A SUCCESSFUL CELERY GUIDE

LAND PREPARATION

The land should be prepared in well tilled beds 2 to 4 feet wide, with a 1 ft. drain between beds to allow easy access for necessary operations. Limestone should be incorporated into the top 4 in. at a rate of 1 oz. per sq. ft. on clay or Pegasse soils or ¼ oz. per sq. ft. on sandy soils. Celery is usually grown under shade.



IRRIGATION

Sprinkler irrigation from Caribbean Chemicals can be used to reduce cost, but because celery is usually cultivated under shade it is often watered by hand



FERTILIZING

Celery is planted close and is expected to remain in production for several months. Fertilizers such as 15-15-15 or 12-12-17-2 can be broadcast before planting at a rate of about 1 lb per 100 sq ft; however, Elixir fertilizer is much preferred because it is far more soluble and readily available to the plant, and each granule contains all the required nutrients.



WEED CONTROL

Weed control in celery is difficult because the crop is planted very close together. An effective strategy is outlined below. Before planting, allow weeds to grow for about two weeks, then use Glyphosate to terminate them. A pre-emergent herbicide that does not damage celery can also be applied at this time. Lazio or Moccasin is recommended. Mix 20 ml per gallon and apply 1 gallon to 300 sq ft of moist soil.

Fusil or Select can be used to control grass weeds, but they will not control broadleaf weeds or sedges.

The crop should be planted in straight, accurately spaced rows across the beds, as this makes hand weeding much easier and more efficient.



PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Nematodes are usually a problem on sandy soils. The bed should be soaked with **Vyd-8** before planting. During the crop, **Vyd-8** can be sprayed on after harvesting to maintain control.

Calcium deficiency causes black heart. This can be prevented by using limestone and **Agrical** before planting, and later applying **Calmax** or **Quod 14** during crop growth.

Bacterial soft rot causes a wet, soft, foul-smelling rot at the base of the plant. It is treated with a drench of **Shield** and/or **Coback**. Brown spot on the leaves can be treated with Carbendazim, but **Bellis** may be required in severe cases.



SPRAY APPLICATION

The program recommended below is designed to maximize profit while reducing costs. Many products are applied early in the life of the crop because this is when the plants are most vulnerable, and any damage at this stage will affect the productivity of the entire crop. At this time the plants are also small, so the quantity of product required is lower. It is therefore far better to invest a small amount early, as correcting problems later is more expensive and yields will still be significantly reduced. Coback and Cuprofix must be used with caution, as they may cause phytotoxicity under certain conditions. In addition to other pests, thrips, mites, and leafminers can also affect celery and should be monitored and managed accordingly.





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PLANT

Drench **Bio 20** 20 ml/gal (stimulate root development) + **Ryzo 500** 15 g/gal (protect from root fungus like bottom rot) + **Frip** 5 ml/gal (protect from cutworms and sucking insects) + **Vyd-8** 10 ml/gal (protect from nematodes, mainly on sandy soils) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Fastak or Karatax** 5 ml/gal (blanket spray for cutting insects).

WEEK 1

Drench **Agrical** 30 ml/gal (liberate calcium and reduce soil acidity) + **Shield** 30 ml/gal (fungicide) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 2

Drench **Bountiful Harvest** 30 ml/gal (encourage root growth) + **Coback or Cuprofix** 30 g/gal (protect from root fungus and bacteria) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Frip** 5 ml/gal (systemic insecticide against most insect pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root growth; can substitute **Nutrient Express** 5 g/gal) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf)





WEEK 3

Drench **Agrical** 60 ml/gal (liberate calcium and reduce soil acidity) + **Vyd-8** 10 ml/gal (protect from nematodes, mainly on sandy soils) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Caprid** 5 ml/gal (kill eggs and larvae) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 4

Drench **Bountiful Harvest** 30 ml/gal (encourage root growth) + **Shield** 15 ml/gal (protect from root fungus) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root growth, can substitute **Nutrient Express** 5 g/gal) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Vyd-8** 10 ml/gal (protect from nematodes) + **Frip** 5 ml/gal (systemic insecticide against most insect pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 5

Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Secure** 5 ml/gal (control mites, thrips, leafminers, and other pests) + **Glory** 30 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 6

Spray **Caprid** 5 ml/gal (kill eggs and thrips) + **Vyd-8**10 ml/gal (protect from nematodes) + **Coback or Cuprofix** 20 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

After week 6 alternate weeks 5 and 6 until the end of crop.

