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Home Vegetable Garden: Variety Recommendations
Michigan State University
Cooperative Extension Service
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Department of Horticulture
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Home Vegetable Garden Variety Recommendations

By Robert C. Herner and J. Lee Taylor, Dept. of Horticulture

Many of the vegetable varieties released each year yield better and have higher quality than older varieties. Most hybrids show good vigor with higher yields, and may have more disease resistance. However, excellent older varieties should not be discarded just because newer ones are available. Test a few varieties each year to see how they perform before discarding proven varieties. Each year, on the basis of tests throughout the country, All-American varieties are selected and are usually listed in seed catalogs. Disease resistant or tolerant varieties should be grown where possible.

One other factor should be considered when choosing a variety and that is the number of days to maturity. Choose varieties which will be able to mature during your growing season. For example, most sweet potatoes require about 150 days from planting to maturity so there is little likelihood that they would mature in most parts of the Upper Peninsula. The number of days to maturity are given from seeding except for those crops which are normally transplanted as indicated. Refer to the map of Michigan (p. 3) to determine the average number of days of the growing season in your area.

Experienced gardeners buy most of their seed through seed catalogs because many more varieties are offered for sale, especially the newer ones. Many other excellent varieties besides those listed in this bulletin are available through seed catalogs.

Catalogs of most seed companies are available from December through spring and include information that cannot be printed on small packets, such as varieties

recommended for home freezing, disease-resistant varieties, and hybrid varieties. To obtain seeds or plants of the varieties listed in this bulletin, check your local garden center, or write for a catalog from a retail mail order seed company. See page three for a partial listing of such companies.

For additional cultural information, consult Extension Bulletin E-529, "Home Vegetable Garden" available from your County Extension Office or from the: MSU Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 231, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

Following is a list of vegetable varieties suggested for Michigan gardens. Where indicated by letter code, varieties are resistant or tolerant to a particular disease (see key below). Numbers in parentheses indicate approximate number of days to harvest from seeding or transplanting. Those crops normally transplanted are indicated. Hybrid varieties are designated with (hyb.). Those varieties which have been designated as All American Winners are shown with an asterisk *.

RESISTANCE, TOLERANCE KEY

A	Anthracnose	R	Rust
ALS	Angular Leaf Spot	S	Scab
DM	Downy Mildew	SB	Slow Bolting
F	Fusarium	TMV	Tobacco Mosaic Virus
M	Mosaic	t	tolerant
N.Y. 15	N.Y. 15 Virus	V	Verticillium
PM	Powdery Mildew	Y	Yellows

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES FOR 1974

ASPARAGUS

Mary Washington (R) (Perennial)

BEANS, Lima

Large Seeded, Bush

*Fordhook 242 (heat resist.) (75)

Large Seeded, Pole

King of the Garden (88)

Small Seeded, Bush

Henderson Bush (65)

Thaxter (DM) (74)

BEANS, Snap

Bush Green

Provider (M,N.Y.15,tPM) (50)

Spartan Arrow (M) (51)

Bush Romano (52)

Contender (M,PM) (53)

Tendercrop (M,N.Y. 15) (53)

Tenderette (M,N.Y. 15) (53)

Improved Tendergreen (M) (56)

Bush Blue Lake (M, N.Y. 15) (58)

Bush Yellow

*Resist. Cherokee Wax (M, N.Y. 15) (52)

Eastern Butterwax (53)

Goldcrop (M, heat resist.) (54)

Kinghorn Special (54)

Horticultural

French Horticultural (68)

Pole

Blue Lake (60)

Romano (64)

Kentucky Wonder (R) (65)

BEETS

Crosby Green Top (60)

*Ruby Queen (60)

Detroit Dark Red (63)

Long Season (80)

BROCCOLI - Transplanted

*Green Comet (hyb.) (55)

Spartan Early (55)

Waltham 29 (74)

BRUSSELS SPROUTS - Transplanted

*Jade Cross (hyb.) (90)

Long Island Improved (90)

CABBAGE - Transplanted

Early

C-C Cross (hyb.) (50)

Yellows Rest. Golden Acre (Y) (63)

*Stonehead (hyb.) (Y) (66)

Midseason

*Ruby Ball (red) (hyb.) (68)

