

HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN

Variety Recommendations

for Michigan Gardens

J. Lee Taylor
Bernard H. Zandstra
Department
of Horticulture

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RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

Vegetable varieties are like people in that each one has its own particular characteristics. You should carefully consider these characteristics when selecting varieties for your home garden. This bulletin makes it easier to do this and provides a partial list of vegetable varieties suggested for Michigan gardens, as well as some seed sources. (Please note that many other excellent varieties are available from these and other mail order and local sources.)

Hybrids vs. open-pollinated varieties.

Hybrids often grow more vigorously, produce more, are more uniform and have greater disease resistance than open-pollinated varieties. Hybrid seed is usually more expensive than open-pollinated seed. However, a good open-pollinated variety often produces as well as a hybrid under good growing conditions. Therefore, it is a good idea to grow and compare several varieties to see which ones do best for you.

KEY:

(00): approximate number of days to harvest from seeding or transplanting.

(Trans): crops normally transplanted

(H): hybrid varieties

(T): new or unusual varieties suggested for trial

ASPARAGUS • perennial

Mary Washington
Viking

BEANS, Lima

Early Thorogreen(68)
Fordhook 242(75)
King of the Garden(pole)(88)

BEANS, Snap

Bush Romano(50)
Provider(50)
Spartan Arrow(51)
Cherokee(yellow)(52)
Strike(52)
Bush Blue Lake 274(54)
Kinghorn Wax(yellow)(55)
Royal Burgundy Purple Pod(55)
Tender Crop(55)
Sungold(yellow)(56)

BEETS,

Red Ace(H)(53)
Warrior(H)(57)
Cylindra(58)
Crosby Green Top(60)
Ruby Queen(60)
Detroit Dark Red(66)

BROCCOLI • (trans)

Green Comet(H)(60)
Packman(H)(60)
Southern Comet(H)(60)
Emperor(H)(65)
Premium Crop(H)(70)

BRUSSELS SPROUTS • (trans)

Prince Marvel(H)(90)
Jade Cross Strain E(H)(92)
Rubine(red)(T)(105)

CABBAGE • (trans)

Superette(H)(65)
Stonehead(H)(66)
King Cole(H)(68)
Ruby Ball(red)(H)(72)
Gourmet(75)
Savoy Ace(savoy)(H)(75)
Market Prize(H)(76)
Roundup(H)(80)
Savoy Kind(savoy)(H)(82)
Rio Verde(85)
Red Head(red)(87)
Danish Ballhead(108)

CARROTS

Minicor(55)
Little Finger(65)
Scarlet Nantes(68)
Royal Chantenay(70)
A-Plus(H)(71)
Gold Pak(76)
Spartan Fancy(H)(100)
Imperator(110)
Danvers 126(120)

CAULIFLOWER • (trans)

Snowcrown(H)(55)
Greenball(65)
Snowball Y(70)
Purplehead(85)
Self-Blanche(90)
Royal Purple(95)

CELERIAC

Large Smooth Prague(110)
Marble Ball(110)
Alabaster(120)

CELERY • (trans)

Utah 52-70R(85)
Florida 683(90)

CHINESE CABBAGE

Lei Choi Pak Choi(47)
Two Seasons(H)(62)
Jade Pagoda(H)(70)

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

COLLARDS

Blue Max(H)(68)
Champion(78)
Vates(80)

CUCUMBERS, Pickling

Bush Pickle(45)
Green Star(H)(51)
Calypso(H)(52)
Lucky Strike(H)(52)
Picklebush(52)
Carolina(H)(55)

CUCUMBERS, Slicing

Sweet Success(H)(55)
Salad Bush(H)
(AAS-1988)(57)
Burpless(60)
Dasher II(H)(60)
Sweet Slice(H)(63)
Marketmore 70, 76 or
80(67)
Burpee Hybrid(H)(68)

EGGPLANT • (trans)

Ichiban(H)(60)
Little Fingers(T)(68)
Dusky(H)(69)
Burpee Hybrid(H)(70)
Black Magic(H)(73)
Black Beauty(80)

ENDIVE

Florida Deep Heart(85)
Full Heart Batavian(90)
Green Curled(95)
Salad King(98)

