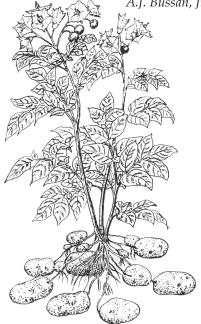
Vegetable cultivars and planting guide for Wisconsin gardens

A.J. Bussan, Judy Reith-Rozelle, and Karen Delahaut



lanting superior cultivars (cultivated varieties) is a first step toward successful gardening. Don't be penny-wise and pound-foolish when purchasing seeds. Selecting high quality seeds is a good investment that will more than reward you for their initial costs. Cheap seeds often lead to frustration and disappointment. Plant disease-resistant cultivars when available.

Getting good seeds

Gardeners often find it difficult to get seeds or plants of recommended new cultivars. Those not available from local seed stores or plant growers may be ordered from retail catalog suppliers. Names and addresses of several catalog seed suppliers are listed in this publication. Have seeds on hand by mid-February, especially those for growing early transplants. Delaying may mean you won't get seeds for choice cultivars, or that onion seeds will not get started on time.

Seeds left from last year

Place unused seeds in a closed container and store them in a refrigerator or other cool, dry place. Don't save onion, parsley, parsnip, and sweet corn seeds for more than one year unless refrigerated; then plant more thickly because germination will be reduced. Other good quality vegetable seeds generally will sprout very well the third season, and if you sow somewhat thicker, may be used until four or more years old. Discard questionable seeds or test a sample ahead of planting time.

Saving seeds from the home garden

Saving seeds from many vegetables grown in the home garden is often not advised. Home-saved seeds of some crops may carry disease; cultivars of cross-pollinated crops may be badly mixed; and seeds from hybrids do not breed true. Biennial vegetables such as beet, cabbage, carrot, onion, and rutabaga must be stored over winter and transplanted outdoors the following spring for seed production. However, there is increasing interest in heirloom varieties, most of which are open or selfpollinated. Seeds that usually can be successfully collected include: bean, lettuce, pea, pepper, and tomato. Seed Savers Exchange offers a network for persons collecting and/ or trying to locate older cultivars. Many other seed companies also carry heirloom selections.

Hybrid cultivars

Many vegetable crops offer a choice between hybrid cultivars and open-pollinated ones. Hybrids often have more vigorous growth, higher productivity, greater uniformity, and increased disease resistance than open-pollinated ones. Hybrid seed is usually more expensive than open-pollinated seed. However, under some conditions many open-pollinated cultivars produce as well as, if not better than, hybrids. Therefore, compare several cultivars to determine the best one for your needs.

Cultivars resistant to diseases

Several cultivars carry resistance or tolerance to one or more diseases. Seed catalogs generally provide this information.

Catalog seed companies

Seeds of cultivars may be obtained from a seed company listed below. No single seed source can provide seeds of all cultivars listed; most local or mail-order suppliers will have a satisfactory substitute when you purchase seeds early. Listing these seed sources does not guarantee or warranty their seed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, nor does it imply approval to the exclusion of other sources.

Johnny's Selected Seeds, 955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901, www. johnnyseeds.com, 1-877-564-6697

Kitazawa Seed Company, P.O. Box 13220, Oakland, CA 94661-3220, www.kitazawaseed.com, 510-595-1188

Park Seed Company, 1 Parkton Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29647, www.parkseed.com, 800-213-0076

Pinetree Garden Seeds,

P.O. Box 300, Gloucester, ME 04260, www.superseeds.com, 207-926-3400

Ronniger's Potato Farm,

12101 2135 Road, Austin, CO 81410, www.ronnigers.com, 877-204-8704

Seeds of Change, P.O. Box 152, Spicer, MN 56288, www.seedsofchange.com, 888-762-7333

Seed Savers Exchange, 3094 North Winn Road, Decorah, IA 52101, www.seedsavers.org, 563-382-5990

Select Seeds, 180 Stickney Hill Road, Union, CT 06076, www.selectseeds. com, 800-684-0395

Siegers Seed Company, 13031 Reflections Drive, Holland, MI 49424, www.siegers.com, 616-786-4999

