

MSU Extension Publication Archive

Archive copy of publication, do not use for current recommendations. Up-to-date information about many topics can be obtained from your local Extension office.

Home Vegetable Garden: Variety Recommendations for Michigan Gardeners
Michigan State University
Cooperative Extension Service
J. Lee Taylor and Bernard H. Zandstra
Department of Horticulture
April 1983
4 pages

The PDF file was provided courtesy of the Michigan State University Library

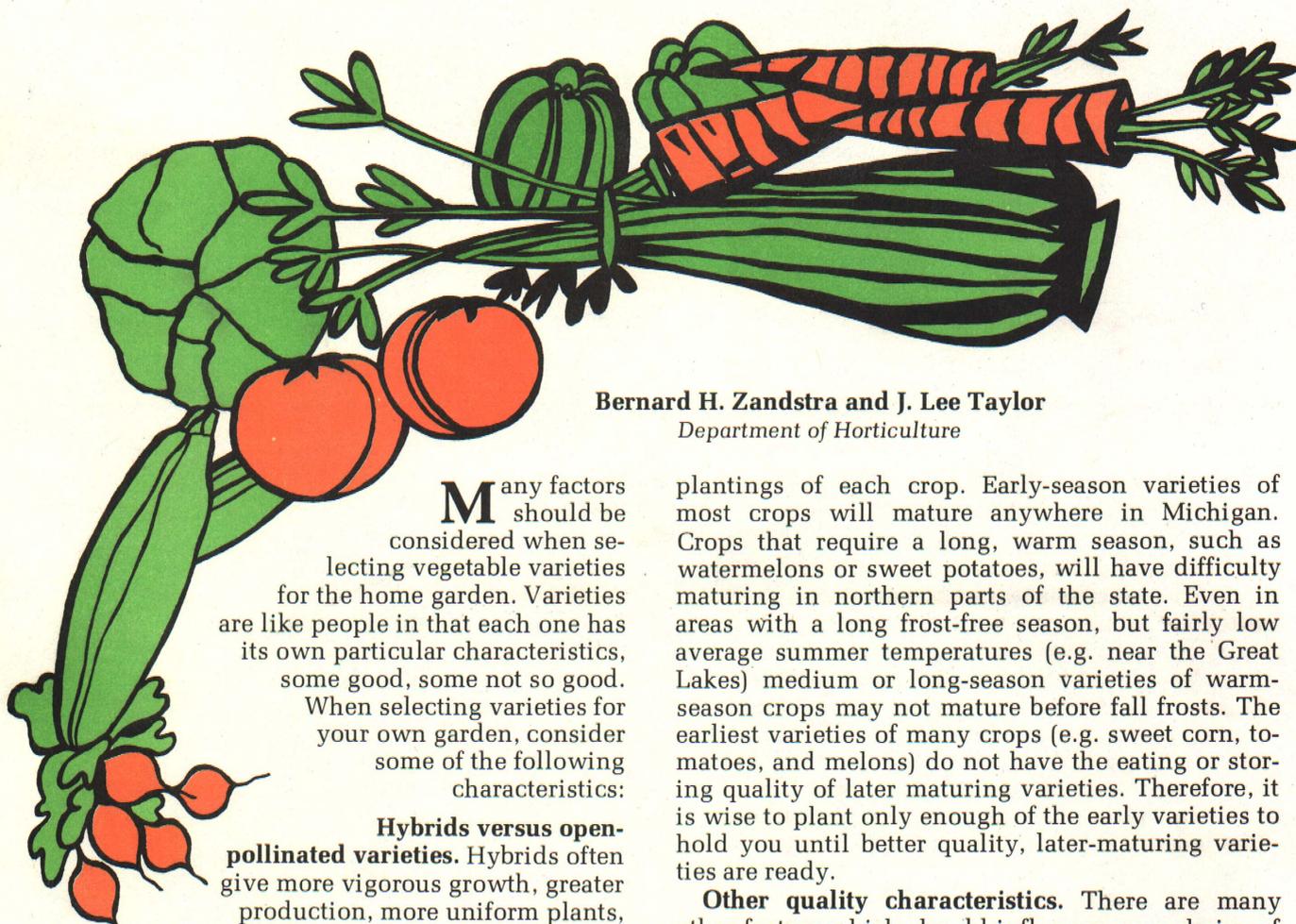
Scroll down to view the publication.

