

TAPIOPLAST® for LETTUCE CULTIVATION WITH ECO-FRIENDLY-BIODEGRADABLE COMPOSTABLE MULCH FILM



LETTUCE CULTIVATION

Lettuce is one of the most important leafy vegetables in the world. The lettuce global production was about 28 million tons over an area of 1.2 million ha. The 75% share of crop yield and area is coming from the top 6 countries which are China, USA, and India followed by Spain, Italy, and Japan. (M V Shatilov *et al* 2019 *IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Environ. Sci.* 395 012053).

China is the largest producer which makes up half of the global area of lettuce cultivation (0.6 million ha) resulting in 58% of the global production (16 million tons).

The highest production of lettuce is achieved by machine for transplanting, while mulch film is also used in plant cultivation. The transplanting machines can lay mulch film while they can transplant lettuce at the same time.

The lettuce planting density can range from 60,000 to 130,000 plants/ha depending on the planting conditions such as open field or greenhouse, lettuce type, and planting area.

The use of mulch film provides many advantages including reducing water evaporation in soil, controlling weeds, and keeping the heads clean. Black film is generally used.

TAPIOPLAST® MULCH FILM FOR LETTUCE

Lettuce's crop period is relatively short. It needs only 6 to 8 weeks to reach full harvest size. Black **TAPIOPLAST®** mulch film at 15-20 microns is suitable for lettuce cultivation both in the open field and greenhouse. This film thickness can provide excellent soil coverage and good weed control until harvest time. The film can be mulched by a typical mulching machine.

Since lettuce has a short cycle time, the use of conventional mulch film results in a very large amount of plastic waste burdening the environment. The mulch film cannot be fully collected after harvesting. Especially in the rainy season, it is hard to separate mulch film from mud. Consequently, the amount of residual film waste is increased every year which would negatively affect the productivity of the next crop.

TAPIOPLAST® mulch film provides the right solution for sustainable farming.

Using **TAPIOPLAST®** mulch film, can keep lettuce head clean until harvesting time. The productivity of lettuce is also increased.



Disclaimer:

The technical information provided in this document should be used as a guide only. The advice contained herein is based on tests and information believed to be reliable. Users should not solely rely on this information as performance properties will vary depending on processing conditions. SMS Corporation makes no guarantee of results and assumes no obligation or liability in connection with its advice.

VALUE CREATION IS OUR MISSION