

## Selected Vegetable Cultivars for Nebraska

Sarah J. Browning, Extension Educator; and Laurie Hodges, Extension Vegetable Specialist

This guide lists vegetable cultivars suitable for Nebraska.

Vegetable cultivars for home gardens should be adapted to local growing conditions. The following selected cultivars should succeed in most areas of Nebraska. Because there are hundreds of cultivars of some vegetables, this is only a partial list. Other cultivars may do as well or better in your area. Your garden location, experience, likes and dislikes and intended use of your produce will be factors in selecting vegetable cultivars for your garden.

All-American Selections are designated by an asterisk (\*). These are cultivars tested at trial gardens across the United States. Cultivars must be unique, widely adapted and provide a quality product to receive this honored award.

Cultivar disease resistance or tolerance is indicated in the third column. Hybrid cultivars are indicated by “H” or “hybrid” following the name. This indicates the cultivar is a result of the cross of two distinct parents. Seed produced from hybrid plants will not produce plants like the hybrid. In general, seed produced from hybrid cultivars should not be saved for replanting. Because flowers of summer and winter squash, melons and cucumbers tend to be cross-pollinated by insects, seed from these plants should also not be saved since it is unlikely the plants will come true to the parents.

Specific sources for purchasing each cultivar are not listed. While some cultivars are available through local garden stores, a number of those listed may be available only through mail-order sources. See NebGuide G1895, *General and Specialty Mail-Order Seed Sources*, for a list of companies with whom to consult for those cultivars not available locally.

A — Anthracnose	BC — Brown Canker	N — Nematode	SW — Stewarts Wilt
ACR — Asparagus Crown Rot	CLS — Cerospora Leaf Spot	NLB — Northern Corn Leaf Blight	TEV — Tobacco Etch Virus
ALS — Angular Leaf Spot	CMV — Cucumber Mosaic Virus	PEV — Pea Enation Virus	TLS — Target Leaf Spot
ASC — Alternaria Stem Canker	CW — Common Wilt	PLRV — Pea Leaf Roll Virus	TMV — Tobacco Mosaic Virus
BL — Black Leg	DM — Downy Mildew	PM — Powdery Mildew	Th — Thrips
BM — Bean Mosaic Virus	EB — Early Blight	PR — Pink Root Resistant	V — Verticillium Wilt
BO — Botrytis	F — Fusarium, race 1	PVA — Potato Virus A	WMV — Watermelon Mosaic Virus
BR — Black Rot tolerant	FF— Fusarium, race 1 & 2	PVY — Potato Virus Y	WM — White Mold
BS — Bacterial Soft Rot	FFF — Fusarium, race 1, 2 & 3	R — Rust	Y — Yellows
BSP — Bacterial Speck	FYR — Fusarium Yellows Resistant	S — Scab	ZY — Zucchini Yellows
BST2 — Bacterial Spot, race 2	LB — Late Blight	SLB — Southern Corn Leaf Blight	
BW — Bacterial Wilt	LR — Leaf Roll	Sm — Smut	
BYMV — Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus	M — Mosaic	St — Stemphylium (Gray Leaf Spot)	

### SELECTED VEGETABLE CULTIVARS FOR NEBRASKA

Vegetable	Cultivar	Disease Res/Tolerance	Comment
<b>Asparagus</b> (buy 1 yr. old plants)	Jersey Giant (H)	ACR, F, R	all male plants, large spears, high yields
	Jersey King (H)	ACR, F, R	all male plants, large green spears with purple bracts, productive
	Jersey Knight (H)	ACR, F, R	all male plants, good flavor, large spears
	Jersey Supreme (H)	ACR, F, R	all male plants, cold tolerant, 7-10 days earlier than others
	Purple Passion (H)		sweet purple spears turn green when cooked
	UC 157 (H)	R	vigorous fast growth, high yields, 70% male plants
<b>Beans — bush</b>	Derby*	BM	57 days, straight 6” pods, good yields, use fresh
	Jade	BM, R	60 days, upright plants and long, straight pods, good flavor
	Jumbo		55 days, Italian Romano type, 6-7” flat pods
	Provider	BM, DM, PM	50 days, 5.5” round pods, widely adapted, excellent flavor
	Roma II	BM, R	59 days, 4.5-6” flat stringless pods, snap, shell or freeze
	Straight ‘N Narrow		53 days, 5” dark green round pods, French filet
<b>Beans — bush wax</b>	Goldito	BM	52-54 days, 4.5-5” straight stringless yellow pods, French filet
	Indy Gold	BM	52-56 days, 5-6” yellow pods, green tipped
	Isar		52 days, 4.5-5” yellow pods, medium-sized upright plants
	Slenderwax	WM, BM	56 days, deep yellow, straight pods

