



GROWING LETTUCE IN THE SUMMER

TIPS & TRICKS

WHAT WE WILL COVER

- Why grow summer lettuce?
- Our journey with lettuce
- Variety selection
- Seeding
- Propagation
- Bed preparation
- Fertility
- Spacing
- Watering
- Shading
- Disease & pest control
- Harvesting

WHY GROW LETTUCE IN THE SUMMER?

- High demand
- Low supply
- Relatively easy
- Maintain customer base
- Profitable



OUR JOURNEY



- Just growing in spring, fall, and winter
- Direct seeding baby lettuce
- Soil blocking head lettuce
- Salanova and head lettuce in paper pot
- 200 cell plug trays and landscape fabric

BABY LETTUCE MIX



- We use Salanova
- Red and green butter
- Red and green Batavian
- Green oakleaf
- Red tango

HEAD LETTUCE VARIETIES

- Muir, green summer crisp
- Coastal star, green romaine
- Magenta, redish summer crisp
- Adriana, green butter
- Skyphos, red butter
- Little gem, mini



WHY WE MIX OUR BABY LETTUCE

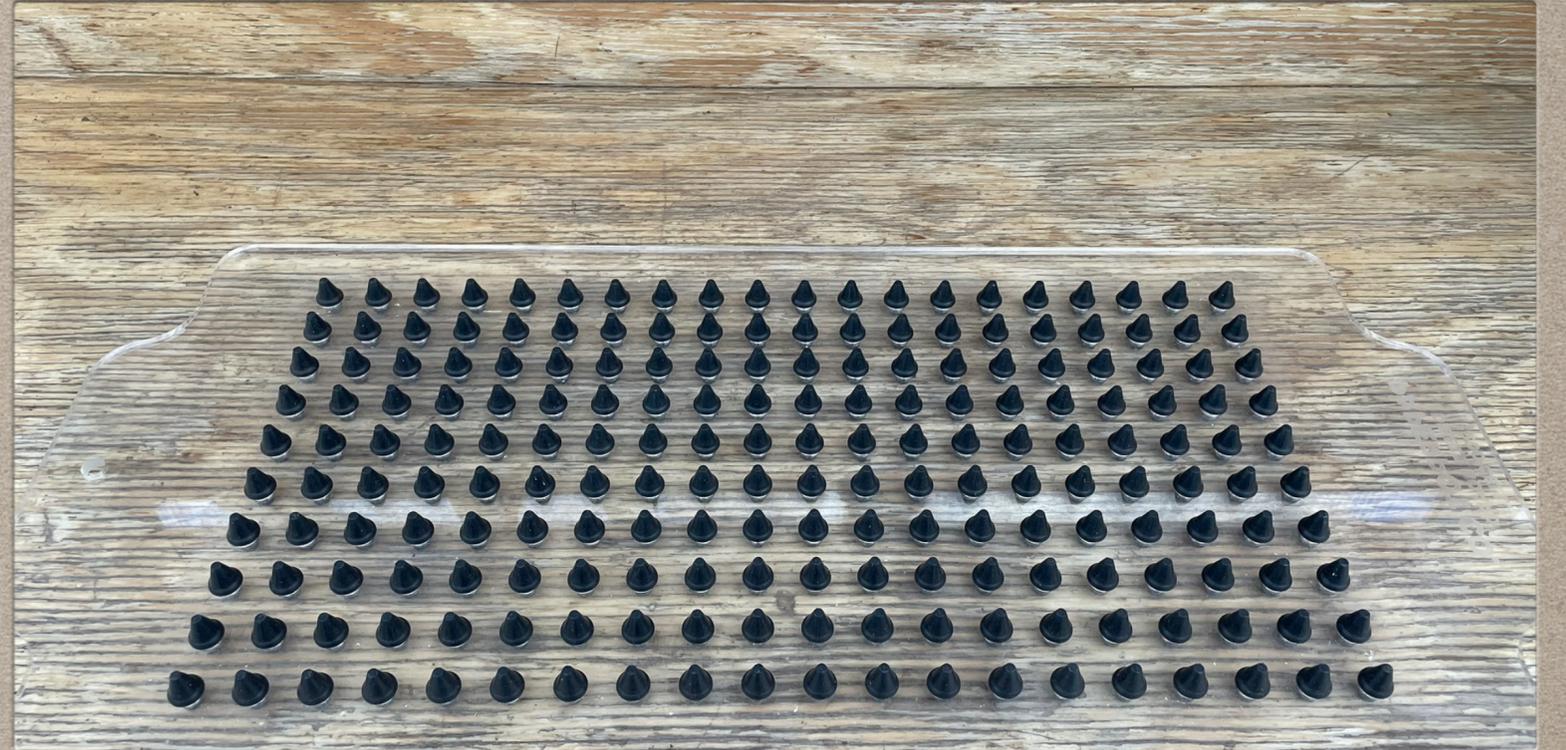
- Simplicity
- Makes it easier to seed
- No confusion when planting
- Easier when harvesting



