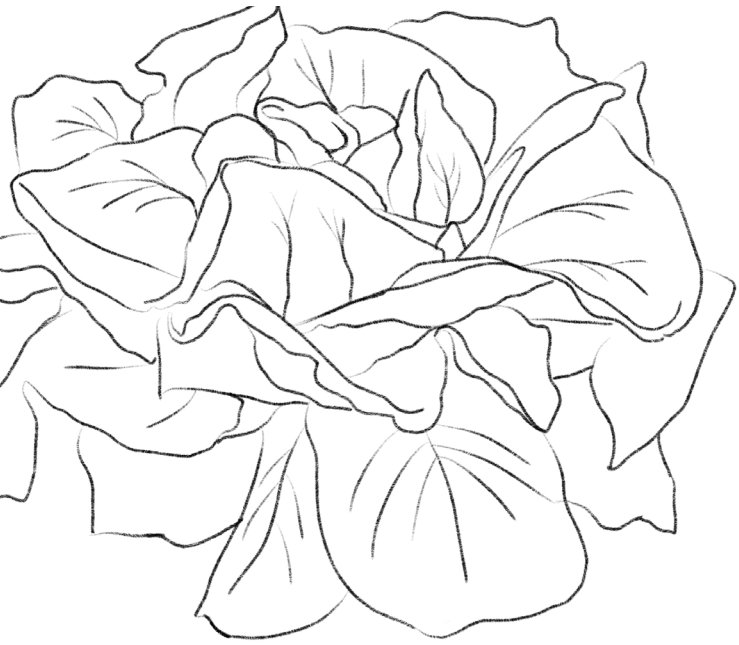
Yoderbilt
EST GREENHOUSES 2011

HOW TO GROW

Lettuce

Lettuce is one of the easiest crops you can grow, anyone can do it. We have been gardening for years and it is still one of our favorite crops! There are many different types of lettuce to choose from, making it such a great crop to have in your greenhouse and garden.



Growing Your Lettuce

For winter production, although you can technically grow lettuce whenever you want, they are typically annual crops that die in cooler weather. A greenhouse provides you with the ability to easily grow lettuce all winter long. It is a fast growing and prolific plant.

BENEFITS

- Saves Time
- Saves Money
- Easy to Grow
- Environmentally Conscious



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HOW TO GROW LETTUCE



PRO-TIP

Our favorite way to water the seedlings is to bottom water them. This helps prevent over watering because the roots of the seedling will pull up everything it needs. It also helps prevents pests and creates healthier roots.



Choosing the Right Variety

Choosing the type of lettuce you want is probably the hardest part of planting lettuce because there are so many options to choose from. It's a great "problem" to have. Varieties that are fast-growing and have a shorter maturity period are ideal for greenhouse production. Some popular varieties include Butterhead, Romaine, and Looseleaf lettuce. Our personal favorite is Salanova.

Begin the Germination Process

The next step is to prepare the soil for planting. Use a high-quality soil or seed starting mix that contains compost, perlite, and vermiculite. These ingredients will help with water retention, drainage, and aeration. Fill small containers or trays with the soil mix and water them well before planting.

Once the soil is ready, it's time to plant the seeds. Place one or two seeds in each container or tray, and cover them with a thin layer of soil or fine vermiculite. Water the seeds lightly and cover the container to retain moisture. If the temperatures are cold outside, we will place them on a heat mat until at least 50% of the seeds have germinated.

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Transplant the Seedlings

Once the lettuce seedlings have germinated, it's essential to thin them out. This means removing the weaker seedlings and leaving only the strongest ones in each container or tray. When the seedlings have grown to around 2-3 inches tall, it's time to transplant them into larger containers or a greenhouse bed. Choose a sunny location with well-draining soil and space the plants about 6-8 inches apart. Water them well after transplanting and provide a balanced fertilizer every two weeks. We recently tried growing mine in a hanging basket and it worked great!

Harvesting Time

Harvest the lettuce when the leaves are large enough to eat. Cut the outer leaves first and leave the center intact to allow for more growth. Lettuce can be harvested when it's young and tender or when it's mature and firm.





There are so many benefits to growing your own lettuce. From saving on costs, to promoting better health, you can't go wrong with growing this green delight! We hope you enjoy the growing process, and the delicious yield it will bring.

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