SpaceX 3 also is launching the vegetable production system or veggie to the space station veggie is a plant growth system that will provide the necessary lighting and nutrient delivery for plant growth in space supporting a wide range of uses from research to education to a fresh food source for astronauts the veggie system will be the simplest plant growth system on the space station to date but will provide the largest surface area yet to grow plants the first that will be grown is lettuce as you see here which will be harvested and returned to
NASA Kennedy - Veggie Will Expand Fresh Food Production on Space Station

earth for nutrient and microbial analysis to determine the fitness for eating the system can be deployed and stowed as needed on the space station and can run on less power than a desktop computer the plants are grown in individual pillows that act as little pods of nutrients and root matting for each plant in addition to plant growth for producing edible crops scientists are also exploring the future research that looks at behavioral impacts of plant growth in space in addition to educational outreach opportunities