

# Recommended Vegetable Cultivars for Maryland Home Gardens

Part of the fun of growing your own vegetables is choosing from the thousands of cultivars available from seed companies, seed saver exchanges, and fellow gardeners. The listed cultivars have performed well over a wide range of soil and weather conditions in different locations around the state. Maryland Master Gardeners selected many of these cultivars through a written survey. It is not possible to list all of the cultivars of each vegetable crop that would produce a satisfactory harvest in Maryland. Use this list and your past experience as a guide. Check with neighbors and other gardeners in your area to find out which cultivars grow best. Please contact us to let us know if any of your favorite cultivars are missing from this list.

The characteristics of a single cultivar, including yield, flavor and pest resistance may vary somewhat depending on soil type, planting date, weather conditions and gardening techniques. If you have a particularly severe disease problem in your garden, select those cultivars with known resistance. Both open-pollinated and hybrid cultivars are listed (hybrids are followed by a “\*”). With certain crops, like broccoli and sweet corn, hybrids tend to be more uniform and vigorous. Hybrid cultivars of all vegetable crops are more likely to have genetic resistance to specific diseases. Conversely, many open-pollinated cultivars have stood the test of time in Maryland gardens and will “come true” when grown from seed saved from the previous crop. Be aware, however, that many insect-pollinated crops, like squash and pumpkin are readily cross-pollinated if more than one cultivar of a single species is grown. In these cases, plants grown next season from saved seed will not come true unless special precautions are taken.

## Definitions of terms found in seed catalogs:

**Cultivar-** a cultivated variety of a specific crop. Example: ‘Red Ace’ is a beet cultivar.

**Open-pollinated (non-hybrid)-** the seed saved each year is true to type: seedlings that grow from the saved seeds will be identical, or nearly identical, to the mother plants. **Pollination-** the movement of pollen from male to female flower parts- occurs naturally by wind and insects.

**Hybrid-** these cultivars result from the controlled cross breeding of two distinct, inbred, open-pollinated cultivars. The seed harvested from this intentional cross will produce an F<sub>1</sub> (first filial) hybrid. Hybrids tend to be vigorous, uniform, and productive, and many have some disease and/or insect resistance. Producing hybrid tomato seed is labor intensive, requiring the emasculation of each flower. This accounts, in part, for the often higher price. Also, hybrid seed is not true to type. This means that seed saved from this year’s crop and planted next year will not be uniform in appearance or identical to the mother plants. Therefore, hybrid seed must be purchased each year.

**Heirloom-** these cultivars are open-pollinated (non-hybrid). Seed saved each year is true to type. Heirloom cultivars persist because their seed is saved and passed down from one generation to the next. They contain valuable germplasm that would be lost without the efforts of individual gardeners, farmers, small seed companies, seed-saving groups, and the USDA. They often have a colorful history and add interest to the garden and dinner table. Heirloom cultivars vary widely in productivity and disease and insect resistance.

**Treated seed-** is coated with a chemical fungicide to prevent injury from soil-dwelling diseases after seeds are planted. The most common crops treated are corn, pea, and bean. The fungicide coating is usually pink or purple.

**Organic seed-** is harvested from crops that are grown and certified according to the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) guidelines. Organic seed must be produced and handled by certified organic producers. The NOP requires organic farmers to plant organic seed unless it is not commercially available. All seed used in organic production must be untreated (no fungicides applied). You can grow vegetables organically at home using non-organic, untreated seeds.

Cultivars are listed in alphabetical order.

(\* = HYBRID CULTIVAR)

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**ARTICHOKE**

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Imperial Star\*

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**ASPARAGUS**

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Jersey Supreme\*, Jersey Knight\*, Purple Passion, Jersey Giant\*

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**BEAN**

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*Bush type-green snap:* Black Valentine, all Bush Blue Lake types, Contender, Dragon Tongue, Derby, Greensleeves, Jade, Provider, Roma II, Romano (Italian flat podded), Royal Burgundy, Spectacular, Tenderpod, Tenderette, Topcrop

*Pole type:* Kentucky Blue, Kentucky Wonder, Pole Romano, Rattlesnake, Trionfo Violetto

*Filet/flageolet type:* Maxibel, Tavera

*Half-runner type:* White Half-Runner

*Bush type-wax:* Cherokee Wax, Goldcrop, Goldfinger, Goldrush, Major, Nugget, Rocdor, Yellow Wax

*Bush lima:* Burpee's Improved, Dixie Butter Pea, Fordhook 242, Henderson Bush

*Pole lima:* Dr. Martin, King of the Garden, Prizetaker, Sieva

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**BEEF**

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Bull's Blood, Chiogga, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Early Wonder, Red Ace\*, Red Ball\*, Ruby Queen

