



Gardening in North Dakota

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After the long winter months, many North Dakotans are inspired to venture into planting a vegetable garden. This not only helps to recondition the body to stretching, digging and hauling, it also offers the opportunity to harvest healthful, tasty vegetables.

The success of an undertaking such as this depends on a few points: Proper planning, good species and cultivar selection, common sense, and well-drained, humus-rich soil. Proper planning comes with knowing where to place the vegetables in the garden, and allowing for their mature size; selecting the right species and cultivar involves choosing those that have a chance to mature early in

our short growing season; common sense involves planting vegetables that everyone in the family can enjoy; and finally, amending the soil that it is able to drain the usual rainfall or watering adequately.

If this is your first or 50th experience in establishing a vegetable garden in North Dakota, good luck! It never hurts to have a little of that working with you. But your luck will be improved somewhat if you work with some of the vegetable species and cultivars listed herein. It is worth the effort. After a winter of eating supermarket produce, your own will taste fantastic!

VEGETABLE	DAYS	CULTIVAR DESCRIPTION and USE
ASPARAGUS		See Extension Circular H-61 (Rev.) "Asparagus and Rhubarb" Reliable rust-resistant varieties. Fresh or frozen.
Jersey Giant		
Mary Washington		
Viking		
Viking KB3		
BEANS (GREEN)		
Early Contender	49	Early yielder, stringless, tender 6-7 inch oval pods.
Topcrop	49	Pods round, medium green, somewhat curved; use fresh, frozen.
Provider	50	Dependable, heavy early yields; pods straight and smooth, fully round.
Tendercrop	53	Smooth, meaty dark green, with slow seed development.
Improved Tendergreen	54	More productive than Tendergreen type. Pods set well off the ground.
E-Z Pick	55	24" tall with upright stems. Dark green pods hang off the soil.

VEGETABLE	DAYS	CULTIVAR DESCRIPTION and USE
BEANS (WAX)		
Topnotch Golden Wax	50	Improved Golden Wax, pods thick-flat, golden-yellow, stringless. Use fresh or frozen. Early.
Pencil Pod	56	Popular for home freezing. Very Productive
Black Wax		
Goldcrop	60	Excellent variety for freezing or for eating freshly cooked.
BEANS (POLE)		
Kentucky Wonder	65	Heavy producer, pods tender, stringless when young.
Blue Lake	67	Good climber with pod-set from base to top of plant.
BEANS (LIMA)		
Henderson Bush	65	Dependable. Very uniform growth. Table or freezing.
Geneva	85	For trial; a bush lima with cool soil tolerance for earlier planting.

