MSU Extension Publication Archive

Archive copy of publication, do not use for current recommendations. Up-to-date information about many topics can be obtained from your local Extension office.

Home Vegetable Garden: Variety Recommendations for Michigan Gardeners Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service J. Lee Taylor and Bernard H. Zandstra Department of Horticulture January 1981 6 pages

The PDF file was provided courtesy of the Michigan State University Library

Scroll down to view the publication.

Home Vegetable Garden Variety Recommendations

JANUARY 1981

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-760a

Many factorsshould be considered when selecting vegetable varieties for the home garden. Varieties are like people in that each one has its own particular characteristics, some good, some not so good. When selecting varieties for your own garden, consider some of the following characteristics:

Hybrids versus open-pollinated varieties. Hybrids often give more vigorous growth, greater production, more uniform plants, and

greater disease resistance than open-pollinated varieties. Hybrid seed is usually much more expensive than open-pollinated seed. However, a good open-pollinated variety can often produce as well as a hybrid under some conditions. Therefore, it is a good idea to compare several varieties to see which ones do best for you.

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.

Bernard H. Zandstra and J. Lee Taylor Department of Horticulture

> Days to maturity. Within most vegetable crops, there are varieties that mature earlier than others. Early maturing varieties should be used 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. Check the chart on page 5 for a rough estimate of your climate. 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, it is wise to plant only enough of the early varieties to hold you until better quality, later-maturing varieties are ready.

> Other quality characteristics. There are many other factors which 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. All of this information should be given in seed catalogues. We have recommended varieties that generally are of good quality and are readily available to the home gardener.

> If you are happy with a variety that you have grown for several years, there may be no reason to

Cooperative Extension Service • Michigan State University

change to a newer variety. But if you are looking for something better, try another variety next to your old one for comparison, and then choose. In any case, decide on the varieties you want and buy them, rather than buying whatever the garden shop has to offer.

Much of the information listed above is available in seed catalogues. The wise gardener sends for seed catalogues in late summer or early 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 the bulletin send out their home garden catalogues upon request.

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

In addition to seed companies, seeds can be purchased from garden centers, supermarkets, discount stores, and other sources. Often, these sources have a limited selection of varieties, so you may not be able to get the ones you want.

Plants of some of the varieties listed as requiring transplants may be hard to find. Check with your garden shop or greenhouse early and tell them the varieties you want, and they might be able to get them. They grow and sell the varieties that people ask for.

Onions can be grown from seeds or sets. For the home gardener, sets are the easiest and most reliable planting material to assure a crop. Onions can be harvested early for green onions or harvested dry for storage. Plant the sets close together and thin them for green onions—leave the rest go 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. Onions grown from sets usually do not store as well as those grown from seed.

Potatoes are 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.

Following is a list of vegetable varieties suggested for Michigan gardens. Numbers in parentheses indicate approximate number of days to harvest from seeding or transplanting. Those crops normally transplanted are indicated. The numbers given under "source" refer to the seed companies listed on page 4. Hybrids are indicated by an (H) after the name of the variety.

This is only a partial listing of satisfactory varieties and seed sources. Many other excellent varieties are available from these and other seed companies.

Recommended Varieties

Sources, pg. 4

Sources, pg. 4

ASPARAGUS

Mary Washington (perennial)1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15

Viking (perennial).....14

BEANS, GREEN

Bush Blue Lake 274(54) ... 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14 Green Ruler (57)6 Provider (50)4, 6, 13, 14, 15 Spartan Arrow (51)2, 3, 6, 13, 14 Tender Crop (55)1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14

BEANS, LIMA

Early Thorogreen (68) 11, 13 Fordhook 242 (75) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

BEANS, WAX

BEETS, RED

Crosby Green Top (60)6 Detroit Dark Red (66)1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 BEETS, RED (Con't.) Ruby Queen (60) 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15

BROCCOLI-Transplanted

Green Comet (H) (60)1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 15 Spartan Early (H) (70).....3, 5, 8, 9

