

# Seed Sources for Florida Homegrown Vegetables<sup>1</sup>

Ed Thralls, Sydney Park Brown, and Ed Paulson<sup>2</sup>

The right vegetable varieties can make a big difference in the success of a home vegetable garden. Although a huge selection of seeds and transplants are available through garden centers, seed catalogs, and the internet, choosing what to buy can be confusing.

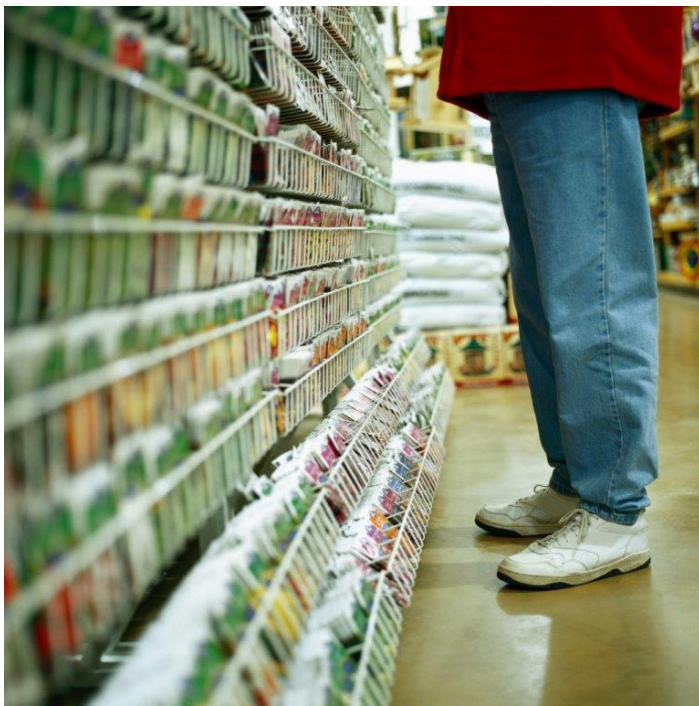


Figure 1. Seed sources include online catalogs and local garden centers.

Credits: Photodisc

It's best to start with the vegetables you and your family like to eat. Then, refer to the varieties listed in the *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide* (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh021>). Unfortunately, at times, these recommended varieties can be difficult to find from mail-order seed catalogs, internet suppliers, and local garden supply stores. Since some of these sources also charge shipping and handling fees, it can become costly to buy varieties from different sources.

To overcome this, consider buying from the seed company (catalog or internet) that offers the most of your desired varieties. Then, buy missing varieties locally from seed stores or substitute them. Anything marked “All-America Selections” (AAS) is usually a good substitute because these varieties were tested in nationwide trials for superior adaptability and vigor. Look for seeds that are disease and pest resistant or tolerant, which is usually noted on the packet label or indicated by a series of letters, such as V, F, N, and T. (For more information about “All-America Selections,” please visit <http://www.all-americaelections.org/about/index.cfm>.)

Many new varieties are introduced each year, but a new selection's performance can only be determined by actually growing it. Be sure to keep notes on what vegetable varieties were planted and how they performed. Do not save seeds from hybrid varieties because they will not grow true to type and may produce poor-quality vegetables.

1. This document is ENH1225, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date October 2013. Revised April 2015. Reviewed February 2021. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Ed Thralls, Extension agent III, UF/IFAS Extension Orange County; Sydney Park Brown, associate professor and Extension specialist—Consumer Horticulture, Environmental Horticulture Department; Ed Paulson, master gardener volunteer, UF/IFAS Extension Orange County; UF/IFAS Extension Gainesville, FL 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other UF/IFAS Extension publications, contact your county's UF/IFAS Extension office.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension.

Some of the best varieties for Florida gardens are listed in Table 1. The numbers listed beside them correspond to the seed suppliers that currently sell them in Table 2. The exclusion of other varieties or seed companies in no way indicates that they are undesirable.

## References

“All-America Selections.” 1311 Butterfield Road, Suite 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515-5625. <http://www.all-americaelections.org/about/>

Bonina, Jennifer and Cantliffe, Daniel J. 2009. *Seed Production and Seed Sources of Organic Vegetables*. HS981. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS227>

Park Brown, S., Stephens, J.M., Treadwell, D., Webb, S., Gevens, A., Dunn, R.A., Kidder, G., Short, D., and Simone, G.W. 2012. *Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide*. SP103. Gainesville: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VH021>



Figure 2. Some vegetable varieties perform better in Florida gardens than others.

