



Recommended Vegetable Varieties for Fort Bend County



This guide to vegetable varieties that grow best in Fort Bend County was compiled with input from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents in Fort Bend and neighboring counties, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M –Aggie-Horticulture, and a survey of Fort Bend County Masters Gardeners as to which crops they have found successful.

To make this list as useful as possible, we've added descriptions adapted from listings on a dozen or more seed company websites. For more information, see the Appendix at the end.

ASPARAGUS

For a tip sheet on growing asparagus in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Asparagus."

Note: Once a new bed of asparagus is planted it will take two to three years before it is ready for the first harvest.

Jersey Gem Large green spear, with purple tinge. Resistant to Cercospora and Rust.

Jersey Giant High yielding asparagus. Large green spears, resistant to Fusarium Wilt, Rust and Crown Rot.

UC-72 Heirloom, dark green compact heads. Resistant to Fusarium Wilt, tolerates heat and drought slightly better than most.

UC-157 Medium-sized green spear, with purple tinge. Resistant to Fusarium Wilt.

BEANS

For a tip sheet on growing beans in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Green Beans."

BUSH BEANS

Blue Lake *Days to Harvest: 60.* Yields 6-inch-long, straight green pods. Very productive, a long-time favorite.

Cosmos *Days to Harvest: 56.* Yields 6-inch-long, straight green pods. Heat tolerant, resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus and Curly Top Beet Mosaic Virus.

Derby *Days to Harvest: 57.* Produces 7-inch long straight, green pods. Resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus.

Early Contender *Days to Harvest: 55.* Produces 5- to 6-inch round-oval, green pods. Good in cool weather but will thrive in hot weather, also.

Florence *Days to Harvest: 51-60* Produces 6- to 7-inch dark green, slender pods. Resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus.

Goldcrop Wax *Days to Harvest: 55.* Heirloom, produces 5- to 7-inch golden straight, stringless pods.

Greencrop *Days to Harvest: 47.* Heirloom, moderate-sized green pods. Resistant to bean mosaic virus.

Improved Golden Wax *Days to Harvest: 55-60.* Produces 4- to 5-inch golden, stringless pods. Delicious buttery flavor.

Jumbo *Days to Harvest: 55.* Produces 6- to 7-inch dark green, stringless pods. Resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus.

Maxibel *Days to Harvest: 59.* Produces 7-inch thin green pods.

Pencil Pod Black Wax *Days to Harvest: 52.* Produces 5- to 6-inch curved golden pods, with black seeds. Can tolerate high heat.

Provider *Days to Harvest: 50.* Produces 5- to 6-inch, round, green pods. Resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus and Powdery Mildew.

Roma II *Days to Harvest: 59.* Produces 6-to 7-inch, Romano-type (flat) green pods.

Tendergreen *Days to Harvest: 52.* Yields 6-inch green pods. Prolific. Resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus.

Topcrop *Days to Harvest: 51.* Produces 6- to 7-inch straight, stringless green pods. Resistant to Bean Mosaic Virus.

POLE BEANS

Note: Support for vines recommended for pole beans

Blue Lake *Days to Harvest: 65.* Produces 7-inch straight, stringless pods.

Gold Marie Vining *Days to Harvest: 60.* Yields 6- to 8-inch flat, golden pods.

Kentucky Wonder *Days to Harvest: 65.* Produces 6- to 7-inch, straight stringless pods.

Northeaster Pole *Days to Harvest: 56.* Yields 8-inch Romano-type (flat) pod.

Purple King Pole *Days to Harvest: 75.* Yields 5- to 6-inch purple pods.

Purple Podded Pole *Days to Harvest: 70.* Heirloom, 5-inch purple pods.

Rattlesnake *Days to Harvest: 65.* Produces 8- to 10-inch, green/purple striped pods. Drought tolerant.

LIMA BEANS

Dixie White *Days to Harvest: 75.* Baby lima bean, 2- to 3-inch green pods.

Fordhook *Days to Harvest: 65.* Produces 4-inch light green pods. Drought and heat resistant.

Henderson Bush *Days to Harvest: 68.* Heirloom, small pods and beans.

Jackson Wonder Bush *Days to Harvest: 68.* Maroon speckled beans, prolific and cold hardy.

Sieva (Carolina) Pole Lima Bean *Days to Harvest: 61-70.* Large vines, 8 to 10 feet in height.

BEETS

For a tip sheet on growing beets in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Beets."

Bulls Blood *Days to Harvest: 59.* Dark red foliage, can be used in salads. Dark red, 2- to 3-inch beets. Best when harvested young.

Chioggia *Days to Harvest: 54.* Italian heirloom. Green foliage, can be used in salads, 2-inch beets, when sliced beet looks like a bullseye with red and white concentric rings.

Detroit Dark Red *Days to Harvest: 59.* Heirloom, green/red foliage, can be used in salads. Deep red 3-inch beets.

Green Top Bunching *Days to Harvest: 52.* Green foliage, can be used in salads, 3-inch-deep red beets.

Golden *Days to Harvest: 55.* Heirloom, green foliage, can be used in salads. Golden colored 2-inch beets.

Pacemaker III *Days to Harvest: 53.* Green foliage, 3-inch, red beets. Can be used in salads.

Ruby Queen *Days to Harvest: 55.* Low-growing, green/red foliage, red beet.

BROCCOLI

For a tip sheet on growing broccoli in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Cole Crops (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussel sprouts)."

Apollo *Days to Harvest: 50-60.* "Cut and come again." After main floret is harvested, tender, sweet, side shoots can be harvested throughout the season.

Calabrese *Days to Harvest: 60-90.* Green central floret, 5-inches across, producing side shoots after main floret is harvested.

Destiny *Days to Harvest: 70-75.* Small- to medium-sized floret. Heat tolerant, best in Fall gardens.

Early Dividend *Days to Harvest: 45.* Short season, 4-to 5-inch florets, producing side shoots after main floret is harvested.

Green Magic *Days to Harvest: 57.* Medium-sized floret, producing side shoots after main floret is harvested. Heat tolerant.

Gypsy *Days to Harvest: 60.* Medium-sized floret, producing side shoots after main floret is harvested. Good heat tolerance.

Packman *Days to Harvest: 50.* Hybrid, solid, tight floret. Produces side shoots after main floret is harvested.

Premium Crop *Days to Harvest: 58.* Large floret, producing side shoots after main floret is harvested.

Waltham 29 *Days to Harvest: 74.* Heirloom, long stalk, with 4- to 6-inch florets. Produces side shoots after main floret is harvested.

BROCCOLI RAAB

For a tip sheet on growing broccoli rabe in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Cole Crops (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts)."

Sorrento *Days to Harvest: 40. Produces 3- to 4-inch florets, upright growth, plants up to 30 inches in height. Mild broccoli flavor.*

Rapiani Organic *Days to Harvest: 60-70. Mini broccoli-flavored florets. Produces side shoots after main floret is harvested. Great for salads.*

BRUSSELS SPROUTS

For a tip sheet on growing Brussels sprouts in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Cole Crops (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussel sprouts)."

Diablo *Days to Harvest: 110. Medium-sized green sprouts, tall plants.*

Jade Cross *Days to Harvest: 85. Deep green, 1-inch sprouts (30- to 32-inch plants).*

Long Island Improved *Days to Harvest: 90. Semi-dwarf plants (24 inches). Green, 1-inch sprouts.*

Tasty Nugget *Days to Harvest: 78. Yields 1- to 1¼ -inch green sprouts.*

CABBAGE

For a tip sheet on growing cabbage in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Cole Crops (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussel sprouts)."

Bravo *Days to Harvest: 85. Produces 10- to 12-inch blue/green heads. Fusarium and Black Rot resistant.*

Early Jersey Wakefield *Days to Harvest: 90-110. Heirloom. Dense, elongated 7-inch heads.*

Greenboy *Days to Harvest: 80. Produces 10- to 12-inch heads. Fusarium resistant.*

Ruby Ball *Days to Harvest: 78. Yields 6- to 8-inch heads of red cabbage.*

Ruby Perfection *Days to Harvest: 85. Medium-sized heads of red cabbage.*

Savoy King *Days to Harvest: 80. Dark green, textured, 4-pound heads. Resistant to Tip Burn.*

Savoy Perfection *Days to Harvest: 90. Heirloom, Dark green, textured, 6- to 8-pound heads.*

CHINESE CABBAGE (AKA: Bok Choi, Pac Choy)

Brisk Green *Days to Harvest: 50. Non-heading green, oval, cup-shaped leaves.*

Ching Chang *Days to Harvest: 40. Non-heading, dark green, leafy.*

Joi Choi/Pac Choi *Days to Harvest: 55. White stalks, 8 to 10 inches with dark green leaves.*

Violetta Pac Choi *Days to Harvest: 30-35.* Purple foliage, can be harvested as baby greens or full grown.