<sup>1</sup>Gynoeious plants produce all or predominantly female flowers and, unless they are also parthenocarpic, require non-gynoeious plants with pollen-producing male flowers for good fruit set.

<sup>2</sup>Parthenocarpic plants do not require pollination to produce fruits. Fruits are seedless.

<i>Vegetable</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Disease Res/Tolerance</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<b>Beans</b> — pole	Fortex		60 days, 7-11" straight stringless green pods, French filet
	Kentucky Blue*		58 days, 8-9" green pods, good flavor
	Kentucky Wonder		65 days, 9" green pods, good flavor
<b>Beans</b> — lima, bush	Fordhook 242*		65-85 days, white seeds, dwarf bush, great for freezing
	Jackson Wonder Packers	DM	75 days, butterbean, buff, mottled purplish-back when dry 70 days, green seed, baby lima, better for cool climates
<b>Beans</b> — lima, pole	Christmas		88 days, speckled red and white, strong flavor
	King of the Garden		88 days, heavy producer/very large seed
<b>Beets</b>	Big Red (H)	Y, CLS	50 days, extra sweet, excellent interior color, canning
	Detroit Dark Red		60 days, round, sweet, fresh or processed
	Early Wonder Tall Top		45-50 days, smaller and slightly flattened roots, grow for early red-veined greens
<b>Broccoli</b>	Golden Red Ace (H)	CLS	55 days, golden yellow interior, mild sweet flavor
	Packman (H)		57 days, very large heads, excellent side shoots
	Premium Crop (H)* Small Miracle (H)		71 days, freezes well, holds long 54 days, 6-7" heads, compact 1.5' plants
<b>Brussels Sprouts</b>	Bubbles (H)	PM	82 days, dark green, large sprouts, heat tolerant
	Jade Cross (H)*		80 days, heat tolerant, bluish-green, freezes well
	Long Island Improved		80-115 days, dark green, compact 2' plants
	Tasty Nuggets(H)		78 days, small 1" sprouts
<b>Cabbage</b>	Discovery (H)	FYR	65 days, excellent flavor, excellent cultivar
	Dynamo (H)*		60-75 days, 2 lbs, blue-green, good disease resistance
	Red Acre		76 days, mid-season, deep red, stores well
	Savoy Ace (H)*	FYR	78 days, slow to split, crinkled leaves
	Savoy Express (H)*		55 days, small heads, sweet taste, not bitter
<b>Cabbage</b> — Chinese	Blues (H)	BS, DM, M	57 days, 3.5-4.5 lbs bluish-green heads, Napa type, spring or fall
	Jade Pagoda (H)	BS	72 days, fall planting, Michihli type
	Joi Choi (H)		45 days, dark leaves, white stalks
	Michihli		72 days, fall planting
<b>Carrots</b>	Chantenay, Nantes, or Danvers types		types with shorter roots, 4-6" are best for heavy soils
	Purple Haze (H)*		70 days, 10-12", dark violet flesh with bright orange core, Nantes type, best in loose well-drained soil
<b>Cauliflower</b>	Red Cored Chantenay		70-75 days, 5-7" smooth golden-orange, grows well in heavy soil
	Cheddar (H)		58 days, 4-7" orange heads, retains color when cooked, self-blanching
	Graffiti (H) Snow Crown (H)*		75-80 days, 10" purple head, retains color when cooked, self-blanching 50 days, 6-8" white heads, self-blanching, dependable
