

## Norwood Evening Garden Club 2022 Organic Vegetable List

\*\* These plants are NOT hardened off. See below for more information. \*\*

### TOMATOES:

Transplant out in full sun after the last frost date. To encourage stockiness, sink seedlings deeper into the soil than they were grown – right up to the lowest layer of leaves. Position stakes, cages or supports at that time to avoid disturbing the plants later on. Keep soil evenly moist and well-fertilized. Determinate vines top out, and all of the fruit ripens at once. Indeterminate vines keep growing and bearing fruit until a killing frost.

**Aunt Ginny's Purple** 80 days Indeterminate Deep pink tomatoes weigh 12-16 oz. and are smooth with very little cracking. Potato-leaved plants are vigorous and give good yields of these juicy and delicious tomatoes.

**Better Boy** 75 days Indeterminate Rugged vines produce large crops of bright red, 12-16 oz. smooth, flavorful fruit. Firm and perfect for slicing. One of the best tasting garden tomatoes available.

**Better Bush** 65 days Indeterminate Compact. Perfect for large containers or small gardens. Stocky plants grow 3-4' with upright habit, yielding good sized 8 oz. fruit with real tomato flavor. Minimal staking.

**Brandywine** 80 days Indeterminate Red fruit with luscious old-time, red tomato flavor. Plants have potato-shaped leaves and are extremely productive, bearing long harvests of these 10-16 oz. fruit.

**Chef's Choice Bicolor** 75 days Indeterminate Beautiful yellow skin with crimson stripes inside. Sweet and savory. 8 oz. fruit excellent for fresh harvest and also for preserving, as there will likely be an abundance of fruit.

**Cherokee Purple** 80 days Indeterminate Heirloom. Very productive plants bear lots of 10-12 oz. dusky rose/purple fruit with deep brick red interiors. Absolutely delicious with a pleasantly sweet and rich flavor.

**Early Girl** 50 days Indeterminate A proven variety for delicious, early slicing tomatoes. Dependable large harvests of flavorful, solid 4-6 oz. fruit. Excellent performance in almost any climate.

**Flamme** 70 days Indeterminate Beautiful orange salad tomatoes are very juicy and have a good, sweet flavor with fruity overtones. Tomatoes weigh 2-3 oz. and are a lovely persimmon orange color.

**Gold Medal** 80 days Indeterminate This classic heirloom variety has gorgeous 1-1 ½ lb. yellow and red striped fruit. Winner of many modern taste tests, it has been listed as “the sweetest tomato you ever tasted and a gourmet's joy when sliced”.

**Mortgage Lifter** 75 days Indeterminate An old pink variety still in demand by gardeners. Well-shaped, large fruit is very meaty with few seeds. Sweet flavored, it ripens to a deep pink.

**Patio** 70 days Determinate One of America's most popular varieties for growing on patios, decks, courtyards, or wherever garden space is limited. Plants only become about 2 ft. tall, but produce large harvests of bright red, 3-4 oz. flavorful tomatoes. Outstanding for growing in containers.

**Patty's Striped Beefsteak** 85 days Indeterminate Impressive bicolor with heirloom eating quality. Selected for better yield, larger fruit and mouthwatering taste.

**Roma** 75 days Determinate One of the most popular varieties for paste, sauces and canning. Compact vines yield large harvests of 3", bright red fruit that is thick walled with few seeds.

**San Marzano** 80 days Indeterminate Excellent for canning, tomato paste, or puree. 3 ½" long fruit with mild flavor and meaty texture.

**Sungold Cherry** 65 days Indeterminate Rich and sugary, with a hint of tropical fruit. 1" round. May be a bit slow at first, but yields reliably non-stop until the frost.

**Supersweet 100** 65 days Indeterminate Small round 1 oz. cherry tomatoes are deliciously sweet with a high Vitamin C content. Long clusters of fruit load up on tall, vigorous plants and continue to bear until frost.

**Sweet Pea Currant** 75 days Indeterminate One of the smallest and most uniform red current tomatoes. Excellent intensely rich but sweet flavor. Plants bear such an abundance of tiny fruit they resemble peas in a pod.

### GROUND CHERRY

**Goldie** 75 days Sweet, tropical-tasting gold berries wrapped in paper husks add magic to your garden. The plants have a sprawling habit and produce ½-¾" fruits encased in a papery husk that turns brown when the fruits ripen. Plant 18" apart; prolific and super sweet.

### EGGPLANT:

Set out after all threat of frost has passed and night temperatures are reliably above 55°F. Eggplant is a heavy feeder and should be grown in organically rich soil. Protect from flea beetle predation by covering the bed with lightweight floating row covers as soon as the plants are set out. Some varieties have thorns on their stem and calyx which can be painful if handled without caution. Deer resistant.

**Black Beauty** 80 days A prized Italian heirloom, the 1-3 lb. bell shaped fruits have dense, firm flesh and glossy, deep purple skin. Spine-free stems!

**Listada de Gandia** 80 days A French heirloom which produces plentiful 6-8" purple and white fruits. Thin skinned fruits do not require peeling.