Credits: Ed Thralls, UF/IFAS

Table 1. Vegetable varieties and sources.

Vegetable/Variety	Source (*See Table 2)	Vegetable/Variety	Source (*See Table 2)
<b>Beans</b> <b>Snap</b> Bush Blue Lake Contender Roma II Provider Cherokee Wax	1-2-3-7-8-11-13-14-15-16-19-23 4-7-11-13-15-23 4-6-7-11-12-13-14-16-18-20 4-10-11-15-16-19-20 6	<b>Cantaloupes and Honeydews</b> Athena Ambrosia Galia (green flesh)	2-4-7-11-12-13-20 11-13-14-22-23 12
<b>Bush Type:</b> <b>Shell</b> Horticultural Pinto Red Kidney Black Bean Navy	4 13 10 10 5	<b>Carrots</b> Imperator Nantes Danvers Chantenay	4-6-13-15-16-23 2-3-6-7-11-14-18-19 1-3-6-7-13-14-15-16 1-3-12-13-16-18-19
<b>Pole Type:</b> McCaslan Kentucky Wonder Blue Lake	4-15-16 2-3-4-6-7-11-13-14-15-16-18-23 3-6-7-11-12-13- 14-15-16-19	<b>Cauliflower</b> Snowball Snow Crown Brocoverde	1-2-3-6-13-18 7-10-11-14-16-22-23 3-12
<b>Lima:</b> Fordhook 242 Henderson Jackson Wonder Dixie (Speckled) Butterpea Early Thorogreen	2-6-7-10-14-16-23 1-4-15-16-23 1-16-20 4 1-14-15-16-23 5-16-23	<b>Celery</b> Utah Strains	3-6-13-15-20
<b>Beets</b> Tall Top Early Wonder Detroit Dark Red Cylindra Red Ace Yellow Detroit	6-19 1-3-6-10-13-15-16-20 1-2-3-4-6-7-13-14-15-18-23 1-2-3-10-11-12-13-15-23 10-11-13-14-16-20-23 6-18	<b>Collards</b> Georgia Georgia Southern Top Bunch Vates	3-6-14 6-13 4 4-13-16
<b>Cabbage</b> Rio Verde Flat Dutch Round Dutch Wakefield types Copenhagen Market Savoy Red Acre	4 1-2-4-12-13-16 4-6 1-3 24 4-9-11-23 16-19	<b>Corn, sweet</b> Silver Queen (white) How Sweet It Is (white) Sweet Ice (white) Sweet Riser (yellow) Early Sunglow (yellow)	2-3-4-6-7-14-16 14-16 8 24 3-6-14
<b>Cucumbers</b> <b>Slicers:</b> Sweet Success Poinsett Ashley MarketMore 76 Straight Eight Space Master <b>Picklers:</b> Eureka Boston Pickling	3-7-9-14-16-23 4-6 4-11-12-13-23 1-3-4-6-10-11-13-14-16-19-23 1-2-3-4-6-7-9-11-13-14-16-18 3-6-9-16 7-9-22 1-4-6-13-16	<b>Kale</b> Vates Dwarf Blue Curled Tuscan (Lacinato) Winterbor Redbor	1-4-6-13-16 3-10-12-14 4-10-12-14-20 14-18-20
<b>Eggplant</b> Black Beauty Dusky Long Ichiban Cloud Nine (white)	1-2-3-4-6-9-13-14-16-18 15 6-13 18 15	<b>Kohlrabi</b> Early White Vienna Purple Vienna	1-3-6-7-16 1-3-4-13-16-23