<b>Corn</b> — white	Silver King (H)	SW, R, NLB	82 days, white sugar-enhanced, 8" ears, good flavor
<b>Corn</b> — yellow	Bodacious (H)	SW	75 days, yellow sugar-enhanced, 8" ears, excellent flavor
	Honey Select (H)*		79 days, yellow synergistic, 8", isolate from super sweet (sh2) hybrids
	Incredible (H)	SW, R	85 days, yellow sugar-enhanced, 9.5" tender, resists lodging
	Kandy Korn (H)	SW, R	83-89 days, yellow sugar-enhanced, 8.5" ears
	Miracle (H)		84 days, yellow sugar-enhanced, high yield, excellent ears
<b>Corn</b> — bicolor	Ambrosia (H)		75 days, bicolor sugar-enhanced, 8" ears, excellent flavor
	Honey 'n' Pearl (H)*		76 days, super sweet, bicolor, 9" ears, isolate from all other corn types
	Seneca Spring (H)	Sm, R, NLB, SLB	68 days, bicolor sugar-enhanced, cold soil tolerance
	Sensor (H)	Sm, R, NLB, SW	82 days, bicolor sugar-enhanced, excellent flavor
	Trinity (H)	SW	59-68 days, bicolor synergistic, 8" ears, cool soil emergence, isolate from super sweet (sh2) hybrids
<b>Cucumbers</b> — slicing	Dasher II (H)	A, ALS, CMV, PM, DM, S	58 days, vigorous, gynoeocious <sup>1</sup> , parthenocarpic <sup>2</sup>
	Diva (H)*	DM, PM, S	58 days, smooth thin skin, burpless, gynoeocious <sup>1</sup> , parthenocarpic <sup>2</sup> , not attractive to cucumber beetles
	Fanfare (H)*	A, ALS, CMV, DM, PM, S	52-63 days, slender, 7-8", dark green semi-bush
	Marketmore 76	CMV, DM, PM, S	60 days, slender, standard slicer, dark green
	Orient Express (H)	A, ALS, PM, DM, S	60 days, Asian "burpless", crunchy and mild, 14 x 1.5", gynoeocious <sup>1</sup>
	Salad Bush (H)*	TLs, CMV, PM, DM, S	57 days, space saver, 2-3' plants, 8" fruits, dark green
	Spacemaster (H) Sweet Slice (H)	CMV, S ASL, DM, PM, S, WMV-1 & 2	60 days, 7-8" fruits, dwarf plants good for container or small gardens 62 days, "burpless", 8-10", crisp non-bitter fruits
<b>Cucumbers</b> — pickling	County Fair (H)	BW, CMV, S, PM	52 days, gynoeocious <sup>1</sup> , parthenocarpic <sup>2</sup> , Bacterial wilt resistant
	Homemade Pickles (H)	(many)	55 days, 1.5 x 6" long, crisp, good flavor, vigorous vines
	Regal (H)	A, ALS, CMV, DM, PM, S	55 days, dark green, gynoeocious <sup>1</sup>
<b>Eggplant</b>	Casper		70 days, cylindrical, white skinned, 6"
	Dusky (H)	TMV	63 days, 6.5 x 3", pear shaped, glossy black
	Ichiban (H)		58 days, 9 x 1.5", slender, dark purple Oriental type
<b>Kale</b>	Red Russian		50-60 days, 24-36" plants, leaves gray-green toothed, non-curved with red stems, excellent flavor and tender, very cold tolerant
	Vates		55 days, 12-18" curled leaves, good for multiple harvests
	Winterbor (H)		65 days, 24" blue-green curled leaves, mild flavor, very cold tolerant
<b>Kohlrabi</b>	Early Purple Vienna		50 days, purple outside, ornamental
	Express Forcer (H)		42 days, 4" bulbs, tops for stir-frying
	Grand Duke (H)*	BR	45 days, uniform shaped bulbs, to 4"

<sup>1</sup>Gynoeocious plants produce all or predominantly female flowers and, unless they are also parthenocarpic, require non-gynoeocious plants with pollen-producing male flowers for good fruit set.