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MARCH 1995

VEGETABLE	DAYS	CULTIVAR DESCRIPTION and USE
BEETS		
Facemaker, II Hyb.	50	Beet greens are an excellent source of Vitamin A. Uniform, smooth and bright red color.
Ruby Queen	52	Round with smooth shoulders and crown. Small tap root.
Burpee's Golden	55	Smooth, bright golden; does not bleed like red beets.
Detroit Dark Red	58	Globe shaped, skin dark red, flesh deep blood red.
Red Ace	59	Rapid growth, sweet flavored quick cooking.
Sweetheart	60	Extra sweet, tender, solid red color, good for pickling.
BROCCOLI		
		Plant transplants. More tolerant of heat than cauliflower. Side shoots develop after center bud cluster is cut.
Premium Crop	58	Tight bud clusters, large, solid head. Fresh or frozen.
Green Duke	69	Excellent uniformly. Medium heads. Good quality.
BRUSSELS SPROUTS		
		Requires aphid control. Plant transplants.
Jade Cross Hybrid	85	Plants tall; sprouts from medium size.
CABBAGE		
		Plant transplants. All varieties listed are yellows resistant.
Early Jersey	60	Good early heads, 3 pounds and under.
Wakefield		
Early Copenhagen		
Market		
Stonehead	60	Extra early, extremely solid interior, very compact 6 inch heads, 3½ pounds. Family size.
Golden Acre YR	63	Round, light green, small (3 pounds). Family size.
Hybrid Green Boy	75	Medium early hybrid. Five pounds, solid heads.
Wisconsin	90	An excellent kraut and winter cabbage.
All-seasons		Weights 9-10 pounds.
CARROTS		
		Excellent source of Vitamin A. Narrow cylindrical shape; medium long with slight taper and blunt tip. Crisp and tender.
Nantes (Coreless)	68	
Red Cored	68	Reddish-orange, uniform, tender and sweet.
Chantenay		
Royal Chantenay	70	Standard carrot for heavy soils. Good flavor and texture.
CAULIFLOWER		
		Set out transplants about May 15-20. All must be tied as soon as curd is visible.
Snow Crown	53	Vigorous, rounded, pure white, solid heads.
Self-Blanche	70	Large heads. Heads should be tied in warm weather.
SWISS CHARD		
		Leaves yellowish green, heavily crumpled with cream colored slender midrib.
Lucullus	60	
Rhubarb	60	Bright crimson stalks with color extending into veins. Tender, excellent quality.
CILANTRO		
		Direct seed or transplants; leaves flavor salsa, seeds, Asian dishes.
Slow-Bolt Strain	50	
SWEET CORN		
		First early sweet com. Short 6 inch ears with very good taste qualities.
Polar Vee	53	
Early Sun Glo	66	Ears 7 inches long, bears shortly after July 4, 12 row and well filled.
Morning Sun	72	Sweet tender kernels, outstanding in maturity class.
Golden Beauty	73	Uniform ears, 6-7 inches long. Does well in short season.
Pristine	76	White kernels. Good for fresh, freezing, canning.
Sweetie	82	Remains sweet after maturity. Good quality, tender pericarp.
Honeycomb	82	Ears 8-8½ inches, few if any suckers.
(very similar to Sugar Loaf)		Excellent second ear. Retains sweetness in cold storage.
How Sweet It Is (White)	82	Very sweet; maintains sweetness on the plant and under refrigeration.
Senca Horizon	82	Large ears, full flavor.

VEGETABLE	DAYS	CULTIVAR DESCRIPTION and USE
POPCORN		
		Popcorn may not mature satisfactory in North Dakota every year.
Burpee's Peppy Hybrid	90	Early, white hull-less popcorn. Good flavor.
White Cloud	95	Short season white hybrid. Productive.
CUCUMBERS		
Pickling:		
Liberty	48	Blocky shape for pickling. Excellent quality. Hybrid.
Spartan Dawn	50	Early hybrid. High yielding, medium size.
Saladin	55	Gynoecious hybrid. Tolerant to powdery mildew and bacterial wilt. Excellent quality. Desirable for ripe pickles. Home garden use.
CUCUMBERS		
Slicing:		
Sweet Success	55	1983 All America Selection. Flesh crisp, 12-14 inches. Non-bitter fruit.
Spacemaster	60	Fruits dark green, crisp flavor. Bush cucumber.
Victory	60	Disease resistant, gynoecious hybrid. Good yielder, excellent quality.
Sweet Slice	62	Dark green, mild and sweet, non-bitter.
Straight Eight	65	Good cucumber for fresh, slicing or pickle use. 8" long fruits are prolific.
Marketer	66	Dark green, smooth. Good color, long, slim shape and firm flesh.
Marketmore	70	High yield, straight. Scab and cucumber mosaic tolerance.
GARLIC		
		Plant cloves on Columbus Day, or early spring. Fall plantings harvest in late July or early August, spring plantings before soil freezes.
Gilroy	NA	
KOHLRABI		
		Early, high quality. Fresh in salads or steamed.
Grand Duke	45	
LEEK		
		Mild onion flavor, good for flavoring soups, salads.
Titan	110	
LETTUCE (BUTTER HEAD)		
		Slow bolting; can be grown almost throughout the season.
Summer Bibb	62	
Buttercrunch	64	Vigorous, very attractive, delicious leaves with tender ribs.
LETTUCE (HEAD)		
		Head medium to small. Interior crisp and firm. Best variety.
Pennlake	72	
Ithaca	75	Firm, crisp medium sized heads. Excellent flavor.
Great Lakes	75	Firm, crisp, medium sized heads. Excellent flavor.
King Crown	75	Produces under variable conditions. Heads large.
LETTUCE (LEAF)		
		Large, upright, compact, leaves light green, broad and frilled. Good quality.
Black Seeded Simpson	44	
Grand Rapids	45	Popular loose leaf variety capable of continuous growth under adverse conditions.
Red Sails	45	Ornamental, bronze-red leaves. 1985 All-America Selection.
Slobolt	45	Produces leaves over summer without bolting.
MUSKMELON		
		Early, small fruited (4 inch) short vine type.
Minnesota Midget	60	
Earlisweet	74	Small-medium size; sweet flavor.
Sweet-n-Early	75	Sweet, juicy and full flavored.
Gold Star Hybrid	94	Oval fruits, medium size.
Rising Star	94	Oval fruits, medium size. Good sweet taste.
Alaska	90	Will yield 2 weeks earlier.
ONIONS		
		Direct seed. Use plants or sets for larger size.
Early Yellow Globe	98	Medium large, light yellow, flesh firm and white.
Ebenezer (sets)	105	Medium size. Skin yellow, flesh fine textured, mild, very firm.

