

MOLES SEEDS

Beet (Leaf)

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ522

Leaf Beet, or Chard, is an extremely versatile crop, becoming very popular in salad leaf mixtures. It is similar to spinach but less likely to go to seed in dry weather. Perpetual spinach is also popular as a long-term crop providing a high yield of leaves over two seasons, for fresh market sales.

For retail plant sales, direct sow several seeds per cell into cell trays, or sow into seed trays and prick out. The most popular varieties for retail sales, are Bright Lights, Rhubarb (Ruby Chard) and White Swiss Chard. Sold from April to July.

Propagation and Growing-on

Sow direct, March to July (40-100 seeds per gram). Thin seedlings to 30cm apart, or if you want mini leaves, every 5cm.

In colder areas, plants can be covered in October for overwintering with cloches or protect the crown with straw or similar material, then cover with fleece.

Harvesting

Chard has a long cropping period as leaves can be continually removed from the plant. Harvest the outer leaves first when they are young and tender, working towards the centre, rather than wait until they are too large.

Pest and Disease

Chard can be affected by the following:

- Birds, especially pigeons
- Grey mould
- Downy mildew.

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.

(12/15)