JERUSALEM

ARTICHOKE • perennial
Stampede(90)

KALE

Blue Knight(H)(45-55)
Blue Armor(H)(47-57)
Dwarf Blue Curled Vates(55)
Winterbor(H)(60)
Harvester(68)

KOHLRABI

Grand Duke(H)(50)
Purple Danube(H)(52)
Early White Vienna(55)
Early Purple Vienna(60)

LETTUCE, Bibb & Butterhead

Pirat(red)(T)(55)
Kagran Summer(58)
Summer Bibb(62)
Buttercrunch(64)
Tom Thumb(65)
Dark Green Boston(68)
Tania(68)

LETTUCE, Head

Ithaca(60)
Great Lakes(61)
South Bay(61)
Montello(62)
Great Lakes 659(82)

LETTUCE, Leaf

Crispy Sweet(40)
Grand Rapids(45)
Red Sails(45)
Salad Bowl(45)
Selma Lolla(red)(45)
Slobolt(45)
Waldmann's Green(45)
Red Salad Bowl(46)
Ruby(47)
Deep Red(48)

LETTUCE, Romaine

Parris Island(65)
Valmaine(70)

Disease resistance.

Most of the newer hybrids and open-pollinated varieties of most vegetable crops have resistance to many diseases. This is important because diseases are a major cause of crop loss in home gardens. Seed catalogues usually list the diseases to which a variety is resistant. Whenever possible, choose varieties with multiple disease resistance.

Days to maturity.

Within most vegetable crops, some varieties mature earlier than others. Use early-maturing varieties for the first plantings of each crop. Early-season varieties of most crops will mature anywhere in Michigan. Crops that require a long warm season, such as watermelons or sweet potatoes, will have difficulty maturing in northern parts of the state. Even in areas with a long frost-free season but fairly low average summer temperatures (e.g., near the Great Lakes), medium or long-season varieties of warm-season crops may not mature before fall frosts. The earliest varieties of many crops (e.g., sweet corn, tomatoes and melons) do not have the eating or storing quality of later-maturing varieties. Therefore, plant only enough of the early varieties to hold you until better quality, later-maturing varieties are ready.

Other quality characteristics.

Many other factors should influence your choice of variety. Some are: plant size (smaller is usually better in a home garden), freezing or canning quality, eating quality, color, adaptability to soil type and resistance to weather extremes. You should find all of this information in seed catalogues.

If you are satisfied with a variety that you have grown for several years, there may be no reason to change to a newer variety. But if you are looking for something better, try another variety and plant it next to your old one for comparison. You are encouraged to try All-America Selection (AAS) award winners, which have been evaluated in variety trials in the United States and Canada.

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MUSKMELON

- Earlisweet(H)(80)
- Ambrosia(H)(84)
- Burpee Hybrid(H)(85)
- Classic(85)
- Summet(85)
- Superstar(H)(86)
- Gold Star(H)(87)
- Saticoy(H)(90)

MUSTARD

- Fordhook Fancy(40)
- Savannah(H)(43)
- Green Wave(46)
- Tendergreen II(H)(48)
- Southern Giant(50)
- Red Giant(90)

OKRA • (trans)

- Annie Oakley(50)
- Clemson Spineless 80(50)
- Burgundy (AAS-1988)(60)
- Emerald(60)

ONIONS, Dry

- Ebenezer(sets)(85)
- Stuttgarter(sets)(storage)(95)
- Spartan Banner(H)(110)
- Spartan Sleeper(H)
(storage)(112)
- Downing Yellow Globe(115)

ONIONS, Green

- Ebenezer(sets)(45)
- White Lisbon(60)
- Beltsville Bunching(65)
- Japanese White
Bunching(65)
- Southport White
Bunching(65)

ONIONS, Sweet

- Yellow Sweet Spanish(120)
- Sweet Sandwich(125)

PARSLEY

- Banquet(76)
- Darki(77)
- Extra Curled Dwarf(85)

PARSNIPS

- All America(105)
- Cobham Improved
Marrow(T)(120)
- Harris Model(120)
- Hollow Crown
Improved(120)

