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# Home Vegetable Garden: Variety Recommendations for Utah

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# HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN: Variety Recommendations for Utah

*Dan Drost*, Extension Vegetable Specialist

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HG 313

Several factors need to be considered before selecting vegetable varieties for the home garden. Each variety has its own unique characteristics which make it acceptable or unacceptable. It is useful to understand the difference between hybrids and open-pollinated varieties, disease resistance potential, maturity characteristics, and other factors before considering a variety for inclusion in the garden.

## Hybrid vs Open-pollinated Varieties

Historically, most vegetables grown from seeds were produced from open-pollinated varieties (uncontrolled cross pollination). These open-pollinated varieties may have good disease resistance and produce acceptable yields. Recently, more hybrid seeds (controlled pollination—specific male and female parents) have been marketed for use in the home garden. Hybrid varieties are generally more vigorous and uniform in growth, possess better disease resistance and have greater productivity than open-pollinated varieties. However, hybrids are usually more expensive than open-pollinated. Performance differences between open-pollinated and hybrid varieties vary with the growing conditions. Compare several varieties to determine which performs best in your production area.

## Disease Resistance

Most hybrids and many of the open-pollinated varieties have resistance to many of the major vegetable diseases. Selection of varieties with disease resistance can reduce crop loss and minimize pesticide use in the home garden. When possible, use varieties with multiple disease resistance. This can help minimize the risk of a disease problem especially if persistent problems have occurred in the past. Seed catalogs and seed packets will list the diseases to which a variety is resistant.

## Maturity Characteristics

The number of days to crop maturity varies greatly with all vegetable species and varieties. Early maturing vegetables should develop in most growing areas of Utah. Early varieties should be planted first to ensure some crop productivity. Early maturing varieties of many vegetables do not have the quality of later maturing varieties. This is why it is important to only plant enough of those early varieties to supply your needs until better quality, later-maturing varieties are ready.

Vegetables with long maturity periods and those that require warm temperatures may not mature in some areas where early frosts occur. Growing vegetables that are adapted to your specific climatic conditions should ensure some productivity. Consult your local county extension office for information on the frost free period and recommended planting dates for your growing area.

## Other Factors

There are other factors that need to be considered before selecting a variety for the garden. These factors include plant size, processing characteristics, eating quality, color, flavor, adaptability, and tolerance to variations in climate. While some of this information is available in seed catalogs, the varieties included in this bulletin have performed well throughout Utah.

If you are unsatisfied with your present selections, this list can offer some alternatives. If you are looking for a new variety, trial it next to the one you presently grow for comparison. Then you can make an informed decision about the new variety. You may find something that grows well in your area that is not included in this list. It's all part of the joy of gardening.

Consult a variety of resources (seed catalogs, gardening books, and magazines) to get information on possible new varieties. Ask your local county agent, a knowledgeable gardener, or friend. All these sources can offer advice on what works well in a particular growing area.

Spend time planning the garden. Seed companies like those listed in this bulletin send out their home garden catalogs upon request. Some companies (#4, #9) specialize in varieties adapted to our particular growing conditions.

It is best to order seed catalogs during the late fall or early winter for next year's growing season. This will allow plenty of time to select the varieties you want and ensure that the company has those varieties in stock. It is not uncommon for popular varieties to be sold out during the winter. Orders placed during January or February are sure to arrive in time for planting in the spring. If you wait too long, seed may arrive after their optimal planting dates.

Seeds may also be purchased from garden centers, discount stores, super markets, nurseries, or other sources. However, these supply centers often have limited supplies and selections of varieties. Many of the varieties they stock may not be included in this publication.

Consult your garden center or nursery specialist for specific information on the varieties they have in stock. Some garden centers and nurseries make an effort to stock many of the varieties listed in this publication.

Transplants of specific varieties are often in short supply. Plant producers have to order seed and start planting months in advance of the gardening season. Check with your local nurseryman or garden center if you want a specific variety. They may be able to get it for you. If not, request that they grow them in the future. Most nurseries and garden centers generally grow and sell the varieties people ask for.

The following list contains some vegetable varieties suggested for Utah gardens. The

numbers in parentheses indicate the approximate number of days to harvest from seed or transplants. Crops normally transplanted are indicated. The numbers given under "Sources" refer to the seed companies listed on page 8. Hybrids are indicated by an (H) after the variety name. Other information is also listed to help identify the different varieties. All American Selections (AAS) are varieties that have performed well in all areas of the country. Fruit, kernel, or tuber color is also specified in the list where appropriate.

This is only a partial list of satisfactory varieties and seed sources. There are many excellent varieties available from these and other seed companies. The exclusion of other varieties or seed companies in no way indicates that they are undesirable.

