Vegetable Varieties
for Commercial Growers

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Many of the vegetable varieties that should be grown under Illinois conditions have been recent introductions. Use of the most suitable varieties is important to the grower who wants to attain optimum yield and quality. Improved varieties may offer resistance to diseases, greater vigor, better quality, have more uniformity and adaptability for mechanical harvest, and be more durable during storage and shipping. Improved hybrids and varieties combine many of these factors to the advantage of both the seed company and the grower. Hybrids were first developed in corn and now are readily available in asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, muskmelons, onions, peppers, summer squash, tomatoes, watermelons, and many other vegetables.

One of the recent developments is the gynoecious hybrid cucumber. Gynoecious hybrids produce female flowers rather than a combination of male flowers first and female flowers later. The result is earlier, more uniform, and sometimes greater production. The seed producer usually blends in seed of a pollinator for fruit set.

Choosing varieties is not easy. Seed catalogs offer hundreds of selections, each with appealing descriptions and attractive photographs, making the choice even more difficult. No single variety, new or old, will be suitable for every grower under the diverse climatic and marketing conditions in Illinois.

Growers are encouraged to try improved varieties and hybrids and to compare them with their standard and most reliable ones. The following tips will help growers to evaluate their own trials.

Choosing Varieties for Trial

Limit the number of new varieties. Select them on the basis of the characteristics most important to you. These characteristics might include plant type, fruit type, relative maturity, uniformity, disease resistance, and yield.

Seed Sources

Do not save seed from hybrids. Seed from hybrid plants will not produce true types the second generation. Excessive variations in the plant type, foliage, and fruits may result, resembling the parent of the hybrids (the inbreds) rather than the hybrids themselves.

The purchase of good-quality seed is usually advantageous. The majority of the seed of vegetable crops is produced on the semidesert area of the west under controlled irrigation. This avoids most of the seed-borne diseases. Most commercially available vegetable seeds are
either hot-water treated for diseases or chemically treated for insects and diseases. These treatments should prevent many specific problems that may decrease the germination or damage the seedlings themselves.

**Choosing a Location**

Whether the trial is to be a few feet of row or a larger area, locate it in the same field with your standard varieties with which you will compare the trial variety. Select a location uniform in soils and drainage where all varieties will receive the same spray and cultural treatments. Avoid locations along the edge of the field where uncontrollable factors may influence the results.

**Planting the Trial**

Plant all the varieties on the same day and in the same manner. Be careful not to mix seeds in the planter box or to mix transplants when carrying them to the field. Supervise the planting.

**Marking the Trial**

Mark the exact location in the field. Draw and keep a map of the location. Carefully identify the rows in the field on the map. Make notes and carefully take harvest records based on the important characteristics for which you conducted the trial. Don't rely entirely on memory when trying to make variety decisions next year. The better the records the more you will learn.

**Additional Publications**

The following publications give additional variety information.

**Seed and plant sources** (available from the Department of Horticulture, 124 Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801).

Vegetable Seed Companies. Hort. VG 10.
Sources of Small Fruit Plants. Hort. FR 15.

**Disease resistance** (available from the Department of Plant Pathology, 218 Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801).

Vegetable Diseases. Circular 802 (revised).
Listing of variety recommendations for home growers (available from the Office of Publications, 123 Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801).

Growing Tomatoes at Home. Circular 981.

List of Commercial Vegetable Varieties

Varieties of vegetables are listed below as a guideline to help growers select improved varieties. These varieties have performed well in University of Illinois tests or have proven to be widely adapted. The newest varieties that show promise for Illinois are suggested for trial. Some of the varieties may be new to you. Try them along with some of the ones that appear promising in current catalogs and trade publications. Individual market preferences, season of maturity, methods of culture, and varietal adaptation to soil and climatic factors will influence the ultimate selections.

