

Lettuce: Jester



Seedling to 4-6 leaves
Rogue plants:
 Low vigour (5-10% of population)
 Off-type leaf colour



10-12 leaves until maturity
Select plants:
 Semi-savoyed leaf shape
 Flashy red spackles
 Crisp, glossy leaves



Harvest maturity onwards
Select plants:
 Taste (juicy, crisp)
Rogue plants:
 Early bolting
 Any signs of disease



Starting & Ending Population size

Starting population size: 35 (Stable seed stock)
 60+ (Poor seed stock)

Harvest population size: Seeds should be harvested from a minimum of **20 plants**.

A note about leaf colour for Jester

There is still some variation in this strain with some heads more red and some more green so keep this in mind when roguing out off-colour leaves.

Further Roguing & Selection Information

From seedling stage until 4-6 true leaves: Select plants based on rate of germination and rate of seedling growth. When lettuce seedlings have produced 4 to 6 true leaves, the leaf color of individual plants can be evaluated. The colors and patterns should be selected to match the varietal norm. For Jester lettuce, select plants that have red speckled leaves.

From 10-12 true leaves until before plant maturity: A number of shape components should be considered to determine if the plants are true-to-type: the degree of lobing, savoying, and blistering, and the overall shape. Jester leaves are semi-savoyed with shallow margins that are pointed – think of a jester’s clothes. Plant stature selection can be made based on if the plant has a more upright stature, with leaves away from the ground, or if the leaves are lying prostrate on the ground. The texture of lettuce leaves can be best evaluated when the plants are close to maturity for vegetable harvest. Texture is primarily composed of leaf thickness and crispness. Jester has crisp and glossy leaves.

From harvest maturity onwards: At harvestable size as a vegetable, you can taste the lettuce by trying a leaf from the head without damaging the plant; flavor can be evaluated for sweetness, lack of bitterness, and any distinctive flavors that are characteristic of the variety. Jester tastes juicy, crunchy and super crisp. The degree of heading and tightness of the head can be evaluated at the time of vegetable harvest. Selection can be made throughout the growing season for resistance to the most common lettuce diseases, such as lettuce mosaic virus.



***These are suggested tips and strategies for selecting a true to type Jester lettuce, you are welcome to look for other characteristics that you find appealing or suit your farm, market or growing condition. Please make note of it if you do so. ***

