LAND PREPARATION

The land should be prepared in well-tilled beds 2 to 4 feet wide, with a 1 ft. to 1.5 ft. drain between beds to allow easy access for necessary operations. Limestone should be incorporated into the top 4 in. at a rate of 25 to 30 (100 lb) bags per acre, with half that amount applied on sandy soils. For small areas, apply 1 oz. per sq. ft. on clay or Pegasse soils and ½ oz. per sq. ft. on sandy soils.



IRRIGATION

For any commercial-size plot, sprinkler irrigation from Caribbean Chemicals will dramatically reduce costs.



WEED CONTROL

Lazio or Moccassin may be applied before planting or within one to two days of planting to prevent weed seeds from germinating, at a rate of 1 ml of product for 20 to 30 square feet; for example, if the bed is 3 feet wide and 10 feet long, add 1 ml of product to a watering can or spray can and apply the entire contents evenly to the bed. Fusil or Select can be used to control grass weeds but will not control broadleaf weeds or sedges. **Carista or Lifeline** is non-selective and will kill the crop if sprayed over it; it works by eliminating chlorophyll in the plant so that, if enough of the plant is covered, it cannot produce food and will die, however it only affects the parts of the plant it touches and does not cause injury like Paraquat or affect the roots like Glyphosate, making it an excellent cost-saving option if applied with caution.

FERTILIZING AND SOIL TREATMENT

First dose at 1 week apply 15-15-15 at 20 g per plant; Fersan 15-15-15 or 12-12-17-2 may also be used at the same rate, however the nutrients in these fertilizers, especially phosphorus, take much longer to dissolve in soil water and become available to the crop. These crops are so short that a second application may not be necessary, but if required a second dose of 10 to 20 g per plant of sulphate of ammonia may be applied at 2 to 3 weeks. Since virtually all soils in Guyana are deficient in calcium and limestone takes a month or more to act depending on the weather, it is important to apply Agrical at a rate of 1 oz (30 ml) per gallon applying 30 ml of the mixture to each plant, or for large areas at a rate of 5 gallons per acre.



PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL

Major pests of these crops, especially Pak Choy, include the Diamondback Moth, other caterpillars, loopers, and cutting insects. To control Diamondback Moth and other larvae, insecticide applications should target both the eggs and the larvae feeding on the crop. Snails and slugs can also be a problem, and Vyd-8 is necessary to control them. The main diseases affecting these crops are black rot, bottom rot, and bacterial soft rot; **Coback** and **Cuprofix** must be used with caution, as they can cause phytotoxicity under certain conditions.



A GUIDE TO LETTUCE AND PACKCHOY PRODUCTION



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A SUCCESSFUL LETTUCE AND PACKCHOY GUIDE



PLANT



Drench **Agrical** 30 ml/gal (liberate calcium and reduce soil acidity) + **Shield** 15 ml/gal (protect from root fungus such as 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** 5 ml/gal + **Vyd-8** 5 ml/gal (blanket spray for cutting insects, slugs, and snails).

WEEK 1



Drench **Bountiful Harvest** 15 ml/gal (encourage root growth) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (soluble fertilizer and stimulant for root growth) + **Calmax** 5 ml/gal (provide calcium) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the drench penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Coback or Cuprofix** 5 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting the shoot) + **Phortify** 5 ml/gal (promote root growth, can substitute **Nutrient Express** 5 g/gal) + **Bio 20** 5 ml/gal (promote root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf)

WEEK 2



Spray **Striker** 5 g/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Coback or Cuprofix** 10 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Pilot** 5 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 3



Spray **Secure** 5 ml/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Coback or Cuprofix** 10 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Pilot** 5 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 spread over and enter the leaf).

Repeat weeks 2 and 3 until harvest.

