

SimplySalad Kale Storm Mixture

(*Brassica oleracea*)

Germination

Mixes may include: *Lactuca sativa*, *Brassica* spp., *Eruca sativa*, *Cichorium* spp. and *Chrysanthemum coronarium*

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless media with a pH of 5.8-6.2 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm (2:1 extraction).

Sowing

SimplySalad can be sown into 105/128 cell size plug tray or directly sown into finish containers. A light cover of coarse vermiculite helps maintain moisture levels while letting light pass through to the seeds for improved germination.

Total crop time can be reduced by 1 week by directly sowing into the final container.

Stage 1 – Germination takes approximately 2 to 3 days

Germination temperature: 65 to 73°F (18 to 22°C)

Light: Light is optional.

Media Moisture: Keep the media medium wet (level 4) during germination.

Relative Humidity: SimplySalad can be germinated on bench. As long as the soil is kept evenly moist, high air humidity is not required for germination.

Plug Production

Media

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Relative Humidity: SimplySalad can be germinated on bench. As long as the soil is kept evenly moist, high air humidity is not required for germination.

Stage 2

Temperature: 68 to 70°F (20 to 21°C)

Light: Can be up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux) during Stages.

Media Moisture: Keep the media medium (level 3) to medium wet (level 4) during stage 2.

Fertilizer: Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N/less than 0.7 mS/cm EC) with a nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorous. Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC at 0.5 to 0.7 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Stage 3

Temperature: 65 to 67°F (18 to 19°C)

Light: Can be up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Media Moisture: Moisture level can be reduced to medium to medium dry (level 3 to 2). Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

Fertilizer: Increase the fertilizer rate to 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/ 0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC). Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC at 0.7 to 1.0 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Stage 4

Temperature: 62 to 64°F (16 to 17°C)

Light: Can be up to 5,000 f.c. (54,000 Lux)

Media Moisture: Moisture level can be reduced to medium to medium dry (level 3 to 2). Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

Fertilizer: Keep the fertilizer rate to 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/ 0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC). Maintain a media pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC at 0.7 to 1.0 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Growth Regulators

None

Growing On to Finish

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and an EC of 0.75 mmhos/cm

Temperature

Nights: 56 to 61°F (13 to 16°C).

Days: 62 to 70°F (16 to 21°C).

Cooler temperatures with high light will enhance foliage colors, but if average daily temperatures (ADT) are below 50°F (10°C), crop time could be significantly delayed.

To achieve faster production with good foliage color, SimplySalad can be grown at moderate to warm temperatures (55 to 70°F/13 to 21°C), and then finished at 45 to 55°F (7 to 13°C) for 3 to 5 days. Colored varieties develop pigment very quickly at cooler temperatures.

Light

As high as possible, while maintaining moderate temperatures. Provide shade to reduce temperatures under warmer conditions.

Irrigation

Maintain media moisture.

Fertilizer

Apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm) once a week. A balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertilizer may be applied as needed to encourage growth and balance the media pH.

Growth Regulators

None

Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (105/128-cell plug tray): 2-3 weeks

Transplant to finish and total crop time:

Container Size: 4-in. (11-cm) pot

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 1

Weeks from transplant to finish: 2-4

Weeks from sow to finish: 4-7

Container Size: 8-in. Color Bowl

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 3-4

Weeks from transplant to finish: 2-4

Weeks from sow to finish: 4-7

Container Size: 10-in. Color Bowl

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 4-5

Weeks from transplant to finish: 4-6

Weeks from sow to finish: 6-9

Container Size: 12-in. Color Bowl

Plants Per Pot/Basket: 5-6

Weeks from transplant to finish: 4-6

Weeks from sow to finish: 6-9

If directly sown into final containers, plants can be finished even faster. Total crop time can be reduced by one week.

Notes: SimplySalad can be re-harvested in 2 to 3 weeks after cutting back to 2 to 3 inches from soil surface.

Common Problems

Insects: Watch for aphids

Diseases: No serious problems

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the

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current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

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