### PEPPERS:

Set out in full sun after the last spring frost date. Peppers like rich soil and require regular additional fertilizing. They need at least 10 weeks of hot weather to produce well. To protect peppers from sunburn, pinch plants to encourage leaf growth. Keep peppers picked to sustain production levels.

**California Wonder** 75 days Large, blocky sweet bell pepper. Thick-walled, tender and flavorful. Pick green or allow to ripen to bright red for sweeter flavor.

**King of the North** 60 days to green, 70 to red Large bell peppers reliably turn red even where the season is short or weather is cool. Strong, sturdy plants become loaded with big, blocky peppers that are delicious at both green and red stages.

**Orange Sun** 80 days Beautiful deep-orange bell pepper is 4-5" long and not quite as wide. Thick walls and very sweet.

**Sweet Bella** 75 days The 4-4 ½ inch fruit ripen from green to red with thick walls. Great yield potential.

**(Hot) Early Jalapeño** 70 days Small, moderately spicy fruits with thick walls are traditionally harvested dark green but can be allowed to ripen to red. Compact plants are sturdy and work well in containers. 3" fruit.

**(Hot) Numex Suave Orange** 95 days All the wonderful flavor of a habanero but with very little heat. The word "suave" means smooth or mild in Spanish, and that is descriptive of the mellow flavor this variety delivers.

## CUCUMBERS:

Require warm, well-drained soil high in fertility, with a pH of 6.8-7.2. Consistent, adequate irrigation is needed to produce an abundant crop. Cucumbers are very sensitive to cold. Make sure both soil and air temperatures have warmed prior to planting. Training vines up a trellis is highly recommended.

**Homemade Pickles** 60 days Harvest small for baby sweet pickles or grow up to 5" for crunchy dill pickles. Excellent disease resistance allows large harvests.

**Marketmore** 65 days Prolific vines produce large, dark-green and non-bitter fruits. Produces consistently until frost. Resistant to viruses and disease.

**Spacemaster** 55 days 2'-3' vines are ideal for containers or hanging baskets. Short, hardy vines produce slender, dark green fruits. 7 1/2" long. Resistant to cucumber mosaic virus and scab.

## MELON:

Melon plants have a shallow root system and mulches help retain soil moisture. Keep plants well-watered during the growing season, especially during dry spells (plants need about 1-2" of rain per week during the growing season). It's best to water with a drip or trickle system that delivers water at low pressure at the soil level. If you water from overhead, water early in the day so the foliage has time to dry off before evening, to minimize disease problems. Keep the soil moist but not saturated. Do not move the vines as they are easily injured.

**Honey Rock Cantaloupe** 80 days An early heirloom melon. Thick, sweet, firm deep salmon-colored flesh; good yields of quality fruit. Good size (3-4 lbs.) for an early melon.

**Sugar Baby Watermelon** 80 days Sweet tasting 'Ice Box' watermelon. Fine-textured, medium-red juicy flesh. The round, 8 lb. dark green skinned melons grow only 10" across.

## SUMMER SQUASH:

Set out in full sun when soil temperature is at least 60 degrees. Space 3'-4' apart. Prolific.

**Early Prolific Straight Neck** 45 days Firm, fine-grained delicious yellow squash. Best picked at 4"-7", or smaller for "baby" size. Great raw, pickled or cooked in innumerable ways.

**Black Beauty Zucchini** 55 days Highly productive bush-type heirloom. Tender, creamy and flavorful.

## WINTER SQUASH:

Set out in full sun after the last spring frost date. Space 3' apart. Keep plants well-watered during the growing season, especially during dry spells (approx. 1"-2"/week). Mulch helps retain moisture and maintain even soil temperature.

**Table Queen Acorn** 85 days A popular winter storage squash. 3-4 lb. fruit is perfect for cutting in half and baking. Early maturing for a winter squash.

**Spaghetti** 95 days Vigorous spreading vines produce 2-3 lb. fruit which are ready to harvest when they change color from cream to buff. Can be used as low calorie substitute for spaghetti, with or without the sauce.

## PUMPKIN:

Transplant in full sun after last spring frost when the weather is warm and settled. Be careful to not disturb roots. Work in a shovelful of compost and keep soil evenly moist. Plant 4'-6' apart.

**Orangita** 80 days Excellent producer of slightly larger mini orange pumpkins. Nice deep ribbing for an attractive fruit. Semi-bush habit.

## TO HARDEN OFF PLANTS, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

Plants grown from seed and raised in the shelter of a home or greenhouse are very susceptible to windburn and sunburn. Please follow these instructions to give your plants the best chance for success!

1. Give plants just enough water so they don't wilt.
2. Take plants outside for a short time. Give plants a short amount of filtered sunlight (light shade), during the warmest part of the day. If the weather is windy, put the plants in a spot where they're sheltered.
3. Gradually increase the amount of time that the plants spend outside and the intensity of the light they are exposed to. Increase the amount of time your plants are outside so that they are outside all day. Move them progressively into sunnier locations during the week so they get used to their future condition in the ground. However, make sure that you bring the plants in every night.
4. Once your plants have been exposed to the conditions for a significant amount of time, they are ready to plant!
5. If a cold night takes you by surprise after planting, a good tip is to place an overturned bucket over the plants, remembering to take it off in the morning.