



Department of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry

Los Baños National Crop Research,
Development and Production Support Center

OFF-SEASON LEAFY VEGETABLE PRODUCTION GUIDE



PEST MANAGEMENT

Most leafy vegetables belong to the Brassica family which are favorite of Diamond Back Moth (DBM), cutworms, army worms and beetles. Monitoring of pests is very important before a decision to spray is implemented. However, if 21-60 % of leaves are damaged, apply biological insecticide like *Bacillus thuringiensis* following the manufacturer's recommended rate.

HARVESTING

Harvesting of leafy vegetables is done by uprooting the whole plants. Most leafys are harvested at 30-35 days after sowing. Kangkong is harvested at 24 days when conditions for growth are favorable.

LAND PREPARATION

Prepare the land thoroughly by plowing and harrowing twice. Prepare 1 m. wide beds raised at 20-30 cm. high. Allow 0.5 m. distance between beds. Incorporate 1 kg/m² compost.

PLANTING

Draw shallow lines 15 cm apart along bed. A 1 m. wide bed will have 5 rows. Apply basal fertilizer along rows and cover thinly with compost. Line sow and distribute thinly seeds at the rate of 1 gm/m² or 2.6 to 3.0 kgs/ha. Cover seeds with compost.

NET STRUCTURE

Net structure over beds of leafy vegetables disperses strong impact of water during rainy season or when irrigation water is applied manually. It also protects the plants from invasion of insects. Install net structure by suspending 32 mesh net, 1.5 m. wide over bamboo arcs or iron bars.

Enclose beds by burying net edges with soil. A small opening maybe an entrance of pests. Open one side of the structure to perform weeding and pricking of seedlings or fertilizer application 10 days after sowing. Secure beds well after each operation.

FERTILIZATION

Leafy vegetables require 90-20-20 kgs/ha. NPK. Apply 3 bags Triple 14 as basal and 1.5 bags Urea as sidedress at 10 and 20 days after sowing.

WEEDING

Weeds deprive the crop of soil nutrients. Removing weeds is important to produce healthy plants. With well-prepared soil, weeding is done at 10 days after sowing (DAS) or before the first sidedressing. Repeat the operation at 20 DAS before the second sidedressing.

IRRIGATION

Leafy vegetables need enough moisture for good development. During the rainy season irrigation is not necessary unless there is 3-7 days dry spell. Irrigate the fields by furrow irrigation or hand sprinkler.

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VISION

By 2022, BPI is a competent and well respected agency supportive of a competitive plant industry

MISSION

We ensure the availability of quality seeds, safety of plant food, development of crop farming technology and we safeguard the plant industry

CORE VALUES

SPICE IT!

SERVICE ORIENTED
PROFESSIONALISM
INTEGRITY COMMITMENT
EXCELLENCE
INNOVATIVE
TEAM WORK

For more information please write or contact:

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