## RECOMMENDED VEGETABLE VARIETIES

(Sources Page 8)

VEGETABLE	SOURCES
<b>Asparagus</b> (perennial) - transplanted	Check local nurseries for availability of crowns and varieties.
<b>Beans</b>	
Bush (green) type	
Blue Lake (58)	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
Derby (AAS*) (57)	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Slenderette (53)	3, 4, 6
Strike (45)	3, 4
Dry	
Great Northern (85)	2, 9
Pinto (90)	6
Red Kidney (95)	2, 6, 9
Lima	
Forkhook 242 (75)	2, 6, 10
Pole (green) type	
Blue Lake (63)	1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9
Kentucky Blue (AAS*) (58)	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10
Wax (yellow) type	
Gold Crop (54)	1, 2, 4, 8
<b>Beets</b>	
Cylindra (60)	3, 4, 6, 7, 9
Detroit Dark Red (63)	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
Golden Beet (55) (Yellow)	1, 2, 5, 9

**Broccoli** - transplanted

Green Comet (AAS*) (H) (55)	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
Packman (H) (55)	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
Premium Crop (H) (65)	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

**Brussels Sprouts** - transplanted

Jade Cross (H) (90)	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
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**Cabbage** - transplanted

Danish Ballhead (100)	3, 4
Golden Acre (58)	2, 4, 9
Ruby Ball (H) (70) (red)	3, 4, 7
Savoy Ace (H) (78)	1, 7

**Carrots**

A-Plus Hybrid (H) (71)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
Danvers Half Long (73)	2, 4, 7, 9
Pioneer Hybrid (H) (67)	4
Scarlet Nantes (68)	3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Thumbalina (AAS*) (70)	2, 4, 6, 9, 10

**Cauliflower** - transplanted

Early Snowball (52)	4
Ravella (H) (70)	6, 8
Self-Blanche (68)	2, 3, 4, 9

**Celery** - transplanted

Utah 52-70 (H) (95)	4, 6
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**Cucumber**

Pickling

Bush Pickle (H) (45)	2, 6
Calypso (H) (52)	3, 6, 7, 8
Wisconsin SMR-18 (56)	2, 4

Slicing

Jet Set (H) (59)	4
MarketMore 76 (58)	2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9
Salad Bush (AAS*) (H) (57)	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Sweet Slice (H) (63)	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8
Sweet Success (AAS*) (H) (55)	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

**Eggplant** - transplanted

Dusky Hybrid (H) (60)	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8
Ichiban (58)	2, 4, 6, 7

**Kohlrabi**

Purple Vienna (50)	2, 3, 4, 9
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## Lettuce

### Bibb or Butterhead

Buttercrunch (64) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10
Prizehead (64) .....	2, 4

### Head

Ithaca (72) .....	2, 3, 7, 8, 9
Salinas (70) .....	4

### Leaf

Green Ice (45) .....	1, 3, 6
Oakleaf (45) .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 10
Red Sails (AAS*) (45) (red) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

## Muskmelon (Cantaloupe) - transplanted

Ambrosia (H) (86) .....	1, 3, 6, 7
Classic Hybrid (H) (80) .....	3, 7
Crenshaw (100) .....	4
Earlidew (Honeydew) (H) (75) .....	3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10
Hales Best (85) .....	2, 3, 4
Mission (H) (85) .....	4
Rocky Sweet (80) .....	3, 4, 6, 7
Summit Hybrid (H) (78) .....	4, 8

## Onions

Crystal White Wax Pickler (90) .....	1, 4, 6
Evergreen White Bunching (green) (60) .....	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10
Fiesta (H) (100) .....	6
Sweet Sandwich (100) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
Utah Yellow Sweet Spanish (110) .....	4, 5, 7
Walla Walla (90) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10

## Peas

Early Frosty (64) .....	3, 4, 7
Lincoln (67) .....	2, 3, 4, 8, 9
Novella (64) .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10
Oregon Sugar Pod II (68) (edible pod) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9
Patriot (58) .....	4, 6, 8
Sugar Daddy Stingless (74) (snap pea) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8
Sugar Snap (AAS*) (70) (snap pea) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10

## Peppers - transplanted

### Hot

Anaheim Chili (79) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Jalapeno (75) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Long Red Slim Cayenne (72) .....	3, 6, 8
MexiBell (AAS*) (58) .....	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
Super Chili Hybrid (AAS*) (H) (75) .....	2, 3, 5, 7

Sweet

Big Bertha (H) (72) .....	2, 3, 4, 8
Gypsy (H) (60) (yellow) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Sweet Banana (65) (yellow) .....	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
Yolo Wonder L (75) .....	4, 7, 8