Vegetable/Variety	Source (*See Table 2)	Vegetable/Variety	Source (*See Table 2)
<b>Endive</b> Green Curled Ruffec	6-11	<b>Lettuce</b> <b>Crisphead:</b> Great Lakes <b>Butterhead:</b> Ermosa Bibb Tom Thumb Buttercrunch <b>Loose Leaf:</b> Simpson types Salad Bowl Red Sails New Red Fire <b>Oak Leaf:</b> Salad Bowl Royal Oak <b>Romaine:</b> Paris Island Cos Outredgeous	6-13 10 3-6 1-3-6-19-20 2-3-6-7-10-11-13-14-16-18-20-23 3-4-6-9-16-20-23 3-10-12-14 3-6-7-10-13-20-23 17-18 3-6-10-16 3-16-18 3-10-11-13-18 10-12-19-1
<b>Escarole</b> Batavian Broadleaf	5	<b>Mustard</b> Southern Giant Curled Florida Broad Leaf Tendergreen Giant Red Green Wave Mizuna	3-4-6-11-14-16-18 3-4-6 3-4-16-18 3-10-14-18 8-17-18 3-18
<b>Okra</b> Clemson Spineless Emerald Annie Oakley II Cajun Delight	1-3-4-6-7-9-10-13-14-16-18 1-6 7-9-14 11-23	<b>Peppers</b> <b>Bell:</b> California Wonder Red Knight Big Bertha <b>Other Sweet:</b> Sweet Banana Giant Marconi Mariachi Cubanelle <b>Jalapeno:</b> Early Jalapeno Jalapeno M <b>Specialty Hot:</b> Cherry Bomb Hungarian Hot Wax Big Chili II Numex Ancho Thai Anaheim Chile Long Cayenne Habanero Caribbean Red Habanero	1-2-3-6-13-14-16-18-19-20 9 9-14-16 2-4-7-9-16 3-9 3-13-14 3-4-6-7-12 6-9-10-14-16-20 3-4-6-14 3-9-16 1-12-13-14-16-19 9-16 9-19 9-10-12-13-14 1-3-14 2-3-4-9-13 3-6-9-13 1-3-4-6-9-10-13-20 12
<b>Onions</b> <b>Bulbing:</b> Granex (yellow) <b>Bunching (green)</b> Evergreen Bunching White Lisbon Bunching <b>Leeks:</b> American Flag <b>Multiplier:</b> Shallots	3-4-6-9-12-14 3-6-7-10-11-16 3-6 5-6 2-3-9-12-14-19-23	<b>Potatoes, Irish</b> Red Pontiac Yukon Gold Gold Rush	2-14-16 2-3-14-16 5

Vegetable/Variety	Source (*See Table 2)	Vegetable/Variety	Source (*See Table 2)
<b>Peas</b> <b>English or Snow:</b> Wando Green Arrow Sugar Snap Oregon Sugarpod II	1-2-3-6-16 13-14-19-20 1-2-3-7-10-13-14-16-18-19-20 1-2-3-4-6-7-18-19-20	<b>Potatoes, Sweet</b> Centennial Beauregard Vardaman	3-13-14 3-6-8-14 3-14-21
<b>Peas</b> <b>Southern:</b> California Blackeye No. 5 Pinkeye Purple Hull Texas Cream	2-4-6-16 6-16 15-22	<b>Pumpkin</b> Big Max Connecticut Field Prizewinner Jack Be Little Jack O Lantern	1-6-7-13-16 1-7-13-16 3-9-15 4-6-9-13-20 3-6-16
<b>Radish</b> Cherry Belle White Icicle Sparkler Champion Daikon	3-6-7-13-16-20-23 3-6-11-12-16 6-11-14 4-6-7-11-13-16-23 3-4-6-11-16-23	<b>Strawberry</b> Chandler Oso Grande Sweet Charlie Selva Camarosa Festival	Local garden centers may offer these varieties (as plants) in early Fall.
<b>Spinach</b> Melody 3 Bloomsdale Longstanding Tyee Space	3 1-3-4-6-7-11-13-16-20-23 6-7-11-14-16-20-23 11-14-20-23	<b>Swiss Chard</b> Bright Lights Bright Yellow Fordhook Giant Lucullus Red Ruby	3-6-7-11-12-13-14-15-16-20-22-23 15 1-3-13-15-16-18-19-20-23 7-13 6-13-18
<b>Squash</b> <b>Summer:</b> Early Prolific Straightneck Summer Crookneck Early White Scallop <b>Winter:</b> Spaghetti Table King Table Queen & Table Ace Waltham Early Butternut <b>Zucchini:</b> Cocozelle Spineless Beauty Black Beauty <b>Calabaza</b>	1-2-3-4-6-7-12-16-18 3-4-6-12-13-14 1-6-11-13-16 1-2-3-7-11-12-13-16-18-20 6-11 1-2-3-13 3-4-11-13-16-18-20-23 1-3-6-11-12-13-14-23 1-6 4-6-11-13-14-23 1-2-4-6-11-13-14-16-18-20 Latin Markets – seeds from whole fruit	<b>Tomatoes</b> <b>Large Fruit:</b> Celebrity Heat Wave II Better Boy Beefmaster BHN444 – Southern Star Amelia BHN640 <b>Small Fruit:</b> Sweet 100 Juliet Red Grape Sun Gold Sugar Snack Sweet Baby Girl <b>Heirloom:</b> Green Zebra Cherokee Purple Eva Purple Ball Mortgage Lifter Delicious Brandywine	2-7-13-14-16-21 3 2-3-6-7-9-11-14-21-22 6-9-13-14 15-20 22 21-6-9-14-21 3-6-13-14-21-22 1 9-21-22 3-15 3-7-9-14 1-3-12-13-20-21 1-3-12-13-20-21 1-3-14-16-18-20-21-22 8-15 7-14-16 3-7-16-21 1-3-4-6-7-9-11-12-13-14-16-18-20-21-23
<b>Turnips</b> <b>Roots:</b> Purple Top White Globe <b>Greens:</b> Seven Top Shogoin	1-3-4-6-7-11-13-16-23 13-16 16	<b>Watermelon</b> <b>Large:</b> Jubilee Crimson Sweet Charleston Grey 133 <b>Small:</b> Sugar Baby Mickeylee	4-16 1-3-4-6-7-9-11-13-16-18-19-23 1-2-3-4-9 1-2-3-6-7-9-12-16-19-20 4