Badger Market (Y) (70)

Market Topper (hyb.) (Y) (73)

Marion Market (Y) (75)

Market Prize (hyb.) (Y) (76)

Greenback (Y) (77)

Late

Badger Ballhead (Y) (98)

Savoy

Chieftain Savoy (85)

*Savoy King (hyb.) (heat resist.) (90)

CARROTS

Pioneer (hyb.) (67)

Nantes (68)

Danvers 126 (75)

Spartan Bonus (hyb.) (77)

Spartansweet (hyb.) (79)

CAULIFLOWER - Transplanted

- Spring**
 *Snow King (hyb.) (55)
 Super Snowball (57)
 Snowball A (59)
 Snowball M (59)
Fall
 Snowball Imperial (58)
 Self-Blanche (70)
 Greenball (green colored head) (95)
 Royal Purple (purple colored head) (95)

CELERY - Transplanted

- Golden Self Blanching (115)
 Florida 2-13 (125)
 Golden Spartan (125)
 Tall Green Light (125)
 Utah 52-70 (125)

CHINESE CABBAGE

- Chihli Type**
 Michihli (75)
Wong Bok Type
 Early Hybrid G (hyb.) (55)
 Springtime (hyb.) (60)
 Summertime (hyb.) (70)
 Wintertime (hyb.) (80)

COLLARDS

- Vates (75)

CUCUMBERS

- Slicing**
 Meridian (hyb.,gyn.) (S,M) (54)
 Burpee Hybrid (hyb.) (60)
 Gemini (hyb., gyn.) (S,M,PM,tDM,tA,tALS) (60)
 *Spartan Valor (hyb.,gyn.) (M,S) (60)
 *Triumph (hyb.) (M,tDM) (62)
 *Victory (hyb.,gyn.) (S,M,DM,PM,tA,tALS) (62)
 Marketmore (S,M) (67)
Pickling
 Crusader (hyb.,gyn.) (M,S) (51)
 Pioneer (hyb.,gyn.) (S,M,DM,tPM,tA,tALS) (51)
 Wisconsin SMR 18 (M,S) (54)
 Spartan Dawn (M,S) (54)
 Spartan Champion (M,S) (55)
 Spartan Salad (can be used as a slicing type) (S,M,PM,tALS) (70)

EGGPLANT - Transplanted

- Burpee Hybrid (hyb.) (70)
 Black Magic (hyb.) (73)
 Jersey King (hyb.) (75)
 Classic (hyb.) (76)
 Black Beauty (80)

ENDIVE

- Escarole (smooth leaves)**
 Florida Deep Heart (85)
 Full Heart Batavian (90)

Curled

- Green Curled (95)
 Salad King (98)

GARLIC

- Creole
 Italian

KALE

- Dwarf Blue Curled (55)
 Dwarf Blue Scotch (55)
 Vates (55)

KOHLRABI

- Early White Vienna (55)
 Early Purple Vienna (60)

LEEKs

- American Flag (120)

LETTUCE

- Crisp Head**
 Ithaca (72)
 Fulton (SB) (80)
 Great Lakes 659 (SB) (80)
Butterhead
 Chesibb (60)
 Summer Bibb (SB) (62)
 *Buttercrunch (SB) (64)
Leaf
 Domineer (40)
 *Ruby (Red) (45)
 Grand Rapids (45)
 *Salad Bowl (SB) (48)
Cos or Romaine
 Parris Island Cos (73)

MUSKMELON - Transplanted

- Burpee Hybrid (F) (hyb.) (82)
 Harper Hybrid (F) (hyb.) (86)
 Gold Star (F) (hyb.) (87)
 Supermarket (F,DM) (hyb.) (88)
 Saticoy (F,PM,DM) (hyb.) (90)

MUSTARD

- Tendergreen (35)
 Green Wave (45)

OKRA

- Dwarf Green Long Pod (53)
 Emerald (56)
 *Clemson Spineless (58)

ONION

- Sets**
 Ebenezer 95-100
 Stuttgarter 95-100
Transplants
 Sweet Spanish 95-100
Seeds
 Autumn Spice (hyb.) (96)
 Abundance (hyb.) (100)
 Spartan Era (hyb.) (100)
 Spartan Gem (hyb.) (105)
 Downing Yellow Globe (110)
 Ruby Red (115)
Bunching
 Beltsville Bunching (65)
 White Portugal (100)

