

Tried and True Vegetable Varieties for Yolo County

This is a list of some varieties of vegetables that UCCE Master Gardeners of Yolo County have tried and recommend as well-suited to our climate and soils. The list does not contain variety recommendations for the full range of vegetables that you can grow in Yolo County. Not all of these varieties will be available in local nurseries as starts or even seeds although most will. All are available as seeds through on-line retailers.

The list below will include both hybrid (H) and open pollinated varieties (OP). Hybrid varieties are bred to have desirable qualities. They may be less prone to disease than most open pollinated varieties. They may grow with extra vigor and are often able to tolerate a wider variety of climates and soils than the open pollinated brethren. Preserving the genetic diversity represented by open pollinated varieties is important however. Many claim they have more complex flavor and interesting appearance than hybrids.

Recommended Vegetable Varieties

<p><u>Asparagus</u> Purple Passion (H) – Thick purple colored spears, generally sweet and tender.</p>	<p><u>Cauliflower</u> Cheddar (H) – Orange heads that hold up well. Graffiti (H) – Purple heads maintain their color when cooked. Amazing (OP) – Old favorite, good leaf cover, good in wet clay.</p>
<p><u>Artichoke</u> Green globe (OP) – Large “flower buds” produced over a long period of time. Will produce the first year when grown from seed in the late winter.</p>	<p><u>Chard, Swiss</u> Fordhook (OP) – Vigorous plant, large leaves, very thick stems. Bright Lights (OP) – Individual stems are red, yellow, orange, gold, or white making a beautiful display in the garden/table.</p>
<p><u>Beans – green</u> Red Noodle (OP) - Long, 18”, heat tolerant, beautiful pole bean. Kentucky Wonder (OP) – Heavy producing all-purpose pole bean. Romano (OP) – Italian style pole flat bean. Large pods are stringless. Roma is the bush bean version. Yellow Wax (OP) – A bush bean with stringless yellow pods. Yardlong (OP) – Long, thin Asian bean sometimes called asparagus bean. Holds up to heat well.</p>	<p><u>Corn</u> Golden Jubilee (H) – Six-foot-tall stalks produce 9” ears with yellow kernels. Best if eaten soon after picking. Silver Queen (H) – Eight-inch ears have white, sweet kernels growing on 7” stalks.</p>
<p><u>Beans – dry</u> Fava beans – Windsor(OP)- most common variety, very dependable. Approvecho (OP) – Larger, more flavorful bean than Windsor.</p>	<p><u>Cucumbers</u> Lemon (OP) – Produces many round, yellow fruits. Armenian (OP) – Not a true cucumber but close enough- never bitter, will stay flavorful even when very large. Summer Dance (H) – A Japanese type that produces lots of 9” fruits with good disease resistance.</p>
<p><u>Beets</u> Detroit Dark Red (OP) – Standard garden variety, uniform roots with strong healthy tops. Chioggia (OP) – Beets have alternating red and pink rings, good tops for greens.</p>	<p><u>Eggplant</u> Traviata (H) – Classic glossy black bell-shaped eggplant with good flavor. Orient Express (H) – Early maturing Japanese style, long slender fruits with delicate flavor. Shoya Long (H) – Extra long Japanese type, very productive. Black Beauty (OP) – Large eggplant that grows dependably but later maturing and less productive than some other varieties. Rose Bianca (OP) – Medium sized light pink fruit with white shading. Rich, mild flesh, not bitter.</p>
<p><u>Bok choy (Pak choi)</u> Canton White (OP) – Big leaves, good thick stems and more heat tolerant than many other varieties.</p>	<p><u>Garlic</u> Italian Late (OP) - A soft neck variety. Purple Stripe (OP) – A hard neck variety. Spanish Roja (OP) – A hard neck variety, very spicy, “true” garlic flavor.</p>
<p><u>Broccoli</u> De Cicco (OP) – Medium sized heads but plants put out a lot of side shoots once the main head is harvested. Waltham (OP) – Medium to large 5” heads with lots of side shoots. Very cold tolerant. Calabrese (OP) – Produces a compact dark green central head, with many lateral or side shoots. Slow bolting with good flavor. Imperial (H) – Medium sized heads, good heat tolerance makes it a good choice for late winter planting.</p>	<p><u>Kale</u> Nero Di Toscana (Lucinanto type) (OP) – Big leaves and great flavor. Red Russian (OP) – Very hearty, good flavor, tender leaves, resists bolting.</p>

