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Selected Vegetable Varieties for Nebraska

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Vegetable varieties selected for home gardens should be adapted to the growing conditions in your area. These selected varieties will prosper in most areas of Nebraska. This is only a partial list; other varieties are available which may do well in your area. Your gardening experience, personal likes and dislikes, and intended use of your produce will determine desired varieties.

All-American selections are designated by an asterisk*. They are varieties which have been tested at trial gardens around the country. Varieties must be widely adapted and provide a quality product to receive this honored award. These varieties are worthy of consideration for planting in Nebraska.

Disease resistant or tolerant varieties should be grown when possible. Information on variety resistance and tolerance is included when available. The key below indicates the abbreviation used for diseases common in Nebraska gardens. Resistant or tolerant varieties are indicated by letter(s) in parentheses after the variety name.

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Vegetables that are suitable for container growth are indicated with (CG)

ASPARAGUS

Mary Washington (R) - large, thick, heavy dark green stalks.
Waltham Washington (R) - uniform, thick, dark green to purple stalks; freezes well.

BEANS - Bush Type

Bush Blue Lake types (most M, NY-15) - heavy yields; cans and freezes well. (CG)
*Contender (M, PM) - yields heavily; reddish-purple seeds; stringless pods. (CG)
*Improved Tendergreen (M) - purple mottled tan seeds; meaty pods; freezes well. (CG)
Jumbo - long, wide pods with romano-type shape; freezes well. (CG)
Roma - Italian type - broad, flattened pods; cans and freezes well. (CG)
Royalty Purple - purple pod turns green when boiled two minutes; cans and freezes well. (CG)
Tendercrop (M, NY-15) - round, straight, stringless pods; freezes well. (CG)
*Topcrop (M) - medium green stringless pods; compact growth. (CG)

BEANS - Bush Wax Type

*Gold Crop (M) - small compact growth; straight stringless pods; cans and freezes well. (CG)
Kinghorn Wax - round, yellow, smooth pods; cans and freezes well.

BEANS - Pole Type

Blue Lake (various strains) small seeds, stringless pods; good climber; freezes well.
Kentucky Wonder (R) - stringless pods; brown or white seeds; yields heavily; dependable.
Romano - Italian Pole - broad, flat medium green stringless pods; cans and freezes well.
Scarlet Runner - scarlet flowered vines; green flat pods.
Yard Long - very long pods; a novelty crop.

LIMA BEANS - Bush

*Fordhook 242 - most popular bush lima; freezes well. (CG)

LIMA BEANS - Pole

King of the Garden - old favorite; cans and freezes well.

EDIBLE SOY BEANS

Fiskeby V - early; yields 2-3 beans per pod.
Prize - edible green or dried; cans and freezes well.
BEETS
*Detroit Dark Red - globe shaped, smooth, uniform root; cans and freezes well. (CG)
Early Wonder - uniform semi-globe shaped root, smooth skin; cans and pickles well.
*Ruby Queen - uniform, deep red, smooth, round root; cans and pickles well. (CG)

BROCCOLI
Goliath - large medium green heads; short bushy plants.
*Green Comet - large heads; heat tolerant; freezes well.
*Premium Crop Hybrid - early; single head; freezes well.
Spartan Early - solid heads; the standard in early broccoli.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS
*Jade Cross Strains - vigorous, early, heavy yielding plant. (CG)
Long Island Improved - heavy yielding; cans and freezes well.

CABBAGE
Early
*Emerald Cross - early; round, smooth, compact medium blue-green heads. (CG)
*Hybrid Stonehead (Y) - extra early; round, solid heads. (CG)
Main Season
Gourmet (Y) - round, blue-green heads; good for kraut.
King Cole Hybrid (Y) - round, firm, uniform heads; white interior.
Roundup (Y) - slightly flattened rock hard heads; good for kraut.
Late
*Savoy King - compact, semi-flat heads; dark green; savoayed leaves.
Red
Red Acre (Y) - early; uniform, compact, hard heads; holds well without bursting.
Hybrid Red Head (Y) - uniform, solid, hard, slightly flattened heads.
*Hybrid Ruby Ball - small, solid heads, very uniform; holds well.

CANTALOUPE - see muskmelon

CARROTS
Red Cored Chantenay - reddish orange, tapered, stump rooted; yields well in heavy soil. (CG)
Danvers 126 - yields well in heavy soils; cans and freezes well. (CG)
Danvers Half Long - uniform; very sweet; garden favorite. (CG)
Nantes Coreless - medium sized; little visible core. (CG)
Tendersweet - smooth, uniform orange-red root. (CG)

CAULIFLOWER
Early Super Snowball - extra early; wrapper leaves provide protection to keep heads white.
*Snow Crown Hybrid - yields well under adverse conditions; smooth, well rounded, white heads.
*Snow King - early; heat tolerant; freezes well.