CARROTS

For a tip sheet on growing carrots in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Carrots."

Amarillo *Days to Harvest: 75.* Yellow, large 8-inch roots.

Bambino *Days to Harvest: 61.* Orange, slender 4-inch roots.

Bolero *Days to Harvest: 75.* Orange, thick 7- to 8-inch roots.

Chantenay Red Core *Days to Harvest: 75.* Orange large, stump-root ends with deep red-orange center.

Danvers *Days to Harvest: 65-87.* Orange, nearly coreless, 8-inch roots.

Imperator *Days to Harvest: 70.* Heirloom, orange 7- to 8-inch roots.

Little Finger *Days to Harvest: 60.* Orange 3½-inch roots.

Lunar White *Days to Harvest: 55.* White, 6- to 8-inch roots. Mild and sweet.

Nantes Half Long *Days to Harvest: 70.* Heirloom, orange 7-inch roots.

Romance *Days to Harvest: 70.* Orange, blunt tipped 6- to 7-inch roots.

Scarlet Nantes *Days to Harvest: 65-70.* Red/orange 7-inch roots.

Tendersweet *Days to Harvest: 75.* Heirloom, orange, 9- to 10-inch blunt-end roots.

Thumbelina *Days to Harvest: 60.* Orange, 1- to 1 ½ -inch round roots.

CAULIFLOWER

For a tip sheet on growing cabbage in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Cole Crops (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussel sprouts)."

Cheddar *Days to Harvest: 58.* Orange, brighter when cooked.

Graffiti *Days to Harvest: 80.* Deep purple.

Snowball *Days to Harvest: 70-80.* White, 6- to 8-inch heads.

Snow Crown *Days to Harvest: 50.* White/purple tinge. 8- to 10-inch heads.

CELERIAC

Ceriliac Giant Prague (celery root) *Days to Harvest: 110.* Large white root.

CELERY

Utah Tall *Days to Harvest: 110.* Crisp, medium-green stalks.

COLLARDS

For a tip sheet on growing collards in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Collard Greens."

Champion *Days to Harvest: 60.* Compact plant. Rich dark green color.

Flash *Days to Harvest: 55.* Dark green leaves, slow to bolt. High yields.

Georgia Southern *Days to Harvest: 75.* Heirloom variety. Heat and cold tolerant.

Vates *Days to Harvest: 75.* Dwarf, heat tolerant.

CORN

For a tip sheet on growing corn in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Sweet Corn." Note: Expect to yield one ear of corn per stalk.

SWEET CORN

Silver Queen (White) *Days to Harvest: 91.* Yields 8-inch, slightly tapered ears, 14-16 rows of sweet, white kernels on 7-foot plants. *FBMG member's comment: I have grown 20 stalks of this corn in a four-by-six bed for several years. It's been an excellent Spring season crop.*

Sweet G-90 (Bicolor) *Days to Harvest: 73.* Produces ears with 12-14 rows of white/yellow kernels on 6 ½- foot plants.

SUGAR-ENHANCED CORN

Kandy Korn *Days to Harvest: 89.* Sweet golden kernels, 16-20 rows on 8-foot stalks.

SUPERSWEET CORN

Crisp-N-Sweet (Yellow) *Days to Harvest: 81-91.* Hybrid. Stalks grow to 8 feet.

Honey-N-Pearl (Bicolor) *Days to Harvest: 76.* Produces 8-inch ears, 16 to 18 rows of white/yellow kernels on 6-foot stalks.

How Sweet It Is (White) *Days to Harvest: 87.* Large, 8-inch ears, 18 rows of kernels.

CUCUMBERS

For a tip sheet on growing cucumbers in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Cucumbers."

Note: *Most cucumbers are Monoecious plants, with male and female flowers so that the plants are capable of pollinating themselves. Among others, heirlooms and pickling cucumbers are Monoecious.*

- *Gynoecious cucumbers are special hybrids that produce a majority of female flowers and should be grown with Monoecious cucumbers to assist in pollination (Usually Monoecious seeds are included in seed packets).*
- *Parthenocarpic cucumbers have all female flowers and produce cucumbers without the need for pollination. They are seedless, but their flowers can be cross-pollinated with other varieties, in which case they will produce seeds but may be deformed. Some sources recommended this type of cucumber be grown in a greenhouse.*

Ashley *Days to Harvest: 65. Monoecious.* An heirloom variety producing six- to eight-inch slicing cucumber. Resistant to Downy Mildew, recommended for hot, humid climates like East Texas.

Tendergreen Burpless *Days to Harvest: 60. Monoecious.* Yields 8-inch slicing cucumbers. Disease resistant.

Dasher II *Days to Harvest: 58. Gynoecious.* Produces 8- to 10-inch slicing cucumbers. Disease resistant. Needs a *Monoecious* variety planted nearby.

Diva *Days to Harvest: 58. Parthenocarpic.* Yields 6- to 8-inch slicing cucumbers.

General Lee *Days to Harvest: 52. Gynoecious.* Yields 8-inch slicing cucumbers. Resistant to Cucumber Mosaic and Powdery Mildew. No male flowers, needs a *Monoecious* variety planted nearby.

Metiki Striped Serpent, AKA: Painted Serpent, Armenian Cucumber (Armenian) *Days to Harvest: 63.* Eight- to 18-inch slicing cucumbers. Not a true cucumber, in melon family.

Poinsett 76 *Days to Harvest: 75. Monoecious.* Produces 8-inch slicing cucumbers. Disease tolerant.

Spacemaker *Days to Harvest: 56. Monoecious.* Produces 7-inch cucumbers, compact, hardy vines. Prolific and resistant to Cucumber Mosaic and Scab.

Straight Eight *Days to Harvest: 58. Monoecious.* Yields 8-inch-long slicing cucumbers. Reliable producer. *FBCMG member's comment: "This has been a highly successful variety for me, both in flavor and yield."*

Suyo Long *Days to Harvest: 60. Parthenocarpic.* Chinese variety, ribbed, can grow to 16 inches long.

Sweet Slice *Days to Harvest: 62. Monoecious.* Produces 10- to 12-inch cucumbers. Disease resistant.

Sweet Success *Days to Harvest: 54. Parthenocarpic.* Produces 14-inch seedless cucumbers. Resistant to Mosaic Virus, Scar and Target Leaf Spot.

PICKLING CUCUMBERS

Boston Pickling *Days to Harvest: 55. Monoecious.* An heirloom variety, 3- to 6-inch fruit.

Calypso *Days to Harvest: 50. Gynoecious.* Yields 3-inch pickling cucumbers. Needs a *Monoecious* variety planted nearby.

Carolina *Days to Harvest: 51. Gynoecious.* Produces 3-inch pickling cucumbers. Disease resistant. Needs a *Monoecious* variety planted nearby.

County Fair 87 *Days to Harvest: 52. Parthenocarpic.* Produces 2- to 4-inch pickling cucumbers. Disease resistant.

H-19 Little Leaf *Days to Harvest: 57. Parthenocarpic.* Yields 3- to 5-inch pickling cucumbers. Disease resistant.

Homemade *Days to Harvest: 55. Monoecious.* Produces up to 6-inch pickling cucumbers. Disease resistant.

Little Tyke *Days to Harvest: 35. Monoecious.* A pickling cucumber producing fruit typically 1 inch by 3 ½ inches. It is recommended to plant with an early pollinator-type cucumber.

National *Days to Harvest: 52. Monoecious.* An heirloom variety producing 2-inch to 4-inch pickling cucumbers.

Unistars *Days to Harvest: 42. Gynoecious and Parthenocarpic.* Vigorous and fast growing plants producing 3½- to 4-inch pickling cucumbers.

JAPANESE CUCUMBERS

Anoanga Jibai *Days to Harvest: 60. Monoecious.* Long, slender 8-inch fruits. Hardy and prolific.

Natso Fushniri *Days to Harvest: 55-60. Monoecious.* Yields 9-inch slicing or pickling cucumbers.