VEGETABLE	DAYS	CULTIVAR DESCRIPTION and USE
ONIONS (continued)		
Sweet Sandwich	105	A sweet onion that's a keeper. Improves mildness in storage.
Fiesta Hybrid	110	Globe shaped. Skin yellow-brown. Medium large. Firm.
Southport Red Globe	110	Medium large, deep globe shaped, skin dark glossy red.
Ailsa Craig	110	Medium globe, firm.
PARSNIPS		
Improved Hollow Crown	95	10 inches long by 3 inches thick at the shoulder. Vigorous, good quality.
All American	120	Fine grained, tender, excellent flavor.
PEAS (STANDARD SHELL PEAS)		
Maestro	61	Heavy producer, disease resistant, tender, sweet.
Knight	62	Early, disease resistant, tender, sweet.
Little Marvel	62	Plants about 1½ feet tall; productive. 5-7 peas per pod.
Lincoln	66	Large vine, pod 3-3½ inches. 7-8 peas per pod. Long season.
Green Arrow	68	Medium vine; 9-11 tender peas in 4-4½ inch pods.
PEAS (EDIBLE POD)		
Sugar Ann	55	1984 All America Selection. Similar to Sugar Snap, but earlier, high quality.
Sugar Snap	70	Edible pod. High yielding. Flavor sweet and pleasing.
Sugar Daddy	74	Stringless snap pea. Tender pods.
PEPPERS, HOT		
Poblano Chilies	75	Mildest of the hot peppers.
Habanero Chilies	85	Hottest of the mild.
Jalapeno Chilies	70	Hot.
PEPPERS, SWEET		
		Set out transplants.
Early Prolific	62	Deep green medium sized fruits; early bearing.
Gypsy	65	Yellow, tapered fruits. Salads or stir-frying. Productive.
Bell Boy	70	Hybrid, mostly 4-lobed, thick walled. Sweet fruits.
Lady Bell	72	Deep, blocky shape. Flesh thick, sweet. Stuffing or salads.
POTATOES		
Early		
Norchip		Smooth white-skinned tubers of high quality for baking and french frying.
Red Norland		Early red-skinned potato. Moderate resistance to common scab.
Redsen		Bright red-skinned potato. Excellent yields. Moderate resistance to scab.
Mid-Season		
Norgold Russet		Smooth, russet skin. White variety. Baking. Scab resistant.
Norking Russet		Smooth tuber, russet-skin; excellent for baking.
Viking		Red skin. Tubers large, smooth, good quality.
Late		
Kennebec		White skinned. Shallow-eyed with excellent table quality.
PUMPKIN		
Spirit	90	Very early, semi-bush hybrid with 10-15 pound fruits.
Jack-B-Little	95	Good for ornaments, palm size.
Baby Pam	98	Excellent pie or small jack-o-lantern.
New England Pie	105	Excellent pie or small jack-o-lantern.
Autumn Gold	98	Young fruits, deep yellow color.
Jack O'Lantern	110	Skin is bright orange. Excellent for carving.
RADISHES		
Cherry Belle	24	Globe to round, bright cherry-red; solid and crisp.
Champion	28	Large, remains crisp and firm to fairly large size.
White Icicle	30	Roots 4½-5 inches long, smooth, slender, tapering. White skin, mild.