Home Vegetable Garden

Variety Recommendations

APRIL 1983

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-760a



Bernard H. Zandstra and J. Lee Taylor

Department of Horticulture

Many factors should be considered when selecting vegetable varieties for the home garden. Varieties are like people in that each one has its own particular characteristics, some good, some not so good. When selecting varieties for your own garden, consider some of the following characteristics:

Hybrids versus open-pollinated varieties. Hybrids often give more vigorous growth, greater production, more uniform plants, and greater disease resistance than open-pollinated varieties. Hybrid seed is usually more expensive than open-pollinated seed. However, a good open-pollinated variety can often produce as well as a hybrid under some conditions. Therefore, it is a good idea to compare several varieties to see which ones do best for you.

Disease resistance. Most of the newer hybrids and open-pollinated varieties of most vegetable crops have resistance to many diseases. This is important because diseases are a major cause of crop loss in home gardens. Seed catalogues usually list the diseases to which a variety is resistant. Whenever possible, choose varieties with multiple disease resistance.

Days to maturity. Within most vegetable crops, there are varieties that mature earlier than others. Early maturing varieties should be used for the first

plantings of each crop. Early-season varieties of most crops will mature anywhere in Michigan. Crops that require a long, warm season, such as watermelons or sweet potatoes, will have difficulty maturing in northern parts of the state. Even in areas with a long frost-free season, but fairly low average summer temperatures (e.g. near the Great Lakes) medium or long-season varieties of warm-season crops may not mature before fall frosts. The earliest varieties of many crops (e.g. sweet corn, tomatoes, and melons) do not have the eating or storing quality of later maturing varieties. Therefore, it is wise to plant only enough of the early varieties to hold you until better quality, later-maturing varieties are ready.

Other quality characteristics. There are many other factors which should influence your choice of variety. Some are: plant size (smaller is usually better in a home garden), freezing or canning quality, eating quality, color, adaptability to soil type, and resistance to weather extremes. All of this information should be given in seed catalogues.

If you are happy with a variety that you have grown for several years, there may be no reason to change to a newer variety. But if you are looking for something better, try another variety next to your old one for comparison, and then choose. In any case, decide on the varieties you want and buy them.

Much of the information listed above is available in seed catalogues. The wise gardener sends for seed catalogues in the late summer or early fall for the next year's season. (The companies generally print catalogues in the fall for distribution in the winter.) Most of the companies listed in the bulletin

send out their home garden catalogues upon request.

The earlier you order seeds, the better your chance of getting the varieties you want. Seed supplies of popular varieties are often sold out during the winter months. Also, if you put off ordering seeds until spring, you may forget about it until it is too late to plant. Order your seeds in January or February for planting in the spring. Some companies offer discounts on early orders.

Seeds can also be purchased from garden centers, supermarkets, discount stores, and other sources. Often, these sources have a limited selection of varieties compared to catalogues, but are convenient.

Plants of some of the varieties listed as requiring transplants may be hard to find. Check with your garden center or greenhouse early and tell them the varieties you want, and they might be able to get them. They grow and sell the varieties that people ask for. Some gardeners grow their own transplants to make sure that they get the right variety.

Onions can be grown from seeds or sets. For the

home gardener, sets are the easiest and most reliable planting material to assure a crop. Onions can be harvested early for green onions or harvested dry for storage. Plant the sets close together and thin them for green onions — let the rest go to maturity for dry onions. Sets are available from many garden shops and some seed catalogues. Be sure to order SETS for the varieties you want (see those indicated as sets) or you will get seed.

Potatoes are commonly planted from seed pieces. Most seed catalogues do not list potatoes, so you may have to buy them locally. Once again, look for the varieties you want.

Following is a list of vegetable varieties suggested for Michigan gardens. Numbers in parentheses indicate approximate number of days to harvest from seeding or transplanting. Those crops normally transplanted are indicated. Hybrids are indicated by an (H) after the name of the variety.

This is only a partial listing of satisfactory varieties and seed sources. Many other excellent varieties are available from these and other sources.