**Potatoes** - seed pieces ..... Check with nurseries for availability  
 .....

Kennebec (125) (white) .....	1, 2, 6, 10
Norgold Russet (125) (white) .....	2
Red Norland (100) (red) .....	2
Red Pontiac (125) (red) .....	1, 2, 6
Russet Burbank (125) (white) .....	6

**Pumpkin**

Atlantic Giant (120) (very large) .....	2, 4, 5, 8
Autumn Gold (AAS*) (98) .....	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
Baby Bear (AAS*) (105) .....	4, 6, 7
Jack Be Little (90) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10

**Radish**

Champion (AAS*) (28) .....	2, 3, 4, 8, 9
Easter Egg (H) (25) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10
Icicle (30) (white) .....	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

**Rhubarb** (perennial) - transplanted ..... Check with nurseries for availability  
 .....

**Spinach**

Melody (H) (43) .....	4, 6, 7
Skookum (H) (41) .....	7

**Squash**

Summer

Black Jack (H) (55) (green) .....	2, 4, 5
Gold Rush (H) (50) (yellow) .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
Gourmet Globe (50) .....	6, 7
Peter Pan Hybrid (AAS*) (H) (50) .....	1, 4, 5, 6, 7
Scallopini (50) .....	8
Sunburst Hybrid (AAS*) (H) (55) .....	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10
Zucchini Elite (H) (48) (green) .....	3, 4

Winter

Buttercup (100) .....	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10
Cream of the Crop (AAS*) (85) (acorn) .....	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10
Early Butternut (H) (75) .....	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Pink Banana (100) .....	2, 4
Sweet Mama (AAS*) (85) .....	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Table Ace (H) (75) (acorn) .....	2, 6

## Sweet Corn

### Standard

Earlivee (H) (63) (yellow) . . . . .	3, 4, 8, 9, 10
Jubilee (H) (82) (yellow) . . . . .	4, 5, 7

### Sugar Enhanced

Breeders Choice (H) (70) (bi-color) . . . . .	4
Incredible (H) (85) (yellow) . . . . .	3, 4
Maple Sweet (H) (68) (yellow) . . . . .	9
Miracle (H) (85) (yellow) . . . . .	1, 2, 3, 4, 8
Platinum Lady (H) (80) (white) . . . . .	2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9
Sugar Buns (H) (72) (yellow) . . . . .	3, 4, 8, 9, 10

### Super Sweets

Honey & Pearl (AAS*) (H) (78) (bi-color) . . . . .	3, 4, 7, 10
How Sweet It Is (AAS*) (H) (85) (white) . . . . .	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Illini Extra Sweet (H) (85) (yellow) . . . . .	2
Phenomenal (H) (85) (bi-color) . . . . .	3, 4, 8
Super Sweet Jubilee (H) (82) (yellow) . . . . .	3, 7

## Swiss Chard

Lucullus (50) . . . . .	2, 3, 4, 6
Ruby or Rhubarb (60) . . . . .	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

## Tomato - transplanted

Celebrity (AAS*) (H) (70) . . . . .	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
DX 52-12 (70) . . . . .	4
Early Cascade (H) (65) . . . . .	4, 5, 10
Early Girl (H) (55) . . . . .	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Jet Star (72) . . . . .	4
Longkeeper (78) . . . . .	1, 2, 9
Oregon Spring (52) . . . . .	4, 5, 9, 10
Pole King (H) (75) . . . . .	2, 7
Presto (H) (55) (cherry) . . . . .	4
Roma (75) . . . . .	2, 3, 5, 6
Royal Chico (75) . . . . .	4, 6, 7
Sweet 100 (H) (60) (cherry) . . . . .	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8

## Watermelon - transplanted

Crimson Sweet (90) (medium) . . . . .	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8
Golden Crown (AAS*) (75) (medium) (yellow) . . . . .	6, 7
Mickylee (75) (small) . . . . .	3, 8
Yellow Baby (H) (70) (small) (yellow) . . . . .	1, 3, 6, 8



## SOURCES OF SEEDS

1. W. Atlee Burpee Co.  
300 Park Ave.  
Warminster, PA 18974
2. Gurney Seed Co.  
110 Capital St.  
Yankton, SC 57079
3. Rupp Seed Co.  
17919 County Rd B  
Wavseon, OH 43567
4. Mtn. Valley Seed Co.  
1800 W. South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
5. Nichols Garden Nursery  
1190 N. Pacific Highway  
Albany, OR 97321
6. Park Seed Co.  
Cokesbury Rd  
P.O. Box 46  
Greenwood, SC 29648-0046
7. Twilley Seed Co. Inc.  
P.O. Box 65  
Trevose, PA 19047
8. Stokes Seeds Inc.  
Box 548  
Buffalo, NY 14240
9. Garden City Seeds  
1324 Red Crow Rd  
Victor, MT 59875-9713
10. Johnny's Select Seeds  
Foss Hill Rd  
Albion, ME 04910-9731