Jibai Shimoshirrazu *Days to Harvest: 60. Monoecious.* Yields 7- to 8-inch fruits. Heat tolerant, powdery mildew resistant.

EGGPLANT

Note: Eggplants are considered heat-loving plants. For a tip sheet on growing them in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Eggplant."

Black Beauty *Days to Harvest: 74.* Heirloom, large, 4- to 5-inch black fruit.

Early Long Purple *Days to Harvest: 70-80.* Mild-flavored, 8- to 10-inch fruits.

Easter Egg *Days to Harvest: 52.* Similar to hens' eggs in size and shape. Start cream-colored but color varies as fruit matures, finishing as yellow-orange fruits.

Florida Hibush *Days to Harvest: 85.* Large, black 8- to 10-inch fruits.

Hansel *Days to Harvest: 55.* Slender, dark purple 3-to 4-inch fruits.

Purple Rain (AKA Graffiti) *Days to Harvest: 66.* Purple and white striped, oval shaped, fruit.

EGGPLANT – ASIAN

Fairy Tale *Days to Harvest: 65.* Slender, 2- to 4-inch, purple and white striped fruits.

Ichiban *Days to Harvest: 61.* Slender, 8- to 10-inch dark purple fruit.

Pingtung Long *Days to Harvest: 65.* Slender 12- to 18-inch purple fruit.

ESCAROLE (AKA Endive)

Rhodospina *Days to Harvest: 42.* Narrow, mild-flavored frilly leaves. Sensitive to Tip Burn.

GARLIC

Note: Garlic bulbs come in two types. Hardneck Garlic has a stalk in the center that turns rigid at maturity. Softneck remains soft at maturity. Hardnecks are said to peel easier, have stronger flavor and fewer but larger cloves per head than softnecks. On the other hand, softnecks store better for longer periods, have more large and small cloves per head and are well-suited for warm climates.

California Early *Days to Harvest: 90. Softneck. Averages six cloves per bulb.*

Elephant *Days to Harvest: 90. Enormous, up to one pound, averaging two cloves per bulb. Note: Looks like garlic and tastes like a mild hardneck type, but it is actually a type of leek.*

Mexican Purple *Days to Harvest: 90-154. Hardneck. Yields 8 to 16 cloves per bulb. Purplish skin.*

French Mild Silverskin *Days to Harvest: 90-154. Softneck. Heirloom. Averages 14 cloves per bulb. Frost and heat tolerant.*

KALE

Note: Kales prefer cooler temperatures, will taste bitter in hot temperatures.

Dwarf Blue Curled Scotch *Days to Harvest: 56. Heirloom variety with green/blue leaves. Frost resistant.*

Dwarf Blue Curled Vates *Days to Harvest: 55. An heirloom variety with attractive green/blue leaves and compact, tightly packed heads.*

Dwarf Siberian *Days to Harvest: 60. Elongated, green, slightly frilled leaves.*

Green Curled *Days to Harvest: 45. Elongated, green curly 12- to 18-inch leaves.*

Lacinato (AKA Dinosaur kale) *Days to Harvest: 65-80. Italian heirloom with large, heavily crinkled blue/green 24- to 36-inch leaves.*

Red Russian *Days to Harvest: 60. Flat, jagged-edged leaves with green, purple and red colors. Well suited for baby greens.*

KOHLRABI

Delicacy Purple *Days to Harvest: 75. Purple with white flesh, 3- to 4-inch bulbs.*

Early Purple Vienna *Days to Harvest: 55. Heirloom, Purple with white flesh.*

Early White Vienna *Days to Harvest: 55. Pale green with white flesh.*

Grand Duke *Days to Harvest: 45. Pale green with white flesh, 4-inch bulbs.*

LEEKs

Leeks are cold tolerant, can be left in the ground until a hard freeze is forecast.

American Flag *Days to Harvest: 150. Stems measure 8 to 10 inches long and 2 inches across.*

King Richard *Days to Harvest: 75. Stems measure 12 inches and ½- to 1-inch across.*

Lancelot *Days to Harvest: 75.* Stems measure 12 to 14 inches and 1-inch across.

LETTUCE

Lettuce and Arugala *Most prefer cool weather and should be protected from afternoon sun. Hot temperatures will make leaves taste bitter.*

Rouquette/Rocket *Days to Harvest: 35.* Tender, elongated, rounded leaves. Peppery taste. Harvest young.

Wasabi *Days to Harvest: 45.* First bite is sweet and gradually has a horseradish taste. *FBCMG member's comment: Use the same day as harvested, flavors tend to fade after harvest.*

BUTTERHEAD/BIBB

Bibb *Days to Harvest: 75.* Leafy, savoy, dark green rosettes. Heads are 9 to 15 inches in height.

Big Boston *Days to Harvest: 70* Pale green heading type, 5 to 10 inches.

Buttercrunch *Days to Harvest: 28 to baby-size, 46 to full size.* Small 6-inch, tightly bunched dark green leaves.

Tom Thumb *Days to Harvest: 60.* Small, 3- to 4-inch heads.

CRISPHEAD/ICEBERG

Classic Iceberg *Days to Harvest: 85.* Heirloom. Smooth, compact, 6-inch heads.

LOOSELEAF

Black Seeded Simpson *Days to Harvest: 28 to baby-size, 46 to full size.* Light green, curled tender leaves.

Freckles *Days to Harvest: 70.* Medium-green leaves with burgundy spots, rosette.

Red Fire *Days to Harvest: 55.* A relatively new hybrid that produces loose heads green at the base and dark red at the edges. Similar to Red Sails but described as producing larger heads. Bolt resistant and somewhat disease resistant.

Redina *Days to Harvest: 50.* Frilly, loose leaf. Green and burgundy colored.

Red Sails *Days to Harvest: 27 to baby-size, 55 to full size.* Frilly, fringed green and burgundy.

Ruby Red *Days to Harvest: 40-53.* Bright green and ruby red, loose leaf. Heat tolerant.

Salad Bowl *Days to Harvest: 45.* Heirloom. Bright green, loose leaf.

Simpson Elite *Days to Harvest: 48.* Bright green, loose leaf. Heat tolerant.

Vulcan *Days to Harvest: 52.* Red and green, ruffled and frilly leaves. Slow to Tip Burn.

ROMAINE

Flashy Butter Gem *Days to Harvest: 70.* Dappled with deep Crimson.

Great Caesar *Days to Harvest: 70.* Combines the flavors of Romaine and butterhead. Ten-inch at mature height. Partial Shade.

Little Caesar *Days to Harvest: 70* Sweet, crisp leaves. Leaves are 9 to 15 inches at mature height. Partial Shade.

Plato II *Days to Harvest: 65.* Dark green leaves, dense heads.

Red Romaine *Days to Harvest: 50.* Long, broad, red upright leaves.

MUSTARD GREENS

Cut and Come Again: Most Mustards grow from the inside. Harvesting outer leaves will give a continuous harvest throughout the season. A cool-season vegetable, high temperatures will make leaves taste bitter.

Dragons Tongue *Days to Harvest: 40.* Large, sweet, frilly green leaves with purple veins.

Florida Broad Leaf *Days to Harvest: 45.* Broad, smooth bright green leaves. Mature height: 10 to 12 inches.

Savannah Mustard *Days to Harvest: 35.* Large, thick, deep green, upright leaves. Mild and savory flavor. Mature height: 6 to 18 inches.

Green Wave *Days to Harvest: 21 to baby size, 45 to full size.* Bright green, broad, frilly leaves. Hot, mustard flavor.

Miz America *Days to Harvest: 23 to baby size.* Japanese mustard. Magenta colored, tender, mild flavor. Sweet with a mild horseradish flavor.

Scarlett Frills *Days to Harvest: 21 to baby size, 37 to full size.* Lacy, ruffled, red/green colored.

Southern Giant Curled *Days to Harvest: 50-70.* Crumpled, frilly, large upright, bright green leaves. Mild mustard flavor.

Spicy Green *Days to Harvest: 21 to baby size, 41 to full size.* Frilly, bright green. Mild but spicy wasabi- or horseradish-flavored.

Suehlihung *Days to Harvest: 21 to baby size, 45 to full size.* Frilly bright green, mild but spicy. Medium-sized upright, serrated leaves.

Tender Green *Days to Harvest: 30-40.* Heirloom. Bright green mild, tender leaves. Makes a good substitute for spinach.;

OKRA

For a tip sheet on growing okra in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Okra."

