foliar Apply;** Vital Mix monthly during growth stages @ 6lt/ha in 300lt water  
6Lt/Ha Vital K Blast monthly from fruit set

### **Sidedressing / Maintenance after picking**

Apply 400 Kg/Ha Alroc NPK 9.5.7 Supablend This can be applied split in two applications,  
Use 70kg/ha Safe Coated Urea Spread on with spinner spreader, again two applications is ok  
Use one application of Safe Organic Liquid Lime @ 12lt/ha to assist the balancing of conductivity and low calcium

### **Liquid Feed, Growth Stage**

Vital Mix @ 4lt/ha monthly  
Vital Activator @ 10lt/ha one application  
Vital Kelp @ 6 lt/ha one application

### **Liquid feed, Fruiting Stage**

Vital K Blast @ 10lt/ha Monthly  
Vital Calcium, @ 8 lt/ha one application  
**Monitor potash,** may need Sulphate of potash topup

### **Top up Fertiliser requirements:**

**Nitrogen:** Use 120kg/ha Alroc CBM side dress applied with 6lt / ha Vital Activator

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### **Disclaimer**

The above program will be affected by soil variation, testing errors, seasonal factors and management skills. Any recommendation should be acted upon as part of an ongoing fertiliser program. No responsibility can be accepted for any of the above matters or other matters that are beyond our control.

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