

Recommended Vegetable Cultivars for Maryland Home Gardens

Part of the fun of growing your own vegetables is choosing from the thousands of cultivars available from seed companies, seed saver exchanges, and fellow gardeners. The listed cultivars have performed well over a wide range of soil and weather conditions in different locations around the state. Maryland Master Gardeners selected many of these cultivars through a written survey. It is not possible to list all of the cultivars of each vegetable crop that would produce a satisfactory harvest in Maryland. Use this list and your past experience as a guide. Check with neighbors and other gardeners in your area to find out which cultivars grow best. Please contact us to let us know if any of your favorite cultivars are missing from this list.

The characteristics of a single cultivar, including yield, flavor and pest resistance may vary somewhat depending on soil type, planting date, weather conditions and gardening techniques. If you have a particularly severe disease problem in your garden, select those cultivars with known resistance. Both open-pollinated and hybrid cultivars are listed (hybrids are followed by a “*”). With certain crops, like broccoli and sweet corn, hybrids tend to be more uniform and vigorous. Hybrid cultivars of all vegetable crops are more likely to have genetic resistance to specific diseases. Conversely, many open-pollinated cultivars have stood the test of time in Maryland gardens and will “come true” when grown from seed saved from the previous crop. Be aware, however, that many insect-pollinated crops, like squash and pumpkin are readily cross-pollinated if more than one cultivar of a single species is grown. In these cases, plants grown next season from saved seed will not come true unless special precautions are taken.

Definitions of terms found in seed catalogs:

Cultivar- a cultivated variety of a specific crop. Example: ‘Red Ace’ is a beet cultivar.

Open-pollinated (non-hybrid)- the seed saved each year is true to type: seedlings that grow from the saved seeds will be identical, or nearly identical, to the mother plants. **Pollination-** the movement of pollen from male to female flower parts- occurs naturally by wind and insects.

Hybrid- these cultivars result from the controlled cross breeding of two distinct, inbred, open-pollinated cultivars. The seed harvested from this intentional cross will produce an F₁ (first filial) hybrid. Hybrids tend to be vigorous, uniform, and productive, and many have some disease and/or insect resistance. Producing hybrid tomato seed is labor intensive, requiring the emasculation of each flower. This accounts, in part, for the often higher price. Also, hybrid seed is not true to type. This means that seed saved from this year’s crop and planted next year will not be uniform in appearance or identical to the mother plants. Therefore, hybrid seed must be purchased each year.

Heirloom- these cultivars are open-pollinated (non-hybrid). Seed saved each year is true to type. Heirloom cultivars persist because their seed is saved and passed down from one generation to the next. They contain valuable germplasm that would be lost without the efforts of individual gardeners, farmers, small seed companies, seed-saving groups, and the USDA. They often have a colorful history and add interest to the garden and dinner table. Heirloom cultivars vary widely in productivity and disease and insect resistance.

Treated seed- is coated with a chemical fungicide to prevent injury from soil-dwelling diseases after seeds are planted. The most common crops treated are corn, pea, and bean. The fungicide coating is usually pink or purple.

Organic seed- is harvested from crops that are grown and certified according to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) guidelines. Organic seed must be produced and handled by certified organic producers. The NOP requires organic farmers to plant organic seed unless it is not commercially available. All seed used in organic production must be untreated (no fungicides applied). You can grow vegetables organically at home using non-organic, untreated seeds.

Cultivars are listed in alphabetical order.

(* = HYBRID CULTIVAR)

ARTICHOKE

Imperial Star*

ASPARAGUS

Jersey Supreme*, Jersey Knight*, Purple Passion, Jersey Giant*

BEAN

Bush type-green snap: Black Valentine, all Bush Blue Lake types, Contender, Dragon Tongue, Derby, Greensleeves, Jade, Provider, Roma II, Romano (Italian flat podded), Royal Burgundy, Spectacular, Tenderpod, Tenderette, Topcrop

Pole type: Kentucky Blue, Kentucky Wonder, Pole Romano, Rattlesnake, Trionfo Violetto

Filet/flageolet type: Maxibel, Tavera

Half-runner type: White Half-Runner

Bush type-wax: Cherokee Wax, Goldcrop, Goldfinger, Goldrush, Major, Nugget, Rocdor, Yellow Wax