<sup>2</sup>Parthenocarpic plants do not require pollination to produce fruits. Fruits are seedless.

<i>Vegetable</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Disease Res/Tolerance</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<b>Leek</b>	King Richard		79 days, hill up for long stems, tolerates to -20°F
	Large American Flag		130 days, standard variety, hill for long stems
<b>Lettuce</b> — head	Grand Rapids		45 days, frilled light-green leaves
	Summertime		70 days, slow-bolting iceberg type, slow to bitter
<b>Lettuce</b> — Romaine	Freckles		28-55 days, 8-10" heads, semi-savoy, bright green with dark red speckles
	Green Towers		74 days, 8-12" heads, lightly savoyed green leaves
	Rosalita		55 days, red romaine, green background color
<b>Lettuce</b> — looseleaf	Black Seeded Simpson		46 days, light green, good cold germination
	Green or Red Salad Bowl*		48 days, two cultivars either green or red oakleaf-shaped
	Red Sails*		40-50 days, ruffled leaf, green with red tips, slow to bolt or become bitter in heat
	Waldman Dark Green		50 days, dark green, best early spring and fall
<b>Lettuce</b> — butterhead	Buttercrunch*		48 days, 10" heads, spring or fall, slow to bolt
	Tom Thumb		46 days, compact 5-7" heads, great for container plantings
<b>Muskmelon</b>	Ambrosia (H)	PM, DM	86 days, very sweet, small seed cavity
	Angel (H)*	FF	60-80 days, 2-3 pounds, white flesh, Mediterranean type
	Athena (H)	F, PM	65-80 days, 5-7 pounds, crisp orange flesh, crack-resistant, no sutures
	Burpee Hybrid	PM	82 days, 4.5 pounds, orange flesh
<b>Okra</b>	Annie Oakley II (H)		48 days, 4.5" pods, spineless, compact plants
	Cajun Delight (H)*		49-70 days, dark green low-fiber pods, produces til frost
	Clemson Spineless*		60 days, dark green, spineless pods
<b>Onion</b> — bunching	Evergreen Hardy White		65 days, very cold hardy, over-winter with mulch
	Feast	DM	60 days, heat tolerant, holds well for extended harvest, high yields
	Oasis	DM, R	65 days, vigorous, uniform deep green leaves, holds for extended harvest, high yields, heat tolerant
	Parade		60 days, vigorous upright growth
	White Spear		65 days, heat resistant, blue-green leaves
<b>Onion</b> — globe	Candy (H)		100 days, extra sweet, short keeper
	Copra (H)		111 days, medium size, good keeper, very pungent
	Red Bull (H)		114 days, uniform bulbs, red throughout
	Super Star* (H)	PR	109 days, white flesh, mild flavor, day neutral
	Walla Walla Sweet		115 days, very sweet, short keeper
<b>Parsnips</b>	Andover	BC	120 days, 12-14" tapered roots, store 4-6 months
	Harris Model		120 days, 10-12" smooth roots
<b>Peas</b> — garden	Early Frosty		63 days, 3" pods, 28" plants, high yields, freezes well
