

Leaf Lettuce

Written by New Castle County Master Gardeners Rick Judd and Gail Hermenaus

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General Information

- **Scientific Name:** Lactuca sativa
- **Family:** Asteraceae
- Cool season
- **Planting Window:**
 - Spring: mid-March to late April
- **Fall:** early August to mid-September
- **pH =** 6.0-7.0
- **Planting Depth:** 1/8-1/4 inch, direct sow in soil
- **MPD:** 5 inches (in both directions)
- Easy to grow from seed!

Leaf Lettuce photos courtesy of Gail Hermenaus.



Successful Cultivators

- **Cultivars:**
 - Black Seeded Simpson (45 days)
 - Red Salad Bowl (50 days)
 - Buttercrunch (65 days)
 - Little Gem (45 days) - compact Romaine type
 - Parris Island Romaine (55 days)
 - Giant Caesar Romaine (70 days)
- **Harvest any time up to maturity (mature at 8-12 in.)**
 - Cut two inches above soil, recut repeatedly
 - You can eat the thinnings!

Common Pests and Diseases

- Slugs (beer saloon, diatomaceous earth)
- Rabbits - removable rabbit wire cages
- Cutworms - toothpicks around trunk

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