PARSLEY

- Leaf**
 Plain Italian Dark Green (74)
 Perfection (75)
 Curled Dwarf (85)
Parsnip-rooted
 Hamburg (90)

PARSNIP

- All America (105)
 Harris Model (120)

PEAS

- Perfected Freezer (F) (60)
 *Freezonian (F) (62)
 Little Marvel (62)
 Greater Progress (62)
 Frosty (F) (64)
 Green Arrow (F,DM) (68)
 Wando (heat resistant) (68)
Edible podded
 Dwarf Gray Sugar (65)

PEPPERS - Transplanted

- Sweet**
 Canape (M) (hyb.) (62)
 Vinedale (62)
 *Bell Boy (M) (hyb.) (70)
 Midway (M) (72)
 California Wonder (M) (74)
 Yolo Wonder (M) (76)
 Keystone Resistant Giant (M) (85)
Hot
 Hot Portugal (64)
 Hungarian Wax (65)
 Rumanian Wax (70)
 Large Red Cherry (72)

POPCORN

- White**
 White Cloud (95)
 lopop 7 (100)
 Michigan Hybrid No. 1 A (100)

POTATO

- Early** (75)
 Onaway, Irish Cobbler, Norland, Superior
Midseason (90)
 Norgold Russet, Norchip
Late (110-120)
 Katahdin (sus. to scab), Sebago, Russet Rural, Kennebec (sus. to scab), Russet Burbank
For Muck Soils
 Katahdin (sus. to scab), Norland, Sebago, Superior, Kennebec (sus. to scab)

SWEET POTATO

- Centennial (150)

PUMPKIN

- Small**
 Small Sugar (100)
 Spookie (110)
Medium
 Cinderella (Bush type) (100)
 Youngs' Beauty (110)
Large
 Jack-O-Lantern (115)
 Connecticut Field (120)
Very Large
 Big Max (120)

RADISH

- Red**
 Red Boy (22)
 *Cherry Belle (24)
 *Champion (28)
White
 Icicle (28)

RHUBARB (Perennial)

- Canada Red
 MacDonald
 Valentine
 Victoria

RUTABAGA

- American Purple Top (90)
 Laurentian (90)

SALSIFY

- Mammoth Sandwich Island (120)

SPINACH

- Viking (46)
 Bloomsdale Long Standing (48)
 *America (50)

New Zealand (not true spinach, grown during hot weather) (70)

SQUASH

- Summer Yellow**
 *Early Prolific Straightneck (50)
 Seneca Butterbar (hyb.) (51)
 Seneca Prolific (hyb.) (51)
 Burpee Golden Zucchini (54)
Summer Green
 *Aristocrat (hyb.) (50)
 Zucchini Elite (hyb.) (50)
 Cocozelle (striped) (60)
Summer White
 *St. Pat. Scallop (hyb.) (50)
Winter - Storage
 *Table King (Bush type Acorn) (80)
 *Gold Nugget (Bush type) (85)
 Perfection (85)
 Table Queen (85)
 *Waltham Butternut (95)
 Buttercup (100)

SWEET CORN

- Early**
 Buttervee (hyb.) (58)
 Spring Gold (hyb.) (67)
 Bravo (hyb.) (68)
 Sprite (hyb.) (bicolor) (69)
Midseason
 Northern Belle (hyb.) (74)
 Butter and Sugar (hyb.) (78) (bicolor) (78)
 Goldcup (hyb.) (80)
 Wonderful (hyb.) (82)
 Jubilee (hyb.) (84)
Late
 Silver Queen (hyb.) (92)
 Golden Queen (hyb.) (94)

SWISS CHARD

- Fordhook Giant (60)
 Rhubarb (60)