*Winter storage:* Lutz Winterkeeper

*For greens:* Crosby Green Top, Early Wonder Tall Top, Lutz Green Leaf

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**BROCCOLI**

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Arcadia\*, Bonanza\*, Calabrese, Goliath\*, Green Comet\*, Marathon\*, Packman\*, Premium Crop\*, Southern Comet\*, Waltham 29

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**BROCCOLI RAAB**

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Even' Star American Rapa, Spring Raab

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**BRUSSELS SPROUT**

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Diablo, Jade Cross E\*, Long Island Improved, Prince Marvel\*, Valiant

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**CABBAGE**

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Copenhagen, Danish Ballhead, Dynamo\*, Early Flat Dutch, Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre (spring crop), Jersey Queen, Market Prize\*, Krautman, Savoy, Savoy Express\*, Savoy King\*, Stonehead\*

*Red:* Meteor, Red Ace, Red Danish Ballhead, Red Rock, Red Verone, Ruby Ball\*

*Chinese:* China Doll, Jade Pagoda\*, Joi Choi\*, Me Qing Choi\*

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**CARROT**

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Atomic Red, all Chantenay types, all Danvers types, Emperor, Lindoro, Little Finger, Minicor, Mokum, all Nantes types, Napoli, Purple Haze, Short n Sweet, Sweet Treat, Thumbelina

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**CAULIFLOWER**

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Early Hybrid, all Snow Ball types, Snow Crown\*, Violet Queen\*

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**CELERY**

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Florida 683, all Utah 52-70 strains

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**CHARD, SWISS**

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5 Color Silverbeet (aka Rainbow, Bright Lights), Fordhook, Golden, Lucullus, Rhubarb, Ruby Red

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**COLLARD**

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Blue Max\*, Champion, Even' Star Champion, Georgia Southern, Morris Heading, Top Bunch, Vates

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**CORN, SWEET**

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*Yellow:* Bodacious\*, Clockwork\*, Frosty, Golden Bantam, Golden Queen\*, Illini, Incredible\*, Iochief\*, Kandy Corn\*, Lancelot\*, Seneca Chief\*, Sugar Buns\*, Sundance\*, Sunglow

*White:* Argent\*, How Sweet It Is\*, Platinum Lady\*, Silver Queen\*, Silver King\*, Silverado\*

*Bi-color:* Ambrosia\*, Bi Queen\*, Butter and Sugar\*, Harmony\*, Honey and Cream, Park's Honey & Pearl\*, Peaches N Cream\*, Sweet Sue\*

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**CUCUMBER**

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*Slicing:* Fanfare\*, Marketmore 76, Park's Bush Whopper, Poinsett 76, Slicemaster\*, Straight Eight, Sweet Burpless, Sweet Slice\*, Sweet Success\*, Tendergreen

*Pickling:* Bush Pickle, Calypso\*, County Fair\*, Early Pik, Lemon, National Pickling

*Asian/European:* Carmen\*, Palace King\*, Suyo Long

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**EGGPLANT**

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Black Beauty, Classic\*, Dancer\*, Dusky\*, Fairy Tale”, Ghostbuster\*, Long Purple, Nadia\*, Purple Rain\*, Rosita

*Asian type:* Asian Bride, Machiaw, Millionare, Oriental Charm\*, Ping Tung Long

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**ENDIVE**

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Batavian, Green Curled

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**GARLIC**

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*Hard-necked (rocamboles):* all cultivars

*Soft-necked:* all cultivars

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**KALE**

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Dutch Verdura, Dwarf Scotch, Dwarf Siberian, Lacinato, Redbor, Red Russian, Winterbor, Vates Types

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**KOHLRABI**

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Early White Vienna, Grand Duke\*, Kolibri, Purple Vienna

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**LEEKS**

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American Flag, Broad London, Titan

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**LETTUCE**

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*Crisphead:* all cultivars- Iceberg, Ithaca, Little Gem

*Butterhead:* all cultivars- Bibb (Limestone), Boston, Buttercrunch, Tiny Tim, Tom Thumb

*Romaine/Cos:* Cimarron, Cocarde, Forellenschluss, Little Caesar, Parris Island Cos, Rosalita

*Leaf:* all cultivars- Black Seeded Simpson, Cracoviensis, Deer Tongue, Grand Rapids, Great Lakes, Green Ice, Lollo Rossa, Merlot, New Red Fire, Oak Leaf (green and red), Red Sails, Redina, Ruby, Salad Bowl, Summertime, Tango, Vulcan