VEGETABLE	DAYS	CULTIVAR DESCRIPTION and USE
RHUBARB		
		See Extension Circular H-61 "Asparagus and Rhubarb."
Canada Red Valentine		Stalks large, red inside and out. Sweetest rhubarb. Deep red color. Excellent quality.
SPINACH		
Melody	43	Early, vigorous hybrid.
America	52	Leaves glossy, thick, dark green.
SQUASH Summer:		
Aristocrat	48	Bush plants. High quality, early (zucchini type).
Butterstick	50	Sweet, nutty flavor. Very productive. Excellent.
Gold Rush	50	Golden smooth-skin, zucchini type.
Sunburst	53	Bright golden-yellow. Patty pan type. Fruit-harvest immature, 3-5 inch fruits. 1985 AAS.
Golden Crookneck	53	Productive bright yellow skin with tasty flesh when steamed, baked or in casseroles.
Winter (Storage):		
Sweet Mama	85	Short vine, smooth; medium dry texture with mild flavor.
Discus	90	Bush type, heavy bearing, good flavored fruit. NDSU introduction.
Gold Nugget	90	Bush type. Fruits small, flattened, medium thick, golden-yellow flesh. Hard orange skin. Bake whole.
Dakota Grey	100	Bush type, small seed cavity. Exceptional flavor. NDSU introduction.
Emerald	100	Bush type, very thick orange flesh of high quality.
Honey Delight	100	Good flavored fruit; vining plant.
Buttercup (Burgess strain)	100	Large vine, green skin with turban. Excellent quality.
More Gold	110	Orange fleshed, butter-cup type. Flavor similar to Kindred variety from NDSU.
TOMATILLO		
Toma Verde	75	Used in southwestern cuisine.
TOMATOES		
Cherry-type		
Small Wonder - ultra early	45	Good early salad tomato. NDSU introduction.
Sweet Million	60	Early, sweet, very productive.
Small Fry	68	Hybrid cherry tomato. Color is bright red, 1-inch fruit, marble round in shape.
Sweet 100	70	Sweet, bright red, cherry-sized fruits. Productive.
Standard		
Northern Delight and Nodak	52	Both tomatoes heavy bearers, Nodak with larger (3 inch), nearly round fruit. NDSU introductions.
Burpee's Pixie Hybrid	52	Patio type. Fruits about 1½ inch across. Big tomato flavor.
Early Girl	55	Indeterminate, productive over growing season, and starting early with 5 ounce fruit.
Oregon Spring	58	Determinate, good flavor, disease resistant.
Quick Pick	60	Early, disease resistant hybrid. Very productive. Fresh use or canning.
Dona	65	Indeterminate, full of flavor, good slicer, salsa.
Earlirouge	66	Early, heavy producer. Good quality.
Celebrity	70	1984 All America Selection. Mid-season hybrid. Disease resistant. Deep globe fruits.
Fantastic	70	Early hybrid. Deep globe fruits.
Roma	75	Determinate, earliest and best of the paste.
WATERMELON		
		Set out 20 day old transplants for early crop. See Extension Bulletin No. 27, "Muskmelon Production and Marketing."
Golden Crown Hybrid	65	Ideal melon for small family, sweet flavor. Fruits weigh 6-8 pounds.
Garden Baby Hyb.	70	Early, small vine, 5-6 pounds, icebox variety.
Sweet Favorite	72	Early sweet. Oblong melon to 20 pounds.
Sugar Baby	75	Icebox variety, oval-round; skin black green with faint darker stripes. Very attractive when cut.
Yellow Baby	75	Yellow-fleshed, sweet flavor, not seedy, early.
New Hampshire Midget	75	Fruits small (2-4 pounds), oval-round, skin medium green, darker green netting. Fair quality, seedy.

