

LETTUCE LOVES APRIL

Love lettuce? There's no need to wait until tomatoes ripen in summer to enjoy leafy garden green deliciousness! From crisp iceberg, romaines to soft leaves of butterheads to most any color imaginable, lettuce is abundant. It's a versatile nutritious vegetable, great on sandwiches and refreshing salads, used in place of bread, used in soups and it's a fast grower too!

Lettuce loves cool temperatures. Therefore, we offer it in abundance in April and early-May then again later in mid-August through the end of September as nighttime temps start to drop. Optimum daytime temperatures are 60-75 degrees. In Spring, plant it before your last frost date. If that is not an option, try a heat tolerant variety or plant in a shadier area. As the night temps warm in the spring, the lettuce gets bitter and can flower (bolt) causing it to stop growing.

Trying to keep your lettuce cool enough can be tricky. Growing it under the shade of leaves in your gardens like large zucchini leaves for instance or tomatoes or covering with Reemay shade cloth may help. Mulching helps cool the soil with late summer crops. Try growing in large pots that can be moved under a nice breezy tree. There are a few varieties that can tolerate warmer temperatures including Black Seeded Simpson, Little Gem, and New Red Fire.

See what we offer on our website. We look forward to seeing you in mid-late April, early May, late August, and September!

Click [here](#) for "Planting, Growing, and Harvesting Lettuce" article by ALMANAC