



Vegetable Varieties for Maine Gardens

Bulletin #2190

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Choosing the right varieties of vegetables to grow is an important part of successful gardening.



Select varieties that are adapted to Maine’s climate and your local growing conditions. The varieties recommended in this bulletin are generally available and successful in northern New England. There are many other varieties available, both new and old, that may perform well in some Maine gardens.



Use your past experience – the soils and climate in your location may greatly affect the performance of some varieties. You will probably develop a list of favorite vegetable varieties that consistently do well in your garden.



It’s best to test new varieties in a small planting next to a familiar variety of the same crop so that you can fairly compare their performance and qualities. For most crops, different varieties will have a range of maturity dates, indicated in seed catalogs by the number of days from planting to harvest. In northern Maine, plant only early varieties of warm-season vegetable crops, such as tomatoes, peppers, and melons, to ensure harvest before frost. In more southerly parts of Maine, both early and midseason varieties can be successfully harvested in most years.

Look for varieties with disease resistance. There are many varieties available today that are resistant to some of the most common vegetable diseases. Disease resistance can prevent crop loss and reduce the need for pesticides. Seed catalogs typically list any disease resistance a variety has. For example, with tomatoes and peppers, look for resistance to *Fusarium*, *Verticillium*, and tobacco mosaic virus. For cucumbers and squash, look for resistance to scab, anthracnose, *Alternaria*, *Fusarium*, mosaic virus, powdery mildew, and bacterial wilt. For beans, look for resistance to halo blight, mosaic virus, and rust.

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Suggested Varieties

Asparagus

Mary Washington Improved, Jersey King, Jersey Knight, Guelph Millennium, Purple Passion

Beans

Green Snap: Provider, Jade, Concessa

Wax: Indy Gold, Rodcor

Pole: Blue Lake strains, Fortex, Kentucky Blue, Scarlet Runner

Shell: French Horticultural

Dry: Maine Yellow Eye, Soldier, Jacob's Cattle, Black

Beets

Greens: Bull's Blood Red, Early Wonder, Crosby Green Top, Big Top

Summer and Fall: Red Ace, Kestral, Pacemaker III

Heirloom and Cylindrical: Chioggia, Forono, Golden, Rodina

Broccoli

Spring: Packman, Regal

Summer/Fall: Gypsy, Premium Crop, Marathon

Brussels Sprouts

Oliver, Jade Cross

Cabbage

Early: Charmant, Dynamo, Quick Start, Stonehead, Spring Dynasty

Midseason: Solid Blue 790, Blue Vantage

Late: Storage No. 4, Bravo

Red: Red Express, Ruby Perfection

Carrots

Early: Nelson, Minicor (baby)

Midseason: Scarlet Nantes, Sweetness II, Sugarsnax 54, Neptune, Yellowstone (yellow), Purple Haze (purple)

Late: Bolero, Caro-Choice

Cauliflower

Early: Snow Crown

Midseason/Late: Amazing, Candid Charm, Absolute, Graffiti (purple), Cheddar (yellow)

Celery

Utah 52-70, Ventura

Chard, Swiss

Bright Lights, Fordhook Giant, Ruby Red

Chinese Cabbage

Jade Pagoda, Rubicon

Corn — Popcorn

Mahogany, Robust 128YH, Strawberry, Top-Pop

Corn — Sweet

Early: Yellow: Kandy Kwik (se), Seneca Horizon (su), Daybreak (se), Sugar Buns (se+)

Bicolor: Seneca Arrowhead (se), Fleet (se+), Quickie (se)

Midseason: Yellow: Tuxedo (se), Northern Xtra-Sweet (sh2)

Bicolor: Luscious (se), Delectable (se), Bojangles (sy), Absolute (sy), Sweet Chorus

Late: Yellow: Honey Select (sy)

Bicolor: Lancelot (se), Seneca Dancer (se)

White: Argent (se), Silver Queen (su), Silver King (se)