SEEDING AND PROPAGATING



- 200 cell tray
- High quality fine potting mix
- Tray dibbler
- Drop seeder



SEEDING AND PROPAGATING

- Use pelletized seed
- Don't cover the seed
- Ideal germination temperatures
- Germination chamber/optional
- Use shade cloth
- Use fog it nozzle until cotyledons appear



FERTILITY

- In general, lettuce is a light feeder
- Soil tests
- Add compost or peat moss for organic matter
- Nitrogen, we use feather meal, but alfalfa meal



BED PREPARATION



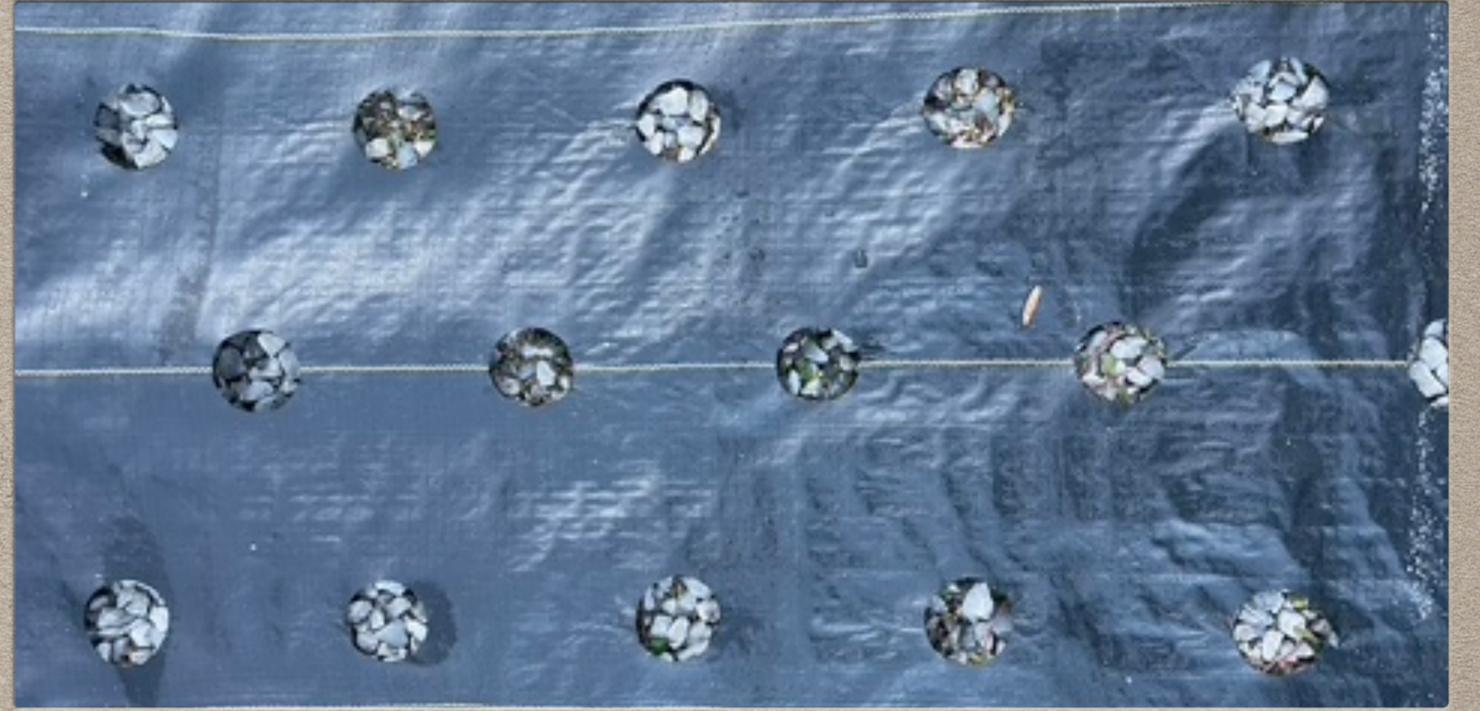
- Add compost/peat moss/
fertility
- Broad fork
- Wheel hoe/tilther
- Rake bed flat
- Lay landscape
- Water

WHY USE LANDSCAPE FABRIC?