Okra loves heat and produces best with consistent harvesting. Most plants grow to 6 feet. Dwarf varieties are 3 to 4 feet high.

Bulldog *Days to Harvest: 58.* Asian variety. Plant height: 3 feet. Produces orange colored, 3-inch pods.

Burgundy *Days to Harvest: 49-60.* Heirloom. Produces 6- to 8-inch burgundy pods.

Cajun Delight *Days to Harvest: 60.* Produces 7-inch green pods.

Clemson Spineless *Days to Harvest: 56.* Heirloom. Produces 2- to 3-inch green pods.

Dwarf Green Long Pod *Days to Harvest: 50.* Plants 3- feet high, 7- to 8-inch green pods.

Emerald *Days to Harvest: 58.* Produces 3- to 4-inch green pods.

Jambalaya *Days to Harvest: 50.* Produces 3- to 4-inch green pods.

Lee *Days to Harvest: 54.* Yields 4- to 6-inch green pods.

Louisiana Green Velvet *Days to Harvest: 55.* Produces 6- to 7-inch light-green pods.

Silver Queen *Days to Harvest: 80.* Heirloom. Yields 5- to 7-inch white pods.

ONIONS

For a tip sheet on growing onions in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Onions."

Candy *Days to Harvest: 110.* Extra-large sweet and mild white onions. Keep well for months.

Crystal Wax *Days to Harvest: 120.* Small white pearl onions.

Evergreen Long White Bunching Onions *Days to Harvest: 65.* Plants produce 12- to 14-inch white-fleshed stalks with "spring green" tips. Sow a new crop every two weeks through the season, overwinter for a springtime harvest. Cold-hardy, disease-resistant.

Granex *Days to Harvest: 100.* A sweet onion good for salads, slicing, and cooking. Disease resistant.

Red Burgundy *Days to Harvest: 110.* Mild, sweet red onions with red skin with a white & pink interior.

Texas Early Grano *Days to Harvest: 110.* Produces 1-pound white onions, with sweet, mild, flavorful taste. Keeps well.

Texas Supersweet *Days to Harvest: 110.* A yellow onion that produces softball-size bulbs. Disease-resistant, stores well.

PEAS

For a tip sheet on growing peas in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Sugar Snap Peas."

SNAP PEAS

Dwarf Gray Sugar Snow *Days to Harvest: 60.* Produces crisp, flavorful 2- to 3-inch snow peas. Tolerant of both heat and cold, highly suitable for Southeast Texas.

Green Arrow *Days to Harvest: 65.* Tender, flavorful sweet peas. Pods 4 to 5 inches in length have 9 to 11 tender and flavorful peas. Well-suited for cooking, canning and freezing, highly disease-resistant.

Mammoth Melting Sugar *Days to Harvest: 70.* Stringless 4- to 5-inch snow peas. Described as sweet, sugary and tender.

Sugar Ann *Days to Harvest: 60.* An extra-early producer of sweet, crisp pods on 20-inch vines that can be grown with or without a trellis. Grows with strings that are best removed before cooking.

Sugar Bon *Days to Harvest: 55.* Produces sweet 3-inch long edible pods. Resistant to powdery mildew, plants grow 24-inches tall.

Sugar Daddy *Days to Harvest: 75.* A very sweet stringless sugar snap pea that produces edible and tasty 3-inch-long pods as well as tasty shelled peas. Vines, growing to 24 inches, can be grown with trellises or without support.

Sugar Snap *Days to Harvest: 72.* Sweet 3-inch-long pods. Pods are edible at any stage. Heat-tolerant, easy to grow. They freeze well.

Super Sugar Snap *Days to Harvest: 65.* Sweet, 3-inch-long peas. They freeze well.

ENGLISH PEAS

Little Marvel Sweet *Days to Harvest: 63.* Produces 3-inch dark green sweet peas, with pods producing 6 to 8 tender peas. Suitable for canning and freezing, they're easy to shell by hand.

Wando Garden *Days to Harvest: 68.* Medium-sized peas that work well fresh or frozen. Its ability to grow well in hot zones means it can be planted later than many other peas.

SOUTHERN PEAS

Blackeye #5 *Days to Harvest: 65.* Produces excellent yields of 6- to 8-inch long pods. The vines are upright and semi-spreading. One of the most dominant favorite variety of all Southern peas. Used fresh or dried. Cream cowpeas. Drought Resistant.

Knuckle Purple Hull *Days to Harvest: 65.* Bush bean producer of short purple pods and brown cowpeas. Excellent for drying, canning and freezing.

Mississippi Silver *Days to Harvest: 65.* The 6½-inch silvery pale green pods from this bush-type plant produce large brown cowpeas. With fewer vines, this low, bushy plant makes for easier harvesting than other varieties.

Texas Cream 8 *Days to Harvest: 75.* Small bush-type plants yield abundant quantities of light-colored cowpeas. Drought-tolerant, does well in heavy clay, sandy soils and other soil types.

Texas Pinkeye *Days to Harvest: 60.* Purple-hulled pods yield cream-colored peas with bright pink eyes. A tall bushy plant that lack runners and is somewhat insect-resistant. Good for drying and canning.

Zipper Cream *Days to Harvest: 75.* This low-bush plant produces 9-inch green pods that each yield 20 creamy white pea. The zipper refers to the string, whose zipper-like action makes shelling them easy.

PEANUTS

Tennessee Red *Days to Harvest: 110.* An abundant producer of large peanuts, with 2 to 5 red-skinned peanuts per shell. Suitable for a range of soil types, including clay soils. Unlike most peanuts, doesn't need to be hilled. *FBCMG gardener's comment: Planted Valencia type Tennessee Red on June 6th and pulled the vines on November 15th. The vines pulled up to produce a fertile loose soil that I immediately planted with carrots for the fall/winter garden. Peanuts will now be part of my hot summer crop rotation.*

PEPPERS

For a tip sheet on growing peppers in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Peppers."

SWEET BELL PEPPERS

Big Bertha *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces 7-inch by 4-inch sweet bell peppers. Deep green turn to red as they mature.

Bullnose *Days to Harvest: 75.* Sweet and crunchy bells turn from dark green to red when mature. An heirloom variety that dates back to the 1700s.

Candy Cane Red *Days to Harvest: 60.* With crisp, elongated fruits that grow to 3 to 5 inches, this plant boasts both variegated foliage and fruits with bands of light and dark green and, as it matures, red, resulting in a "candy cane" appearance. Sweet and edible at any stage.

Carmen *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces 6-inch x 2½-inch tapered peppers with a taste that is very sweet, particularly when fully red-ripe. Medium-sized plant.

Emerald Giant *Days to Harvest: 75.* Produces 4½-inch by 3½-inch sweet bell peppers. Thick walled bells begin dark green, turning to red as they mature.

Escamilo *Days to Harvest: 60.* Produces 6-inch x 2½ -inch tapered golden-yellow fruits. Delightfully sweet taste.

Golden Summer *Days to Harvest: 65.* These 4-inch by 4-inch sweet bells start out lime-green and turn to golden yellow as they mature. Can be used at either stage.

Gypsy Hybrid *Days to Harvest: 65.* Produces 4½-inch by 2½-inch tapered peppers that mature from yellow to orange to red. Good for both frying and fresh use.

Jupiter *Days to Harvest: 78.* Produces 4-inch by 4-inch sweet bells that start out green and turn to red as they mature. Thick walls make them good for stuffing.

Keystone Giant *Days to Harvest: 78.* Produces 4½-inch by 3½-inch thick walled sweet bells that turn from green to red as they mature.

Lilac *Days to Harvest: 70.* A singular variety whose 4½-inch by 3½-inch sweet bells start out ivory-colored and turn first to lilac-lavender, then to red.

Summer Sweet *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces 4-inch by 5-inch bright yellow sweet bell peppers. With thick walls, good for stuffing, grilling or stir frying.

Sweet Banana *Days to Harvest: 65.* Although they're most commonly used when they're yellow, these banana-shaped peppers will turn to red as they mature. Abundant producer of sweet, thick-walled 7-inch by 1¾-inch fruit.

Tequilla Sunrise *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces 3-inch by 1-inch carrot-colored and carrot-shaped sweet peppers. Peppers start out dark green and turn to golden-orange as they mature.

Yolo Wonder *Days to Harvest: 75.* Bells that start out dark green and turn to bright red as they mature.

