



# Columbia Nursery

## Growing Lettuce in Northwest Montana

### Why Grow Your Own Lettuce?

- Quick and easy to grow
- Ideal for cool spring and fall temperatures
- Grows well in small spaces and containers
- Continuous harvests possible with succession planting
- Enjoy better flavor and texture than store-bought lettuce

### When to Plant Lettuce

Lettuce is a cool-season crop. In Northwest Montana, you can plant lettuce in early spring as soon as the soil can be worked.

Planting Time	Approximate Dates (Zones 3–5)
First Outdoor Planting	Late April – Early May
Fall Planting	Late July – Early August

### Choosing Your Lettuce

There are several types of lettuce you can grow:

Type	Description
Leaf Lettuce	Loose leaves, quick to harvest
Romaine	Upright heads, crisp texture
Butterhead	Tender, soft heads (e.g., Bibb)
Crisphead	Iceberg types, more difficult in short seasons

Tip: For beginner gardeners, leaf lettuce is the easiest and most forgiving!



# Columbia Nursery

## How to Plant Lettuce

### Soil Preparation

- Choose rich, loose soil with good drainage
- Mix in compost or organic matter before planting
- Lettuce prefers a pH of 6.0–7.0

### Planting Instructions

Method	How To
Direct Seed in Garden	Sow seeds 1/4 inch deep, 1 inch apart
Transplant Nursery Starts	Space plants 6–8 inches apart

Columbia Nursery carries healthy lettuce starts if you prefer to skip seed starting!

## Caring for Lettuce

Task	Details
Watering	Keep soil evenly moist, do not let dry out
Sunlight	4–6 hours of sun; partial shade is okay in summer
Fertilizing	Use a mild organic fertilizer if needed
Weeding	Keep area weed-free to reduce competition

## Harvesting Your Lettuce

- Leaf Types: Cut outer leaves when they're 4–6 inches long, leaving the center to grow back.
- Head Types: Harvest the whole plant when it forms a firm head.

## Extend Your Season

- Plant lettuce every 2 weeks for a continuous harvest.
- Use shade cloth during hot spells to prevent bolting (going to seed).
- In fall, use frost cloth or grow in containers that can be moved indoors during cold snaps.



# Columbia Nursery

## Container Growing Tips

Lettuce is ideal for container gardening! Use shallow pots (4–6 inches deep) with quality potting soil. Place containers on patios, decks, or window boxes for easy access.

## Need Help?

Stop by Columbia Nursery for expert advice, high-quality lettuce starts, seeds, soil, and all the tools you need for a successful lettuce crop. We're happy to help you grow your best garden!