

Celery

(*Apium graveolens* var. *dulce*)

Recommended Varieties

Giant Pascal
Tall Utah 52-70
Golden Self-Blanching (waxy-yellow petioles)

Disease Resistance

BR

Celery is usually produced from transplants. If you grow it from seed, place a shallow covering of soil over the seed and keep the soil quite moist. Do not seed when temperatures are high; it induces seed dormancy and the seed does not germinate. Use transplants that are 10 to 12 weeks of age. Celery requires much water and nitrogen fertilizer.

The crop is ready to cut in 90 to 120 days after transplanting. Harvest by cutting below the ground through the taproot. The edible portion is the fleshy leaf petiole. If long periods of cool temperatures occur during growth, seed stalk development may occur. Overmature plants show cracking and pithiness of the petioles.

Nutritional Value of Celery

Serving size:	1 stalk (7.5"), raw	<u>Primary Nutrients</u>	<u>%RDA(m)</u>	<u>%RDA(f)</u>
Calories	10	Folic acid	17 mcg	8.5
Fat	0.1 g	Vitamin C	4 mg	7
Calories from fat	8%			
Cholesterol	0			
Sodium	52 mg			
Protein	0.5 g			
Carbohydrate	2.2 g			
Dietary Fiber	1.0 g	Potassium	115 mg	<u>% Min Requirement</u>
				6

Problem Diagnosis for Celery

What the Problem Looks Like	Probable Cause	Comments
Poor growth Stunted plants	Variety not adapted to many areas of California	
Tough, bitter stalks	High temperatures Dry soil Poor fertility Overmaturity	Plant at proper time Celery requires lots of water Celery requires high nitrogen Harvest when tender
Blotches or tunnels in leaves	Leaf miners	Use registered insecticide

Problem Diagnosis for Celery (continued)

What the Problem Looks Like	Probable Cause	Comments
Brown or gray spots on leaves and stalks	Fungal leaf spot	Use registered insecticide
Bolting	Physiological disorder	Use recommended varieties Plant at right time.
Twisted, brittle stalks Stunted, yellowed plants	Aster-yellows (mycoplasma disease)	Remove infected plants. Control weeds. Control leafhopper vectors with insecticide
Heart of plant may be black	Calcium deficiency or improper soil pH	Test soil. Maintain pH between 6.5 and 8. Water during dry periods. Calcium deficiency can be due to uneven water supply
Wilted plants; Soft, watery rot on leaves and stalks	Fungal crown rot	Rotate crops. Remove old plant debris. Apply registered fungicide.