MILD HOT PEPPERS

Anaheim *Days to Harvest: 75.* Produces 7-inch by 1-inch mildly hot peppers. Start out green, turning red as they mature.

Senorita *Days to Harvest: 80.* Produces 3-inch by 1¼-inch mildly hot peppers. Peppers start out dark green, turning red as they mature.

TAM Mild Jalapeno *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces 3-inch by 1-inch mildly hot peppers. Start out from green and turn to red as they mature. The TAM name reflects this variety's development at Texas A&M in the early 2000s.

HOT PEPPERS

Ancho/Poblano *Days to Harvest: 80.* Produces 4-inch heart-shaped peppers. They progress from dark green to deep red as they mature, becoming much hotter and flavorful as they ripen.

Big Jim *Days to Harvest: 85.* Hot, but medium hot. A bit milder than most jalapeno peppers. Abundant producer of 12-inch by 2¾-inch peppers. Start out green, turning red as they mature.

Cayenne *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces abundant yields of 4- to 6-inch long, ½-inch peppers that are slightly hotter than jalapenos. Can be used fresh, canned, pickled or dried. Fruits turn from green to red and as they mature. These days growers have numerous hybrid variations to offer.

Habanero *Days to Harvest: 100.* Measuring 1 to 2 inches in length and slightly less in width, they turn from silvery-green to bright orange as they mature on the plant. Habenaros are among the hottest of hot peppers – reaching up to 215,000 Scovilles of heat. Should be used very sparingly and should be handled wearing gloves. Avoid rubbing eyes when handling.

Hidalgo Serrano *Days to Harvest: 85.* Jalapenos, produce 2¼-inch by ½-inch medium hot peppers – 17,000 on the Scoville Heat scale. Turn from green to red as they mature, with medium-thick flesh excellent for pickling, hot sauce, and salsa.

Hot Portugal *Days to Harvest: 85.* Produces heavy yields of 6-inch by ¾-inch hot peppers. Scoville Heat Units: 50,000. Turn from green to glossy scarlet red as they mature. A variety that originated in, yes, Portugal.

Hungarian Yellow Wax *Days to Harvest: 70.* Described as four to five times hotter than jalapeños. Produces 5½-inch by 1½-inch smooth, waxy fruits tapering to a point. Thick-walled for frying, easy to stuff and to peel after roasting. Start yellow and good to eat then, change to orange to red as they mature.

Jalapeno *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces high yields of cone-shaped thick-walled hot peppers 3 to 4 inches long and about 1½-inch wide. They are ready to pick when dark green.

Long Red Cayenne *Days to Harvest: 65.* Produces long, 5-inch by ½-inch fruits. Can be used fresh or dried. So hot they're best handled with rubber gloves and cleaned under running water.

Mexi Bell *Days to Harvest: 75.* Produces hot bell-shaped peppers that start green and turn to red as they mature. Excellent for stuffing. Somewhat disease resistant.

Red Chili *Days to Harvest: 85.* Produces abundant yields of 1-inch by ½-inch very hot peppers. Start light green and turn to red as they mature. Good for hot pepper sauces and good pickled or dried.

Super Cayenne *Days to Harvest: 70.* Described as "slightly" hotter than jalapenos, super cayenne plants produce abundant yields of 4- to 6-inch thin peppers. Can be used fresh, dried, canned, pickled or in flavorful sauces. Fruits start out green and turn to red as they mature.

Super Chili *Days to Harvest: 85.* Described as one of the hottest peppers gardeners can grow, they produce 2½-inch tapered peppers that start green and turn orange and then red as they mature. They can be harvested at any color. Abundant producer touted as an ornamental container plant as well as an edible.

Maules Red Hot *Days to Harvest: 80.* Produces 10-inch long Cayenne-type hot peppers. Start green and turn to red as they mature. Good for making hot sauces or as dried, crushed pepper flakes.

Lemon Pepper *Days to Harvest: 75.* Produces distinctively wrinkled, narrow, 3- to 4-inch long hot peppers with a unique flavor – described by one nursery as “spicy, with a hint of pine woods.” Peppers start green but turn to lemon yellow as they mature. Best used fresh or in sauces.

POTATOES

For a tip sheet on growing potatoes in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension’s “Easy Gardening Series”](#) and download the PDF on “Irish Potatoes.”

All Blue *Days to Harvest: 90.* A singular potato with blue skin, blue flesh and excellent taste. Large plants produce long, tubular-shaped late-maturing potatoes.

Dark Red Norland *Days to Harvest: 80.* An excellent potato for baking, boiling or frying. A delicious red-skinned potato with firm white flesh.

Irish Cobbler *Days to Harvest: 80.* An early-maturing, high-yielding potato with smooth white skin and white flesh. Round to oblong in shape with deep set eyes. Excellent for boiling and baking.

Kennebec *Days to Harvest: 80.* An abundant midseason producer, this is a popular, all-purpose potato with smooth skin, white flesh and excellent taste. Resistant to Late Blight

Purple Viking *Days to Harvest: 90.* A large potato with purple-pink mottled skin and bright white flesh. Its rich flavor makes it excellent for both mashing and baking.

Red LaSota *Days to Harvest: 100.* A delicious potato with reddish skin and waxy white flesh, excellent for boiling, baking or frying. Its ability to withstand heat and drought makes it suitable for southern gardeners.

Red Pontiac *Days to Harvest: 80.* With thin red skin, shallow eyes and crisp, sweet white flesh, an excellent potato for mashing and other uses.

Superior *Days to Harvest: 90.* Abundant producer of oval, good-sized potatoes with white skin and flesh. Heat and drought tolerant and somewhat disease resistant.

Reddale *Days to Harvest: 80.* An early producer of medium to large red-skinned red potatoes with moist white flesh. High resistance to Verticillium Wilt. *FBCMG gardener’s comment: Have planted these for several years and very pleased with the quality and yield. We’ve baked them, fried them and mashed them.*

Yukon Gold *Days to Harvest: 90.* An excellent yellow-fleshed potato with outstanding flavor. Produces medium to large potatoes that are good for baking, boiling, mashing or frying. *FBCMG gardener’s comment: These have proven to be excellent, reliable potatoes.*

PUMPKINS

LARGE PUMPKINS

Big Max *Days to Harvest: 120.* These are the enormous pumpkins that can grow to well over 100 pounds, 70-inches around and, potentially, 60 inches across. With bright orange skin, they look great and win awards at fairs but in fact their thick yellow-orange flesh is reported to be excellent for pies and breads.

Big Tom *Days to Harvest: 115.* With bright orange, firm skin with slight sutures, its 12-inch to 14-inch round to elongated fruit make for excellent Jack-O'-Lantern carving. Yellow-orange flesh makes for excellent baking and canning.

Connecticut Field *Days to Harvest: 120.* With fruits measuring 12–20-inches in diameter, this is a great Halloween pumpkin and also great for use in pies and soups. Said to be grown by Native Americans in New England and a staple of colonial settlers' gardens

MEDIUM PUMPKINS

Jack O'Lantern *Days to Harvest: 110.* These medium-sized pumpkins come in in the 10 to 20-pound range. An heirloom pumpkin well-suited for carving, its flesh is also excellent for pies, breads and soups.

Lady Godiva *Days to Harvest: 95.* These pumpkins are famous for producing seeds that lack the hard shells found on most pumpkin seeds and are ready to eat right from the shell. Typically in the 7- to 12-pound range. Their yellow-orange shells striped with green make them excellent decorations.

Small Sugar *Days to Harvest: 95.* Considered an heirloom baking pumpkin that typically produces 10-inch fruits with deep-orange shells, it's described as sweet, sugary and excellent for pies.

SMALL PUMPKINS

Jack Be Little *Days to Harvest: 95.* At 3-inches by 2-inches, these miniature pumpkins make great Halloween fall/winter decorations. With compact vines that spread 10 to 15 feet, plants produces six or seven fruits.

Muchkin *Days to Harvest: 100.* At 3- to 4-inches wide, a bright orange color and deep sutures, a great decorative pumpkin that lasts for a long time. However, it's described as more susceptible to Mosaic viruses than other varieties.

Triple Treat *Days to Harvest: 110.* The "triple" in triple treat refers to the fact that it's great for Halloween carving, excellent for use in pies, and yields tasty hull-less seeds that can be eaten raw or cooked. Produces bright orange-skinned round pumpkins in the 9-inch, 8-pound range.