- Very little weeding
- Clear plant spacing
- Holds more moisture in the soil
- Cooler soil temperature
- Much cleaner lettuce



SPACING



PLANTING

- Moist soil
- Wet plugs
- Plant in evening or early morning
- Water
- Install shade cloth immediately







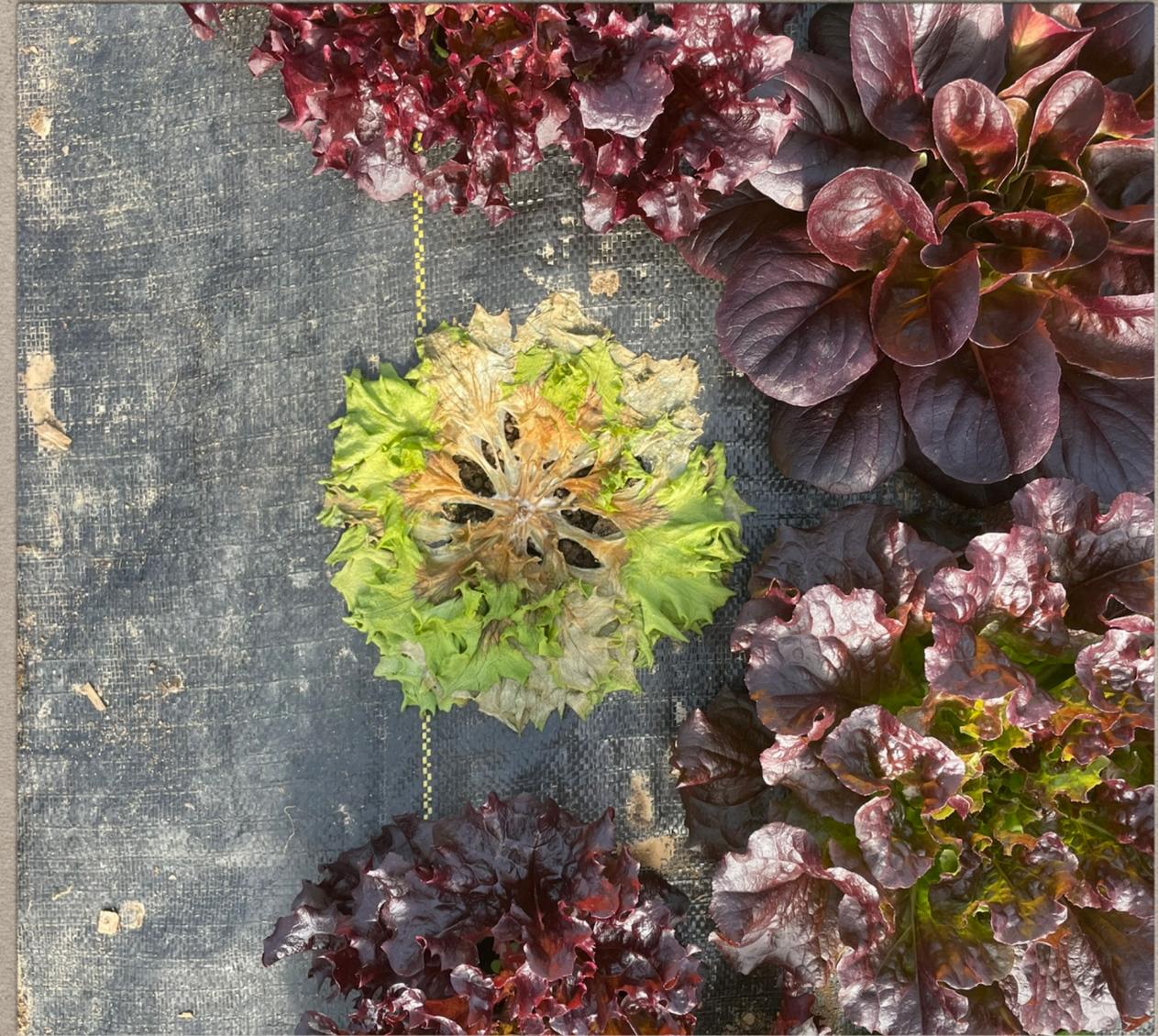
SHADE CLOTH



- 50% shade cloth is ideal
- Take off after 2 weeks
- Less leaf burn when planting in landscape fabric

DISEASE CONTROL

- Downy mildew
- Sclerotinia



PEST CONTROL



- Deer, rabbits, and armadillos
- Aphids
- Cutworms
- Slugs

HARVESTING



- Water the day before so that crop is well hydrated and crisp
- Harvest in early morning for peak moisture retention (lettuce is 95% to 96% water)
- Early morning harvest for best flavor
- Get crop out of field and into cooler/processed ASAP

