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SUMMARY

[0009] Embodiments below provide a low-potassium vegetable in which the total content of potassium and sodium therein is small and a difference in the content thereof among leaves is small; and a hydroponic cultivation method for cultivating the low-potassium vegetable.

[0009a] According to a first aspect, a method for hydroponically cultivating a low-potassium leaf vegetable, in which a total cultivation period from sowing to harvest is divided into three periods; a first cultivation period, a second cultivation period following the first cultivation period, and a third cultivation period following the second cultivation period according to a kind of a leaf vegetable, the method comprising: cultivating the leaf vegetable using a first hydroponic cultivation fertilizer containing potassium in the first cultivation period; cultivating the leaf vegetable using a second hydroponic cultivation fertilizer that does not substantially contain potassium and contains magnesium in the second cultivation period; and cultivating the leaf vegetable using water that does not substantially contain potassium without using the first hydroponic cultivation fertilizer and the second hydroponic cultivation fertilizer in the third cultivation period.

[0009b] According to a second aspect, a low-potassium leaf vegetable is provided, comprising an inner leaf positioned in a central portion; an outer leaf positioned in an outermost portion; and a middle leaf located in an intermediate position between the inner leaf and the outer leaf, wherein a difference in content of potassium between the inner leaf and the middle leaf is smaller than a difference in content of potassium between the middle leaf and

the outer leaf, and the low-potassium leaf vegetable is any one of lettuce, salad vegetable, celtuce, Japanese mustard spinach, and cabbage.

[0010] In a method for hydroponically cultivating a low-potassium vegetable of an embodiment a total cultivation period from sowing to harvest is divided into a first cultivation period, a second cultivation period following the first cultivation period, and a third cultivation period following the second cultivation period according to a kind of a vegetable to be cultivated. In the first cultivation period, the vegetable is cultivated using a hydroponic cultivation fertilizer containing potassium. In the second cultivation period, the vegetable is cultivated using a hydroponic cultivation fertilizer that does not substantially contain potassium and contains magnesium. In the third cultivation period, the vegetable is cultivated using water that does not contain a fertilizer.

[0011] Further, a low-potassium vegetable of an embodiment includes an inner leaf positioned in a central portion; an outer leaf positioned in an outermost portion; and a middle leaf located in an intermediate position between the inner leaf and the outer leaf. In addition, a difference in content of potassium between the inner leaf and the middle leaf is smaller than a difference in content of potassium between the middle leaf and the outer leaf.

[0012] According to the various embodiments as mentioned above, it is possible to provide a low-potassium vegetable in which the total content of potassium and

CLAIMS

1. A method for hydroponically cultivating a low-potassium leaf vegetable, in which a total cultivation period from sowing to harvest is divided into three periods; a first cultivation period, a second cultivation period following the first cultivation period, and a third cultivation period following the second cultivation period according to a kind of a leaf vegetable, the method comprising:

cultivating the leaf vegetable using a first hydroponic cultivation fertilizer containing potassium in the first cultivation period;

cultivating the leaf vegetable using a second hydroponic cultivation fertilizer that does not substantially contain potassium and contains magnesium in the second cultivation period; and

cultivating the leaf vegetable using water that does not substantially contain potassium without using the first hydroponic cultivation fertilizer and the second hydroponic cultivation fertilizer in the third cultivation period.

2. The method for hydroponically cultivating a low-potassium leaf vegetable according to claim 1,

wherein the third cultivation period is set to be shorter than the second cultivation period, and

the second cultivation period is set to be shorter than the first cultivation period.

3. The method for hydroponically cultivating a low-potassium leaf vegetable according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein the third cultivation period is set to be in a range of 5% to 10%,

inclusive, of the total cultivation period.

4. The method for hydroponically cultivating a low-potassium leaf vegetable according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein the first cultivation period is divided into a seedling period and a normal cultivation period following the seedling period, and

the size of the leaf vegetable is measured when the seedling period is finished and only leaf vegetable grown to have a predetermined size or greater is selected and cultivated for the normal cultivation period.

5. The method for hydroponically cultivating a low-potassium leaf vegetable according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

wherein the leaf vegetable is any one of lettuce, salad vegetable, celtuce, Japanese mustard spinach, and cabbage; and

a difference in content of potassium between an inner leaf and a middle leaf of the leaf vegetable harvested after the third cultivation period is smaller than a difference in content of potassium between the middle leaf and an outer leaf of the leaf vegetable harvested after the third cultivation period where the leaf vegetable includes the inner leaf positioned in a central portion, the outer leaf positioned in an outermost portion, and the middle leaf located in an intermediate position between the inner leaf and the outer leaf.

6. A low-potassium leaf vegetable comprising:

an inner leaf positioned in a central portion;

an outer leaf positioned in an outermost portion; and

a middle leaf located in an intermediate position between the inner leaf and the outer leaf,

wherein a difference in content of potassium between the inner leaf and the middle leaf is smaller than a difference in content of potassium between the middle leaf and the outer leaf, and

the low-potassium leaf vegetable is any one of lettuce, salad vegetable, celtuce, Japanese mustard spinach, and cabbage.