Stokes Seeds, P.O. Box 548, Buffalo, NY 14240-0548, www.stokesseeds.com, 800-396-9238

Territorial Seed Company, P.O. Box 158, Cottage Grove, OR 97424, www.territorialseed.com, 800-626-0866

Thompson & Morgan, Inc., 220 Faraday Avenue, Jackson, NJ 08527-5073, www.tmseeds.com, 800-274-7333

Tomato Growers, P.O. Box 60015, Fort Myers, FL 33906, www.tomato growers.com, 888-478-7333

Totally Tomatoes, 334 West Stroud Street, Randolph, WI 53956, www. totallytomato.com 800-345-5977

W. Atlee Burpee & Company, 300 Park Avenue, Warminster, PA 18974, www.burpee.com, 800-333-5808

More information

Additional publications about growing, harvesting and storing vegetables, and controlling vegetable pests are available at your county Extension office, including The Vegetable Garden (A1989); Growing Vegetables at Home—Questions and Answers (A2801); Harvesting Vegetables from the Home Garden (A2727); Storing Vegetables at Home (A1135); and Managing Insects in the Home Vegetable Garden (A2088).

Recommended cultivars

Notations within parentheses indicate specific plant characteristics.

Asparagus—All-male: Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme

Heirloom: Mary Washington

Specialty: Purple Passion

Beans—Bush: Bush Romano, Blue Lake 274, Contender, Derby, Improved Tender Green, Labrador, Provider, Sequoia, Tender Crop, Tender Pod, Top Crop, Royal Burgundy

Pole: Blue Lake, Kentucky Blue, Kentucky Wonder, Kentucky Wonder Wax, Scarlet Runner

Lima: Big Mama, Cherokee, Fordhook (heirloom)

Wax: Blue Lake, Cherokee, Green Lake, Gold Crop, Gold Rush

Yardlong: Red Noodle

Beet—Big Red, Big Top, Bull's
Blood (heirloom), Chioggia
(heirloom), Detroit Dark Red,
Early Wonder Tall Top, Forona,
Golden Beet, Golden Globe,
Improved Detroit Dark Red, Red
Ace, Ruby Queen

Broccoli—Diplomat, Early
Dividend, Emperor, Green Belt,
Green Comet, Green Valiant,
Guy Lon, Packman, Premium
Crop, Veronica (romanesco type)

Brussels sprouts—Bubbles,
Brilliant, Captain Marvel,
Diablo, Jade Cross, Long Island
Improved, Oliver, Prince Marvel,
Royal Marvel, Tasty Nuggets



Cabbage—Head: Arrowhead II, Blue Dynasty, Bravo, Danish Ballhead, Greenwich, Lynx, Perfection (red), Red Express, Ruby Dynasty, Ruby Perfection, Spring Dynasty

Napa: Minuet, Rubicon

Asian: Joy Choi, Mei Quing Choi, Lettucy Type, Michihili, Pak Choi, Tah Tsai

Savoy: Alcosa, Savoy Ace, Savoy Express

Carrot—Apache, Cosmic Purple,
Danvers Half-Long, Dynamo,
Kuroda, Little Finger (specialty),
Mokum, Nantes Half Long,
Naverino, Nelson, Orange
Rocket, Purple Dragon, Purple
Haze, Red-cored Chantenay,
Scarlet Nantes, Short 'n' Sweet,
Sour Gherkin, Sugar Snax,
Sweetness II, Sweet Rocket,
Sweet Treat, Thumbelina (specialty), Yellowstone

Cauliflower—Cheddar (orange), Early Dawn, Early White, First White Hybrid, Oliver, Panther (green), Polar Express, Snow Crown, Snow King, Snowball Y, Violet Queen (purple)

Celeriac (root celery)—Diamante

Celery—Conquistador, Golden Self-Blanching, Summer Pascal, Utah Pascal

Collard—Champion, Flash, Top Bunch, Top Pick

Corn—Sugary Enhanced:

Ambrosia, Delectable, Early Ambrosia, Kristine, Luscious, Manitou, Montauk, Precious Gem, Reflection, Sugar Buns, Trinity

Shrunken Hybrids: Holiday (bicolor), Iceberg (white), Mirai (bicolor), Optimum (bicolor), Symmetry (white)