PEANUT

- Early Spanish(T)(100)

PEAS, Green

- Freezonia(62)
- Greater Progress(62)
- Knight(62)
- Frosty(64)
- Lincoln(67)
- Wando(68)

PEAS, Snow

- Snowbird(58)
- Snowflake(58)
- Oregon Sugar Pod #2 (65)
- Mammoth Melting
Sugar(68)

PEAS, Snap

- Sugar Bon(56)
- Sugar Ann(58)
- Early Snap(62)
- Snappy(63)
- Sugar Snap(69)

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

PEAS, Southern • (Cowpeas)

Queen Anne(68)
Mississippi Silver
Crowder(100)
Pinkeye Purplehull(100)
California Blackeye #5(115)

PEPPERS, Hot • (trans)

Hungarian Yellow Wax(70)
Romanian Wax(70)
Jalapeno(75)
Mexi Bell(H)(AAS-1988)(75)
Super Chili
(H)(AAS-1988)(75)
Red Cherry(80)

PEPPERS, Sweet • (trans)

Canape(H)(62)
Golden Bell(68)
Lady Bell(H)(72)
Staddon's Select(72)
Sweet Banana(72)
Bell Boy(H)(75)
Four Corners(78)
Jupiter(78)
Yolo Wonder L(78)
Keystone Resistant
Giant(80)
Anabelle(90)

POPCORN

Peppy Hybrid(white)(H)(90)
White Cloud(H)(95)
Robust 10-84 (H)(98)
Iopop 12(yellow)(H)(100)

POTATOES • seed pieces

Norland(75)
Onaway(75)
Superior(75)
Norchip(90)
Norgold Russet(90)
Yukon Gold(yellow)(90)
Katahdin(120)
Red Pontiac(120)
Sebago(120)

PUMPKIN

Autumn Gold(small)(H)(90)
Jack-Be-Little(mini)(95)
Jackpot(large)(100)
Munchkin(mini)(100)
Spirit(medium)(H)(110)
Spookie(pie)(100)
Sweetie Pie(mini)(110)
Trick or Treat(medium)(110)
Connecticut Field(large)(115)
Howden(large)(115)
Small Sugar(pie)(115)
Atlantic Giant
(very large)(120)
Big Max(very large)(120)
Big Moon(very large)(120)

RADISH

French Breakfast(23)
Red Prince(23)
Scarlet Globe(23)
Cherry Belle(24)
Scarlet Knight(24)
Fancy Red(25)
Red Devil(25)
Champion(26)
Icicle(white)(30)

RHUBARB • perennial

Canada Red(red petiole)
MacDonald(pink petiole)
Strawberry(pink petiole)
Valentine(red petiole)
Victoria(green petiole)

RUTABAGA

American Purple Top(90)
Laurentian(90)
Altasweet(95)

Seed catalogues.

A great deal of information on vegetable varieties is available in seed catalogues. The wise gardener sends for seed catalogues in the fall for the next year's season. (The companies generally print catalogues in the fall for distribution in the winter.) Most of the companies listed in this bulletin send their home garden catalogues on request.

The earlier you order seeds, the better your chance of getting the varieties you want. Seed supplies of popular varieties often sell out during the winter. Also, if you put off ordering seeds until spring, you may forget about it until it is too late to get seeds in time to plant. Order your seeds in January or February for planting in the spring. Some companies offer discounts on early orders.

Seeds can also be purchased from garden centers, supermarkets, discount stores and other sources. These sources often have a more limited selection of varieties than catalogues offer, but they are convenient.

Transplants & sets.

Plants of some of the varieties that need to be planted as transplants may be hard to find. Tell your local garden center or greenhouse operator early which varieties you want, so he/she can grow or get them for you. Such businesses grow and sell the varieties that people ask for. Some gardeners grow their own transplants to make sure that they get the varieties they want.

Onions can be grown from seeds or sets. For the home gardener, sets are easier and more reliable. You can harvest onions early for green onions or let them mature and harvest for storage. Plant the sets close together and thin them for green onions, then let the rest grow to maturity for dry onions. Sets are available from many garden shops and some seed catalogues. Be sure to order SETS for the varieties you want (see those indicated as sets) or you will get seed.

