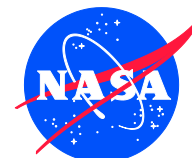


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Kennedy Space Center

Veggie – Vegetable Production System

The Vegetable Production System (Veggie) is a deployable plant growth unit, currently implemented on the International Space Station (ISS), capable of producing salad-type crops to provide the crew with a palatable, nutritious, and safe source of fresh food and to provide the crew with a tool to support relaxation and recreation. Veggie provides lighting and nutrient delivery, but utilizes the cabin environment for temperature control and as a source of carbon dioxide to promote growth. Veggie ground control investigations are implemented in a Kennedy Space Center (KSC) laboratory.

Veggie recently successfully produced red romaine lettuce on the ISS and at KSC.

Veggie can support a variety of experiments used to determine how plants sense and respond to gravity. The plants will be harvested for further investigation and consumed by the crew members. An improved understanding of plant growth and development has important implications for improving plant production on Earth. NASA continues to explore mission solutions by leveraging partnerships across NASA, industry and academia.



Red lettuce in Veggie on ISS with Mark Kelly
Credits: NASA



NASA plans to grow food on future spacecraft and on other planets as a food supplement for astronauts. Fresh food, such as vegetables, provides essential vitamins and nutrients that will help enable sustainable deep space pioneering.
Credits: NASA

Web sites: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/experiments/383.html;
https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/news/meals_ready_to_eat

Contact information: Gioia.Massa@nasa.gov; Trent.M.Smith@nasa.gov