RADISHES

For a tip sheet on growing radishes in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Radishes."

Champion *Days to Harvest: 20.* A high-yielding, mild flavored variety that stays tender and is excellent for salads, sandwiches and garnishing. Radishes are a bright scarlet color, with firm, crisp white flesh.

Cherry Belle *Days to Harvest: 22.* Resembling real cherries, this early-maturing variety produces small, round, ripe-red radishes that are mild, crunchy and keep well in the refrigerator.

Early Scarlet Globe *Days to Harvest: 24.* This high-yielding heirloom variety produces small, bright-red round radishes with crisp, tender, juicy and mild white flesh.

Easter Egg *Days to Harvest: 25.* A variety that produces small, round radishes in varying shades of pink and white. Crisp and crunchy.

French Beauty *Days to Harvest: 26.* A tasty heirloom that produces radishes with bright magenta-pink roots and pure white crispy flesh.

French Breakfast *Days to Harvest: 26.* A variety that produces 1- to 2-inch oblong radishes with deep pink roots and bright white tips. Described as tasty with “healthy radish spiciness.”

Pink Beauty *Days to Harvest: 26.* A sweet, mild crisp variety that produces round, rosy-pink radishes.

Purple Plum *Days to Harvest: 28.* Abundant producer of 1- to 1 ½-inch purple skinned radishes with crisp, mild white flesh.

Red Meat *Days to Harvest: 50.* Produces 2- to 4-inch round radishes with tan skin and unique, dark pink flesh. Its sweet, delicious taste makes it great served fresh, grated, or cubed and in winter salads. However, described as suitable for fall sowing but not for spring sowing, as it can bolt to seed from a spring sowing.

Scarlet Globe *Days to Harvest: 24.* An early, high-yielding variety that produces bright red radishes with crisp, mild white flesh.

Sparkler *Days to Harvest: 25.* A mild, peppery variety that produces two-tone 1- to 1½- inch radishes that shade from bright red tops to pure white trailing bottoms.

Summer Cross *Days to Harvest: 55.* A Japanese variety that produces mildly pungent white tapered roots as long as 16 inches. Good heat tolerance, resistant to mosaic virus and fusarium.

Watermelon *Days to Harvest: 60.* Produces 2- to 4-inch round radishes with striking, dark pink flesh and a sweet, delicious taste. Excellent fresh, grated, or cubed, fermented and made into winter salads. HOWEVER, described as suitable for fall sowing but not for spring sowing, as it can bolt to seed from a spring sowing.

White Icicle *Days to Harvest: 30.* Yes, they’re white and icicle-shaped. Produces 4- to 6-inch radishes that taper to a point and have a crisp, mild taste. Tolerate higher temperatures better than many other radishes but shouldn’t be sown once temperatures regularly reach 80’s.

RUTABAGA

American Purple Top *Days to Harvest: 90.* Produces 4- to 6-inch smooth, sweet and flavorful globe-shaped roots. Plant features purplish-red tops above ground and light yellow below ground. Flesh turns bright orange when cooked. Prefers cool weather and is best grown as a fall crop. Said to be excellent with roast pork or beef or mashed with potatoes.

SPINACH

For a tip sheet on growing spinach in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Spinach and Other Greens."

Bloomsdale *Days to Harvest: 45.* Semi-upright plants have a fast growth rate, producing thick, crinkly, dark green leaves that are tasty eaten fresh, cooked, canned and in soups. Described as handling hot weather better than some other spinach varieties.

Red Stem Malabar *Days to Harvest: 70.* This variety is attractive to gardeners in East Texas because it tolerates heat well and can be grown through the summer season, yielding a milder flavor than more peppery cool-season spinaches. With red stems and deep-green leaves, this plant is described as an edible ornamental that can be trained on a trellis to heights of 6 feet or more.

Melody *Days to Harvest: 42.* A flavorful, fast-growing spinach that produces thick, dark-green leaves. Slow to bolt and resistant to mosaic and downy mildew.

New Zealand *Days to Harvest: 70.* Although this heirloom plant is not a true spinach, its flavor is very spinach-like, it does well in hot climates and it's slow to bolt or turn bitter. However, be aware that it's described as somewhat difficult to start, has low germination rates and takes its time germinating. Its seeds require some special handling (soaking for several hours) before planting.

Palco *Days to Harvest: 38.* This fast-growing spinach can be picked early for baby greens or allowed to grow out. It's bolt-resistant, does well in warm climates and is described as a "great choice to overwinter."

Space *Days to Harvest: 40.* A fast-growing variety with a sweet taste that is heat tolerant, slow-bolting and resistant to a broad spectrum of downy mildews. Large, smooth dark green leaves are said to freeze well when blanched and packed in airtight bags.

Tyee *Days to Harvest: 53.* Abundant producer of heavily leafed dark green plants that resist bolting under high temperatures. Somewhat resistant to Downey Mildew.

SUMMER SQUASH

For a tip sheet on growing squash in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Squash."

YELLOW SQUASH

Butterstick *Days to Harvest: 50.* Bright yellow straightneck squash, typically growing to 10 inches in length. Excellent raw in salads or cooked in stirfries, soups, stews and casseroles.

Dixie *Days to Harvest: 45.* Shiny lemon-yellow crookneck squash. A smooth-skinned variety that's best when harvested at 6 inches, it's very flavorful and tender. Great freezing and canning variety. yellow crookneck squash. It's medium-size bush has a strong "open habit" that reduces disease risks by allowing air movement to pass through.

Early Prolific *Days to Harvest: 40.* A high-yielding heirloom yellow straightneck variety, described as having a lush buttery, nutty flavor. Best harvested when 8- to 9-inches long.

Early Yellow *Days to Harvest: 42.* A popular yellow straightneck squash first introduced in 1938. Variety is a heavy yielder of club-shaped lemony-yellow fruits that are tender and tasty at 5 to 6 inches and excellent when mature at 12 to 14 inches.

Goldbar *Days to Harvest: 43.* A long, slim golden yellow variety, with creamy white flesh that boasts a nutty, grassy and subtly sweet flavor both raw and cooked.

Horn of Plenty *Days to Harvest: 41.* A high-producing yellow crookneck hybrid variety. Typical 3- to 6-inch fruits offer a mild, sweet taste.

HMultipik *Days to Harvest: 50.* A hybrid variety that produces rich yellow fruits. Abundant producer and long harvest period. Somewhat disease-resistant.

Smooth Criminal *Days to Harvest: 41.* Prolific bush-type plants are heat tolerant and produce tender, pale yellow, straightneck fruits. Best picked when 4 to 8 inches long.

Sundance *Days to Harvest: 47.* Bright yellow crookneck squashes. Does well in freezing and canning.

Sun Drop *Days to Harvest: 62.* A creamy yellow, oval-shaped summer squash that can be harvested immature as baby squash to be cooked and served whole. Grows to 3- to 4-inches in diameter. Great for use fresh in salads and dips. Bush-type plants are compact.

Sunny Supersett *Days to Harvest: 50.* A high-yielding yellow crookneck variety with fine-textured flesh and sweet nutty flavor. Excellent mildew resistance.

SCALLOP SQUASH

Scallop squashes are essentially variations on summer squashes with a “UFO” shape and scalloped edges.

Bennings Green Tint *Days to Harvest: 63.* A light green version of patty pan squash, dating back to the early 1900s. Abundant producer of 3-inch, scallop-shaped fruit.

Earl’s White Bush *Days to Harvest: 47.* A white scallop-shaped squash with a mild taste. Squashes typically grow to 4- to 6-inches in diameter.

Patty Pan (White) *Days to Harvest: 60.* An heirloom variety dating back to early Native Americans and colonists. Offers a creamy, tasty texture. Described as “unbothered by most insects.”

Patty Pan (Yellow) *Days to Harvest: 60.* Abundant producer of butter-yellow scalloped squashes with bright green blossom ends.

Peter Pan (Green) *Days to Harvest: 50.* A “miniature” scalloped squash that produces light green 1- to 3-inch with a sweet flavor. Produces high yields of fruits described as “meatier” than most patty pans.

Sunburst *Days to Harvest: 50.* A bright yellow scalloped variety with a green ring at the blossom end. Produces mild, buttery 3- by 2-inch fruits described as firm but very tender, even at full maturity.