Potatoes are commonly planted from seed pieces. Most seed catalogues do not list potatoes, so you may have to buy them locally. Once again, look for the varieties you want.

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SPINACH

Indian Summer(H)(39)
Tye(H)(39)
Dark Green Bloomsdale(43)
Melody(H)(43)
Avon(H)(44)
Winter Bloomsdale(45)
Olympia(H)(46)
Fabris(48)
Long Standing
Bloomsdale(48)

SQUASH, Summer

Green

Butterblossom
(edible flowers)(T)(45)
Zucchini Select(47)
Zucchini Elite(H)(48)
President(49)
Burpee Hybrid(H)(50)
Caserta(50)
Gourmet Globe(H)(50)

Yellow

Seneca Prolific(51)
Early Prolific
Straightneck(52)
Gold Rush(H)(52)
Sundance(52)
Sunburst(Scallop)(H)(53)
Yellow Crookneck(55)

White

Patty Pan(H)(50)

SQUASH, Winter

Butterbush(75)
Table Ace(acorn)(H)(78)
Gold Nugget(bush)(85)
Sweet Mama
(buttercup)(H)(85)
Butterball(H)(90)
Table Queen(acorn)(90)
Honey Delight(H)(95)
Buttercup, Burgess
Strain(100)
Chestnut(T)(105)
Vegetable Spaghetti(110)
Waltham Butternut(110)

SWEET CORN, Yellow

Earlivee(63)
Breeder's Choice
(high sugar)(H)(65)
Spring Gold(67)
Aztec(68)
Sundance(H)(69)
Comanche(H)(72)
Northern Belle(H)(74)
Early Xtra-Sweet
(high sugar)(H)(75)
Gold Winner(79)
Gold Cup(H)(80)
Jubilee(84)
Merit(H)(84)

SWEET CORN, White

Stardust(high sugar)(70)
Quick Silver(75)
Chalice(78)
Platinum Lady(H)(78)
How Sweet It Is
(high sugar)(85)
Lightnin'(87)
Silver Queen(94)

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

SWEET CORN, Bicolor

Sprite(68)
Butter and Sugar(73)
Harmony(73)
Honey'n Pearl
(AAS-1988)
(high sugar)(78)
Candy Store
(high sugar)(T)(80)
Escalade(high sugar)(84)
Sweet Sal(86)
Sweet Sue(88)
Bi-Queen(92)

SWEET POTATOES • (trans)

Centennial(100)
Carver(110)
Georgia Jet(110)
Jewel(110)

SWISS CHARD

Fordhook Giant(60)
Large White Rib(60)
Lucullus(60)
Vulcan(red midrib)(60)
Rhubarb(red midrib)(63)

TOMATO • (trans)

Pixie(H)(52)
Gold Nugget
(yellow cherry)(56)
Presto(H)(60)
New Yorker(65)
Sweet 100(cherry)(H)(65)
Springset(H)(67)
Heinz 2653(68)
Small Fry(cherry)(H)(68)
Basket Vee(70)
Jet Star(H)(72)
Large Red Cherry(72)
Duke(75)
Jackpot(H)(75)
Pik-Red(H)(75)
Roma VF(paste)(76)
Sundrop(yellow cherry)(76)
Supersonic(H)(79)
Floramerica(H)(80)
Mountain Pride(H)(83)
Sunray(yellow)(83)
Ramapo(H)(85)

TURNIPS

Tokyo Cross(H)(35)
Market Express(H)(38)
Seven Top(greens)(45)
Presto(50)
Royal Globe II(H)(50)
Purple Top White Globe(55)
Just Right(H)(60)
Shogoin(70)

WATERMELON

Sugar Baby(small)(86)
Sweet Baby(small)(86)
Summer Festival
(medium)(H)(88)
Royal Jubilee(medium
to large)(95)
Crimson Sweet
(medium)(97)

The Cooperative Extension Service has many other publications available on home vegetable gardening and other subjects of interest to the homeowner. Call or write your county Cooperative Extension Service office for a catalog of available publications, or write to: MSU Bulletin Office
P.O. Box 6640
Michigan State University
E. Lansing, MI 48826-6640.