Useful Garden Information

PLANT IN FIELD	VEGETABLE VARIETIES	SEED IN HOTBED	DISTANCE BETWEEN ROWS		DISTANCE BETWEEN PLANTS	
			English	Metric	English	Metric
HARDY VEGETABLES (Tolerate freezing temp.): Sow seed or transplant hardened plants as early as ground is ready to work well in spring. (Average about April 20 for 2/3 of state.)	Asparagus		4 ft.	122 cm	24 in.	61 cm
	Broccoli	Apr. 1	3 ft.	91 cm	18 in.	46 cm
	Cabbage (early)	Apr. 1	3 ft.	91 cm	18 in.	46 cm
	Cabbage (late)	Apr. 1	3 ft.	91 cm	18-24 in.	46-61 cm
	Onions (seed & sets)		1 1/2 ft.	46 cm	2 in.	5 cm
	Onions (transplanting)	Apr. 1	1 1/2 ft.	46 cm	4 in.	10 cm
	Peas (May 1-10)		2 ft.	61 cm	2 in.	5 cm
	Radishes		1 1/2 ft.	46 cm	1 in.	3 cm
	Rhubarb		5 ft.	152 cm	48 in.	122 cm
	Rutabaga		2 ft.	61 cm	6 in.	91 cm
	Spinach (May 1)		2 ft.	61 cm	4 in.	10 cm
	HALF HARDY VEGETABLES (Will tolerate light frosts): Sow seed or transplant hardened plants a week or two before average date of last killing frost in your area. (Average about May 10 for 2/3 of state.)	Beets		2 ft.	61 cm	2 in.
Carrots			2 ft.	61 cm	2 in.	5 cm
Cauliflower		Apr. 1	3 ft.	91 cm	18 in.	46 cm
Lettuce (leaf)			2 ft.	61 cm	8 in.	20 cm
Lettuce (head) (transplanting)		Mar. 15	2 ft.	61 cm	15 in.	38 cm
Parsnips			2 ft.	61 cm	4 in.	10 cm
Potatoes			3 ft.	91 cm	12 in.	30 cm
Swiss Chard			2 ft.	61 cm	6 in.	91 cm
TENDER VEGETABLES: Sow seed or transplant plants when soil is warm and after average date or danger of last killing frost in your area. (Average about May 25 for 2/3 of state.)	Beans (wax and green)		2 ft.	61 cm	4 in.	10 cm
	Beans (dry and field)		2 ft.	61 cm	4 in.	10 cm
	Beans (lima)		2 ft.	61 cm	4 in.	10 cm
	Cucumbers		5 ft.	152 cm	12 in.	30 cm
	Muskmelons		8 ft.	244 cm	12 in.	30 cm
	Peppers	Apr. 1	3 ft.	91 cm	18 in.	46 cm
	Popcorn (May 15-20)		3 ft.	91 cm	12 in.	30 cm
	Pumpkins		10 ft.	305 cm	24 in.	61 cm
	Squash (summer)		3 ft.	91 cm	24 in.	61 cm
	Squash (winter)		10 ft.	305 cm	24 in.	61 cm
	Sweet Corn (May 10-20)		3 ft.	91 cm	12 in.	30 cm
	Tomatoes	Apr. 20	5 ft.	152 cm	36 in.	122 cm
Watermelons		8 ft.	244 cm	12 in.	30 cm	

Although many strains and varieties of garden vegetables may be acceptable, some have consistently performed well under our conditions. Suggested vegetable varieties for North Dakota are listed in order of maturity (number of days required to produce a usable product) for each kind of vegetable. Seasonal weather conditions and growing location can influence the amount of time required to mature a given vegetable. We suggest selection of short season varieties for northern sections of the state.

Helping You Put Knowledge To Work