TOMATO - Transplanted

- Early**
 New Yorker (V) (64)
 Springset (V,F) (hyb.) (67)
Midseason
 Setmore (V,F) (hyb.) (71)
 Jetstar (V,F) (hyb.) (72)
 Campbell 1327 (V,F) (73)
 Heinz 1350 (V,F) (75)
 Roma (V,F) (Paste) (76)
Late
 San Marzano (Paste) (78)
 Supersonic (V,F) (hyb.) (79)
 Burpee (V,F) (hyb.) (80)
 Manalucie (F) (86)
Yellow
 Golden Boy (hyb.) (78)
 Sunray (F) (83)
Small Fruited
 Pixie (hyb.) (container type) (52)
 Presto (hyb.) (container type) (60)
 *Small Fry (V,F) (hyb.) (container type) (68)
 Yellow Pear (70)

TURNIP

- *Tokyo Cross (hyb.) (35)
 *Just Right (hyb.) (40)
 Purple Top White Globe (57)

WATERMELON - Transplanted

- Market Midget (67)
 Fordhook Hybrid (hyb.) (74)
 Petite Sweet (F,A) (75)
 Summer Festival (hyb.) (88)
 Seedless Hybrid 313 (A) (hyb.) (90)
 Crimson Sweet (F,A) (90)
 Sweet Princess (F,A) (96)

MAIL ORDER SEED COMPANIES

Burgess Seed and Plant Co.
P.O. Box 218
Galesburg, Michigan 49053

Many unusual vegetables; also flowers and fruits.

W. Atlee Burpee Co.
P.O. Box 6929
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132

Good selection of good quality vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Farmer Seed and Nursery Co.
Fairbault, Minnesota 55021

Special attention to midget vegetables and early maturing varieties for Northern areas. Also flowers and fruits.

Henry Field Seed and Nursery Co.
Shenandoah, Iowa 51601

Many hard to find items; also has fruits and flowers.

Gurney Seed and Nursery Co.
Yankton, South Dakota 57078

Unusual items, emphasizes short-season varieties for the North. Also fruits and flowers.

Joseph Harris Co.
Moreton Farm
Rochester, New York 14624

Excellent selection of good quality vegetables; also flowers.

The Chas. A. Hart Seed Co.
Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

Good selection of vegetables, flowers and herbs.

J. W. Jung Seed Co.
Randolph, Wisconsin 53956

Vegetables, fruits and flowers for the home garden.

Earl May Seed and Nursery Co.
Shenandoah, Iowa 51603

Wide selection of vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Nichols Garden Nursery
1190 North Pacific Highway
Albany, Oregon 97321

Unusual and rare vegetables and herbs.

L. L. Olds Seed Co.
P.O. Box 1069
2901 Packers Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Good selection of vegetables, also flowers.

Geo. W. Park Co., Inc.
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646

All American selections of vegetables, large varieties of flowers.

Seedway, Inc. (formerly Robson Quality Seeds, Inc.)
Hall, New York 14463

Good selection of vegetables, flowers.

R. H. Shumway Seedsman
128 Cedar Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101

Vegetables, flowers, fruits displayed in an old time catalog.

