

**News Article**  
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**For Agriculture & Natural Resources**

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“Leafy Spring Salad”

So, you can't wait for spring salad? The quicker you get started, the sooner you can eat it! Many folks, including myself, question their success.

First, all of the leafy salad vegetables require a cool growing season, so getting the seed in the ground in early March is really important. Lettuce is 45 to 75 days. I like to put out some 45 day lettuce, 75 day Bibb, Buttercrunch and a Romaine Little Caesar. Notice how many seeds are in a packet. Sew a row of only about 3-5 feet of each and cover them with some potting soil so that heavy rain won't pack in or crust the seed. Then do another planting in two weeks. The failure point is after lettuce comes up. Thin the plants to have at least 3 inches of space to the next plant. The plants have to have room to develop. Think about what kind of salad bowl you can have with 25 day radishes, 40 day spinach, 40 day lettuce, 35 day salad greens, and be sure to stick in a few onions. To find these really delightful salad makings, you need to take a trip through seed catalogs - either the paper one or the online. Try Parks Seed, Harris Seed, or Burpee Seed and have fun. I always overdo it and of course I have plenty of the above until 80° early summer temperature bolts the lettuce and spinach.

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