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New varieties of vegetables adorn the pages of our favorite seed catalogs every year. It is not easy to keep up with the changes, nor can you make a test garden of your home garden plot. But if you are to get the most out of gardening, you will do well to keep up on current literature and try those new varieties that appear to fill your needs.

In selecting a variety, you must consider its adaptability to your area. A tomato variety that does well in Lewiston, for example, is almost no good in the Moscow area. Temperature is the most important factor, but soils, water supply, insects and diseases also change. This is why it is important for you to become acquainted with a local supplier who grows his own plants for your location and who also sells seed of the varieties that you want. Make your wants known and patronize the people who are interested in filling them.

With the advent of hybrid varieties, vegetable seed selection has become more confusing than ever. We can now get hybrids of most of our major vegetable crops — corn, tomatoes, onions, carrots, cucumbers, cabbage, broccoli, eggplant and squash, to name a few. These hybrids are developed by crossing two inbred lines with each other. The product is usually different from either of the parents, and also usually excels them in most respects. Saving seed from these plants avails us little, however, because the second generation will be variable and will not have the uniform good characteristics of the first generation. Hybrids are not always better than what we call open-pollinated varieties. Many open-pollinated varieties are very good — and their seed is much less costly than that of the hybrids. The main thing is to know the variety.

When you choose a variety, you want one that suits your purpose and will do well in your garden. It is just as easy to grow a good variety as a poor one and the rewards are much greater. Some seed is more expensive than others but seed is probably the cheapest aspect of gardening, so don't try to economize. Some varieties are so much better than others that it is folly to take the run of the mill.

Vegetable Varieties For Home Gardens In Idaho's Cooler Areas



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The varieties listed below will give better than average results in most of Idaho's cooler areas. You may not find all of your favorites here, but for the beginner or even for the experienced gardener this list should prove helpful.

ASPARAGUS

Mary Washington (or selection from it). Buy one-year-old crowns and plan on two years before the first harvest.

BEANS

Green Snap: Tenderpod, Tempo, Bush Blue Lake, Tendergreen, Roma, Executive. Roma is a flat-podded Italian type and is good for freezing.

Wax-podded: Goldcrop, Kinghorn Wax, Butterwax.

Pole: Kentucky Wonder, Blue Lake.

BEETS

Detroit Dark Red, Crosbys Egyptian.

BROCCOLI

Green Comet, DeCicco, Waltham 39.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

Jade Cross

CABBAGE

Early: Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Red Acre.

Mid-season to late: Danish Ballhead, Savoy King, Red Acre, Flat Dutch.

Early cabbage should be set in the garden as soon as you can get on the ground in the spring. Late cabbage may be sown in mid-May and transplanted to the garden in late June or early July.

CARROTS

Nantes, Red Cored Chantenay.

CAULIFLOWER

Burpeeana, Early Snowball A, Improved Super Snowball.

Cauliflower may be handled like cabbage. The above varieties are good for both early and late crops.

CHARD

Rhubard Chard, Fordhook, Ruby, Prizehead.

CUCUMBERS

Burpee's Burpless, Burpee Hybrid, Spartan Hybrid (produces mostly female flowers, but sets enough male flowers to insure fertilization).

KOHLRABI

Early White Vienna, Early Purple Vienna.

LETTUCE:

Butterhead: Buttercrunch, Summer Bibb.

Leaf: Grand Rapids, Greenhart, Black Seeded Simpson, Salad Bowl.

Crisphead: Great Lakes. (To insure success with this type, the seed should be started indoors and set in the garden as early as possible.)

MUSKMELON (Cantaloupe)

This is not a good vegetable in cool gardens because it takes hot weather to bring it into good quality. Get the earliest one you can, if you want to grow them. Try Minnesota Midget or Honey Gold.

ONIONS

Yellow Sweet Spanish, White Sweet Spanish, Ebenezer, Brigham Yellow Globe, White Portugal. Of these the last three are the better keepers. You can grow onions from seed, plants or sets. Plants or sets are probably better. Sweet Spanish plants will give you good bulbs in late summer. The set onions you buy are apt to be almost any variety.

PARSLEY

Moss Curled.

PARSNIP

Hollow Crown.

PEAS

Little Marvel, Thomas Laxton, Early Frosty, Sparkle, Alderman, Laxton's Progress, Wando, Perfection. For edible pod, use Dwarf Grey Sugar.

PEPPER

Canape (a relatively new one, and an excellent producer). Staddon's Select, Calwonder, Early Red (a very early sweet pepper that turns red.)

POTATOES

Bliss Triumph, Kennebec, Irish Cobbler, Norgold, Russet Burbank (Netted Gem), Katahdin. (Use only certified seed.)

RADISH

Cherry Belle, Scarlet Globe, Sparkler, Icicle.

RHUBARB

German Wine, Canada Red McDonald, Valentine. Get roots from your garden store for spring planting. You will usually get some harvest after a year's growth.

SQUASH

Winter: Buttercup, Table King, (bush acorn type), Gold Nugget (bush), Table Queen or DesMoines (also acorn type). If you have lots of room, grow some Hubbard, Butternut, Delicious, or Banana.

Summer: Butterbar, Aristocrat, Hybrid Zucchini, Early Prolific Straightneck. The zucchini type is most popular and an excellent producer.

SPINACH

Spring planting: Viking, Long Standing Bloomsdale (spring or fall), America, Nobel.

Fall planting: Viroflay, Hollandia, Long Standing Bloomsdale.

SWEET CORN

Sprite, Barbecue, Silver Sweet, Butter and Sugar, Seneca Chief, Golden Cross Bantam, Jubilee and Silver Queen (in just about that order of maturity).

TOMATOES

Burpee's Early Hybrid, Rocket, Ball's Early, Early Girl, Sub Arctic Midi, Sub Arctic Plenty, Coldset, Fireball, Sioux, Pixie and Patio.

TURNIP

Purpletop White Globe.

WATERMELON

The story for muskmelons is about the same for watermelons. Try Sugar Baby, New Hampshire Midget, Fordhook Hybrid.