VINING SQUASH

Tatume *Days to Harvest: 45.* Best known in Mexico and South Texas, vines produces green, round fruits that taste like zucchini when picked at about 4- to 5-inches. Left to grow, they turn golden-yellow, reach 6- to 8-inches and become delicious winter squashes.

ZUCCHINI SQUASH

Zucchini's are versions of summer squashes that are traditionally green and straight in shape, in contrast to yellow, often crooked summer squashes. Some varieties like Gold Rush are bright yellow.

Ambassador *Days to Harvest: 51.* Produces medium dark green squashes. Somewhat disease resistant.

Aristocrat *Days to Harvest: 53.* Produces high yields of 8-inch smooth, slender dark green zucchini squash.

Cue Ball *Days to Harvest: 50.* Light-green globe-shaped fruits with subtle flecking. Flat on the blossom ends, harvested fruit sits upright. Pick at 2- to 3-inches diameter. Somewhat resistant to powdery mildew, watermelon mosaic virus, and zucchini yellow mosaic virus.

Eight Ball *Days to Harvest: 55.* A round, dark green zucchini that produces abundantly. Great flavor even when larger, but especially tasty when picked at 3-inches in diameter, before any seeds have started to develop.

Gold Rush *Days to Harvest: 52.* This zucchini variety is an abundant producer of bright golden fruits with creamy, white flesh. Its smaller bush makes it desirable for gardens with less space.

Round Zucchini *Days to Harvest: 45.* Even though its round, this bush-type variety is a terrific green squash with a great taste. Best harvested when the squashes are baseball size.

Senator *Days to Harvest: 41.* A very dependable, high-yielding variety that produces 6- to 7-inch medium green fruits.

WINTER SQUASH

Winter squashes are more likely to be stiffer round or oblong fruits, usually with yellow or orange flesh. They tend to store well for much longer periods than summer squashes.

Burgess Buttercup *Days to Harvest: 95.* An heirloom variety that produces turban-shaped fruits with dark-green skin with silvery stripes and spots. The flesh is thick, smooth and orange described as combining sweetness with buttery flavor. Stores well for months.

Butternut Squashes *Days to Harvest: 90-95.* The benchmark for butternut squashes has long been the Waltham butternut, which produces large fruits (typically 9 inches long) with smooth, orange flesh with a sweet flavor. These days, seed producers offer a range of hybrids offering improved disease and pest resistance, with names like Butterscotch, Metro and Waldo. The Waltham butternut was actually developed in Stow, Mass., but the agents at the nearest extension office, in Waltham, named it for themselves.

Ebony Acorn *Days to Harvest: 100.* A high-yielding producer of round, 6-inch acorn squashes with deep glossy green-black ridged skin and high quality yellow flesh.

Royal Acorn *Days to Harvest: 85.* Produces fruits that are 5½ inches long and 4 inches in diameter with smooth, greenish-black skin and orange, sweet flesh. Skin sometimes turns partly yellow in storage.

Spaghetti Squash *Days to Harvest: 100.* Doesn't taste like spaghetti but does produce noodle-like strings of sweet yellow flesh with a nutty flavor. Fruits are typically in the 5-pound, 7- to 8-inch range. Ivory skin changes to pale yellow as it matures. Short vines. Seed producers offer a range of hybrids offering improved disease and pest resistance.

Table King Acorn *Days to Harvest: 75.* High-yielding producer of dark gray-green acorn squashes with soft orange flavorful flesh. Compact bushes typically produce two-pound fruits.

Table Queen Acorn *Days to Harvest: 80.* A vining variety that produces medium-sized 6-inch, acorn-shaped squashes with sweet golden yellow flesh. The rind is dark green and ribbed. Should be left on the vine until fully mature.

SWEET POTATO

Beauregard *Days to Harvest: 90.* Produces high yields of purplish-red potatoes with deep orange flesh and very little cracking. This is said to be the most common sweet potato sold in grocery stores. An excellent all-purpose sweet potato for baking, boiling and use in casseroles.

Centennial *Days to Harvest: 100* Produces high yields of well-shaped tubers with orange skin and flesh. Moist texture. Stores well.

Jewel *Days to Harvest: 150.* Orange inside and out, they're sweet potatoes – but described as less intensely sweet (even “bland”). However, an excellent all-purpose sweet potato for baking, boiling and use in casseroles.

Vardaman *Days to Harvest: 100.* A bush variety with sweet, deep orange flesh and yellow gold skin that darkens once it's dug. Named after a town in Mississippi famous for its sweet potatoes.

SWISS CHARD

Bright Lights *Days to Harvest: 55.* A terrific mix of plants with green or bronze leaves and stems of gold, pink, orange, purple, red, and white, at their best harvested young for salads. Great eaten like spinach. Thrives in full sun but will tolerate some shade.

Bright Yellow *Days to Harvest: 57.* Produces excellent yields of tasty glossy green leaves with bright yellow stems and leaf veins. Usually used fresh in salads or lightly steamed. Slow to bolt, good winter hardiness.

Fordhook Giant *Days to Harvest: 50.* An heirloom variety that produces heavy yields of thick, dark green leaves with an attractive earthy flavor. A good substitute for spinach. Does best in full sun.

Rhubarb Red *Days to Harvest: 59.* Produces deep-green crinkled leaves with red veins that grow 16 to 20 inches tall. A nutty, meaty flavor makes it a good substitute for spinach. Does best in full sun.

Ruby *Days to Harvest: 59.* Dramatic ruby red stems support deep green leaves that grow up to 16 inches high. Thrives in full sun.

TOMATILLOS

Verde *Days to Harvest: 40.* Produces high yields of spherical green fruits measuring 2 to 3 inches across, enclosed in papery husks. It's harvested early, when it has a slightly sour flavor, for use in salsa verde. As it matures it develops a sweeter taste suitable for a tomato substitute. Good disease resistance.

TOMATOES

For a tip sheet on growing tomatoes in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on Tomatoes.

- ***"D" indicates Determinate*** – All of a plant's fruits reach maturity within a limited timeframe.
- ***"I" indicates Indeterminate*** – Plants continue to produce ripen fruit over for as long as conditions remain viable.

CHERRY/GRAPE TOMATOES

Bumble Bee Purple (I) *Days to Harvest: 70.* A combination of the dark purple seen in heirloom tomatoes and metallic green striping. Sweet flavor, meaty texture.

Juliette (I) *Days to Harvest: 60.* Deep red, shiny grape-shaped fruit, rich tomato flavor. Good disease-resistance, including against Early and Late Blight. Good crack resistance. *FBCMG gardener's comment: "Very abundant producer, good in salads. So prolific we use them in salsas and pasta sauces as well as salads."*

Sun Gold (I) *Days to Harvest: 65.* Sweet, bright-orange cherry tomatoes. Prolific producers that start yielding early and continue to produce through the season. High resistance to Fusarium Wilt and Tobacco Mosaic Virus. *FBCMG gardener's comment: "Very abundant producer, great taste, great in salads."*

Sugar Sun (I) *Days to Harvest: 62.* Early maturing plant produces abundant yields of sweet, juicy orange cherry tomatoes. Crack-resistant with good disease resistance.

Supersweet 100 (I) *Days to Harvest: 60.* Red cherry tomatoes. High resistance to Fusarium Wilt and Verticillium Wilt.

Sweet Chelsea (I) *Days to Harvest: 65.* Sweet and flavorful red cherry tomatoes. Abundant producer with clusters of 15 to 20 fruit. Starts yielding early, drought tolerant, crack resistant.

HEIRLOOM TOMATOES

Black Icicle (I) *Days to Harvest: 70.* Heirloom producing deep purplish-brown oblong fruits that are almost black. Rich, beefsteak-reminiscent taste, sweet, with earthy overtones.

Brandywine (D) *Days to Harvest: 80.* Often called "the best tasting tomato ever," this renowned heirloom variety produces large, heavy fruits with rich taste and smooth red flesh.

German Giant (I) *Days to Harvest: 75.* High yielding heirloom from Germany, producing 1- to 2-pound deep pink fruit. Rich flavor, comparable to Brandywine varieties.

Granny Cantrell (I) *Days to Harvest: 85.* Produces heavy yields of large 1- to 2-pound pinkish-red beefsteak type tomatoes with rich old-fashioned tomato flavor. Its backstory is that “Granny” Lettie Cantrell began growing it in the hills of eastern Kentucky after receiving seeds from a soldier returning from Germany following World War II. Excellent for eating fresh, for cooking or for canning.