Cucumber—Fresh: Armenia,
Burpee Hybrid II, Cobra, Dasher
II, Diva, Eureka, Fanfare, Kyoto
Three Feet, Marketmore 76,
Marketmore 86, Orient Express
(burpless), Poona Kheera (specialty), Rocky, Salad Bush,
Spacemaster, Straight Ace, Sweet
Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Jade

Pickling: Alibi, Bush Pickle, Calypso, Diamante, Eureka, Fancipak, Northern Pickling, Homemade Pickles

Eggplant—Black Beauty (heirloom), Black Bell, Diamond, Fairytale (striped), Ichiban, Machiaw, Millionaire, Nadia, Orient Express (Asian), Zebra

Garlic—Chesnok Red, German Extra Hardy, German Red, Giant Siberian, Inchellium Red, Killarney Red, Korean Red, Music, Polish Hardneck, Spanish Roja

Kale—Green Lance, Nagoya Garnish Red, Redbor, Red Russian, Toscano, Winterbor

Kohlrabi—Early White Vienna, Grand Duke, Purple Vienna, White Vienna

Leek—American Flag, King Richard, Lancelot, Lincoln, Otina

Melon—Amy, Angel, Athena, Early Dew, Early Gold, Early Queen, Early Sweet, Edonis, Gold Star, Iroquois, Passport, Serenade (butterscotch), Sun Jewel, Sweetie No. 6 (butterscotch), Sweet 'n Early

Onion—Red: Mars, Redwing, Red Bull, Red Burgermaster, Riverside Sweet Spanish, Stockton Red

White: Superstar

Yellow: Alisa Craig Exhibition, Big Daddy Hybrid, Candy, Cippolini, Copra, First Edition, Frontier, Gunnison, Mars, New York Early, Prince, Sweet Sandwich, Sweet Spanish, Yellow Candy, Yellow Granex, Yellow Sweet Spanish

Pea—Standard (needs to be

shelled): Burpeana Early, Dakota, Early Frosty, Eclipse, Feisty, Green Arrow, Little Marvel, Maestro, Maxigolt, Mister Big, Oregon Giant, Premium, Snow Green, Spring, Wando, Wavery

Snow (edible pod): Dwarf Grey Sugar, Mammoth Melting Sugar, Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Snow Bird, Snow Green, Sugar Ann, Sugar Spring, Super Sugar Snap

Snap (edible pod): Green Arrow, Sugar Ann, Sugar Bon, Sugar Daddy, Sugar Snap, Super Snappy, Super Sugar Pod II

Pepper, hot—Ancho: Ancho 101, Ancho San Martin, Beaver Dam, Tiburon, Ventura

Cayenne: Big Red, Charleston Hot, Long Red Slim

Habanero: Habanero, Hot Paper Lantern

Jalapeno: Biker Billy, Conchos, Early Jalapeno, Mucho Nacho

Serrano: Serrano Chili

Thai: Kung Pao, Thai Dragon Hybrid

Other: Cherry Bomb, Mariachi

VEGETABLE CULTIVARS AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN GARDENS

Pepper, sweet—Red: Antohi

Romanian, Biscayne (Cubanelle type), Blushing Beauty (cream changing to red), California Wonder, Carmen (horn-shaped), Cherry Pick, Crusader, Early Crisp, Fat 'N' Sassy, Fooled You (specialty), Giant Marconi, King Arthur, Lantern, Lipstick, Orion, Red Knight, Red Ruffled Pimento, Revolution, Round of Hungary (cheese type), Sheepnose Pimento (heirloom, cheese type), Snapper, Sweet Banana, Yankee Bell

Brown: Chocolate Beauty, Sweet Chocolate, Tawny Port (redbrown)

Ivory: Alba, Bianca

Orange: Aruba, Gourmet, Gypsy, Sunrise Orange, Tangerine Pimento

Purple: Purple Marconi, Islander, Lilac Bell

Yellow: Golden Baby Belle, Sunray, Super Heavyweight, Yellow Corno di Toro

Potato—Red skinned: Chieftain, Dark Red Norland, Red LaSoda, Red Pontiac, Rideau, Sangre

