
NEWS FROM THE DEMO GARDEN

Lettuce is a fast growing spring crop planted as early in spring as soil is at least 55°, usually mid March. I suggest a planting at this time followed by another planting in 3-4 weeks for a prolonged harvest of spring lettuce.

Planted in two beds at the Demo Garden are Salad Bowl Lettuce in a bed maintained by Janice Gregg and Romaine Lettuce which is being grown in Larry Steele's PPP Bed, Pounds of Produce for People. Master Gardeners have already donated produce to FISH and St Mary's this season.

HARVESTING ROMAINE LETTUCE VARIETIES



Romaine lettuce grows in an upright head with large leaves perfect for salads, on sandwiches or even as lettuce wraps. Romaine lettuce takes on average 60 days to mature while Salad Bowl, a loose leaf lettuce with an open head takes about 45 days. Both varieties are very productive but the Salad Bowl is usually harvested once while an experienced gardener can get two cuttings from Romaine.

When you harvest Romaine Lettuce leave the bottom outer leaves to serve as feeder leaves and cut the head just above that point.

Plants look a little ugly until new growth begins from the base of the plant.

The second cutting will not have as large of a head but tender leaves will more than make up for lack of size.

Just because warmer weather is coming doesn't mean you have to stop planting lettuce. There are varieties that stand up to summer heat without becoming bitter. Carmona Red, Buttercrunch, Little Gem, Anuenue, or Oak Leaf will produce tender, sweet lettuce in hotter weather.