BRUSSELS SPROUTS-Transplanted

Jade Cross (H) (95)1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14 Jade Cross Strain E (H) (92)6, 13, 14, 15

CABBAGE, CHINESE

CABBAGE, GREEN-Transplanted

Danish Ballhead (108)....1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 Market Prize (H) (76)6 Market Victor (H) (65)6 Roundup (H) (76)7, 8, 13, 14, 15 Sources, pg. 4

LETTUCE, HEAD

CABBAGE, GREEN-Transplanted (Con't.) Stonehead (H) (66) 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15 Superette (H) (65) 8, 13 King Cole (H) (68) 8, 13, 14, 15

CABBAGE, RED-Transplanted

CABBAGE, SAVOY-Transplanted

Savoy Ace (H) (75)4, 6, 9, 10, 11 Savoy King (H) (82)2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 15

CARROTS

CAULIFLOWER-Transplanted

CELERY-Transplanted

SWEET CORN

CUCUMBERS, **PICKLING**

Calypso 4, 15 Green Star (H) 6 Wisconsin SMR (18) 1, 5, 8, 10, 13

CUCUMBERS, SLICING

Burpee Hybrid (H) (68) 1, 8, 12, 14 High Mark II (60)8, 14 Marketmore 70 (67)1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15 Marketmore 76 (68)14, 15 Pacer (62)6

EGGPLANT-Transplanted

Black Beauty (80) 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 Black Magic (H) (73) 6 Burpee Hybrid (H) (70) 1, 14 Dusky (H) (69) 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14

LETTUCE, BIBB

Buttercrunch (64) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Summer Bibb (62) 4, 6, 8, 13

Fulton (90)4, 8, 13 Great Lakes 659 (86)4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 Ithaca (85)4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 LETTUCE, LEAF Grand Rapids (45).....1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 Waldmann's Green (45) ...8, 13 **MUSKMELON-Transplanted** Burpee Hybrid (H) (85) 1, 4, 8, 13, 14, 15 Earlisweet (H) (80)4, 14, 15 Gold Star (H) (87)6 Saticoy (H) (90)4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14.15 **ONIONS. GREEN** Beltsville Bunching (65) 4, 8, 14, 15 Ebenezer (sets) (45) 4, 6, 14 Southport White Bunching (65) 6, 8, 13, 14 Stuttgarter (sets) (50)....4, 6, 14 **ONIONS. YELLOW** Abundance (H) (100)4, 13 Downing Yellow Globe (115) 4, 5, 8, 10, 13 Ebenezer (sets) (85) 4, 6, 14 Spartan Banner (H) (110) . . 4, 13, 14 Spartan Sleeper (H) (112) . . 4, 7, 14 Stuttgarter (sets) (95)....4, 6, 14 PEAS Freezonian (62)1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 Frosty (64)2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15 Greater Progress (62)6, 8, 15 Sugar Snap (edible podded) (68) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14.15 PEPPERS, HOT-Transplanted Hungarian Yellow Wax (70). 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14.15 Red Cherry (80)4, 5, 8, 13 Rumanian Wax (70)4, 6 **PEPPERS, SWEET BELL-Transplanted** Bell Boy (H) (75)1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Canape (H) (62)1, 4, 14, 16 Keystone Resistant Giant (80) 4, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15 Yolo Wonder L (78)4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 **POTATO-Seed Pieces**

Katahdin (120) Michimac (120) Norchip (90)5 Norgold Russet (90)2, 3, 5 Norland (75)7