Recommended Varieties

ASPARAGUS—perennial

Mary Washington
Viking

BEANS, Lima

Early Thorogreen (68)
Fordhook 242 (75)

BEANS, Snap

Bush Romano (50)
Provider (50)
Spartan Arrow (51)
Bush Blue Lake 274 (54)
Earlywax (yellow) (55)
Kinghorn Wax (yellow) (55)
Royal Burgundy Purple Pod (55)
Tender Crop (55)

BEETS

Warrior(H) (57)
Crosby Green Top (60)
Ruby Queen (60)
Detroit Dark Red (66)

BROCCOLI—transplanted

Bravo(H) (60)
Green Comet(H) (60)
Green Duke(H) (60)
Spartan Early(H) (70)

BRUSSELS SPROUTS—transplanted

Prince Marvel(H) (90)
Jade Cross Strain E(H) (92)

CABBAGE—transplanted

Market Victor(H) (65)
Superette(H) (65)
Stonehead(H) (66)
King Cole(H) (68)
Ruby Ball (red)(H) (72)

CABBAGE—transplanted, cont.

Savoy Ace (savoy)(H) (75)
Market Prize(H) (76)
Roundup(H) (76)
Savoy King (savoy)(H) (82)
Red Head (red) (88)
Danish Ballhead (108)

CARROTS

Spartan Delite(H) (100)
Spartan Fancy(H) (100)
Danvers 126 (110)
Spartan Bonus(H) (110)

CAULIFLOWER—transplanted

Snow Crown(H) (55)
Greenball (65)
Snowball Y (70)
Purplehead (85)
Self-Blanche (90)
Royal Purple (95)

CELERIAC

Large Smooth Prague (110)
Marble Ball (110)
Alabaster (120)

CELERY—transplanted

Utah 52-70R (85)
Florida 683 (90)

CHINESE CABBAGE

Lei-Choi Pak Choi (47)
Two Seasons(H) (62)
Jade Pagoda(H) (70)

COLLARDS

Champion (78)
Vates (80)

CUCUMBERS, Pickling

Green Star(H) (51)
Calypso(H) (52)
Lucky Strike(H) (52)
Carolina(H) (55)

CUCUMBERS, Slicing

Pacer (62)
Marketmore 70 (67)
Burpee Hybrid(H) (68)
Marketmore 76 (68)

EGGPLANT—transplanted

Ichiban(H) (60)
Dusky(H) (69)
Burpee Hybrid(H) (70)
Black Magic(H) (73)
Black Beauty (80)

ENDIVE

Florida Deep Heart (85)
Full Heart Batavian (90)
Green Curled (95)
Salad King (98)

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE—perennial

Stampede (90)

KALE

Dwarf Blue Curled Vates (55)
Harvester (68)

KOHLRABI

Grand Duke(H) (50)
Purple Danube(H) (52)
Early White Vienna (55)
Early Purple Vienna (60)

LETTUCE, Bibb

Summer Bibb (62)
Buttercrunch (64)

LETTUCE, Head

Ithaca (85)
Great Lakes 659 (86)
Fulton (90)

LETTUCE, Leaf

Crispy Sweet (40)
Grand Rapids (45)
Waldmann's Green (45)
Ruby (47)
Deep Red (48)

MUSKMELON

Earlisweet(H) (80)
Ambrosia(H) (84)
Burpee Hybrid(H) (85)
Gold Star(H) (87)
Saticoy(H) (90)
Super Star(H) (90)

MUSTARD

Green Wave (45)
Southern Giant (50)

OKRA

Lee (80)
Emerald (90)

ONIONS, Green

Ebenezer (sets) (45)
Stuttgarter (sets) (50)
White Lisbon (60)
Beltsville Bunching (65)
Japanese White Bunching (65)
Southport White Bunching (65)

ONIONS, Dry

Ebenezer (sets) (85)
Stuttgarter (sets) (95)
Abundance(H) (100)
Spartan Banner(H) (110)
Spartan Sleeper(H) (112)
Downing Yellow Globe (115)
Yellow Sweet Spanish (120)

PARSLEY

Banquet (76)
Darki (77)
Extra Curled Dwarf (85)

PARSNIPS

All America (105)
Harris Model (120)
Hollow Crown Improved (120)

PEAS

Freezonia (62)
Greater Progress (62)
Frosty (64)
Sugar Snap (snap) (68)
Sugar Rae (snap) (71)

PEAS, Southern

Mississippi Silver Crowder (75)
California Blackeye No. 5 (78)
Pink Eye Purple Hull (78)

PEPPERS, Hot—transplanted

Hungarian Yellow Wax (70)
Romanian Wax (70)
Jalapeno (75)
Red Cherry (80)

PEPPERS, Sweet Bell—transplanted

Canape(H) (62)
Staddon's Select (72)
Bell Boy(H) (75)
Yolo Wonder L (78)
Keystone Resistant Giant (80)

