



Transition Farm Head Lettuce Planting Program

This head lettuce planting program is based on our on-farm trials done at Transition Farm in Southern Victoria. The farm is located near the Pacific ocean in a frost hollow. While heavy frosts do occur, the ground does not freeze and we have never had snow.

Winter

- The days are short, the temperature is usually 15C or below. Nights can frost.
- Choose quick heading, cold tolerant varieties and plant in a protected tunnel to protect from frost.

Late June July August Sept Oct

Sowing

Harvesting

LETTUCE VARIETIES:

Butterhead	Bibb/Gem	Gem/Romaine	Gem/Romaine	Gem/Romaine
Tom Thumb	Winter Density	Double Density	Eruption	Pandero
Gem/Romaine	Romaine			
Sweatheart Gem	Jadeite			

Late Winter/Early Spring

- The daylight increases but our temperatures remain cold especially at night. Storms are frequent with strong wind.
- In August and September, we plant these in a protected tunnel. While we have found that they can handle a light frost, we are assured a harvest under cover.
- All of the Winter lettuces above can also be planted and many will handle light frosts and cold temperature if planted in a sunny protected spot.

Late July August Sep Oct Nov Dec Ear Jan

Sowing

Harvesting

LETTUCE VARIETIES:

Butter	Butter	Butter	Butter	Butter
Chez le Bart	Divina	Optima	Pirat	Yugoslavian Red
Butter/Crisphead	Crsiphead	Crisphead	Crisphead	Crisphead
Carmona	Reine de Glace	Jester	Joker	Rosencrantz
Butterhead	Bibb/Gem	Gem/Romaine	Gem/Romaine	Gem/Romaine
Tom Thumb	Winter Density	Double Density	Eruption	Pandero
Gem/Romaine	Romaine	Romaine		
Sweatheart Gem	Flashy Troutback	Jadeite		

Late Spring/Early Summer

- The days are at their longest. Depending on the season, we can have days (weeks) over 35C.
- Lettuce will bolt or go to seed in hot, dry temperatures. Use quick heading and/or heat tolerant varieties to overcome this.
- To maintain the sweetness of the lettuce, ensure it is always moist. If the temperature will be above 35C for a stretch, shade it.
- Lettuce WILL NOT germinate above 25C. We put our sown flats on the cool concrete shed floor for 2-3 days until the seed cracks.

Nov Dec Jan Feb March

Sowing

Harvesting

LETTUCE VARIETIES:

Butter (Nov) Divina	Butter/Crisphead Carmona	Butter (Nov) Pirat		
Crisphead Jester	Crisphead Joker	Iceberg Crispino	Iceberg Salinas 88	Gem/Romaine Double Density
Gem/Romaine Eruption	Gem/Romaine Pandero	Romaine Sweetheart Gem	Romaine Flashy Troutback	Romaine Jadeite

Summer

- Daylight is growing shorter but summers heat stretches!
- Lettuce will bolt or go to seed in hot, dry temperatures. Use quick heading and/or heat tolerant varieties to overcome this.
- To maintain the sweetness of the lettuce, ensure it is always moist. If the temperature will be above 35C for a stretch, shade it.
- Lettuce WILL NOT germinate above 25C. We put our sown flats on the cool concrete shed floor for 2-3 days until the seed cracks.

Mid Jan Feb March April May

Sowing

Harvesting

LETTUCE VARIETIES:

Butter/Crisphead Carmona	Crisphead Reine de Glace			
Crisphead Jester	Crisphead Joker	Crisphead Rosencrantz	Iceberg Crispino	Iceberg Salinas 88
Gem/Romaine Double Density	Gem/Romaine Eruption	Gem/Romaine Pandero	Gem/ Romaine Sweetheart Gem	
Romaine Flashy Troutback	Romaine Jadeite			

Early/Mid Autumn

- Daylight is growing shorter. Plant growth is slowing. Plants need to be established before daylight dips below 10 hours.
- These lettuces can be transplanted in mid Autumn will actively grow again when daylight increases.
- Lettuce thrives in the cooler days and nights.

March Early April May June July August September

Sowing

Harvesting

LETTUCE VARIETIES:

Butter Divina	Butter/Crisphead Carmona	Butter Pirat		
Bibb/Gem Winter Density	Gem/Romaine Double Density	Gem/Romaine Eruption	Gem/Romaine Pandero	Gem/ Romaine Sweetheart Gem
Romaine Flashy Troutback	Romaine Jadeite			

Please visit our website for more growing tips - <https://www.transitionfarm.com/seasonal-notes?category=Resources>