Bush lima: Burpee's Improved, Dixie Butter Pea, Fordhook 242, Henderson Bush

Pole lima: Dr. Martin, King of the Garden, Prizetaker, Sieva

BEET

Bull's Blood, Chiogga, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Early Wonder, Red Ace*, Red Ball*, Ruby Queen

Winter storage: Lutz Winterkeeper

For greens: Crosby Green Top, Early Wonder Tall Top, Lutz Green Leaf

BROCCOLI

Arcadia*, Bonanza*, Calabrese, Goliath*, Green Comet*, Marathon*, Packman*, Premium Crop*, Southern Comet*, Waltham 29

BROCCOLI RAAB

Even' Star American Rapa, Spring Raab

BRUSSELS SPROUT

Diablo, Jade Cross E*, Long Island Improved, Prince Marvel*, Valiant

CABBAGE

Copenhagen, Danish Ballhead, Dynamo*, Early Flat Dutch, Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre (spring crop), Jersey Queen, Market Prize*, Krautman, Savoy, Savoy Express*, Savoy King*, Stonehead*

Red: Meteor, Red Ace, Red Danish Ballhead, Red Rock, Red Verone, Ruby Ball*

Chinese: China Doll, Jade Pagoda*, Joi Choi*, Me Qing Choi*

CARROT

Atomic Red, all Chantenay types, all Danvers types, Emperor, Lindoro, Little Finger, Minicor, Mokum, all Nantes types, Napoli, Purple Haze, Short n Sweet, Sweet Treat, Thumbelina

CAULIFLOWER

Early Hybrid, all Snow Ball types, Snow Crown*, Violet Queen*

CELERY

Florida 683, all Utah 52-70 strains

CHARD, SWISS

5 Color Silverbeet (aka Rainbow, Bright Lights), Fordhook, Golden, Lucullus, Rhubarb, Ruby Red

COLLARD

Blue Max*, Champion, Even' Star Champion, Georgia Southern, Morris Heading, Top Bunch, Vates

CORN, SWEET

Yellow: Bodacious*, Clockwork*, Frosty, Golden Bantam, Golden Queen*, Illini, Incredible*, Iochief*, Kandy Corn*, Lancelot*, Seneca Chief*, Sugar Buns*, Sundance*, Sunglow

White: Argent*, How Sweet It Is*, Platinum Lady*, Silver Queen*, Silver King*, Silverado*

Bi-color: Ambrosia*, Bi Queen*, Butter and Sugar*, Harmony*, Honey and Cream, Park's Honey & Pearl*, Peaches N Cream*, Sweet Sue*

CUCUMBER

Slicing: Fanfare*, Marketmore 76, Park's Bush Whopper, Poinsett 76, Slicemaster*, Straight Eight, Sweet Burpless, Sweet Slice*, Sweet Success*, Tendergreen

Pickling: Bush Pickle, Calypso*, County Fair*, Early Pik, Lemon, National Pickling

Asian/European: Carmen*, Palace King*, Suyo Long

EGGPLANT

Black Beauty, Classic*, Dancer*, Dusky*, Fairy Tale”, Ghostbuster*, Long Purple, Nadia*, Purple Rain*, Rosita

Asian type: Asian Bride, Machiaw, Millionare, Oriental Charm*, Ping Tung Long

ENDIVE

Batavian, Green Curled

GARLIC

Hard-necked (rocamboles): all cultivars

Soft-necked: all cultivars

KALE

Dutch Verdura, Dwarf Scotch, Dwarf Siberian, Lacinato, Redbor, Red Russian, Winterbor, Vates Types

KOHLRABI

Early White Vienna, Grand Duke*, Kolibri, Purple Vienna

LEEKS

American Flag, Broad London, Titan

LETTUCE

Crisphead: all cultivars- Iceberg, Ithaca, Little Gem

Butterhead: all cultivars- Bibb (Limestone), Boston, Buttercrunch, Tiny Tim, Tom Thumb

Romaine/Cos: Cimarron, Cocarde, Forellenschluss, Little Caesar, Parris Island Cos, Rosalita

Leaf: all cultivars- Black Seeded Simpson, Cracoviensis, Deer Tongue, Grand Rapids, Great Lakes, Green Ice, Lollo Rossa, Merlot, New Red Fire, Oak Leaf (green and red), Red Sails, Redina, Ruby, Salad Bowl, Summertime, Tango, Vulcan