ASPARAGUS
Mary Washington
F₁ Hybrids (trial)

BEANS — SNAP (Bush)
(Fresh Market)
Round
Astro
Provider
Tendercrop
Tenderette
Tendergreen
Oval
Contender
Spartan Arrow

(Processing)
Blue Lake Bush 274, 273, 283, 290
Corneli 14
Early Green
Harvester
Slim Green
Tempo
Tenderette
Tenderwhite

(Yellow)
Midas
Kinghorn Wax
Resistant Cherokee

BEANS — LIMA
Fordhook 242
Thorogreen
Thaxter
Dover (trial)

BEETS
Detroit Short Tip
Mono King
Pacemaker Hybrid (trial)
Perfected Detroit
Red King
Royal Red
Ruby Queen

BROCCOLI
DiCicco (spring)
Green Comet Hybrid
Spartan Early (spring)
Waltham 29 (fall)
BRUSSELS SPROUTS
Jade Cross Hybrid

CABBAGE
(Early)
CC Cross Hybrid
Emerald Cross Hybrid
Market Dawn Hybrid
Resistant Golden Acre YR
Stone Head Hybrid
(Main Crop)
Danish Ballhead
Greenback YR
King Cole Hybrid YR
Market Prize Hybrid
Market Topper Hybrid
Superette YR
Green Boy (trial)
(Storage)
Blue Jacket Hybrid
Resistant Danish YR
(Special)
Savoy
Chieftain
Savoy King Hybrid
Red
Red Acre YR
Red Danish

CARROTS
(Minicarrots)
Baby Finger
Tiny Sweet
(Market)
Gold Pak
Hi-Pak Hybrid
Scarlet Nantes
Waltham Hi-Color
Pioneer Hybrid (trial)
Spartan Sweet (trial)
(Processing)
Danvers 126
Royal Chantenay
Commander (trial)
Spartan Bonus (trial)

CAULIFLOWER
Snowball Strains (white)
Early Purple (purple)
Royal Purple (purple)
Green Ball (green) (trial)

CHINESE CABBAGE
Michili

COLLARDS
Vates

CUCUMBERS
(Fresh Market)
Challenger Hybrid
Gemini Hybrid
Poinsett
Saticoy Hybrid
Triumph Hybrid
Burpee M + M (trial)
Gemini 7 Hybrid
Hugh Mark II (trial)
Marketmore (trial)
Meridian T
(Pickles)
WIS SMR 18
WIS SMR 58
Several new F-1 gynoecious
recommended by processor
(Greenhouse)
Bestseller (trial)
Fertila (trial)
Rocket (trial)

EGGPLANT
Black Beauty
Black Magic Hybrid
Burpee Hybrid
Mission Bell Hybrid (early, trial)
Highbush Special T (trial)

HORSERADISH
Common
Swiss
**LETTUCE**

*(Early Season)*
- Bibb

*(Main Season)*
- Black Seeded Simpson
- Grand Rapids
- Oak Leaf
- Ruby
- Salad Bowl
- Slo-Bolt
- Summer Bibb
- Waldmann’s Green

*(Greenhouse)*
- Bibb
- Grand Rapids (tip burn resistant strains)

**MUSTARD**

- Green Wave
- Southern Giant Curled

**MUSKMELON**

- Burpee Hybrid
- Gold Star Hybrid
- Harper Hybrid
- Harvest Queen
- Sampson Hybrid
- Saticoy Hybrid
- Supermarket Hybrid
- Jewel Hybrid (trial)

**OKRA**

- Dwarf Green Long Pod
- Emerald

**ONIONS**

*(Sets)*
- Ebenezer (yellow or white)
- Portugal

*(Seed)*
- Aristocrat
- Downing Yellow Globe
- Early Harvest
- Iowa 44
- Spartan Era (trial)

**PEPPERS**

*(Bell Type)*
- Bellringer
- Keystone Resistant Giant
- Yolo Wonder L, B
- Bell Boy Hybrid (trial)
- Jade (trial)
- Liberty Bell (trial)
- Lincoln Bell (early, trial)
- Titan Hybrid (trial)