Russet: Freedom Russet, Gold Rush, Russett Burbank, Russett Norkotah

Specialty: All Blue, French Fingerling, Princess La Ratte (a.k.a Ratte or La Ratte, heirloom), Russian Banana (heirloom)

White: Kennebec, Onaway, Superior

Yellow fleshed: Carola, German Butterball (heirloom), Granola, Nicola, Yukon Gold

Pumpkin—Miniature: Baby Bear, Baby Boo, Baby Pam, Batwing, Jack Be Little, Wee-B-Little **Small:** Casper, Orange Smoothie, Schooltime, Small Sugar (heirloom)

Medium: Autumn Gold, Cinderella, Lumina, Sorcerer, Tom Fox, Wolf

Large: Charisma, Rock Star, Wyatt's Wonder, One Too Many, Rouge Vif d'Etempes (heirloom)

Giant: Connecticut Field, Howden Biggie, Prizewinner

Radish—Red: Champion,

Cherriette, Cherry Belle, Cherry Bomb II, Early Scarlet Globe, French Breakfast (heirloom)

White or green: Burpee White, Daebu Summer, Green Meat, Icicle Short Top, Red Meat (green skin, red flesh, heirloom), Snow Belle, Tae Baek, White Icicle

Daikon: April Cross, Minowase Summer Cross, Miyashige, Omny, Summer Cross, Tama Cross

Specialty: Easter Egg II (rainbow mix), Hattorikun (leaf), Nero Tondo (black)

Salad greens—Batavia: Nevada, Sierra, Tiede

Butterhead: Bibb Blend, Buttercrunch, Deer Tongue, Ermosa, Four Seasons, Loma, Nevada, Sylvesta, Yugoslavian Red Butterhead

Head: Black Jack, Cerbiata, Firecracker, Great Lakes, Iceberg, Igloo, Natidad, Prizehead, Red Giant, Red Grand Rapids, Ruby Red, Salad Bowl, Summertime **Leaf:** Aruba, Baby Oakleaf, Black-Seeded Simpson (heirloom), Dark Lolla Rossa (heirloom), Green Oakleaf Tango, Oakleaf, Prizeleaf, Red Sail, Red Salad Bowl, Royal Oak Leaf, Salad Bowl, Sunfire, Simpson Elite, Vulcan

Mixes: French Nicoise Blend, Provencal Winter Mix, Tangy Mesclun Blend

Mustards: Golden Frill, Green Wave, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Red Mustard, Ruby Streaks

Radicchio: Red Surprise, Virtus

Romaine: Baby Star, Cimmeron, Claremont, Cos, Freckles (heirloom), Giant Caeser, Green Forest, Jerico, Little Caeser, Little Gem, Parris Island, Red Triangle, Rosalita, Rouge D'Hiver, Vivian, Winter Density

Other: Frizz E (endive), Mizuna Early, Mizuna Tokyo

Spinach—Avon Hybrid, Baby Leaf Hybrid, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Harmony Hybrid, Melody, Reddy Hybrid, Salad Fresh, Tyee Hybrid, New Zealand

Squash, summer—Straightneck:

Butterstick, Gold Rush, Golden Dawn, Multipik, Saffron, Sunray, Zephyr (green tip), Sweet Gourmet

Crookneck: Pic-n-Pic, Sundance

Patty Pan/Scallop: Patty Green Tint, Peter Pan (green), Scallopini, Sunburst, Sunny Delight