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**MUSKMELON**

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Ambrosia\*, Burpee Hybrid\*, Crème de La Crème, Gold Star\*, Jenny Lind, Superstar\*, Sweet and Early

*Honeydew:* Earlidew, Marygold, Venus

*Other melons:* Crenshaw

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**MUSTARD**

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Green Wave, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Tendergreen

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**OKRA**

Annie Oakley II\*, Burgundy, Cajun Delight\*, Clemson Spineless, Dwarf Green Pod, Emerald, Star of David

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**ONION**

*From seed/plants:* Ailsa Craig, Candy\*, Ebenezer, Cipollini, Golden Globe, Italian Red Bottle, Kelsae Sweet Giant, Longkeeper, Red Stutgart, Sweet Sandwich, Walla Walla, White Lisbon, White Sweet Spanish, Yellow Globe

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**PARSNIP**

All-American, Hollow Crown, Harris Model

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**PEA**

*Garden:* Alaska, Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Laxton's Progress,, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro, Novella II, Patriot, Sparkle, Wando

*Edible-podded:* Dwarf Gray Sugar, Melting Sugar Mammouth, Oregon Sugar Pod types, Sugar Ann, Sugar Snap, Sugar Snow, Sugar Sweet

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**PEPPER**

*Sweet (red):* Ace\*, Banana, Bell Boy\*, Big Bertha\*, Big Dipper, Cal Wonder, Emerald Giant, Jupiter\*, Keystone Resistant Giant, Mohawk, Park's Whopper, Peto Wonder, Redskin (container), Yolo Wonder

*Sweet (yellow/orange):* Blushing Beauty, Valencia\*, Yellow Golden Giant

*Italian frying:* Carmen, Corno di Toro, Cubanelle, Gypsy, Marconi

*Very pungent chiles:* Habanero, Jalapeno, Red Cayenne, Scotch Bonnet, Serrano, Serrano del Sol\*, Super Cayenne\*, Thai Dragon

*Less pungent chiles:* Ancho (poblano), Ancho 101, Holy Mole, Hungarian Yellow Wax, Jalapeno M, Mexibelle\* (bell type), Mulatto, Pasilla Baja

*Annahein/Numex types:* Anaheim, Big Chile\*, Big Jim, Super Chili\*

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**POTATO**

Blue, Butte, Caribe, Gold Rush, Irish Cobbler, Katahdin, Kennebec, Norgold Russett, Red Bison, Red Norland, Red Pontiac, Rose Gold, Yellow Finn, Yukon Gold

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**PUMPKIN**

*Giant:* Big Max, Dill's Atlantic Giant

*Jack-o-lantern:* Connecticut Field, Howden, Lumina, Spookie, Triple Treat

*Pie:* Baby Bear, Small Sugar, Pie, Sugar Baby, Triple Treat

*Ornamental:* Jack-Be-Little

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**RADISH**

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Champion, Cherry Belle, Cherry Bomb, Crimson Giant, Easter Egg, French Breakfast, Long French, Prinz Rotin, Red Top, Salad Rose, Scarlet Globe, White Icicle

*Asian/daikon:* April Cross, Daikon, Miyashige

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**RHUBARB**

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Cherry Red, Valentine, Victoria

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**RUTABAGA**

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American Purple Top, Laurentian

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**SOUTHERN PEA**

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Brown Crowder, California Blackeye #5, Extra Early Blackeye, Mississippi Silver, Purple Hull, Queen Anne

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**SPINACH**

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America, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Melody\*, Space\*, Tyee\*

*Other:* Malabar Spinach, New Zealand Summer, Perpetual Spinach (a beet subspecies)

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**SQUASH**

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*Zucchini:* Black Beauty, Burpee Hybrid\*, Cocozelle, Costata Romanesco, Park's Green Magic, Pic N Pic, Roly Poly, Seneca, Zucchini Elite

*Summer yellow:* Dixie\*, Early Prolific Straight Neck, Goldbar, Multipik, Parks Creamy, Seneca Prolific, Sundance\*, Yellow Crookneck

*Winter:* all Buttercup types, Carnival, Delicata (Sweet Potato), Jersey Acorn, North Georgia Candy Roaster, Sweet Dumpling, Table Ace\* (acorn) Lakota, Table Queen (acorn), Tahitian Melon Squash, Waltham Butternut

*Other:* Patty Pan (scallop), Peter Pan\* (scallop), Spaghetti, Sunburst\* (scallop), Tivoli (spaghetti), White Bush Scallop