Sources, pg. 4

POTATO-Seed Pieces (Con't.) Sebago (120) Superior (75)2. 7 PUMPKIN Big Max (large) (120)1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14.15 Connecticut Field (medium) 14.15 Jack-O-Lantern (medium) (110) 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 Small Sugar (pie) (115) ...1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 Spookie (pie) (110)4, 6, 14 Young's Beauty (medium) RADISH Cherry Belle (24).....1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Icicle (white) (30)1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Scarlet Globe (23)1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15 **RUTABAGA** American Purple Top (90) . . 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 15 Laurentian (90) 2, 10, 13, 14 SPINACH Dark Green Bloomsdale (43) 6, 13, 15 Long Standing Bloomsdale (48).....1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 Melody (H) (43)1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 SQUASH, SUMMER Green Burpee Hybrid (H) (50) 1 President (49) 4, 14 Zucchini Elite (H) (48)....6 Zucchini Select (47)14 Yellow Early Prolific Straightneck (52).....1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15 Gold Rush (H) (52)1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 Seneca Prolific (51).....4, 6, 8, 15 Yellow Crookneck (55)1, 4, 5, 12, 15 White Patty Pan (H) (50)4, 5, 10, 15 SQUASH, WINTER Buttercup, Burgess Strain Butternut (110) 1, 8, 13 Table Ace (acorn) (H) (78) .3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15 Table King (acorn) (80) . . . 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 15 Table Queen (acorn) (90) ..1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14

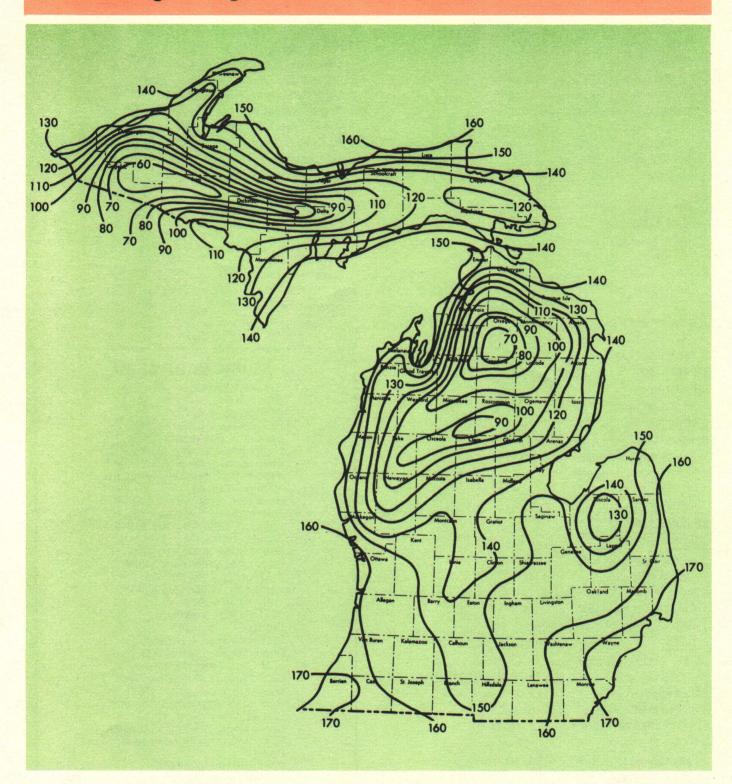
SQUASH, WINTER (Con't.) Waltham Butternut (110) ...1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 **TOMATO-Transplanted** Campbell 1327 (75)4, 8, 13, 14, 15 Large Red Cherry (72) 1, 10 New Yorker (65)4, 6, 13, 14, 15 Pik-Red (H) (75)6 Roma VF (for paste) (76)...1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 Small Fry (cherry) (H) (68) .2, 6, 7, 10, 11 Springset (H) (67)3, 4, 13, 14, 15 Sunray (yellow) (83)1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 WATERMELON-Transplanted Crimson Sweet (medium) (97).....1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 Sugar Baby (small) (86) ... 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 Summer Festival (medium) (H) (88).....6, 8 SOURCES OF SEED 1. Burpee Seed Co. Box B 2001 Clinton, Iowa 52732 2. Farmer Seed & Nursery Co. Faribault, Minnesota 55021 3. Henry Field Seed & Nursery Co. Shenandoah, Iowa 51602