Cucumbers

Slicing: Diva, Marketmore 76, Dasher II, Turbo, Stonewall

Pickling: Cross Country, Fancipik, Eureka, Calypso

Eggplant

Dusky, Black Bell, Ghostbuster (white), Neon, Little Fingers (Oriental), Kermit (Thai)

Endive

Salad King, Neos

Escarole

Full Heart, Nataly

Garlic

Hardneck: German Extra Hardy, Chesnok Red

Softneck: Inchelium

Kohlrabi

Winner, Grand Duke, Early Purple Vienna, Kolibri

Kale

Winterbor, Red Russian, Blue Ridge

Leek

Lincoln, Arkansas, Rikor, Norton

Lettuce

Bibb: Buttercrunch

Butterhead: Sangria, Ermosa, Nancy

Crisp Head: Summertime, Crispino

Leaf: New Red Fire, Red Sails, Waldmann's Green, Slobolt

Romaine (Cos): Winter Density, Green Towers, Eruption, Rosalita

Muskmelon

Early: Earliqueen, Fastbreak, Earligold

Midseason: Athena, Harper Hybrid, Super Star

Speciality Types: Passport, Amy, Angel, Earli-Dew

Onions

Early (seeded): Patterson, Frontier, New York Early, Candy, Mars (red)

Plants: Sweet Spanish types, Ailsa Craig, Red Burgermaster (red)

Sets: Ebenezer, Stuttgarter

Parsley

Forest Green, Dark Green Italian

Parsnip

Harris Model, Lancer

Peas

Early: Knight, Progress #9, Dakota

Midseason: Lincoln, Mr. Big, Eclipse

Summer: Wando

Edible Pod Types: Sugar Ann, Sugarsnap, Oregon Sugar Pod #2, Oregon Giant

Peppers

Sweet, Thin Wall: Ace, New Ace, Giant Marconi Sweet,

Thick Wall: Red Knight, Boynton Bell, King Arthur

Hot: Conchos, Numex Joe E. Parker, Thai Dragon, Tiburon (ancho)

Frying Types: Biscayne, Cubanelle

Pumpkins

Mini: Jack-Be-Little, Munchkin, Baby Boo (white), Wee-B-Little

Small-Fruited: Mystic Plus, Baby Pam, New England Pie, Neon, Baby Bear, Hybrid Pam

Medium-Fruited: Magic Lantern, Merlin, Rocket, Racer, Phantom

Large-Fruited: Howden, Sorcerer, Rock Star

Giant-Fruited: Prizewinner, Atlantic Giant

Radishes

Red: Champion, Cherriette, Fire Ball

White: White Icicle, D'Avignon, French Breakfast

Oriental: Minowase Summer Cross #3, Miyashige

Rhubarb

Macdonald, Tilden, Canada Red, Valentine

Rutabagas

American Purple Top, Joan, Laurentian, York

Spinach

Tyee, Melody, Bloomsdale, Space, Unipak 151

Squash

Summer Yellow: Yellow Crookneck, Sunray, Cougar, Sunburst

Summer Green: Spineless Beauty, Zucchini Elite, Revenue, Space Master

Winter: Carnival, Festival, Delicata, Tay Bell PM, Buttercup, Blue Hubbard, Red Kuri

Tomatoes

Extra Early: Early Cascade, New Girl, First Lady

Early: First Pik, Royal Mountie, Sunstart

Midseason: Ultrasonic, Daybreak, Sunchief

Late: Celebrity, Big Beef, Redsun

Heirloom: Moskvich, Red Brandywine, Pruden's Purple, Striped German

Small-Fruited: Sun Gold, Matt's Wild, Juliet, Sweet Million

Paste: Bellstar, Plum Crimson, San Marzano

Turnips

White Flesh: Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Just Right, Royal Crown

All White: Tokyo Cross Hybrid

Watermelon

Seedless (requires seeded pollinator): Gypsy, Millionaire, Extazy

Seeded: Sweet Favorite, Festival, Crimson Sweet, Yellow Doll, Sunshine