Spinach Roller Starter Pack

Guidelines for Use with All Jang JP Seeders

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Materials Included

(1) Jang Roller MJ-24
(1) Jang Roller L-24



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SOURCE TRIALS

These recommendations are based on observations from extensive trials at the source research farm in A northern site (latitude 44.5º, hardiness zone 5a). Results can vary by region, time of year (growing slot), production system, variety, and even seed lot, so our intention is to provide guidelines for growers to use as a starting point. We encourage you to give our recommendations a try and experiment as desired, keeping records for reference, to refine your system and improve upon your success.

Seed Spacing and Jang JP Gear Setting

We recommend between-row spacing of at least 2" for baby leaf and 8" for bunching size spinach production. The Jang Roller Spinach Starter Pack includes two rollers: MJ-24 for small-seeded spinach and L-24 for large-seeded spinach. The rollers sow approximately 1–3 seeds per drop and allow for an in-row spacing of 0.5"-2.5". We use the tightest gear setting for baby leaf spinach production, #9 sprocket in the rear and #14 in the front, to achieve an in-row spacing of 3–5 seeds per inch. For full-size spinach, set the gears at the widest spacing, #14 sprocket in the rear and #9 in the front, and thin plants if a wider spacing is needed.

Seed size, however, is not the sole consideration when deciding which Jang roller to use for planting baby leaf spinach. Source trials seeded with a Jang JP-1 at the research farm yielded the following observations.

- Planting any baby leaf green at high density will create a slightly slower-growing, more upright stand that maintains a baby-leaf harvest size for a longer time than a low-density stand. If the crop is seeded too densely, however, irregular growth, disease, and premature bolting can become problematic.

- Premature bolting of spinach is more common in the earliest weeks of spring, as day length increases at a dramatic rate. For production at this time of the year, it is important not to plant spinach seeds too densely or they may bolt before reaching harvestable size. Many spinach varieties can be planted more densely during other parts of the season, when day length increases at a slower rate or when day lengths are decreasing. We have found, for example, lower bolting pressure in early June than in early May, and almost no bolting pressure in mid August.

- For sowing large-seeded spinach varieties at higher-densities, primarily in seasonal slots other than early spring, we have found that an LJ-24 roller (not included in this pack) can be useful.

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