Stokes Seeds, Inc.
Box 548
Buffalo, New York 14240

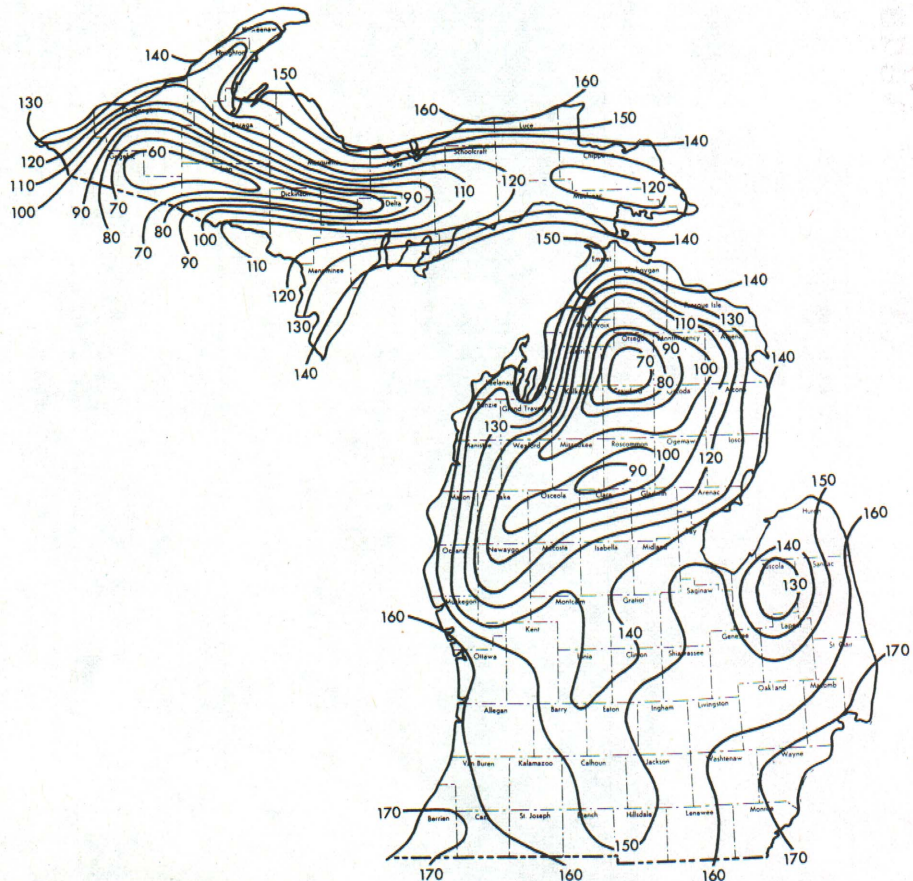
Good selection of vegetables, emphasis on short season varieties; also flowers.

Otis S. Twilley Seed Co.
Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Good selection of vegetables and flowers.

No endorsement of companies or their products is intended in this alphabetical listing, nor is criticism implied of similar companies or their products which are not shown.

Average Length of 32° F. Frost-Free Period (Days)