Table 2. Seed suppliers.

Source Key	Company	Website	Source Key	Company	Website
1	Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds	<a href="http://rareseeds.com">http://rareseeds.com</a>	13	Mountain Valley Seed	<a href="http://www.mvseeds.com">http://www.mvseeds.com</a>
2	Burgess Seed and Plant	<a href="http://www.eburgess.com">http://www.eburgess.com</a>	14	Park Seed	<a href="http://parkseed.com">http://parkseed.com</a>
3	Burpee	<a href="http://www.burpee.com">http://www.burpee.com</a>	15	Pinetree Garden Seeds and Accessories	<a href="https://www.superseeds.com">https://www.superseeds.com</a>
4	Clifton Seed	<a href="http://www.cliftonseed.com">http://www.cliftonseed.com</a>	16	R H Shumway's	<a href="http://www.rhshumway.com">http://www.rhshumway.com</a>
5	EverWilde Farms	<a href="http://www.everwilde.com">http://www.everwilde.com</a>	17	Reimer Seeds	<a href="http://www.reimerseeds.com">http://www.reimerseeds.com</a>
6	Ferry Morse Seed	<a href="http://www.plantationproducts.com">http://www.plantationproducts.com</a>	18	Richters	<a href="http://www.richters.com">http://www.richters.com</a>
7	Gurney's Seeds and Nursery	<a href="http://gurneys.com">http://gurneys.com</a>	19	Seeds of Change	<a href="http://www.seedsofchange.com">http://www.seedsofchange.com</a>
8	Harris Seed	<a href="https://www.harrisseed.com">https://www.harrisseed.com</a>	20	Territorial Seed	<a href="http://www.territorialseed.com">http://www.territorialseed.com</a>
9	HPS Horticultural Products and Services	<a href="http://www.hpsseed.com">http://www.hpsseed.com</a>	21	Tomato Growers Supply	<a href="http://www.tomatogrowers.com">http://www.tomatogrowers.com</a>
10	Johnny's Selected Seeds	<a href="http://www.johnnyseeds.com">http://www.johnnyseeds.com</a>	22	Totally Tomatoes	<a href="http://www.totallytomato.com">http://www.totallytomato.com</a>
11	Jung Seeds	<a href="http://www.jungseed.com">http://www.jungseed.com</a>	23	Vermont Bean Seed	<a href="http://www.vermontbean.com">http://www.vermontbean.com</a>
12	Kitchen Garden Seeds	<a href="http://www.kitchengardenseeds.com">http://www.kitchengardenseeds.com</a>	24	Victory Seeds	<a href="http://www.victoryseeds.com">http://www.victoryseeds.com</a>