Planting guide

	PLANTING TIME		SEEDS OR PLANTS		SPACING			Estimated
Vegetable	Indoors at Madison ^a	Outdoors at Madison ^a	For 100 feet of row	Seed depth (inches)	Between rows (inches)	Between plants (inches)	Days to first harvest ^b	yield per foot of row ^c
Asparagus		April 15	50 crowns	6-8 ^d	36-40	18-24	1–2 years	1.00
Bean, bush lima		May 25	8 oz	1	24-30	3–4	70-80	0.30
Bean, bush snap		May 10	8 oz	1	18-24	2-3	50-60	0.50
Bean, pole snap		May 10	6 oz	1	30–36	3–4	60-65	0.70
Beet		April 15	$1-1\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1/2	15-18	2-3	50-60	0.50-1.50
Broccoli	March 15	May 1 (plants)	40-50 plants		24-36	18-24	60-70	0.80
Brussels sprouts		May 15 (seeds)	½ oz	1/2	24-30	12-18	90-100	1.00
Cabbage, early	March 15	May 1 (plants)	50-70 plants		18-24	12-18	60-70	2.00
Cabbage, late		May 15 (seeds)	½ oz	1/2	24-30	18-24	90-100	2.50
Carrot		April 15	½ oz	1/4	15–18	1–2	60-70	1.00-1.50
Cauliflower	March 15	May 1 (plants)	50-70 plants		24-30	12-18	50-60	0.80
Celeriac	March 15	May 20 (plants)	200–300 plants	3 1/8	24–36	4–6	110	1.10
Celery	March 15	May 20 (plants)	200 plants	1/8	30–36	4–6	100-110	2.00
Chard		April 15	$1-1\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1/2	15–18	3–4	40-50	2.00
Chinese cabbage		June 20 (seeds)	½ oz	1/2	24-30	10-12	90-100	3.00
Collards		June 20 (seeds)	½ oz	1/2	24–36	12–24	60–85	1.90
Corn		May 10, May 25 ^e	100–150	$1-1\frac{1}{2}$	30–36	8–10	65–90	1.50
Cucumber		June 1 (seeds)	½ oz	1	36–40	4–8	38–55	2.00-2.25
Eggplant	March 15	June 1 (plants)	50–60 plants	_	30–36	18–24	70–80	1.75
Endive	1,101,011,10	June 25	1 oz	1/4-1/2	18–24	8–10	90	0.50
Kale		June 25	½ oz	1/2	24–30	8–10	50–70	0.75
Kohlrabi		April 15	8 oz	3/4	15–18	3–4	50–60	1.50
Lettuce, head	March 15	May 1 (plants)	100 plants	/ =	15–18	8–10	60–70	0.50
Lettuce, leaf	1,101-011-10	April 15	1/4 oz	1/4	15–18	2–3	40–50	0.25
Muskmelon	May 1	May 20 (plants)	34–50 plants	/ =	36–40	24–36	80–90	2.00
Mustard	lilay 1	April 15	¹ / ₃ oz	1/4	18–24	2–3	40	0.50
Okra	April 15	June 1 (plants)	50–75 plants	/ =	42–60	8–24	50–60	0.60
Onion	Feb. 15	May 1 (plants)	300–400		15–18	3–4	110–120	2.00
Onion, sets	1 00. 10	April 15	3–4 lb	2	15–18	1–2	40–50	1.00
Parsley (plants)	March 1	May 1	100 plants		18–24	6–8	30–40	0.25
Parsnip	Triaren 1	April 15	½ oz	1/2-3/4	24–30	2–3	100–120	1.50
Pea		April 15	1 lb	1	15–18	1–2	60–70	0.25-0.50
Pepper	April 1	June 1 (plants)	50–60 plants	•	30–36	18–24	60–70	2.00
Potato, early	Tipin i	April 15	12–15 lb	3–4	30–36	12–15	80–100	1.50
Potato, midseason		April 15	12–15 lb	3–4	30–36	12–15	100–120	2.00
Potato, late		April 15	12–15 lb	3–4	30–36	12–15	120–140	2.50
Pumpkin	May 1	May 20 (plants)	34–50 plants	0 1	48–60	24–36	90–110	2.00
Tumpkin	Iviay 1	May 10 (seeds)	½ oz	$1-1\frac{1}{2}$	48–60	24–36	90–110	2.00
Radish		April 15	1 oz	1/2-3/4	15–18	1–2	25–30	0.50
Rhubarb		April 15	35 crowns	3–4	48–54	36	1 year	2.00
Rutabaga		June 15	1/8 oz	3/4	24–30	6–8	100–110	3.00
Salsify		April 15	/8 OZ 1∕2 OZ	1/2	18	2–3	120	0.75
		•	72 OZ 1 oz	⁷² ¹ /2- ³ /4	15–18	2–3 1–2	40–50	1.00
Spinach		April 15	1 oz ½ oz	$\frac{72-74}{1-1\frac{1}{2}}$	48–60	24–36	50–60	2.00
Squash, summer	May 1	May 20 (plants)						2.00
Squash, fall	May 1	May 20 (plants)	34–50 plants	$1-1\frac{1}{2}$	72–84	24–36	90–120	
Tomato	April 15	May 20 (plants)	34–60 plants	14 34	36–42	18–36	65–80	2.00–4.00
Turnip		April 15	1/4 OZ	1/2-3/4	18–24	2–3	60–70	2.00
Watermelon		May 20	½ oz	1	96	96	75–90	2.00

