

LEEKS

Allium ampeloprasum

Final Crop Analysis

Estimated Harvest goals:

| Market | Total Yield Goal [lbs/units] | Notes |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| CSA | 1312 | |
| Farmers Market | 30 | |
| DC | 100 lbs | |
| Earthfoods | 75 | |
| Big Y | 400 | |

Cultivars/varieties and seeds:

| Cultivar | Source | Amount | Cost | Org or Untreated? |
|--------------|----------|------------|---------|-------------------|
| King Richard | Johnny's | 4750 seed | \$6.81 | O |
| Lexton | Johnny's | 1000 seeds | \$62.98 | O |

Reasons for selecting these cultivars: King Richard inexpensive OP leek with fastest days to maturity. Lexton much more beautiful and long lasting leek, ideal for late season harvesting.

Did the variety description meet your expectations? Why or why not?

Yes. They grew well, good stand, and were fat leeks. Lexton grows the biggest and most beautiful but kind richard is also good, considering it is the least expensive.

Would you recommend these varieties again?

Yes

Make suggestions for two other varieties you think would be interesting to try in 2020. List your reasons.

I would suggest megaton to try for 2020 since it was grown before and did well. It is a longer season leek and will do well paired with king richard. I would grow just King Richard and Lexton though since they did so well

***Farmer Notes:** Leeks did great. There was no real problem with pests. Lexton is a beautiful leek, probably worth the extra seed costs. King Richard is also good since it is cheap and grows well, not quite as beautiful as lexton.*

How and when the crop was seeded/transplanted:

Greenhouse seeding

| Variety | Seed date | Tray size | Number of trays | Notes on germination |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Lexton | 3/21 | 128 | 16 | |
| King Richard | 3/21 | 128 | 37 | |

Field Planting Info

| Planting # | Plant date | Number of row feet planted | Rows per bed | Planting method | Notes on survival in field |
|------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 5/27 | 2400 | 2 | Tractor furrow and hand plant | |

Farmer Notes: Leeks, along with onions are one of the first crops sown in the greenhouse. It is important to give them a good start so you get a good stand in the field.

Planting Information

Expected yield/ft: 0.75 lbs

Direct seed or transplant: TP

In-Row Spacing: 6"

Between Row Spacing: 18"

Number of Rows Per Bed: 2

Bed Feet planted: 1200 ft

Field Planted In: A

Number of succession plantings: 1

Fertility: 4/16/19 Composted Chicken Manure 5-4-3 1000 lbs/acre

Cultural practices:

Hand planted. Hilling with CUB, Hoeing, Hand weeding

Notes on Irrigation: none

Diseases observed: Soft/pink stalk and rot from inside (it happens)

Potential Disease Threats: Botrytis, purple blotch, white rot

Insect Pests observed:**Thrips**

Damage caused: white streaking on leaves

How was it scouted or observed: Random samples throughout field

Action(s) taken: None

Potential Insects: Thrips, Onion maggot

Do you think the production practices needed for this crop was worth the yield that we received? Yes. leeks are an easy crop to grow since they are hardy and can be mechanically cultivated for the most part. The few times we did hand weed them was worth the work.

***Farmer Notes:** Leeks came out great and did not require much more than some hilling and weeding. Hilling with the CUB was somewhat difficult given the spacing we chose. They needed to be slightly further apart to deal with the width of the Cub. Once the hilling shoes were set up correctly, hilling went fairly well, but many leeks were run over by the tractor.*

Harvest & Storage:**When was the crop ready for harvest? How did you know?**

The leeks were ready from August until November. You can choose when the leeks are large enough to be harvested

How was it harvested?

Harvested by pulling them out of the ground, then cutting the roots and peeling outer layers and trimming down leaves.

How was it washed at the wash station?

Leeks were put on plastic pallets and sprayed with hose so dirt in root came out. Then, they were dunked in water.

List different post-harvest practices for each market (if any) [example: potatoes washed for wholesale and unwashed for CSA]

Leeks were always washed the same way. Sometimes they were bunched for big y but not for CSA or farmers market

List different shipping practices for each market (if any) [example: wax boxes for DC, blue lock lids for CSA]

Wax boxes for dining. Lock lids or wax boxes for Big Y and farmers market

What different or improved harvest and shipping recommendations can you make?

Make sure you have sharp knives

Storage and post-harvest handling:

Washing before storage: Yes. Sprayed and dunked in water

Storage Requirements: Put inside cooler will last long time

How should this crop be processed for long term storage: Cut, trimmed and washed and put in cooler

Where your crop was stored this fall?

Cooler in barn

How well did this crop fair in storage and how did it enter storage?

Lasts around a month in lock lids. Did fine we sold all of them before we lost any

Were there any problems in storage?

They can get a little softer

What different or improved storage recommendations can you make?

***Farmer Notes:** Keeping leeks out of the sun when they are first harvested helps them last longer in storage. It is also important to empty the water when you switch to washing a non allium crop after washing leeks since they can make other crops smell like alliums. At the end of the season with big orders of leeks, it is fine to get them out of the field and let them sit in the barn for a little while and work at cleaning them over a couple of sessions.*

Actual Yields and Sales: CSA

| Date | Week # | Unit lbs., bunches, bags | Amount Per share | Total brought to CSA | Notes |
|-------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| 9/20 | 2 | individual | 2 half 4 full | 355 | |
| 10/4 | 4 | individual | 3 | 315 | |
| 10/11 | 5 | individual | 3 full, 2 half | 325 | |
| 10/18 | 6 | Individual | 3 full, 2 half | 325 | |
| 11/1 | 8 | Individual | 3 full, 2 half | 325 | |

Other Markets — report total amount sold to each market over the season

| Market | Price/unit | Total Units sold | Total amount of sales |
|--------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Big Y | \$1.75 | 1239 | \$2166.63 |
| CSA | | 5 week | \$477 |

Total Gross Income Received From Your Crop: \$2500

Review and Recommendations

What was different between what was done and what was planned?

There was less planned for than what was needed and what was sold. Stores ordered more than what we planned to give them. The CSA was fairly accurately planned for but we could have still planted more

What worked really well and should be continued?

We should continue making leeks a staple crop, it sold very well in all the markets and was fairly heavily relied upon

What changes would you recommend for next year?

I would recommend planting the same amount of leeks and possibly. I would consider planting some more if the crew is able to pick and sell them.

Should we grow this crop again? Why or why not?

Always grow leeks. It made a lot of money and gave us a long harvest season with only 1 succession planted. They are easy to grow and dependable. People around here love them.

Farmer Notes: *I think that there is room for improvement in the way we cultivate the leeks. If we had the right spacing for the Cub tractor, and the hilling shoes well adjusted, it would be easy to mechanically cultivate the leeks, making them one of the easiest crops on the farm to grow. Hill the leeks three times over the season and they will reward you.*