*(Special)*
- Sunnybrook
- Sweet Banana
- Hungarian Wax
- Jalapeno

**POTATOES**

- Cobbler
- Kennebec
- Norchip
- Norgold
- Norland
- Triumph
- Anoka (trial)
- Superior (trial)
- Haig (trial)

**PUMPKINS**

- Cinderella (bush) (10-15 lb.) (trial)
- Connecticut Field (15-20 lb.)
- Jack O’Lantern (15 lb.)
- Small Sugar (6-8 lb.)
- Spookie (6 lb.)
- Young’s Beauty (10-15 lb.)
RADISHES
Cherry Belle
Comet
Red Boy
Scarlet Knight (trial)

SQUASH
(Winter)
Acorn
Royal
Ebony
Table Queen
Butternut
Regular (small)
Waltham (medium)
Hercules (large)
Banana
Pink Jumbo
Rainbow
Blue
Buttercup
Delicious
Green
Golden
Gold Nugget (bush type)
Hubbard
Improved
Green
Blue
Golden
Warted
Kinred
Sweet Meat
Turk’s Head (ornamental)
NK 530

(Summer)
Yellow
Early Prolific Straightneck
Seneca Butterbar Hybrid
Seneca Prolific
Green Zucchini
Zucchini Hybrid
Apollo Zucchini (trial)
Ambassador (trial)
Cocozelle type
Cocozelle
Striata

SWEET CORN (Conventional)
(Early)
Earlibelle
Earliking
Early Sunglow
Gold Crest
Spring Gold
Northern Belle
(Main Crop)
Gold Cup
Gold Winner
NK 199
Seneca Chief (roadside)
Gourmet (trial)
(White)
Silver Queen (late)

SWEET CORN (Specialty)
(Bicolor)
Butter and Sugar
Honey and Cream
Polkadot (trial)
(High Sugar)
Early Xtra Sweet (trial)
Illini Xtra Sweet (trial)

SWEET POTATOES
Centennial
Georgia Red (south)
Nugget

TOMATOES (Market)
(Early)
Campbell 1327
Cold Set (north)
Galaxy (north)
Heinz 1350
Heinz 1439
Spring Giant Hybrid
Springset Hybrid (north)
Starfire (north)
Sun-up
Superchief
Tropic (trial)
(Early Staking)
Avalanche Hybrid
Cardinal Hybrid
Fantastic Hybrid
Jet Star Hybrid
Manhattan Hybrid
Moreton Hybrid
Surprise Hybrid

(Staking and Main Crop)
Burpee VF Hybrid
Delicious
Manapal
Supersonic Hybrid
Big Boy Hybrid
Wonder Boy Hybrid
Bonus (trial)
Grand Prix (trial)
Ramapo Hybrid (trial)
Better Boy (trial)

(Small-fruited)
Small Fry Hybrid
Basket Pac
Red Cherry
Gardener's Delight
Sugar Lump

TOMATOES (Processing)

(Hand pick)
Campbell 17
Campbell 19
Campbell 22
Campbell 28
Campbell 146
Eastern States 24

Heinz 1350
Heinz 1370
Heinz 1439
Roma

(Mechanical Harvesting)
Roma
Centennial (trial)
Redbush (trial)
Campbell 28 (trial)

TOMATOES (Greenhouse)
Michigan-Ohio Hybrid
Ohio WR-7
Ohio WR-25
Ohio MR-9 (trial)
Eureka 206 (trial)
Eureka 241 (trial)
Super M (trial)

TURNIPS
Purple Top White Globe
Just Right Hybrid (trial)

WATERMELONS

(Seeded)
Chaleston Gray 133
Crimson Sweet
Jubilee
Sweet Princess

(Seedless)
Tri X 313
Triple Sweet
Sugar Sweet
Goshen Gem (trial)