^aPlant 1–2 weeks later along the lower lake shore and in the central part of state and 2–3 weeks later in northern counties.

^bCultivars vary greatly in time needed to reach harvest stage; extend the harvest season by planting cultivars of different maturity dates or by making successive plantings of the same cultivar.

^cEstimated yields under less than ideal growing conditions; actual yields will vary widely with weather, soil fertility and cultural practices.

^dTwo inches of soil covering at planting. Gradually fill trench 6–8 inches with soil as plants grow.

 $^{^{}e}\mbox{May}$ 25 for sugary enhancers and supersweets.

VEGETABLE CULTIVARS AND PLANTING GUIDE FOR WISCONSIN GARDENS

Zucchini: Black Beauty, Burpee Hybrid, Early Prolific, Eight Ball (round), Gadzukes, Greyzini, Magda, One Ball (round, white), Papaya Pear, Raven, Roly Poly (round), Sebring, Spineless Beauty, Tigress

Squash, winter—Acorn: Autumn Cup, Cream of the Crop, Early Acorn, Jet, Sweet Mama, Table Ace, Table Gold, Table King, Table Queen, Table Star, Table Treat, Tay Belle

Buttercup: Ambercup, Bonbon, Burgess, Buttercup, Emerald Bush Buttercup, Mooregold, Orange Cutie, Queensland Blue, Sun Spot, Super Delight

Butternut: Autumn Glow (heirloom), Bugle, Butter Boy, Early Butternut, Metro, Waltham

Delicata: Bush Delicata, Carnival, Cornell's Bush Delicata, Sweet Dumpling

Hubbard: Blue Hubbard, Golden Hubbard, Sugar Hubbard

Kabocha: Confection (grey), Sunshine

Spaghetti: Hasta La Pasta, Pasta Hybrid, Vegetable Spaghetti

Other: Long Island Cheese (ribbed), Marina Di Chioggia (turban-shaped)

Swiss chard—Bright Lights (multicolor), Charlotte (red), Fordhook Giant, Large White Ribbed, Lucullus, Monstruoso (white), Rainbow (multicolor), Ruby Red, Vulcan (red)

Tomato—Paste (Determinate):

Amish Paste, Red Agate, Roma VF, Viva Italia

Slicing (Determinate): Bush Beefsteak, Bush Celebrity, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity, Ensalada (plum), Mountain Pride, Mountain Spring, Orange Blossom, Oregon Spring, Patio Princess, Sweet Tangerine, Ultrasweet

Slicing (Indeterminate): Better Boy, Big Beef, Big Boy, Black Krim (heirloom), Black Prince (heirloom), Brandywine (heirloom), Champion, Cherokee Purple (heirloom), Dafel, Early Girl, First Lady, Fourth of July, Long-Keeper, Mortgage Lifter (heirloom), Pink Beauty, Quimbaya, Steak Sandwich, Striped German, Tolstoi Cherry (Indeterminate): Brown Berry, Golden Sweet, Juliet, Red Grape, Small Fry, Sugary, Sugar Snack, Sun Cherry, Super Sweet 100, Sweet Cluster, Sweet Million, Tiny Tim (D), Yellow Pear (heirloom)

Watermelon—Amy, Chris Cross, Crimson Sweet, Golden Crown, Little Baby Flower, Moon and Stars (heirloom), New Queen, Sugar Baby, Sweet Beauty, Sweet Favorite, Yellow Baby, Yellow Doll

Seedless: Mini Yellow, Orange Sweet, Solitaire



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