MUSKMELON

Ambrosia*, Burpee Hybrid*, Crème de La Crème, Gold Star*, Jenny Lind, Superstar*, Sweet and Early

Honeydew: Earlidew, Marygold, Venus

Other melons: Crenshaw

MUSTARD

Green Wave, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Tendergreen

OKRA

Annie Oakley II*, Burgundy, Cajun Delight*, Clemson Spineless, Dwarf Green Pod, Emerald, Star of David

ONION

From seed/plants: Ailsa Craig, Candy*, Ebenezer, Cipollini, Golden Globe, Italian Red Bottle, Kelsae Sweet Giant, Longkeeper, Red Stutgart, Sweet Sandwich, Walla Walla, White Lisbon, White Sweet Spanish, Yellow Globe

PARSNIP

All-American, Hollow Crown, Harris Model

PEA

Garden: Alaska, Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Laxton's Progress,, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro, Novella II, Patriot, Sparkle, Wando

Edible-podded: Dwarf Gray Sugar, Melting Sugar Mammouth, Oregon Sugar Pod types, Sugar Ann, Sugar Snap, Sugar Snow, Sugar Sweet

PEPPER

Sweet (red): Ace*, Banana, Bell Boy*, Big Bertha*, Big Dipper, Cal Wonder, Emerald Giant, Jupiter*, Keystone Resistant Giant, Mohawk, Park's Whopper, Peto Wonder, Redskin (container), Yolo Wonder

Sweet (yellow/orange): Blushing Beauty, Valencia*, Yellow Golden Giant

Italian frying: Carmen, Corno di Toro, Cubanelle, Gypsy, Marconi

Very pungent chiles: Habanero, Jalapeno, Red Cayenne, Scotch Bonnet, Serrano, Serrano del Sol*, Super Cayenne*, Thai Dragon

Less pungent chiles: Ancho (poblano), Ancho 101, Holy Mole, Hungarian Yellow Wax, Jalapeno M, Mexibelle* (bell type), Mulatto, Pasilla Baja

Annahein/Numex types: Anaheim, Big Chile*, Big Jim, Super Chili*

POTATO

Blue, Butte, Caribe, Gold Rush, Irish Cobbler, Katahdin, Kennebec, Norgold Russett, Red Bison, Red Norland, Red Pontiac, Rose Gold, Yellow Finn, Yukon Gold

PUMPKIN

Giant: Big Max, Dill's Atlantic Giant

Jack-o-lantern: Connecticut Field, Howden, Lumina, Spookie, Triple Treat

Pie: Baby Bear, Small Sugar, Pie, Sugar Baby, Triple Treat

Ornamental: Jack-Be-Little

RADISH

Champion, Cherry Belle, Cherry Bomb, Crimson Giant, Easter Egg, French Breakfast, Long French, Prinz Rotin, Red Top, Salad Rose, Scarlet Globe, White Icicle

Asian/daikon: April Cross, Daikon, Miyashige

RHUBARB

Cherry Red, Valentine, Victoria

RUTABAGA

American Purple Top, Laurentian

SOUTHERN PEA

Brown Crowder, California Blackeye #5, Extra Early Blackeye, Mississippi Silver, Purple Hull, Queen Anne

SPINACH

America, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Melody*, Space*, Tyee*

Other: Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Summer, Perpetual Spinach (a beet subspecies)

SQUASH

Zucchini: Black Beauty, Burpee Hybrid*, Cocozelle, Costata Romanesco, Park's Green Magic, Pic N Pic, Roly Poly, Seneca, Zucchini Elite

Summer yellow: Dixie*, Early Prolific Straight Neck, Goldbar, Multipik, Parks Creamy, Seneca Prolific, Sundance*, Yellow Crookneck

Winter: all Buttercup types, Carnival, Delicata (Sweet Potato), Jersey Acorn, North Georgia Candy Roaster, Sweet Dumpling, Table Ace* (acorn) Lakota, Table Queen (acorn), Tahitian Melon Squash, Waltham Butternut

Other: Patty Pan (scallop), Peter Pan* (scallop), Spaghetti, Sunburst* (scallop), Tivoli (spaghetti), White Bush Scallop

