

CELERY IS A PROMISING CULTURE (СЕЛЕРА - ПЕРСПЕКТИВНА КУЛЬТУРА)

Мартиненко С. – здобувач вищої освіти групи АМН 1/1

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У роботі наведено особливості вирощування та використання селери, включаючи її корисні властивості та технології культивування. Зазначено, що селера є цінною городньою культурою, маючи великий вміст вітамінів та мінералів, і позитивно впливає на здоров'я. Текст надає інформацію про історію походження селери, технології вирощування, оптимальні умови для вегетації, а також процес збирання та зберігання. Окрім того, висвітлено сучасні тенденції у вирощуванні селери та попит на неї на ринку. Текст слугує цінним джерелом інформації для фахівців у галузі сільського господарства та усіх, хто цікавиться садівництвом та здоровим способом життя.

Ключові слова: *селера, вирощування, коренеплідні культури, вітаміни, мінерали, технології вирощування, збирання, попит на селеру.*

The article describes the peculiarities of growing and using celery, including its useful properties and cultivation technologies. It is noted that celery is a valuable garden crop, having a high content of vitamins and minerals, and has a positive effect on health. The text provides information on the history of the origin of celery, cultivation techniques, optimal growing conditions, as well as the process of harvesting and storage. In addition, current trends in the cultivation of celery and the demand for it in the market are highlighted. The text serves as a valuable source of information for agricultural professionals and anyone interested in gardening and a healthy lifestyle.

Key words: *celery, cultivation, root crops, vitamins, minerals, cultivation technologies, harvesting, demand for celery.*

Celery (*Apium graveolens* L.) is a biennial plant of the umbrella family. In the first year, it forms the root and rosette of dark green shiny leaves, and in the second year of life it gives a flower arrow and seeds. There are several varieties of celery: root, which forms large root crops weighing 400-800 g of dirty-white color with loose pulp; petiole (lettuce) - it has large leaves of light green or dark green color, with delicate petioles that are used for food; puff, which forms welldeveloped leaf plates that go to cook a variety of dishes [1].

Celery is one of the most valuable root crops. This spicy vegetable has a pleasant taste and a specific spicy aroma. The culture of growing celery has at least 3-4 millennia. The homeland of celery is the Mediterranean, in Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome it was grown as an ornamental and medicinal plant. On the territory of Ukraine, this culture is relatively young.

The world's sowing areas are about 0.7 million hectares, of which 0.2 leaf form and 0.5 root. In Ukraine, this figure is much lower due to the long growing season is about 80 hectares, mainly these crops are concentrated in the south of the country, due to the efficiency of irrigation in this region [2, 3].

The predecessors of celery are plants under which a large amount of rotten manure, compost was made, namely: cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage. Good neighbors: early cabbage (classic combination), lettuce, onions, tomatoes, beans, leeks, as well as a good precursor for celery is winter wheat.

Celery is best sown in well-rested soil after cabbage or potatoes or other crops. First, seedlings are prepared, root celery is sown on seedlings in February. Sow in boxes or pots with a nutrient mixture of 1 part of sod land and 1 part of humus with a little sand. Before sowing, the

seeds are springed: soaked in warm water for 3 days, then dried to looseness. 1- 1.5 g of seeds are spent on 1 m², burying it to a depth of 0.2 cm. Before the emergence of shoots, the temperature of celery cultivation should be +20 - +25 °C. Then it is gradually reduced to +14 - +16 °C. After the appearance of 1-2 real leaves, you should check the density of the seedlings and, if necessary, thin out so that the plants are strong and do not stretch. Then the seedlings dive at a distance of 4-5 cm from one plant from another so that 1/2 of the stem is immersed in the soil. 2 weeks after diving, fertilizing with a solution of mineral fertilizers is carried out (1 teaspoon of nitrophoska per 1 liter of water) at the rate of 2 tablespoons per 1 seedling. By the time of planting in open ground, the age of seedlings should be 8-10 weeks. Before planting, the seedlings are hardened at a temperature not higher than 15 °C, leaving it overnight in the fresh air [2, 3].

In open ground, celery root seedlings are planted to the same depth at which it grew so that additional roots do not form on the root crops. The distance between plants in a row is 20-25 cm, between rows is 35 cm, so the feeding area of root celery should be 40x40 cm or 50x50 cm. 1-2 days before planting, seedlings are watered with a small rate of 100-150 m/ha. Immediately before planting, cultivation should be carried out to a depth of 8-10 cm with harrowing and rolling to level and easily compact the soil. To increase productivity on machine operations, before planting seedlings, furrows are cut. combined APO unit - 5.4 [1, 3].

Celery is not afraid of abundant watering, but does not apply to crops that need to be watered a lot – rather, moderately and often. The best option is drip irrigation. Celery after transplanting grows quite quickly, and expels a large vegetative mass of leaves, which should be torn off on the sides, leaving only the central leaves. At the root of celery, the soil is raked, but there is a simpler technology - you just need to mulch it with straw during the period of active growth. This will allow you to do without cutting the side thin roots – they simply will not develop so actively in straw mulch. It reacts quite well to feeding with plant extracts and biohumus.

During the growing season, the soil is regularly loosened, watered and 2 weeks after planting, the first fertilizing with mineral fertilizers is carried out. Subsequent top dressings are repeated in 2 weeks, so there should be 2-3 top dressings for the growing season. Constant watering, loosening, mulching between rows are mandatory all summer [1, 3].

For use in autumn and winter, celery is harvested to severe frosts, in areas with a warm climate - in November, in conditions of colder autumn - in early October. Frozen celery root crops lose the ability to persist for a long time. Root celery is dug up in dry weather, cut cuttings up to 1 cm, cut the roots and store at a temperature of 1-2 °C, sprinkled with sand. To do this, the root is cut into it and the temperature is maintained 0 - +1 °C. In such conditions, plants are stored for 3-4 months [3].

Celery is a promising crop, as it is not difficult to grow and is very useful for humans. Every year, cultivation areas are growing, which is confirmed by information from seed companies that enjoy the constant growth in demand for celery seeds. The growth of production is caused by an increase in demand from canneries, because the growth rate of demand for celery in the fresh market is much lower due to the lack of Ukrainians' culture of cooking this product.

Література:

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