## VEGETABLE PLANTING CHART

Vegetable	Planting Dates*	Days to Maturity	Weeks from Seeding to Transplanting	Planting Depth (in.) (for seed only)	Planting Distance		Suggested Row Length (ft)**
					In Row After Thinning	Between Rows	
Asparagus (crowns)	Mar 15-May 1	2-3 yrs	10-12	6-8	12-18	36-60	100
Beans - lima - snap (green) - dry	May 15-Jun 1	65-90		1-2	3-4	18-24	100
	May 15-Jul 15	50-70		1-2	3-4	18-24	150
	May 15-Jun 1	90-100		1-2	3-4	18-24	200
Beets	Mar 25-Jul 1	50-70		½-1	2-3	12-18	50
Broccoli	Mar 15-Jul 15	55-75	4-6	¼-½	18-24	24-30	50
Brussels Sprouts	Mar 15-May 15	90-100	4-6	¼-½	18-24	24-30	30
Cabbage	Mar 15-Jul 15	60-90	4-6	¼-½	18-24	24-30	30
Carrots	Mar 15-Jun 15	60-80		¼	1-2	12-18	100
Cauliflower	Mar 15-Jul 1	60-95	4-6	¼-½	18-24	24-30	30
Celery	May 1-Jun 15	100-125	10-12	⅛-¼	4-6	18-24	25
Cucumber	May 1-Jun 15	50-70	4	½-1	9-12	36-48	30
Eggplant	May 15-Jun 1	60-80	8-10	¼-½	18-24	24-30	30
Endive	Mar 15-May 15	80-100		¼-½	8-12	12-18	20
Garlic <sup>†</sup>	Mar 15-Apr 15	100-120		1-2	3-4	12-18	20
Kale <sup>†</sup>	Jul 1-Aug 15	50-60		¼-½	8-15	18-24	30
Kohlrabi	Mar 15-May 1	50-70		¼-½	4-8	18-24	25
Leek	Mar 15-Apr 15	110-130	6-8	¼-½	2-3	12-18	25
Lettuce <sup>†</sup> - head - leaf	Mar 15-May 1	70-85	4	¼-½	8-15	18-24	50
	Mar 15-May 1	45-60	4	¼-½	6-8	12-18	
Muskmelon (canta-loupe)	May 15-Jun 15	80-90	4	½-1	24-36	36-48	100
Mustard	Mar 15-May 15	35-45		½	6-8	18-24	25
Okra	May 15-Jun 15	50-60		½-1	12-15	24-30	50
Onion - seeds <sup>†</sup> - sets - transplants	Mar 15-Apr 15	100-120		¼-½	2-3	12-18	50
	Mar 15-May 1	90-100		1-2	2-3	12-18	
	Mar 15-May 1	90-110	6-8	1-1½	2-3	12-18	
Parsnips	Mar 15-May 15	100-120		½	3-4	18-24	50
Peas	Mar 15-May 15	50-70		1-2	2-3	12-18	25

## VEGETABLE PLANTING CHART

Vegetable	Planting Dates*	Days to Maturity	Weeks from Seeding to Transplanting	Planting Depth (in.) (for seed only)	Planting Distance		Suggested Row Length (ft)**
					In Row After Thinning	Between Rows	
Peppers	May 15-Jun 1	60-80	8-10	¼-½	15-18	24-30	50
Potato	Mar 15-May 1	100-130		4	9-12	24-36	200
Pumpkin	May 15-Jun 15	90-120	4	½-1	36-48	48-60	40
Radish	Mar 15-Sep 1	25-35		½	1-2	6-12	25
Rhubarb (crowns)	Mar 15-May 1	1-2 yrs	10-12	4-6	18-24	24-36	20
Spinach†	Mar 15-May 1	40-50		¼-½	3-6	18-24	25
Squash - summer	May 1-Jun 15	40-60		1-1½	24-36	36-48	25
Squash - winter	May 1-Jun 15	80-100		1-1½	24-48	48-60	40
Sweet Corn	May 1-Jul 1	65-95		1½-2	9-12	30-36	400
Swiss Chard	Mar 15-Jul 1	50-60		¼-½	4-8	18-24	25
Tomato	May 15-Jun 15	60-90	4-6	¼-½	24-36	36-48	120
Turnip	Mar 15-May 1	40-60		¼-½	4-6	18-24	25
Watermelon	May 15-Jun 15	85-95	4	½-1	24-48	36-48	120

\* Planting dates vary with location in Utah. Consult your county extension office to determine the best time to plant.

\*\* Row length recommended to feed a family of five.

† Plantings of these vegetables can be made in late August and September for early harvest the following year. Some protection may be needed to ensure over-wintering of the plants.

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