POPCORN

Peppy Hybrid (white)(H) (90)
White Cloud(H) (95)
Ipop 12 (yellow)(H) (100)

POTATOES—seed pieces

Norland (75)
Onaway (75)
Superior (75)
Norchip (90)
Norgold Russet (90)
Katahdin (120)
Red Pontiac (120)
Sebago (120)

POTATOES, Sweet

Centennial (100)
Porto Rico (bush) (110)
Vardaman (bush) (110)

PUMPKIN

Jackpot (large) (100)
Jack-o-Lantern (medium) (110)
Spookie (pie) (110)
Young's Beauty (medium) (112)
Connecticut Field (medium) (115)
Howden (large) (115)
Small Sugar (pie) (115)

RADISH

Red Prince (23)
Scarlet Globe (23)
Cherry Belle (24)
Icicle (white) (30)

RHUBARB—perennial

Valentine (red petiole)
MacDonald (pink petiole)
Canada Red (red petiole)
Strawberry (pink petiole)
Victoria (green petiole)

RUTABAGA

Laurentian (90)
Altasweet (95)

SPINACH

Indian Summer(H) (39)
Dark Green Bloomsdale (43)
Melody(H) (43)
Fabris (48)
Long Standing Bloomsdale (48)

SQUASH, Summer

Green
Zucchini Select (47)
Zucchini Elite(H) (48)
President (49)
Burpee Hybrid(H) (50)
Caserta (50)
Gourmet Globe(H) (50)
Yellow
Seneca Prolific (51)
Early Prolific Straightneck (52)
Gold Rush (H) (52)
Yellow Crookneck (55)
White
Patty Pan(H) (50)

Sources of Seed

W. Atlee Burpee Company

300 Park Avenue
Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974

Farmer Seed & Nursery Co.

Faribault, Minnesota 55021

Henry Field Seed & Nursery Co.

Shenandoah, Iowa 51602

Herbst Brothers Seedsmen, Inc.

1000 N. Main St.
Brewster, New York 10509

Gurney Seed & Nursery Co.

Yankton, South Dakota 57079

Joseph Harris Co.

Moreton Farm
Rochester, New York 14624

Johnny's Selected Seeds

Albion, Maine 04910

J. W. Jung Seed Co.

Randolph, Wisconsin 53956

Letherman's Inc.

1221 E. Tuscarawas St.
Canton, Ohio 44707

Earl May Seed & Nursery Co.

Shenandoah, Iowa 51603

L. L. Olds Seed Co.

2901 Packers Ave., Box 7790
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

George W. Park Seed Co., Inc.

Box 31
Greenwood, South Carolina 29647

R. H. Shumway Seedsman

Box 777
Rockford, Illinois 61101

Sieger's Seed Co.

7245 Imlay City Rd.
Imlay City, Michigan 48444

Stokes Seeds, Inc.

737 Main St., Box 548
Buffalo, New York 14240

Otis S. Twilley Seed Co.

Box 65
Trevose, Pennsylvania 19047

Vermont Bean Seed Co.

Garden Lane
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732

SQUASH, Winter

- Table Ace (acorn)(H) (78)
- Table King (acorn) (bush) (80)
- Sweet Mama (buttercup)(H) (85)
- Table Queen (acorn) (90)
- Buttercup, Burgess Strain (100)
- Waltham Butternut (110)
- Vegetable Spaghetti (110)

SWEET CORN

- Early Sunray(H) (65)
- Spring Gold(H) (67)
- Sprite (bicolor)(H) (68)
- Sundance(H) (69)
- Comanche(H) (72)
- Harmony (bicolor)(H) (73)
- Northern Belle(H) (74)
- Quicksilver (white)(H) (79)

SWEET CORN, cont.

- Gold Cup(H) (80)
- Seneca Scout(H) (81)
- Sugar Loaf (sweeter type)(H) (83)
- Merit(H) (84)
- Sugar Dots (bicolor)(H) (94)
- Silver Queen (white)(H) (94)

SWISS CHARD

- Fordhook Giant (60)
- Large White Rib (60)
- Lucullus (60)
- Rhubarb (red midrib) (60)

TOMATO—transplanted

- New Yorker (65)
- Springset(H) (67)
- Heinz 2653 (paste) (68)

TOMATO—transplanted, cont.