	Green Arrow	DM, F	70 days, 4" pods, 9-11 peas per pod, extra sweet, 28" plants, freezes well
	Knight	PM, CW, PEV, BYMV	57-62 days, 4" pods, 8 peas per pod, compact plants, fresh use
	Lincoln	F, DM	67 days, 3" pods, 30" plants, high yields
	Mr. Big*	F, PM	58-72 days, 4.5" pods, 3-4' vines
	Wando		68 days, heat tolerant, 3" pods, try a fall crop
<b>Peas</b> — edible pod	Oregon Giant	PEV, PM, CW	60-74 days, large flat 4.5" pods, sweet snow pea
	Sugar Ann*	CW	58 days, 18-24" tall, fresh or cooked
	Sugar Daddy	PM, PLRV	74 days, 26" tall, stringless pods, best freezer
	Sugar Sprint	PEV, PM	58 days, 3" pods, 2' vines don't need support, nearly stringless
<b>Peppers</b> — sweet	Bell Boy (H)	TMV	72 days, blocky, thick-walled, 4-lobed
	Carmen* (H)		75 days, horn-shaped fruits, green to red, sweet Italian-type
	Giant Marconi* (H)		72 days, 8 by 3" tapered fruits, green to red, sweet frying-type
	Jupiter	TMV	72 days, large, thick-walled, blocky
	King Arthur (H)	TMV, PVY, TEV, BST2	68 days, large blocky fruit, 3-4 lobed, green to red, strong plants that set well in heat
	New Ace (H)		55 days, early, very productive in adverse conditions
	North Star (H)		62 days, early, blocky 4-lobed fruit, green to red, continuous set
<b>Peppers</b> — hot	Cherry Bomb (H)	TMV	62-87 days, 2 by 2", round to heart-shaped fruits, thick-walled, very hot
	Holy Mole* (H)		85 days, slender 9" fruits, green to brown, mild Pasilla-type
	Mucho Nacho* (H)		70 days, 4" hot jalapeno-type fruits, thick-walled, vigorous plants
	Numex Joe E. Parker		70-95 days, 6-8" thick flesh, bright green fruits, mild Anaheim-type
	Super Chili Hybrid*		75 days, hot cayenne type, 2.5" long, short spreading prolific plants, dries well
	White Bullet		80-90 days, 1" bullet-shaped fruits, green to gold, very hot Habanero-type
<b>Potatoes</b>	Dark Red Norland	S, LR, PVA, PVY	early, red, stores well
	Irish Cobbler		early, shallow eyes, stores well, heirloom
	Kennebec	LB, BL, PVA, PVY	late, all-purpose, white flesh, shallow eyes
	Red Pontiac		late, red, stores well, boiling potato
	Red Cloud	S, EB	large, red skin, mid-season, boil or bake, NU introduction
	Yukon Gold	LR, PVA	all-purpose, yellow skin and flesh, mid-early
<b>Pumpkins</b>	Baby Bear* (H)		105 days, small 4-6" diameter, 1.5-2.5 lbs., 5-8/plant, excellent handles
	Baby Boo		90-95 days, 3" diameter, white skin and flesh, ornamental and culinary
	Howden		110 days, very large, thick flesh
	Jack Be Little		85-95 days, 3" diameter, orange skin, ornamental and culinary
	Orange Smoothie* (H)		90-110 days, 7-8 lbs., semi-bush
	Small Sugar		115 days, pies, 7" diameter, great flavor, a/k/a New England Pie