CHINESE CABBAGE
Burpee Hybrid - giant cylindrical heads; medium green outer leaves, white inner leaves.
Michihli - fall crops; keeps well; large heads with a spicy flavor.

COLLARDS
Georgia - non-heading; productive under adverse conditions; withstands light frost.
Vates - compact and uniform; widely adapted plant.

CORN
Early
Aztec - tolerant to cool soil and growing conditions; golden kernels.
Butter and Sugar - bi-colored ears with a good holding capacity.
Earliee - extra early; medium sized yellow ears.
*Early Extra Sweet - medium sized, golden ears.
Honey and Cream - bi-colored ears; tight husks help keep out earworms.
Spring Gold (SW) - early hybrid; small golden ears.
Sundance - ear size large for an early variety.
Midseason
Gold Cross Bantam A - slim ears; cans and freezes well.
Northrup King 199 - big, thick, heavy ears.
Merit - extra large, heavy ears; retains quality well.
Seneca Chief - slender ears; deep narrow kernels; freezes well.
Late
*Ichief - two ears per stalk; cans and freezes well.
Kandy Korn EH - large ears; retains quality well after harvesting.
Silver Queen (very susceptible to smut) - long ears; small white kernels.
Ornamental Corn
Calico Indian - decorative ears; strong stalks.
Rainbow - strictly decorative; large multicolored ears.

CUCUMBERS
Slicing
Gemini (A,DM,PM,M,S) - long, dark green fruit; yields well.
Marketmore 76 (S,PM,DM) - uniform, dark green colored fruit.
*Sweet Success (M,S) - long, slender, seedless, bitterfree fruit; high yielding gynoecious plants.
*Victory (S,M,A,PM,DM) - yields heavily; widely adapted.

Pickling
*Liberty Hybrid (S,M,ALS,PM,DM) widely adapted; black-spined, dark green, warty fruit.
*Saladin Hybrid Pickler (M,PM,BW) slender, semi-smooth skin; needs a pollinator plant to set fruit.

Bush Type
Bush Champion - short, compact vines; fruit long and straight. (CG)
Patio Pik (PM,DM,S) - compact plant; multi-purpose fruit; yields heavily. (CG)

EGGPLANT
Black Beauty - large, smooth, purplish-black fruit.
Dusky - early maturing; medium sized fruit. (CG)
Ichabod or Ichiban - long slender oriental eggplant.

ENDIVE
Batavian (Escarole) - upright broad, smooth, dark green outer leaves. (CG)
Salad King - heat tolerant; dark green, white-ribbed leaves.

KALE
Dwarf Blue Curled Vates - bluish-green color; retains color in cold weather. (CG)

KOHLRABI
Early Purple Vienna - purplish-green leaves and stems; flat, globe shaped bulb. (CG)
Early White Vienna - early, uniform plant with short tops and few leaves. (CG)
*Grand Duke Hybrid (BR) - uniform, tender bulbs; widely adaptable. (CG)
LEEK

Elephant - early, large, extra thick stalks; keeps well.
American Flag - hardy plant; very sweet flavor.

LETTUCE

Butterhead
Burpee Bibb - small loosely folded leaves; slow to bolt. (CG)
*Buttercrunch - compact, heavy heads; slow to bolt. (CG)

Leaf
Black-Seeded Simpson - extra early; large well crumpled light green leaves. (CG)
Oak Leaf - "oak leaf" shaped leaves; resists bolting and bitterness. (CG)
*Ruby - bright green, frilled leaves, shaded with red. (CG)
*Salad Bowl - large, medium-green, deeply lobed leaves; slow to bolt. (CG)

Cos or Romaine
Parris Island Cos (M) - tall, upright, light green leaves; yellow inner leaves. (CG)
Valmaine Cos (DM, M) - similar to Parris Island. (CG)

MUSKMELON or CANTALOupe (All Are Susceptible To Bacterial Wilt)

Ambrosia Hybrid (PM, DM) - very round fruit; small seed cavity. Burpee Hybrid - fruit are slightly oval; small seed cavity.
Crenshaw - long season; grow only in S.E.; excellent flavor for the connoisseur.
Earlisweet (F) - early, deep salmon colored flesh.
Hale's Best Jumbo - early; large fruit; salmon colored flesh.
Honeybush - 3-6 melons produced on bush-type plants; recommended for gardens with limited space.
Saticoy Hybrid (F, DM, PM) - oval; firm fruit; deep orange flesh.