<p><u>Leeks</u></p> <p>American Flag (OP) – Very popular, large thick stocks. Lancelot (OP) – Heat resistant variety.</p>	<p><u>Potatoes</u></p> <p>Yukon Gold (OP) – Medium sized with sweet yellow flesh. German Butterball (OP) – Medium sized with buttery white flesh. All Blue (OP) – Small to medium sized potatoes that have blue flesh, productive but slow maturing.</p>
<p><u>Lettuce, head</u></p> <p>Batavian Lettuce (OP) – Loose head, thick leaved French lettuce that holds up well in the heat. Also known as summer-crisp.</p>	<p><u>Radish</u></p> <p>Watermelon (OP) – Large round radish, green on the outside, bright pink on the inside with a surprisingly mild, sweet taste. Daikon (OP) – Large, long radish with a very mild flavor. The tops can be cooked as greens. Cherry Belle (OP) – Round radish with white flesh, ready to pick 22 days from planting. French Breakfast (OP) - Red elongated form with white base.</p>
<p><u>Lettuce, leaf</u></p> <p>Black Seeded Simpson (OP) – very productive trouble-free leaf lettuce.</p>	<p><u>Sweet potato</u></p> <p>Beauregard (OP) – Most popular sweet potato, good disease resistance.</p>
<p><u>Onions</u></p> <p>Walla Walla (OP) – Large, sweet, white onion that does well at our medium day length latitude. Stockton Red (OP) – Medium sized red, sweet onion well suited to our climate and soil. White Spear (OP) – Bunching onion that does well in the heat.</p>	<p><u>Squash – summer</u></p> <p>Astia zucchini (H) – Very compact 30” diameter plants that produce early and often. Very resistant to powdery mildew. Fordhook zucchini (OP) – Very productive, classic zucchini. Black Beauty zucchini (OP) – productive, fast growing Gold Star (H) – Crookneck type squash with good adaptability and disease resistance.</p>
<p><u>Peas</u></p> <p>Oregon Sugar Pod II (OP) – Short 30” vines do not need staking. Sweet, flat edible pod pea is disease resistant. Sugar Snap (OP) – Snap pea with round full edible pods Sugar Magnolia (OP) - Beautiful purple flowers and purple pods. Easy to grow and prolific producer.</p>	<p><u>Squash – winter</u></p> <p>Sugar Hubbard (OP) – Large trailing plants produce 4-5 squash each weighing 15 lbs. or more. Very sweet orange flesh. Table Queen Acorn (OP) – Vines spread 4’, good producer. Red Kuri (OP) – Japanese variety that produces 4 lb. fruit. Waltham Butternut (OP) – Very popular butternut variety. Atlas (H) – Very vigorous and productive butternut type, good flavor, powdery mildew resistant.</p>
<p><u>Peppers – sweet</u></p> <p>Yolo Wonder (OP) – Bell-type pepper that turns from green to red when mature, good leaf cover to limit sunburn. Purple Beauty (OP) – Medium sized bell-type peppers that start out and stay purple. Corno di Toro (OP) – (Horn of the Bull) Thin walled Italian style sweet pepper, 9” long and red when mature. Gypsy (H) – Very productive disease resistant plant produces a lot of 4-5” thin-walled peppers. Banana (OP) – Thin-walled pepper, 6-7” long, turns from light yellow to red when mature. Very dependable producer.</p>	<p><u>Tomatoes</u></p> <p>Amish Paste (H) indeterminate. Produces sprays of 6- 8 tomatoes. Principe Borghese (OP) –very productive of 1” x 2” fruit. Ace 55 (OP) – Medium sized red tomato developed at UC Davis in the 40’s. Resistant to fusarium and verticillium. Early Girl (H) – Medium sized plants produce lots of baseball sized tomatoes with good flavor. Good disease resistance. Indian Stripe (OP) – Indeterminate vines bear 8 to 10 oz. burgundy-purple tomatoes that are very flavorful. Mexico (OP) – Very large indeterminate plants produce large (1 lb.), dark pink fruits with very good flavor. Chocolate Cherry (OP) – Indeterminate vines bear a heavy crop of brown skinned cherry tomatoes. Sungold (H) – Average sized, sweet yellow cherry tomatoes born on indeterminate vines. Very popular. Costoluto Genovese (OP) – Large fluted fruit on indeterminate vines. Heat tolerant. Lemon boy (H) – Medium sized yellow fruit on indeterminate vines. Highly resistant to common tomato diseases.</p>
<p><u>Peppers – hot</u></p> <p>Ascent (H) – Productive Thai-style mini peppers, pack a punch. Poinsettia (OP) – Small pepper cluster at the top of the plant, often grown as an ornamental, edible and very hot. Jalapeno (OP) – Classic medium hot pepper, heavy producer. Hungarian Yellow Wax (OP) – Very hot small yellow pepper. Poblano (OP) – Heart-shaped 6” fruit with medium heat. Joe Parker (OP) – Multi-purpose Anaheim type chile pepper, 7” long, dependable producer.</p>	

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