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Vegetable Planting Chart

VEGETABLE	Planting Times*	Weeks from Seeding to Transplanting	Depth to Plant (inches)	Amount of Seed	Days to Maturity	Planting Distance (inches)		Row Length (feet)	Estimated Production
						In Rows After Thinning	Between Rows		
Asparagus	April		6 to 8	12 plants	2 to 3 yrs.	12 to 18	36 to 60	20	6 pounds
Beans, Lima	May 20-Jun. 1		1 to 2	½ pound	65 to 90	3 to 4	18 to 24	50	4 pounds shelled
Beans, Snap	Apr. 20-Jun. 30		1 to 2	½ pound	50 to 70	3 to 4	18 to 24	15	7 pounds
Beets	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		½ to 1	¼ ounce	60 to 80	2 to 3	18 to 24	25	25 pounds
Broccoli	Mar. 20-Apr. 20, Jun. 20-30	4 to 6	(plants)	12 plants	55 to 75	18 to 24	30	25	10 pounds
Brussels Sprouts	Apr. 1-20, Jun. 20-30		(plants)	15 plants	90 to 95	18 to 24	30	25	8 pounds
Cabbage	Apr. 1-20, Jun. 20-30	4 to 6	(plants)	6 plants	65 to 100	18 to 24	24 to 30	12	6 heads
Carrots	Apr. 1-10		½ to 1	½ pkt.	65 to 85	1 to 2	18 to 24	15	15 pounds
Cauliflower	Apr. 1-20, Jun. 20-30	4 to 6	(plants)	5 plants	60 to 95	18 to 24	30	10	5 heads
Celery	Apr. 1-20		½	½ pkt.	120	4 to 6	18 to 24	10	6 pounds
Celery	Feb. 20-30, Apr. 20-30	10 to 12	(plants)	30 plants	100 to 125	4 to 8	18 to 24	15	30 stalks
Chinese Cabbage	Jun. 20-Jul. 30		¾	¼ pkt.	60 to 80	12	24 to 30	10	12 heads
Collards	Apr. 1-20	4 to 6	½	½ pkt.	75	6 to 8	18 to 24	25	20 pounds
Cucumbers	May 20-Jun. 20	4	1 to 2	½ pkt.	50 to 70	12	48 to 72	10	6 pounds
Eggplant	May 20-Jun. 1	8 to 10	(plants)	3 plants	70 to 80	24 to 30	24 to 30	6	12 fruits
Endive	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		½	10 plants	80 to 100	8 to 12	12 to 18	6	10 heads
Garlic	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		1½	4 cloves	115	3	12 to 18	1	4 bulbs
Kale	Jun. 20-Jul. 30		½ to 1	6 plants	55 to 60	8 to 15	18 to 24	6	6 heads
Kohlrabi	Mar. 20-Apr. 20, Jun. 20-30	4 to 6	1 to 1½	24 plants	55 to 65	4 to 8	18 to 24	12	24 stems
Leeks	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		½	1 pkt.	130	2 to 3	12 to 18	10	30
Lettuce (head)	Mar. 20-Apr. 20, July	4 to 6	¼ to ½	18 plants	70 to 85	8 to 15	18 to 24	15	15 heads
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar. 20-Apr. 30, July		¼ to ½	1 pkt.	45 to 55	6	12 to 18	5	2½ pounds
Muskmelon	May 20-Jun. 1	4	1 to 2	½ pkt.	80 to 90	36 to 48	48 to 60	16	18 fruits
Mustard	Apr. 20-May 20, August		½	¼ pkt.	35 to 45	6 to 8	18 to 24	10	5 pounds
Okra	May 20-Jun. 1		½	¼ pkt.	50 to 60	12 to 15	24 to 30	8	5 pounds
Onion (sets)	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		1 to 2	½ pound	90	2	12 to 18	10	5 pounds
Onion (transplants)	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		(plants)	120	90 to 115	2 to 3	12 to 18	30	25 pounds
Onion (seeds)	Mar. 20-Apr. 10	4 to 6	½	1 pkt.	105 to 130	2 to 3	12 to 18	30	25 pounds
Parsnips	Apr. 1-20		½	½ pkt.	100 to 120	3 to 4	18 to 24	15	15 pounds
Peas	Mar. 20-May 15		1 to 2	1 pound	55 to 70	2 to 3	12 to 18	100	28 pounds
Peppers	May 20-Jun. 1, July 15	8 to 10	(plants)	6 plants	60 to 80	14 to 18	24 to 30	10	6 pounds
Pop Corn	May 20-Jun. 1		2 to 2½	½ pkt.	90 to 120	10 to 12	30 to 36	25	1 peck
Potatoes	Apr. 20-Jun. 1		4	5 pounds	100 to 120	10 to 12	24 to 36	50	50 pounds
Potatoes, Sweet	May 20-Jun. 1		(plants)	25 plants	150	12 to 18	36	25	10 pounds
Pumpkins	May 20-Jun. 1		½	½ pkt.	100 to 120	36 to 48	60 to 96	3	30 pounds
Radishes	Mar. 20-Apr. 20, July		½	1 pkt.	25 to 30	1 to 2	6 to 12	12	8 pounds
Rhubarb	Mar. 20-Apr. 30		(plants)	3 plants	1 to 2 yrs.	36 to 48	48	9	8 pounds
Rutabaga	Jun. 1-20		½	½ pkt.	90 to 95	4 to 6	18 to 24	15	15 pounds
Salsify	Apr. 1-20		½	½ pkt.	120	3 to 4	18 to 24	5	15 pounds
Spinach	Mar. 20-Apr. 20, July		¼ to ½	¼ ounce	40 to 50	3 to 6	12 to 18	10	5 pounds
Squash (Summer)	May 20-Jun. 1		1 to 1½	½ pkt.	45 to 60	36 to 48	36 to 48	2	24 fruits
Squash (Winter)	May 20-Jun. 1		1 to 1½	1 pkt.	85 to 110	48 to 60	60 to 72	4	10 fruits
Sweet Corn	Apr. 20-July 1		2 to 2½	¼ pound	65 to 95	10 to 12	30 to 36	25	40 ears
Swiss Chard	Apr. 1-20		½	¼ pkt.	50 to 60	6 to 8	18 to 24	8	7 pounds
Tomatoes	May 20-Jun. 1	4 to 6	(plants)	10 plants	60 to 90	24 to 36	36 to 48	40	3 bushel
Turnips	July		1 to 1½	¼ pkt.	40 to 60	4 to 6	18 to 24	20	20 pounds
Watermelons	May 20-Jun. 1	4	1 to 2	½ pkt.	85 to 95	72 to 96	72 to 96	2	4 melons

* Planting times are based on conditions at East Lansing. Change these times to suit your location.