



SPIN Basics Lexicon

SPIN stands for S-small P-plot IN-tensive. Its organic-based techniques make it possible to generate \$50,000+ in gross sales from a half-acre of land growing common vegetables such as carrots, spinach, lettuce salad mixes, beets, chard, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, radish, scallion, fresh herbs, summer squash and garlic.

SPIN has its own language to describe its processes and techniques, and they are very different from conventional farming methods, or from home gardening. Here's a translation of the important terms you'll hear if you find yourself in a room full of SPIN farmers.

Sub-acre land base – SPIN translates commercial farming techniques to sub-acre (less than an acre) land bases. Farmers do not need to own much, or any land, to start their operations, and they can be single or multi-sited, and located in backyards or neighborhood lots.

Standard size beds – SPIN utilizes beds measuring 2 feet wide by 25 feet long.

High value crops - SPIN devotes most of its land base to the production of high value crops, defined as ones that generate at least \$100 per crop per bed.

Relay cropping – SPIN calls for the sequential growing of crops, one right after the other, in a single standard size bed throughout a single season.

Intensive relays – 3 or more crops per standard size bed per season are grown.

Bi-relays – 2 crops per standard size bed per season are grown.

Single crops – 1 crop per standard size bed per season is grown.

1-2-3 bed layout – Refers to the 3 different areas of a SPIN farm devoted to the different levels of production intensity. The 1 area is for single crops. The 2 area is for bi-relay crops. The 3 area is for intensive relay crops.

75/25 land allocation – Dictates how much land is assigned to the different levels of production on a SPIN farm. The aim is to balance production between high-value and low-value crops to produce a steady revenue stream and to target revenue based on farm size. The smaller the land base the more of it can be devoted to intensive relay production.

Revenue targeting formula – By growing high-value crops worth \$100 per harvest per bed, and by practicing intensive relay cropping which produces at least 3 crops per bed per season, SPIN targets at least \$300 in gross sales per bed per season. With approximately 480 beds per acre, the maximum revenue potential is 480 beds x \$300 per bed per season = \$144,000 gross sales per acre. When farming is approached in terms of beds instead of acres, the result is a very precise idea of how much growing space can be utilized, and how that space can be managed to generate predictable and steady income.



SPIN 2.0 Lexicon

To help get your head around SPIN's advanced concepts and techniques, here is a translation of the important terms you'll hear when you find yourself in a room full of experienced SPIN farmers.

Segment – an area 1,000 sq. ft. in size

Low value crop – a crop that generates under \$1,000 per segment. Also called a category 4 crop.

High value crop – a crop that generates \$1,000 to \$1,999 per segment. Also called a category 3 crop.

Very high value crop – a crop that generates \$2,000 to \$2,999 per segment. Also called a category 2 crop.

Extremely high value crop – a crop that generates \$3,000+ per segment. Also called a category 1 crop.

Standard walkway – a walkway that measures 1 foot wide between standard size beds. This allows for 13 standard size beds per segment.

Narrow walkway - a walkway that measures 6 inches wide between standard size beds. This allows for 16 standard size beds per segment.

Wide walkway - a walkway that measures 2 feet wide between standard size beds. This allows for 10 standard size beds per segment.

Extra wide walkway - a walkway that measures 3 feet wide between standard size beds. This allows for 8 standard size beds per segment.

Super wide walkway - a walkway that measures 4 feet wide between standard size beds. This allows for 6 standard size beds per segment.

The SPIN system goes far beyond what is outlined above, but this gives an idea of how SPIN can produce significant revenue from sub-acre land bases. Though the land base and overhead of a sub-acre farm are a fraction of that of a large multi-acre farm, their bottom lines are similar. A sub-acre farm can produce the same, or even greater, income than a large-scale operation with a lot less stress and overhead, and with a lot more certainty of success from year to year.

SPIN is helping a new generation of backyard farmers become successful by establishing their farmsteads in the middle of urban jungles and on the suburban fringe. Their collective actions are re-defining farming for the 21st century: sub-acre, close to markets, environmentally friendly, low-capital intensive, entrepreneurially-driven. **To see how you can use SPIN to take food production into your own hands, visit us at www.spinfarming.com**