# HOME HORTICULTURE

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Information Packet was Compiled from the Michigan State University Home Horticulture Database.

# **Spinach**

Spinach quality may not be good in hot weather. Provide a rich, moist soil as on dry, poor soil the plant may go to seed. Spinach is sensitive to poor soil aeration. Spring planting is done from late March to mid-April with late season plantings done in July. Plant seed 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep with the plants 3 to 6 inches apart in rows 12 to 18 inches apart. Thin to the above spacings when plants are an inch tall. Spinach is a heavy feeder. Use 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of 5-10-5 per 50 feet of row. If the foliage begins to yellow during the growing season, sidedress the row with nitrogen. Remove any plants, which go to seed. If not adequately watered bolting occurs.

Harvest spinach when the plants have 6 to 8 leaves. Cut the plant off at the soil line.

Bolting occurs if the plants are not adequately watered.

## **Spinach Facts**

Availability: August through mid September

Days to Maturity: 40 to 60 days

*Approximate Yield/10 feet of row*: 4 to 5 pounds

Per Person Requirements: Fresh: 5 to 10 feet or row or Preservation: 10 to 15 feet or row

*Weights*: 1 bushel = 20 pounds

# **Spinach Insects**

#### **Aphids**

These soft-bodied insects suck sap from leaves causing distorted growth and stunted plants.

#### Beet Webworm

This is a yellow to green worm with a black stripe and many black spots on the back. The insect feeds on and rolls and folds the leaves then webs them together.

#### Leaf Miner

The small larva lives in, and mines out, the middle of the leaves. The tunnels are slender, long, winding and light in color.

#### Flea Beetle

These small beetles eat the leaves, giving them a shotholed appearance.

# **Spinach Diseases**

#### Downy Mildew

The disease causes pale yellow spots with indefinite margins on the upper surface of the oldest leaves. On the lower leaf surface the spots are covered with a violet, gray mold. The spot later dies. When severe, the plant may die.

## Cercospora Leaf Spot

The disease causes round, water soaked spots on the leaves and stems. The spots enlarge, turn white at the center and have dark margins.