Following is a partial list of publications available on home vegetable gardening:

E-529, Home Vegetable Garden, 24 pp., 40 cents

E-760b, Home Vegetable Garden Disease/Insect Control, 52 pp., 80 cents

E-1696, Home Storage of Fruits and Vegetables, 34 pp., \$1.50

E-1769, Planning a Vegetable Garden, 12 pp., 50 cents

NCR 274, Home Propagation Techniques, 16pp, 30 cents

SOURCES OF SEED

SEEDS BLUM

Idaho City Stage
Boise, Idaho 83706

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO.

300 Park Avenue
Warminster, PA 18974

HENRY FIELD SEED & NURSERY CO.

Shenandoah, Iowa 51602

GURNEY SEED & NURSERY CO.

Yankton, South Dakota 57079

HARRIS SEEDS

961 Lyell Ave.
Rochester, New York 14606

J. L. HUDSON, SEEDSMAN

Box 1058
Redwood City, California 94064

JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS

Foss Hill Road
Albion, Maine 04910

J. W. JUNG SEED CO.

Randolph, Wisconsin 53957

LEATHERMAN'S INC.

1221 Tuscarawas St., E.
Canton, Ohio 44707

LIBERTY SEED CO.

P.O. Box 806
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

EARL MAY SEED & NURSERY L.P.

Shenandoah, Iowa 51603

PARK SEED CO.

Cokesbury Road
Greenwood, SC 29647

SHEPHERD'S GARDEN SEEDS

7389 West Zayante Road
Felton, California 95018

R. H. SHUMWAY'S

P.O. Box 1
Graniteville, SC 29829

SIEGERS SEED CO.

7245 Imlay City Rd.
Imlay City, Michigan 48444

STOKES SEEDS, INC.

Box 548
Buffalo, New York 14240

THOMPSON AND MORGAN, INC.

Box 1308
Jackson, New Jersey 08527

OTIS S. TWILLEY SEED CO.

Box 65
Trevose, Pennsylvania 19047

VERMONT BEAN SEED CO.

Garden Lane
Fair Haven, Vermont 05743

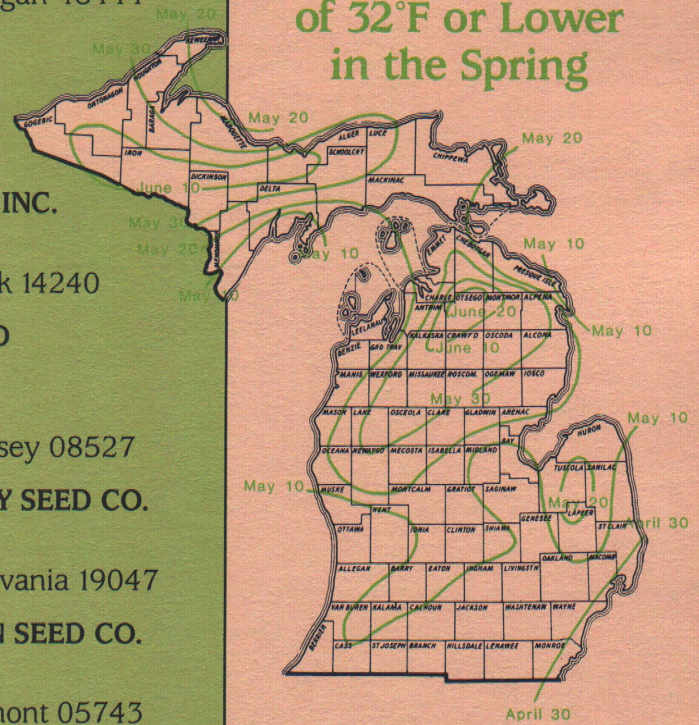
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FILE: 26.8, Gardening—Vegetables

Average Date of Last Temperature of 32°F or Lower in the Spring



Average Date of First Temperature of 32°F or Lower in the Fall



Maps Prepared by:
Agricultural Weather Service Office
Entomology Department
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich. 48824