SWEET POTATO

Centennial, Georgia Jet, Jewel, Porto Rico, Vardaman

TOMATO

Red: Better Boy*, Big Beef*, Big Boy*, Bucks County, Celebrity*, Delicious, Early Girl*, First Prize, Fourth of July, Jet Star*, Mortgage Lifter, Park's Whopper*, Paul Robeson, Red Pear, Rutgers, Stupice, Supersonic*, Supersteak, Tomosa

Pink/purple: Cherokee Purple, German Johnson, Giant Belgian, Brandywine, Pruden's Purple

Yellow: Banana Legs, Golden Boy, Green Zebra, Kellogg's Breakfast, Lemon Boy, Sungold, Yellow Pear

Bi- or tri-colored: Big Rainbow, Georgia Streak, Mammoth German Gold, Pineapple, Striped German

Paste: Amish Paste, Roma, San Marzano, San Remo, Super Italian, Viva Italia*

Cherry: Gardener's Delight, Sweet Chelsea, Sun Cherry, Sun Gold, Sweet 100*, Sweet Million*

Grape: Golden Sweet*, Juliet*, Red Candy, Santa*, Solid Gold, Smarty*

TURNIP

Roots and greens: Purple Top White Globe, Seven Top, Tokyo Cross*

Greens: All Top Hybrid*, Shogoin

WATERMELON

Crimson Sweet, Jubilee, Midnight, Moon and Stars, Strawberry, Sugar Baby, Yellow Doll*

Cultivars for Container Gardening (See HG 600)

Any cultivar of the following crops:

Leaf lettuce, spinach, kale, mesclun mix, radish, mustard greens, leafy Asian vegetables, herbs, Swiss chard, turnip greens, pepper

BEAN

Filet/flageolet type: Masai, Maxibel, Tavera, Blue Lake bush

Pole type: Kentucky Blue, Kentucky Wonder, Pole Romano

CARROT

Little Finger, Napoli, Short n Sweet, Thumbelina

CUCUMBER

Bush Champion, Bush Crop, Fanfare, Park's Better Bush, Pickle Bush, Patio Pickles*, Pot Luck*, Salad Bush*, Spacemaster,

EGGPLANT

Bambino, Calliope, Fairy Tale*, Ghostbuster*, Little Fingers, Long Purple, Millionaire

LETTUCE:

Mini head lettuce – Aruba, Baby Oakleaf, Tiny Tim, Tom Thumb

ONION

Evergreen Bunching, Crystal Wax

SQUASH

Summer: Geode, Goldbar, Gold Rush, Roly Poly

Winter: Bush Delicata, Bush Acorn

TOMATO (any cultivars described as “patio”, or “hanging basket”. Cherry tomato fruits are small but the plants may get very large depending on the cultivar).

Celebrity, Patio, Pixie, Sweet Chelsea, Tiny Tim, Totem, Tumbling Tom (red or yellow)

VEGETABLE SEED COMPANIES

This is a partial list of mail order vegetable seed companies. Whenever possible, patronize local garden centers and local retail stores to buy seeds. *Mention of specific companies is not intended as an endorsement by the University of Maryland.*

Bountiful Gardens

18001 Shafer Ranch Rd

Willits CA 95490

Phone: (707) 459-6410

Fax: (707) 459-1925

www.bountifulgardens.org

Organic open pollinated seeds;
rare and heirloom vegetables

W. Atlee Burpee

300 Park Ave.

Warminster, PA 18974

(800)888-1447

FAX (800) 487-5530

Info. (800) 333-5808

www.burpee.com

Wide selection of vegetables,
flower, and herb seeds

The Cook's Garden

PO Box C5030

Warminster, PA 18974

Phone: (800) 457-9703

www.cooksgarden.com

Heirloom and unusual vegetables

FEDCO

P.O. Box 520

Waterville, ME

Phone: (207) 873-7333

www.fedcoseeds.com

A cooperative with good prices and large selection

Filaree Farm

182 Conconully Highway

Okanogan, Washington 98840

Phone: (509) 422-6940

www.filareefarm.com

Over 100 unique strains of seed garlic

Harris Seeds

355 Paul Road

P.O. Box 24966

Rochester, NY 14624-0966

Phone: (800) 544-7938

Fax: (877) 892-9197

www.harriseseeds.com

Supplier of high quality flower and vegetable seeds

Henry Field's Seed & Nursery Co.