<sup>1</sup>Gynocious plants produce all or predominantly female flowers and, unless they are also parthenocarpic, require non-gynocious plants with pollen-producing male flowers for good fruit set.

<sup>2</sup>Parthenocarpic plants do not require pollination to produce fruits. Fruits are seedless.

<i>Vegetable</i>	<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Disease Res/Tolerance</i>	<i>Comment</i>	
<b>Radish</b>	Cherriette		24 days, very red roots to 2", remain crisp	
	Champion*		26 days, bright red, round	
	Easter Egg (H)		28 days, multi-colored blend, mini-egg shaped	
	White Icicle		30 days, white, long mild, somewhat heat tolerant	
<b>Rhubarb</b>	Canada Red		long, thin stalks, red throughout, extra sweet, few flower stalks	
	MacDonald		bright red, tender skin	
	Valentine		long, red stalks, good flavor	
<b>Spinach</b>	Bloomsdale Longstanding		45 days, glossy dark green, savoyed, large broad leaves, slow to bolt, very good cold soil emergence	
	Melody* (H)	DM, CMV	43 days, dark green, semi-savoy leaf, upright plants	
	Olympia	DM	40 days, large 5-6" green leaves, fresh or processing, slower to bolt than Melody	
	Tyee (H)	DM	53 days, large savoyed leaves, slow to bolt	
<b>Squash</b> — summer <i>Green</i>	Raven (H)		43 days, 7-8" deep green zucchini fruits, compact plants, concentrated fruit set	
	Zucchini Elite (H)		48-50 days, 7-8" medium green fruits	
	<i>Yellow</i>	Gold Rush* (H)		50 days, golden yellow zucchini hybrid, straight neck, upright compact plants
		Multipik (H)		50 days, yellow straight neck, mostly female flowers
		Sunburst* (H)		50 days, yellow patty pan, very productive
Zephyr (H)		54 days, yellow straight neck with light green blossom end		
<b>Squash</b> — winter	Bonbon* (H)		95 days, 4-5 lb. fruits, average 4/plant, compact vines, buttercup type, sweet	
	Royal Ace PM	PM	80 days, dark green acorn, orange flesh, semi-bush	
	Table Ace F <sub>1</sub>		70-85 days, black-green acorn, sweet orange flesh, semi-bush	
	Tivoli* (H)		100 days, bush spaghetti, prolific	
	Waltham Butternut*		95 days, large fruits, heavy yields, stores well	
<b>Sweet Potato</b>	Bush Porto Rico		110 days, bush plants, orange flesh	
	Centennial		100 days, orange skin and bright orange flesh, some irregular shapes	
	Jewell	F	100 days, copper-colored, moist flesh	
<b>Swiss Chard</b>	Bright Lights*		60 days, many colored stems- gold, pink, orange, red, purple, white, lightly savoyed foliage, mild flavor	
	Rhubarb Chard		59 days, red stems, green heavily savoyed foliage, a/k/a Ruby Red	
<b>Tomato</b> — salad or cherry	Husky Red Cherry (H)	V, F, ASC	65-70 days, dwarf indeterminate, good for containers	
	Sungold	F, TMV	57-60 days, indeterminate, golden-orange fruits, crack-resistant	
	Sweet Million (H)	V, FF, N, TMV	65 days, indeterminate 1-1.5" fruit, less cracking, sweet	
<b>Tomato</b> — paste	Amish Paste		74 days, indeterminate, 8 oz. ox heart-shaped paste tomato, great flavor	
	Big Mama		80 days; indeterminate; 5" x 3" fruit, thick walls, good flavor; also fresh or grilled	
	San Marzano		60-80 days, indeterminate, 3 oz. deep red fruits, meaty and dry, crack-resistant	
<b>Tomato</b> — standard	Better Boy (H)	V, FF, N, ASC	72-80 days, deep red, 1 lb. globe-shaped fruit, crack-resistant	
	Big Beef* F <sub>1</sub>	V, F, N, TMV, ASC, St	73 days, indeterminate beefsteak, great yields, flavorful	
	Bush Celebrity* (H)	V, FF, N, TMV, ASC, St	67 days, 7-10 oz. fruits, good flavor, 15" compact plants, very disease-resistant	
	Mountain Pride (H)	V, FF	74-77 days, 7-10 oz. fruits with good flavor, very crack-resistant	
	Quick Pick F <sub>1</sub>	V, FF	60 days, indeterminate great yields and flavor	
<b>Turnips</b>	Purple Top White Globe		55 days, 5-6", stores well	
	Tokyo Cross* (H)		35 days, 2" roots in 35 days	
<b>Watermelon</b> — small fruited	Sugar Baby		84 days, 6-7 lb. fruits, deep red flesh, dark green rind	
	Yellow Doll (H)		70 days, 3-7 lb. fruits, yellow flesh, very sweet, semi-compact vines	
<b>Watermelon</b> — large fruited	Crimson Sweet F <sub>1</sub>	A, F	88 days, 25 pounds, round-oval fruit, deep red	
	Sangria F <sub>1</sub>	A, F	85 days, sweet, 20-26 pounds, bright red flesh	
	Sweet Favorite Hybrid*	A, F	82 days, 15-20 pounds, oblong, best for cool areas	

<sup>1</sup>Gynoecious plants produce all or predominantly female flowers and, unless they are also parthenocarpic, require non-gynoecious plants with pollen-producing male flowers for good fruit set.

<sup>2</sup>Parthenocarpic plants do not require pollination to produce fruits. Fruits are seedless.

**This publication has been peer reviewed.**

UNL Extension publications are available online  
at <http://extension.unl.edu/publications>.

**Index: Lawn & Garden  
Vegetables**

Issued October 2008

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

© 2008, The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on behalf of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension. All rights reserved.