Oxheart Pink (I) *Days to Harvest: 80.* A large heirloom with purplish pink skin, meaty flesh and luscious flavor. Produces large (averaging 1½ pounds) nearly seedless fruit.

Pineapple (I) *Days to Harvest: 85.* An orange and yellow heirloom with juicy, meaty flesh and a mild flavor. Yields very large, beefsteak-like fruits that can exceed 2 pounds.

Prudens Purple (I) *Days to Harvest: 65.* An early Brandywine-like heirloom that begins producing early, yields large, firm, meaty fruits with great flavor. More deep pink than purple on the outside, crimson-colored flesh on the inside. Very few seeds.

LARGE HYBRID TOMATOES

Better Boy (I) *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces 10- to 16-ounce bright red meaty, juicy tomatoes with good balance of acid and sugar.

Big Beef (I) *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces up to 12-ounce fruit, with full flavor, early ripening for their size and high resistance to a range of cankers, wilts and viruses and to nematodes.

Large Barred Boar (I) *Days to Harvest: 70.* An exotic hybrid that produces flavorful 8- to 12-ounce pink-brown fruits with green stripes and meaty flesh.

Lemon Boy (I) *Days to Harvest: 72.* Produces high yields of 8-ounce bright lemon yellow tomatoes. Unique color and excellent flavor.

Mountain Glory (I) *Days to Harvest: 72.* Produces 10- to 12-ounce tomatoes good for salads, slicing and sandwiches. A disease-resistant tomato often used for commercial production.

MEDIUM HYBRID TOMATOES

Arkansas Traveler (I) *Days to Harvest: 75.* Produces 6- to 8-ounce deep pink tomatoes, rich flavor, good for sandwiches, salads and slicing. Crack-resistant and tolerant to heat and humidity.

Celebrity (D) *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces 7- to 8-ounce flavorful fruits. High resistance to a range of cankers, wilts and viruses and to nematodes. *FBCMG gardener’s comment: “Good producer, great flavor, very dependable. Since I have limited space, one of my go-to plants.”*

Country Taste (I) *Days to Harvest: 70.* Meaty, flavorful fresh-eating and slicing tomato. It can weigh up to 1/2 pound or more and does extremely well in a greenhouse. Good resistance to Verticillium, Tobacco Mosaic and Fusarium Diseases.

Early Girl (I) *Days to Harvest: 52.* Flavorful 4- to 6-ounce flavorful red tomatoes, excellent for sandwiches, salads and slicing. *FBCMG gardener’s comment: “I always plant one to get the harvesting started with a good, early producer.”*

Heatwave II (D) *Days to Harvest: 68.* Produces 6- to 7-ounce fruits with excellent taste. Extremely disease resistant, does well in temperatures as high as 95 F.

Homestead (Semi-Determinate) *Days to Harvest: 80.* Produces 8- to 9-ounce meaty red tomatoes with sweet, juicy flavor. Excellent for sandwiches, salads, slicing and canning. Does well in hot, humid regions, sets fruit at high temperatures.

Jet Star (I) *Days to Harvest: 70.* Produces excellent yields of meaty, flavorful 7- to 9-ounce red tomatoes. Excellent for salads, sandwiches, and canning.

Patio (D) *Days to Harvest: 70.* A dwarf tomato that is a good choice for small spaces like patios and decks. Produces high yields of sweet, flavorful 3- to 4-ounce red tomatoes.

PASTE TOMATOES

Chico III (D) *Days to Harvest: 70.* Abundant producer of 3- to 4- ounce red plum-shaped tomatoes excellent for salads and canning as well as sauces and puree. Heat tolerant

Roma (D) *Days to Harvest: 75.* A pasta sauce standby among paste tomatoes, an excellent producer of flavorful fruit with very thick flesh.

San Marzano (I) *Days to Harvest: 78.* Described as among the best paste tomatoes, its 4- to 6-ounce fruits peel and cook down quickly.

Viva Italia (D) *Days to Harvest: 72.* Abundant producer of meaty 3- to 4-ounce paste tomatoes with thick walls and excellent flavor. Excellent in salads as well as for making paste, sauces and salsas. Heat tolerant and sets fruit well in hot weather.

TURNIPS

For a tip sheet on growing turnips in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Turnips & Mustard."

White Lady *Days to Harvest: 40.* Abundant producer of tender, pure white roots and 2- to 3-inch bright green greens. Bolt resistant.

Purple Top White Globe *Days to Harvest: 55.* Produces 3- to 4-inch smooth, round roots that are bright purple above the soil line and white below, with large, lobed greens.

Shogoin *Days to Harvest: 42.* Produces good yields of 6- to 8-inch diameter turnips, with tender greens. Excellent for soups, salads, stir-fries and pickling. Grows well in hot dry weather.

Tokyo Cross *Days to Harvest: 35.* Abundant producer of 2- to 6-inch crisp, mild and flavorful white turnips, with tasty greens. Cold tolerant and slow to bolt.

WATERMELON

For a tip sheet on growing watermelons in Texas, go to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's "Easy Gardening Series"](#) and download the PDF on "Melons."

Allsweet *Days to Harvest: 90.* Produces 25- to 30-pound striped melons with sweet, bright red flesh. Typically grow 17- to 19-inches long and 7-inches in diameter. Resistant to Fusarium wilt and Anthracnose.

Black Diamond *Days to Harvest: 90.* Abundant producer of 40- to 75-pound watermelons with flavorful bright red flesh.

Sugar Baby Bush *Days to Harvest: 75.* With vines only 3- to 6-feet in length, this producer of sweet little 6- to 12-pound scarlet-fleshed watermelons is ideal for gardeners with limited space. *FBCMG gardener's comment: "This was a fun plant to grow in small beds that were otherwise empty during the summer season. On the other hand, I found the little melons had thick rinds and not too much flesh."*

Charleston Gray No. 133 *Days to Harvest: 85.* Plants produce flavorful deep-pink fleshed watermelons, typically in the 30-pound range. Good resistance to Fusarium Wilt for Southern regions.

Crimson Sweet *Days to Harvest: 85.* Produces yellow-green striped oval fruits with sweet pink flesh in the 15- to 25-pound range. Averages 1 to 2 melons per plant.

Jubilee *Days to Harvest: 95.* Produces large oval-shaped fruit with sweet, deep-red flesh, extensive vining.

Orangethroat *Days to Harvest: 85.* Produces good-sized watermelons with very sweet deep orange flesh. Abundant yields and highly resistant to wilt and pests.

Petite Sweet *Days to Harvest: 75.* Produces sweet 5- to 7-pound melons with bright yellow flesh and dark and light green-striped rinds.

Tendersweet (Orange) *Days to Harvest: 85.* Abundant producer of 35- to 40-pound watermelons. With sweet, delicious orange flesh.

APPENDIX Recommended Vegetable Varieties For Fort Bend County

The list of recommendations are compiled with input from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents in Fort Bend and neighboring counties, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Aggie-Horticulture (<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>), along with a survey of Fort Bend County Master Gardeners as to which crops they have found successful.

THE DESCRIPTIONS

Rather than just present a list of crops, we've gone farther and developed a resource that seeks to give each recommended variety's characteristics. These summaries have been compiled and adapted from a variety of online seed nurseries. These include (with links):

- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds <https://www.rareseeds.com/>
- Burpee Seeds & Flowers <https://www.burpee.com/>
- Harris Seeds <https://www.harrisseed.com/>
- Johnny's Selected Seeds <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/>
- Kitazawa Seed Co. <https://www.kitazawaseed.com/>
- Park Seed <https://parkseed.com/>
- Pinetree Garden Seeds <https://www.superseeds.com/>
- Reimer Seeds <http://www.reimerseeds.com/>
- Southern Exposure Seed Exchange <https://www.southernexposure.com/>
- Wilhite Seed <https://www.wilhiteseed.com/>
- Wood Prairie Farm <https://www.woodprairie.com/>

The list of recommended varieties and descriptions were compiled by Fort Bend County Master Gardener members Jean Trevino, Chairman Emeritus of the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Vegetable Garden, and Ralph Fuller, Texas Master Gardener-Advanced Trained Master Gardener in Vegetables and Entomology. Additional input by Boone Holladay, County Extension Agent – Horticulture, Fort Bend County-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Margo "Mac" McDowell, Program Coordinator. Fort Bend County Master Gardeners.