P.O. Box 397
Aurora, IN 47001-0397
Phone: (513) 354-1494
Fax: (513) 354-1496
www.henryfields.com

Johnny's Selected Seeds

955 Benton Avenue
Winslow, Maine 04901
Phone: (877) 564-6697
Fax: (800) 738-6314
www.johnnyseeds.com
Informative catalog, many varieties
of vegetable and flower seeds

Kitazawa Seed Company

PO Box 13220
Oakland, CA 94661-3220
Phone: (510) 595-1188
Fax: (510) 595-1860
www.kitazawaseed.com
Asian vegetable seeds

Landis Valley Museum Heirloom Seed Project

2451 Kissel Hill Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone: (717) 569-0401
Fax: (717) 560-2147
www.landisvalleymuseum.org/seeds.php
Pennsylvania-Dutch heirloom vegetable, herb and
flower seed

D. Landreth Seed Company

60 East High Street, Bldg #4
New Freedom, PA 17349
Phone (800) 654-2407
www.landrethseeds.com
"America's Oldest Seed House"
Offers 18th and 19th century flower and vegetable
varieties

Meyer Seed Company of Baltimore

600 S Caroline St
Baltimore, MD 21231-2813
Phone: (410) 342-4224
No Web address; call for a catalog
Popular varieties of flowers,
vegetables, turfgrass, and cover crops.

Nichols Garden Nursery

1190 Old Salem Road NE
Albany, Oregon 97321-4580
Phone: (800) 422-3985.
Fax: (800) 231-5306.
www.nicholsgardennursery.com
Broad selection of "ethnic" and unusual herbs,
vegetables and flowers

Park Seed Co.

1 Parkton Ave
Greenwood, SC 29647
Phone: (800) 213-0076
Fax: (800) 275-9941
www.parkseed.com
Hundreds of vegetable and flower varieties

Pinetree Garden Seeds

P.O. Box 300
New Gloucester, ME. 04260
Phone: (207) 926-3400
www.superseeds.com
Small, inexpensive seed packets

Seed Savers Exchange

3094 North Winn Rd,
Decorah, Iowa 52101
Phone: (563) 382-5990
Fax: (563) 382-6511
www.seedsavers.org
Seed Savers Exchange - a non-profit organization
dedicated to the preservation of heirloom seeds

Seeds from Italy

P.O. Box 149
Winchester, MA 01890
Phone: (781) 721-5904
<http://growitalian.com>
Vegetable cultivars imported from Italy

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

P.O. Box 460
Mineral, VA 23117
Phone: (540) 894-9480
Fax: (540) 894-9481
www.southernexposure.com
Specialize in heirloom cultivars for the mid-Atlantic
and mid-South

Stokes Seeds

PO Box 548

Buffalo, New York 14240-0548

Phone: (800) 396-9238

Fax: (888) 834-3334

www.stokeseeds.com

Huge selection of vegetable and flower seeds

Thompson & Morgan

220 Faraday Ave.

Jackson, NJ 08527-5073

Phone: (800) 274-7333

www.tmseeds.com**Territorial Seed Co.**

PO Box 158

Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Phone: (800) 626-0866

www.territorialseeds.com**Vermont Bean Seed Co.**

334 W. Stroud St.

Randolph, WI 53956

Phone: (800) 349-1071

www.vermontbean.com

Over 90 bean varieties and other unusual and heirloom vegetables

Research and editorial assistance: Jo Ann Russo and Paul Kojzar, University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners, Howard County

Reviewed by: Chuck McClurg, Ph.D., Extension Vegetable Specialist (retired), University of Maryland Extension

Mention of individual businesses does not constitute an endorsement by the Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland.

Do you have a plant or insect pest question?
Visit us at extension.umd.edu/hgic
and click [Ask Maryland's Garden Experts](#)

Author: Jon Traunfeld, University of Maryland Extension Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center

This publication is a series of publications of the University of Maryland Extension and The Home and Garden Information Center. For more information on related publications and programs, <http://extension.umd.edu/hgic>. Please visit <http://extension.umd.edu/> to find out more about Extension programs in Maryland.

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

For more information on this and other topics visit the University of Maryland Extension website at <http://extension.umd.edu>