



## How-To: CHOOSING SEED VARIETIES

Choosing seed varieties can be a fun and sometimes overwhelming task. When selecting seeds, consider the qualities that you most want in the produce you grow.



A LISTING OF SALAD GREENS IN THE JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS CATALOG



COMPACT VARIETIES LIKE THIS NON-VINING SQUASH SAVE SPACE

### CHOOSING WHAT TO GROW

When planning crops for your garden, be sure to take these aspects into account:

#### Growing conditions

- Consider which plants will fit the qualities of your garden.
- How much light does your garden get? Vegetables require at least 6 hours of sun per day.
- Will you plant in containers, raised beds, or directly in the ground? Compact varieties grow best in containers and can save space in any garden.
- What's your soil quality like? Root vegetables like carrots may struggle in clay or compacted soils.
- A fence beside a garden can be used to trellis vining crops.

#### What do you like to eat?

It's easy to list vegetables that are traditionally grown in gardens. However, it may be more helpful to think about what vegetables you enjoy eating or use most often in the kitchen. A garden full of what you think is tasty is great incentive to take good care of it.

#### Value

Some produce, like baby greens, herbs, or berries can be pricey at the grocery store or farmers market. If you're planting a garden to save on grocery costs, keep in mind which produce costs you the most, and plant that!

#### Crops to preserve

Some crops are easy to save for winter. Storage crops like carrots, garlic, and winter squash can be kept for multiple months. Tomatoes can be canned or frozen. Peppers, beans, cooking greens, and peas are easy to freeze for later use, and herbs can be frozen or dried.

#### Annual vs. perennial

Some crops, called annuals, won't survive winter conditions. Most vegetable crops fall into this category. Other crops like berries, asparagus, some herbs, and fruit trees are called perennials and can live for many years. When planning your garden, decide whether you'll plant annuals, perennials, or a combination of both. For a list of annual and perennial crops please see Info Hub sheet *Planting & Harvesting Chart*.

#### Flowers

Flowers in the vegetable garden can beautify and draw beneficial insects to pollinate and eat pests.



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Skyway

## SKYWAY (F1):

s. (F3, N, ToANV, TSWV, TYLCV, V)  
**Large beefsteak-type with disease resistance for the**  
Attractive, red, moderately ribbed  
tomatoes. Skyway's multiple  
genes keep the vigorous plants

LOOK FOR VARIETIES THAT  
OFFER DISEASE RESISTANCE, LIKE  
THIS ONE FROM JOHNNY'S

## SELECTING VARIETIES

Once you've determined which crops to plant, you'll need to select seeds. With thousands of varieties available, this can feel overwhelming! To narrow down the list, search for varieties with these attributes:

- **Compact** Small plants save space and can work well in containers.
- **Productive** Varieties that are particularly productive or easy to grow can increase the garden's yield.
- **Disease Resistant** Crops with disease resistance require less care, survive longer, and produce more over the course of the season.

You may also want to consider days to maturity (how many days from planting until harvest), heat resistance, whether the plant is hybrid or heirloom (hybrid seeds cannot be saved), and whether the seeds are organic. Last but not least, select for a variety's flavor, color, size, shape, and texture.

## NOTES

- Some crops work well seeded directly into the garden, while others are most productive if they are started indoors, then transplanted after the last frost in the spring. For more information, please see Info Hub sheet *Planting & Harvesting Chart*.
- Please note that treated seeds are coated in fungicides that are not approved for organic production.
- For help determining how many seeds to purchase, please see Info Hub sheet *Calculating Seed Amounts*.