OKRA

*Clemson Spineless - yields heavily; plants 4-5 feet tall; pods are best when picked young.
Lee - early; 3 foot plants; recommended for gardens with limited space. (CG)
Red - red pods, turn green when cooked.

MUSTARD

Southern Giant Curled - mild flavored, large bright green leaves. (CG)
Tendergreen - thick, very dark green, glossy leaves; slow to bolt. (CG)

ONIONS

Bunching
Evergreen White-Bunching non-bulbing; long, slender white stem.
Southport White Globe - standard bunching variety; mild flavor.

Globe
Ringmaster - large white Spanish type; developed for onion rings.
Yellow Sweet Spanish - large mild bulbs; does not store well.
Canada Maple - round bulbs have heavy skin, stores well.
Southport Red Globe - strong flavor; round purplish-red bulb stores well.
Spartan Sleeper (F) - thick skinned; good for long term storage.

PARSNIIPS

All American - large, broad, smooth, white roots.
Improved Hollow Crown - smooth root, white flesh; stores well.

PEAS

*Freeezonia - early; large peas; cans and freezes well.
Green Arrow (F, DM) - long slender pods grow in pairs; small sweet peas.
Little Marvel - dwarf plants; large peas; freezes well. (CG)
Novella - semi-leafless bushy plants; pods are easy to see and pick.
Wando - tolerant to heat and cold; peas are medium sized; cans and freezes well.
Lincoln - medium sized peas; cans well.

EDIBLE POD PEAS

Dwarf Grey Sugar - 2 1/2-3 inches long; light green pods; vines need no staking. (CG)
*Sugar Snap - succulent pod eaten whole or shelled; long vines require support; new type of pea; freezes well.

PEPPERS - HOT

Ace Hybrid - early; produces peppers at low temperatures.
*Bell Boy (M) - medium to thick walled variety; produces large early peppers. (CG)
*Gypsy - small bushy plants; medium-long sweet yellow-red fruit.
Tokyo Bell - early; medium-large sweet peppers.
Yolo Wonder (M) - Big, blocky, thick walled fruit; widely adapted.
Golden Bell - early maturing; large, deep gold fruit.

PEPPERS - SWEET

Hungarian Yellow Wax long-podded; cans and pickles well.
Jalapeno - small, sausage-shaped green peppers; very hot; pickles well.
Long Red Cayenne - very hot; cans and dries well.
Red Chili - small, very hot red peppers.

POPCORN

Burpee's Peppy Hybrid - 2-3 ears/stalk; large, white kernels; good in short summer areas.
White Cloud - plump ears; narrow, deep kernels.
Strawberry Popcorn - small red ears; use for popping or ornament.

POTATOES

Irish Cobbler - early maturing; white skinned; general use; stores well.
Kennebec - late maturing; white skinned; general use; doesn't store well.
Mayfair - mid-season crop; white skinned; general use; stores well.
Norland - early maturing; general use; red-skinned; stores well.
Red Pontiac - late maturing; red-skinned; stores well.

SWEET POTATO

Centennial - uniform; medium sized potatoes; stores well.
Jewel (F, N) - early; medium sized potatoes; stores well.

PUMPKINS

Big Max - fruit may weigh up to 100 pounds; use for pies or Jack 'O'Lanterns.
Jack O'Lantern - primarily for decorative use; use also for pies.
Lady Godiva (Streaker) - produces hull-less seed good for snacks; flesh not of table quality.
*Spirit - semi-bush plant; medium sized seed; good for ornamental use.

RADISH

Champion - round taproot with bright red skin. (CG)
*Cherry Belle - extra early; retains eating quality well. (CG)
White Icicle - white, thin taproot with mild flavor. (CG)
RHUBARB
Canada Red - small, red stalk; retains color when cooked.
Valentine - long stalks with deep red color throughout.
Victoria - broad, thick, green and red stalks.

RUTABAGAS
American Purple Top - large globe shaped root; stores well.

SPINACH
*America - broad savoyed leaves; slow to bolt. (CG)
*Bloomsdale - dark green savoyed leaves; slow to bolt. (CG)
*Melody (D,M) - thick, dark green oval leaves; freezes well. (CG)

SQUASH
Summer Green (bush type)
*Aristocrat Hybrid - dark green cylindrical fruit; yields heavily, widely adaptable. (CG)
*Greynini - early gray-green fruit. (CG)
*Peter Pan - scalloped light-green fruit; compact bush-type plants. (CG)

Summer Yellow (bush type)
Early Golden Summer Crookneck meaty fruits with small crook­neck.
*Early Prolific Straightneck - creamy yellow fruit; heavy yielding, bush-like plants.
*Gold Rush Hybrid - bright yellow, smooth skinned fruit.

