



Beginner Vegetable Variety Checklist

1. Start in your kitchen

- List 5–10 vegetables you buy every week.
- Star the ones you're most excited to grow and eat fresh.
- Note any special types you love (cherry vs. slicer tomatoes, snap vs. shelling peas, etc.).

2. Reality check: space and time

- Sketch your garden (beds, containers, in-ground rows).
- Mark sunny vs. partly shaded areas.
- Decide how many crops you can reasonably care for this season.
- Decide how much time per week you can spend on the garden.

3. Match crops to your climate

For each crop you're considering:

- Check **days to maturity** against your local frost-free season.
- Look for notes like “heat tolerant,” “cold hardy,” or “bolt resistant.”
- Prefer varieties recommended for your region (extension lists, local growers, or region-tagged seed catalogs).

4. Read the variety details

For each potential variety, note:

- Plant habit (bush, pole, compact, indeterminate, vining).
- Mature height and spread (does it fit your space?).
- Disease resistance codes or notes (especially for tomatoes and cucurbits).
- Special traits you care about (flavor, storage, early harvest, color).

5. Limit choices on purpose

For your **first or next** season:

- Choose **1–2 varieties per crop**, especially for big plants (tomatoes, squash, cucumbers).
- Skip or minimize very space-hungry crops if your garden is small (pumpkins, big melons).
- Add only a few “fun extras” so you don’t overload your beds.

Suggested simple starting point:

- 1 slicer tomato + 1 cherry tomato
- 1 type of beans (bush *or* pole)
- 1–2 lettuces (cool and/or heat-tolerant)
- 1 easy root crop (radish or carrot, if soil allows)

6. Plan small “auditions”

- Pick 1–3 “reliable” varieties based on regional recommendations.
- Add 1–2 new varieties as “auditions” to test this year.
- Keep a note page for each crop with: yield, flavor, disease issues, and whether you’d grow it again.

7. Final pre-order check

Before you place your order:

- Confirm you are not over-planting any one crop (e.g., too many cabbages or zucchini).
- Make sure each variety has a clear spot in your plan.
- Remove anything you added “just because the photo was pretty.”
- Save your list so you can compare it with how things actually perform this season.