- 4. Herbst Brothers Seedsmen, Inc. 1000 N. Main St. Brewster, New York 10509
- 5. Gurney Seed & Nursery Co. Yankton, South Dakota 57079
- 6. Joseph Harris Co. **Moreton Farm** Rochester, New York 14624
- 7. J. W. Jung Seed Co. Randolph, Wisconsin 53956
- 8. Letherman's Inc. 1221 E. Tuscarawas St. Canton, Ohio 44707
- 9. Earl May Seed & Nursery Co. Shenandoah, Iowa 51603
- 10. L. L. Olds Seed Co. 2901 Packers Ave., Box 7790 Madison, Wisconsin 53707
- 11. George W. Park Seed Co., Inc. **Box 31**
- Greenwood, South Carolina 29647 12. R. H. Shumway Seedsman **Box 777**
- Rockford, Illinois 61101 13. Sieger's Seed Co.
- 7245 Imlay City Rd. Imlay City, Michigan 48444
- 14. Stokes Seeds, Inc. 737 Main St., Box 548 Buffalo, New York 14240
- 15. Otis S. Twilley Seed Co. **Box 65** Trevose, Pennsylvania 19047

4

Sources, pg. 4

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



MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. Cooperative Extension Service programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, or sex.

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Gordon E. Guyer, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.

University, E. Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service or bias against those not mentioned. This bulletin becomes public property upon publication and may be reprinted verbatim as a separate or within another publication with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company. Price 20¢, Single copy free Michigan residents.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Vegetable Planting Chart