Winter
Buttercup - dry, meaty, deep orange flesh; stores well.
*Early Butternut Hybrid - high yielding, semi-bush plant; fruit stores well.
Ponca - developed at the University of Nebraska; early medium size butternut type; cylindrical fruit; bakes well.
*Waltham Butternut - solid interior; yields heavily; stores well.
*Jersey Golden Acorn - dual purpose bush-type squash. Use immature fruit as summer squash; mature fruit as winter squash. (CG)
Royal Acorn - flesh is thick, dry and sweet; bakes well.
Table Queen - light yellow flesh; bakes and stores well.
*Sweet Mama Hybrid - short vines yielding many 2-3 lb. drum shaped fruit.

Novelty
Vegetable Spaghetti - medium, oblong fruit; harvest in late summer or fall; stores well.
Hubbard Types - vine type squash; very large fruit; stores well.
Luffa - edible when small and green; fibrous mature fruits are dried and used as scrubbbers.
Swiss Chard
Rhubarb Chard - crimson stalks with crumpled green leaves. (CG)
Fordhook Giant - dark green crumpled leaves with white stalks; yields heavily. (CG)
Lucullus - heavily crumpled yellow-green leaves. (CG)

TOMATO
Early
Champion - early; indeterminate plants with good disease resistance; very large fruit for an early variety.
Springset VF - extra early; medium sized fruit; yields heavily.
Ultra Girl VFN - firm red fruit that resists cracking; can be grown without staking.
Early Cascade VF - tall plant produces medium sized fruit through the season.

Main Season
Better Boy VFN - large uniform fruit; sturdy, widely adapted, high yielding plants.

Top Yield (A,F) - oblong, medium sized fruit; bright red flesh with few small seeds.

Bigset VFN - fruit set under both high and low temperature; crack resistant, smooth fruit.
Heinz 1350 (VF) - crack resistant fruit; suitable for canning.
Jet Star (VF) - medium large, firm, crack resistant fruit; well adapted.
President (V,F,N,) - medium large globe shaped fruit with firm, meaty flesh.
Show-Me (F) - dark red, blocky fruit with extra-firm flesh.
Super Sioux - reliable producer of medium sized, smooth, round fruit; fruit will set under high temperature.
Supersonic (V,F) - large, fleshy, firm fruit; crack resistant; yields heavily and widely adaptable.

Paste Tomatoes
Roma VF - firm, medium sized, plum-shaped fruit.
Nova VF - early deep red, medium sized fruit.
Veereoma VF - fruit is crack resistant, use for ketchup or can whole.

Novelty
Burgess Stuffing Tomato - firm, bright red and hollow.
Yellow Pear Tomato - small fruit; use for pickling or preserves.
Winter or Long-keeper - unblemished fruit may keep up to three months after harvest.

Yellow-Orange Varieties
Golden Boy - large, mild fruit.
*Jubilee - tangerine orange flesh with yellow skin; mild flavor; crack resistant.
Sunray (F) - large, firm, yellow-orange fruit.

Salad Type
*Small Fry VFN - small fruit, heavy yielder. (CG)
Pixy Hybrid - early ripening; can be grown in an 8” pot. (CG)
Presto Hybrid - early, half-dollar shaped fruit; yields heavily. (CG)
Sweet 100 Hybrid - very high yielder of 1” fruit. Plants grow quite large.

TURNIPS
*Tokyo Cross Hybrid - produces early; harvest as needed. (CG)
Purple-Top White Globe - round roots with white flesh; stores well. (CG)
Just Right Hybrid - smooth, white, flattened globe shaped root; foliage for greens. (CG)
Shogoin - grows quickly; for use as greens or root. (CG)
Seven Top - foliage type turnip for use as greens. (CG)

WATERMELONS
Small To Moderate Sized Fruit Variety
*New Hampshire Midget - early, 4-6 lb. fruit.
Petite Sweet - 10-12 lb. melons with extra sweet pinkish-red flesh; vines are small yet prolific.
Sugar Doll - semi-bush plant; fruit has sweet red flesh.
*Yellow Baby Hybrid - fruit is yellow with small seeds.

Large Fruit Varieties
Charleston Gray (A,F) - fine eating quality; standard for roadside markets.
Crimson Sweet (A,F) - fruit is practically seedless; yields heavily.
*Sweet Favorite (A,F) - oblong fruit with deep red flesh, high sugar content, and small seeds.

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