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**SWEET POTATO**

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Centennial, Georgia Jet, Jewel, Porto Rico, Vardaman

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**TOMATO**

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*Red:* Better Boy\*, Big Beef\*, Big Boy\*, Bucks County, Celebrity\*, Delicious, Early Girl\*, First Prize, Fourth of July, Jet Star\*, Mortgage Lifter, Park's Whopper\*, Paul Robeson, Red Pear, Rutgers, Stupice, Supersonic\*, Supersteak, Tomosa

*Pink/purple:* Cherokee Purple, German Johnson, Giant Belgian, Brandywine, Pruden's Purple

*Yellow:* Banana Legs, Golden Boy, Green Zebra, Kellogg's Breakfast, Lemon Boy, Sungold, Yellow Pear

*Bi- or tri-colored:* Big Rainbow, Georgia Streak, Mammouth German Gold, Pineapple, Striped German

*Paste:* Amish Paste, Roma, San Marzano, San Remo, Super Italian, Viva Italia\*

*Cherry:* Gardener's Delight, Sweet Chelsea, Sun Cherry, Sun Gold, Sweet 100\*, Sweet Million\*

*Grape:* Golden Sweet\*, Juliet\*, Red Candy, Santa\*, Solid Gold, Smarty\*

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**TURNIP**

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*Roots and greens:* Purple Top White Globe, Seven Top, Tokyo Cross\*

*Greens:* All Top Hybrid\*, Shogoin

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**WATERMELON**

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Crimson Sweet, Jubilee, Midnight, Moon and Stars, Strawberry, Sugar Baby, Yellow Doll\*

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**Cultivars for Container Gardening (See HG 600)**

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**Any cultivar of the following crops:**

Leaf lettuce, spinach, kale, mesclun mix, radish, mustard greens, leafy Asian vegetables, herbs, Swiss chard, turnip greens, pepper

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**BEAN**

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*Filet/flageolet type:* Masai, Maxibel, Tavera, Blue Lake bush

*Pole type:* Kentucky Blue, Kentucky Wonder, Pole Romano

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**CARROT**

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Little Finger, Napoli, Short n Sweet, Thumbelina

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**CUCUMBER**

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Bush Champion, Bush Crop, Fanfare, Park's Better Bush, Pickle Bush, Patio Pickles\*, Pot Luck\*, Salad Bush\*, Spacemaster,

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**EGGPLANT**

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Bambino, Calliope, Fairy Tale\*, Ghostbuster\*, Little Fingers, Long Purple, Millionaire

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**LETTUCE:**

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Mini head lettuce – Aruba, Baby Oakleaf, Tiny Tim, Tom Thumb

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**ONION**

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Evergreen Bunching, Crystal Wax

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**SQUASH**

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*Summer:* Geode, Goldbar, Gold Rush, Roly Poly

*Winter:* Bush Delicata, Bush Acorn

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**TOMATO** (any cultivars described as “patio”, or “hanging basket”. Cherry tomato fruits are small but the plants may get very large depending on the cultivar).

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Celebrity, Patio, Pixie, Sweet Chelsea, Tiny Tim, Totem, Tumbling Tom (red or yellow)

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**VEGETABLE SEED COMPANIES**

This is a partial list of mail order vegetable seed companies. Whenever possible, patronize local garden centers and local retail stores to buy seeds. *Mention of specific companies is not intended as an endorsement by the University of Maryland.*

**Bountiful Gardens**

18001 Shafer Ranch Rd

Willits CA 95490

Phone: (707) 459-6410

Fax: (707) 459-1925

[www.bountifulgardens.org](http://www.bountifulgardens.org)

Organic open pollinated seeds;  
rare and heirloom vegetables

**W. Atlee Burpee**

300 Park Ave.

Warminster, PA 18974

(800)888-1447

FAX (800) 487-5530

Info. (800) 333-5808

[www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com)

Wide selection of vegetables,  
flower, and herb seeds

**The Cook's Garden**

PO Box C5030

Warminster, PA 18974

Phone: (800) 457-9703

[www.cooksgarden.com](http://www.cooksgarden.com)

Heirloom and unusual vegetables

**FEDCO**

P.O. Box 520

Waterville, ME

Phone: (207) 873-7333

[www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)

A cooperative with good prices and large selection

**Filaree Farm**

182 Conconully Highway

Okanogan, Washington 98840

Phone: (509) 422-6940

[www.filareefarm.com](http://www.filareefarm.com)