- Small Fry (cherry)(H) (68)
- Jet Star(H) (72)
- Large Red Cherry (72)
- Jackpot(H) (75)
- Pik-Red(H) (75)
- Roma VF (paste) (76)
- Floramerica(H) (80)
- Sunray (yellow) (83)

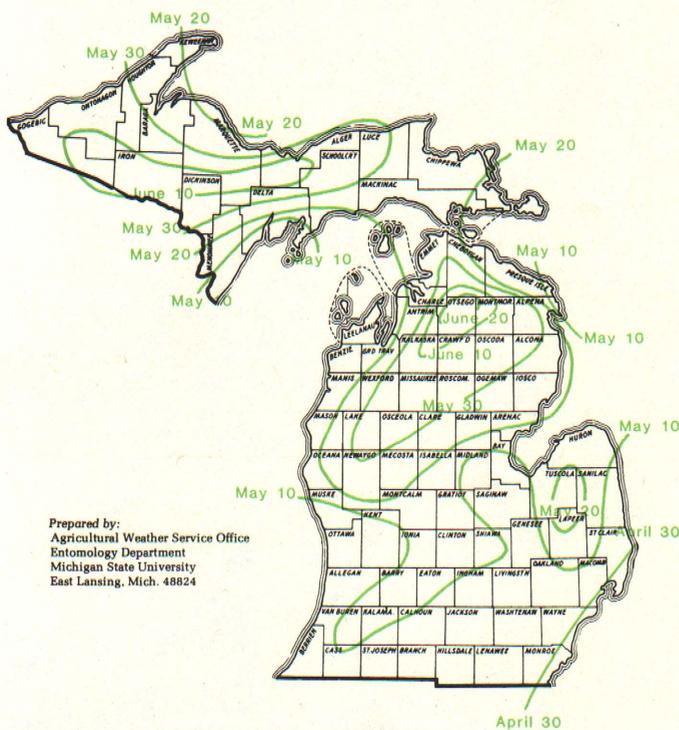
TURNIPS

- Seven Top (greens) (45)
- Purple Top White Globe (55)

WATERMELON

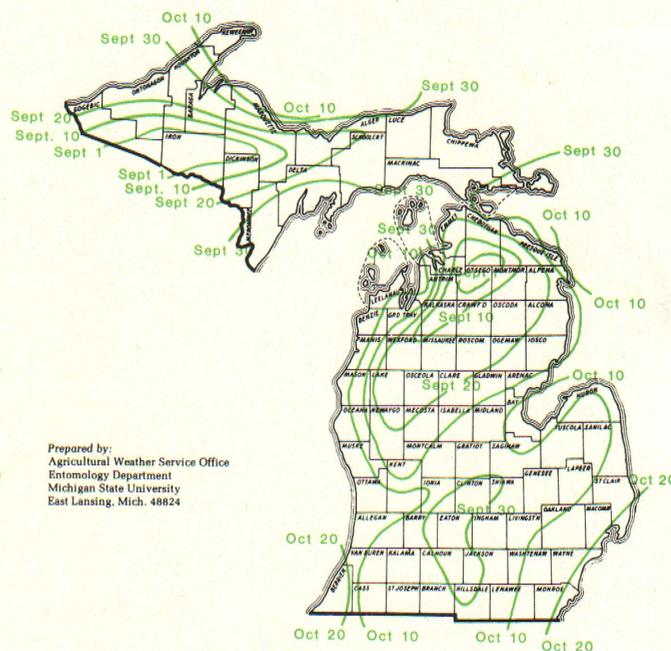
- Sugar Baby (small) (86)
- Summer Festival (medium)(H) (88)
- Crimson Sweet (medium) (97)

For a list of other Available Publications, contact your county Extension Office or write to the MSU Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 231, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824-0231. There are gardening bulletins on specific vegetables and planning, propagating, insect and disease control, and storage.



Prepared by:
Agricultural Weather Service Office
Entomology Department
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich. 48824

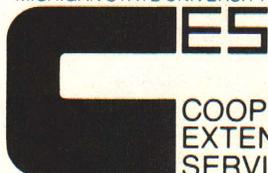
Average Date of Last Temperature of 32°F or Lower in the Spring



Prepared by:
Agricultural Weather Service Office
Entomology Department
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich. 48824

Average Date of First Temperature of 32°F or Lower in the Fall

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE**

MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. Cooperative Extension Service programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, or sex.

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Gordon E. Guyer, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.

This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service or bias against those not mentioned. This bulletin becomes public property upon publication and may be reprinted verbatim as a separate or within another publication with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company.