

Celery Information



Stat Summary

Plant Spacing: 6-8"

Row Spacing: 18-24"

Planting Depth: 1/8"

Plants Per Person: 4

Soil Temperature: 55-70°

Days to Emergence: 10-20

Recommended Soil PH:

Seed Indoors: 10-12 weeks before transplanting

Earliest Outdoor Planting: After Last Frost

✓Can seed indoors

Planting Information

Celery is grown for a fall harvest, not mid-summer. In February sow seeds indoors 1/8 inch deep in sterile seedling mix; keep soil moist. Transplant 6 to 8 inches apart in rows 18 to 24 inches apart when the weather is warm enough and no chance of frost exists. According to IFAS, Celery is usually planted in south Florida between October and March. Among the varieties common in the state are Floribelle-M9, June Belle and Florida 683. Seedlings for transplant are grown in greenhouses in the central part of the state. After 3 months in the greenhouse, celery is transplanted to the field, using mechanical transplanters, where it remains for an additional three months. Plants are set at 18 to 40 inches between rows and 6 to 12 inches between plants.

Growing Information

Heavy feeder; use a complete fertilizer to provide adequate nutrition.

Harvesting and Storing Information

Harvest celery as soon as the root-ball reaches about 2 inches in diameter or is large enough to use. Remove from the ground with a garden fork rather than pull them. To store celery, cut tops off 2 inches above the root and place in plastic bags to retain moisture; refrigerate. You can store the roots for up to 4 months by burying the roots in damp sand or sawdust at 32-38°F and high humidity, thus reducing the length of time to maturity between the spring and fall seasons.

Insect and Disease Information

Use a row cover to help deter carrot fly larva.

Yield Information

Celery is harvested over most of the season. IFAS reports that celery in Florida is harvested from early December to late May. Once celery reaches marketable size, it must be harvested within 6 to 8 days or reduction in quality will make it unmarketable. Spring 2011 season we had two harvests in seven weeks time.