Over 100 unique strains of seed garlic

**Harris Seeds**

355 Paul Road

P.O. Box 24966

Rochester, NY 14624-0966

Phone: (800) 544-7938

Fax: (877) 892-9197

[www.harriseseeds.com](http://www.harriseseeds.com)

Supplier of high quality flower and vegetable seeds



**Henry Field's Seed & Nursery Co.**

P.O. Box 397  
Aurora, IN 47001-0397  
Phone: (513) 354-1494  
Fax: (513) 354-1496  
[www.henryfields.com](http://www.henryfields.com)

**Johnny's Selected Seeds**

955 Benton Avenue  
Winslow, Maine 04901  
Phone: (877) 564-6697  
Fax: (800) 738-6314  
[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)  
Informative catalog, many varieties  
of vegetable and flower seeds

**Kitazawa Seed Company**

PO Box 13220  
Oakland, CA 94661-3220  
Phone: (510) 595-1188  
Fax: (510) 595-1860  
[www.kitazawaseed.com](http://www.kitazawaseed.com)  
Asian vegetable seeds

**Landis Valley Museum Heirloom Seed Project**

2451 Kissel Hill Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Phone: (717) 569-0401  
Fax: (717) 560-2147  
[www.landisvalleymuseum.org/seeds.php](http://www.landisvalleymuseum.org/seeds.php)  
Pennsylvania-Dutch heirloom vegetable, herb and  
flower seed

**D. Landreth Seed Company**

60 East High Street, Bldg #4  
New Freedom, PA 17349  
Phone (800) 654-2407  
[www.landrethseeds.com](http://www.landrethseeds.com)  
"America's Oldest Seed House"  
Offers 18th and 19th century flower and vegetable  
varieties

**Meyer Seed Company of Baltimore**

600 S Caroline St  
Baltimore, MD 21231-2813  
Phone: (410) 342-4224  
No Web address; call for a catalog  
Popular varieties of flowers,  
vegetables, turfgrass, and cover crops.

**Nichols Garden Nursery**

1190 Old Salem Road NE  
Albany, Oregon 97321-4580  
Phone: (800) 422-3985.  
Fax: (800) 231-5306.  
[www.nicholsgardennursery.com](http://www.nicholsgardennursery.com)  
Broad selection of "ethnic" and unusual herbs,  
vegetables and flowers

**Park Seed Co.**

1 Parkton Ave  
Greenwood, SC 29647  
Phone: (800) 213-0076  
Fax: (800) 275-9941  
[www.parkseed.com](http://www.parkseed.com)  
Hundreds of vegetable and flower varieties

**Pinetree Garden Seeds**

P.O. Box 300  
New Gloucester, ME. 04260  
Phone: (207) 926-3400  
[www.superseeds.com](http://www.superseeds.com)  
Small, inexpensive seed packets

**Seed Savers Exchange**

3094 North Winn Rd,  
Decorah, Iowa 52101  
Phone: (563) 382-5990  
Fax: (563) 382-6511  
[www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)  
Seed Savers Exchange - a non-profit organization  
dedicated to the preservation of heirloom seeds

**Seeds from Italy**

P.O. Box 149  
Winchester, MA 01890  
Phone: (781) 721-5904  
<http://growitalian.com>  
Vegetable cultivars imported from Italy

**Southern Exposure Seed Exchange**

P.O. Box 460  
Mineral, VA 23117  
Phone: (540) 894-9480  
Fax: (540) 894-9481  
[www.southernexposure.com](http://www.southernexposure.com)  
Specialize in heirloom cultivars for the mid-Atlantic  
and mid-South

**Stokes Seeds**

PO Box 548

Buffalo, New York 14240-0548

Phone: (800) 396-9238

Fax: (888) 834-3334

[www.stokeseeds.com](http://www.stokeseeds.com)

Huge selection of vegetable and flower seeds

**Thompson & Morgan**

220 Faraday Ave.

Jackson, NJ 08527-5073

Phone: (800) 274-7333

[www.tmseeds.com](http://www.tmseeds.com)**Territorial Seed Co.**

PO Box 158

Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Phone: (800) 626-0866

[www.territorialseeds.com](http://www.territorialseeds.com)**Vermont Bean Seed Co.**

334 W. Stroud St.

Randolph, WI 53956

Phone: (800) 349-1071

[www.vermontbean.com](http://www.vermontbean.com)

Over 90 bean varieties and other unusual and heirloom vegetables

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*Mention of individual businesses does not constitute an endorsement by the Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland.*

**HAVE A GARDENING QUESTION???**

**CALL THE HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER**

**800-342-2507**

**<http://extension.umd.edu/hgic>**

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