

## **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  
April 1988  
8 pages

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

**Scroll down to view the publication.**



HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN

# Variety Recommendations

for Michigan Gardens

J. Lee Taylor  
Bernard H. Zandstra  
Department  
of Horticulture

Extension  
Bulletin E-760a (Revised)  
April 1988  
Cooperative  
Extension Service  
Michigan  
State University



## RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

### 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

**V**egetable 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.

**H**ybrids 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.

### 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.

## RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

### 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

### 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.

## RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

### 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*

### 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



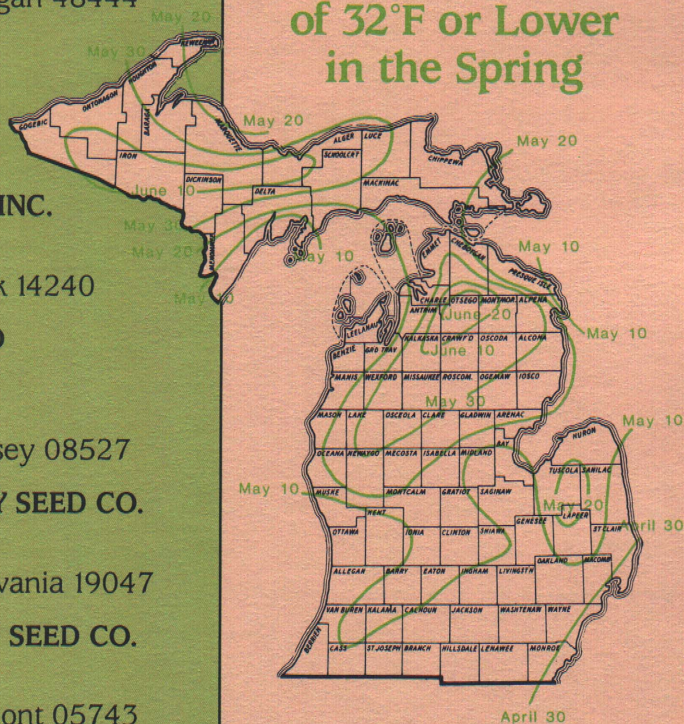
MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. Cooperative Extension Service programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

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. W.J. Moine, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.

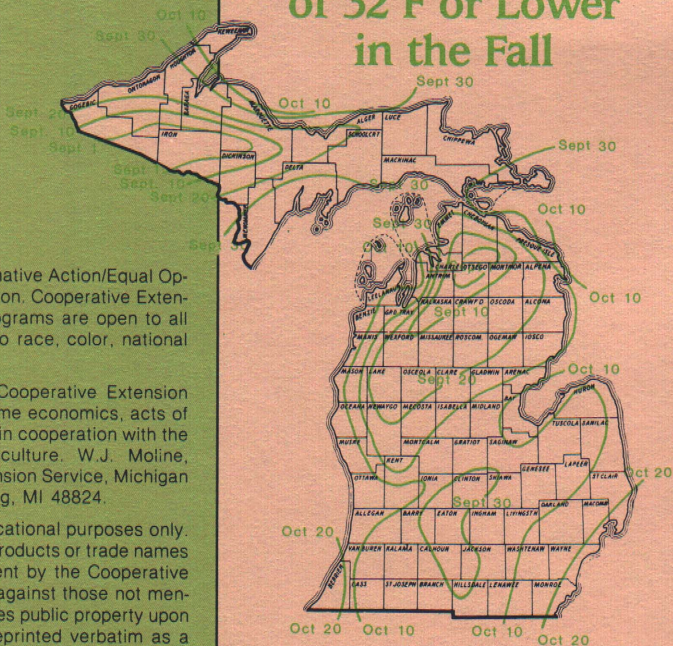
This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service or bias against those not mentioned. This bulletin becomes public property upon publication and may be reprinted verbatim as a separate or within another publication with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company.

Major revision: 4-88-10M KMF-HP, Price 40 cents  
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