		Weeks from		Depth to		Bow			
VEGETABLE	Planting Times*	Seeding to Transplanting	Days to Maturity	Plant (Inches)	Amount of Seed	Length (feet)	In Rows After Thinning	Between Rows	Estimated Production
Asparagus	April		2 to 3 yrs.	6 to 8	12 plants	20	12 to 18	36 to 60	6 pounds
Beans, Lima	May 20-Jun. 1		65 to 90	1 to 2	1/2 pound	20	3 to 4	18 to 24	4 pounds shelled
Beats, Sliap	Apr. 20-JUN. 30		0/ 01 00	1 10 2	punod %/1	15	3 to 4	18 to 24	1 pounds
Broccoli	Mar 20-Anr 20 Jun 20-30	4 to 6	55 to 75	10 1 1/2 (nlante)	12 plonto	8 8	2 10 3	18 10 24	spunod cz
Brussels Sprouts	Apr. 1-20, Jun. 20-30		90 to 95	(plants)	15 plants	38	18 to 24	38	8 pounds
Cabbade	Apr 1-20 Jun 20-30	4 to 6	65 to 100	(nlante)	6 alcate	¢	10 10 11	00 11 10	e hands
Carrots			65 to 85	1/5 to 1	1/4 nkt	z t	1 40.0	18 40 30	16 neaus
Cauliflower		4 to 6	60 to 95	(plants)	5 plants	20	18 to 24.	30 024	5 heads
Celeriac	Apr. 1-20		120	1/2	'/, pkt.	10	4 to 6	18 to 24	6 nounds
Celery	Feb. 20-30. Apr. 20-30	10 to 12	100 to 125	(plants)	30 plants	15	4 to 8	18 to 24	30 stalks
Chinese Cabbage			60 to 80	1/2	1/4 pkt.	10	12	24 to 30	12 heads
Cucumbers	Apr. 1-20 May 20-Jun. 20	4 to 6 4	75 50 to 70	1 to 2	1/2 pkt. 1/2 pkt.	25 10	6 to 8 12	18 to 24 48 to 72	20 pounds 6 pounds
Foonlant	May 20, Ind 1	8 to 10	70 +0 80	(nlanta)	of alcoho	a	24 42 20	01110	40 6-14-
Endive	Mor 20 Apr 20	01010	10 01 01 00	(piants)	s piants	0 0	24 10 30	24 10 30	12 Iruits
Garlic	Mar 20 Apr 20		415	417	In plants	0.	21 01 8	12 10 18	10 neads
Kale			55 to 60	1/4 10 1	6 niante	- «	8 40 15	12 10 10	4 DUIDS
Kohlrabi	Mar. 20-Apr. 20. Jun. 20-30	4 to 6	55 to 65	1 to 11/2	24 plants	12	4 10 8	18 th 24	24 stems
Leeks	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		130	1/2	1 pkt.	10	2 to 3	12 to 18	30
Lettuce (head)	Mar. 20-Apr. 20, July	4 to 6	70 to 85	1/4 to 1/2	18 plants	15	8 to 15	18 to 24	15 heads
Lettuce (leaf)	Mar. 20-Apr. 30, July		45 to 55	1/4 to 1/2	1 pkt.	5	9	12 to 18	21/2 pounds
Muskmelon	May 20-Jun. 1	4	80 to 90	(plants)	6 nlants	25	36 to 48	48 to 60	18 fruite
Mustard	Apr. 20-May 20, August		35 to 45	1/2	1/4 Dkt.	10	6 to 8	18 to 24	5 norinds
Okra	May 20-Jun. 1		50 to 60	1/2	1/4 pkt.	80	12 to 15	24 to 30	5 pounds
Union (sets)	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		06	1 to 2	1/2 pound	10	2	12 to 18	5 pounds
Onion (transplants)	Mar. 20-Apr. 20		90 to 115	(plants)	120	8	2 to 3	12 to 18	25 pounds
(enage) IIOI	Mar. 20-Apr. 10	4 10 6	105 10 130	V2	1 pkt.	8	2 to 3	12 to 18	25 pounds
Parsnips	Apr. 1-20		100 to 120	12	1/3 pkt.	15	3 to 4	18 to 24	15 pounds
reas	Mar. 20-May 15		55 to 70	1 to 2	1 pound	100	2 to 3	12 to 18	28 pounds
reppers	May 20-Jun. 1, July 15	6 to 8	60 to 80	(plants)	6 plants		14 to 18	24 to 30	6 pounds
Pop Com			90 to 120	2 to 21/2	1/3 pkt.	25-2 rows	10 to 12	30 to 36	1 peck
Potatoes Sweet	May 20 Jun 1		100 to 120	4	5 pounds	8	10 to 12	24 to 36	50 pounds
Pumpkins	May 20-Jun. 1		100 to 120	(pliants) 1/2	25 plants	3 hills	36 to 48	36 60 to 96	30 pounds
Radishes	Mar 20-Anr 20 July		25 to 30	14	1 alt	ç	1 400	0 1 10	
Rhubarb	Mar. 20-Apr. 30		1 to 2 vrs.	(plants)	3 nlants	2 6	36 to 48	48	8 pounds
Rutabaga	Jun. 1-20		90 to 95	1/2	1/2 okt.	15	4 to 6	18 to 24	15 pounds
Salsify	Apr. 1-20		120	1/2	Va pkt.	5	3 to 4	18 to 24	15 pounds
Spinach			40 to 50	1/4 to 1/2	1/8 ounce	10	3 to 6	12 to 18	5 pounds
Squash (Summer)	May 20-Jun. 1		45 to 60	1 to 11/2	½ pkt.	2 hills	36 to 48	36 to 48	24 fruits
Sweet Corn	May 20-Jun. 1		85 to 110	1 to 1 1/2	1 pkt.		48 to 60	60 to 72	10 fruits
Swiee Chard	Apr. 1.20		CR 01 CO	2 10 2 12	M pound	SMOL Z - CZ	10 to 12	30 to 36	40 ears
	1-50			72	14 pkt.	œ	6 10 8	18 to 24	/ pounds
omatoes	May 20-Jun. 1	4 to 6	60 to 90	(plants)	10 plants	40	24 to 36	36 to 48	3 bushel
i urnips	July		40 to 60	1 to 11/2	'/s pkt.	20	4 to 6	18 to 24	20 pounds
Watermelons	May 20-Jun. 1	4	85 to 95	(plants)	6 plants	50	72 to 96	72 to 96	18 fruit

seeding in the ō greenhouse.

•