

List of Veggies for Estes Park Gardens

September 2010; updated February 2021



These are not the only plants that will grow in our high-elevation, short-season environment. They have been recommended and tested in the MacGregor Ranch garden, and the original list was given to us by George Hockman, a Master Gardener in Estes Park who has volunteered in the MacGregor Ranch garden for many years.

Additional suggestions (*in italics*) have been added by Estes Valley Community Garden (EVCG) using information obtained from other experts presenting in our Garden Education programs and from our own Community Gardeners in the annual surveys.

This list, which is planned to be updated annually, is available as a pdf on our website, evcg.org/Resources/SpecificCrops.

Asparagus

Arugula – *may tend to bolt early; aphid problems reported in 2018*

Basil – *Sometimes very successful; may be susceptible to drying in windy conditions.*

Beets (Burpee’s Golden, Early Blood, Bulls Blood). *May perform better if planted from starts than from seed.*

Beans (Burpee’s stringless, Black Valentine bush). *Green beans were the most-reported crop in the EVCG 2017 gardener survey - 10 responders said they “worked well.” Several reported they were very slow to “get going”, and harvests were small. Blue Lake Bush Beans worked well in 2018 and 2019; one report of poor germination/yield of unspecified varieties in 2018.*

Bok Choi/Pakchoi – *works well for succession planting; baby leaves are delicious in salad or sautéed*

Broccoli – *may not produce large heads; did not grow well in 2020; may perform better if planted from starts than from seed.*

Broccoli rabe

Brussels Sprouts (Long Island) – *Brussels sprouts may often be attacked by cabbage worms of various types; 2020 production not good*

Carrots (Danvers, Scarlet Nantes, Black Nebula). *Carrots appreciate deep watering which may not be compatible with other crops in your plot. Voles and other burrowing critters find them tasty. 2019 report of soil too hard; may require adding organic matter to help with deeper-rooted crops*

Celeriac

Chamomile – *re-seeds itself, will invade neighboring plots*

Chard, Swiss – *grows exuberantly; baby leaves are excellent in salad; freeze extra for winter use*
Chinese cabbage – 2019

Cilantro – *may be slow to germinate if direct-seeded in cool soil; re-seeds itself if let to go to seed*

Cucumber- *season may be too short for fruit to set*

Cauliflower – *did not do well in 2020*

Cabbage (White, Red, Ball)

Dragon’s Tongue (Spotted Wintergreen)

Fennel (Florence)

Garlic – *plant in the fall*

Kale - *grows exuberantly; baby leaves are excellent in salad; freeze extra for winter use; pick frequently or seek a small or dwarf variety as it can easily take over the plot*

Kohlrabi – *moderately successful in 2017*

Leeks

Lettuce (*baby leaf mixes, mesclun mixes, Red Salad Bowl, Henderson, Gold Rush, Yugoslavian Red,*

Little Gem, Butter Crunch); *head lettuce may not form heads; leaf types respond well to cut-and-come-*

again technique; good for succession planting

Marigolds – *re-seeds profusely*

Mint – *Will spread by underground runners and take over your space and probably the pathways as well. Be prepared to pull it out ruthlessly.*

Mustard and its relatives - *re-seeds itself, will invade neighboring plots – keep it in from going to seed unless you plan to save the seed for re-planting.*

Onions (Green, Red, Yellow, White)

Oregano – *may overwinter and return*

Parsley

Parsnip – *2019 report of soil too hard; may require adding organic matter to help with deeper-rooted crops*

Peas, English (British Wonder, Little Marvel) – *all are susceptible to powdery mildew*

Peas, snow - *susceptible to powdery mildew*

Peas, sugar snap – *needs vertical support; 2017 was a good year for sugar snaps; susceptible to powdery mildew- look for resistant varieties; Oregon II Sugar Snap did well in 2019.*

Peas, sweet - *susceptible to powdery mildew- look for resistant varieties*

Peppers – *may not set fruit, season may be too short; plant after last frost or protect plants*

Potatoes (Butter Ball, Russett, Yukon, Red) – *tiny potatoes are fun and delicious in soups; harvest when leaves have dried; for some good growing information see this website:*

<http://gwynnesgreenhouse.com/timely-tips/potatoes/>

Radish (Champion, Easter Egg, Daikon) – *2019 reports of early bolting*

Rutabaga (American Purple)

Sorrel

Spinach (Bloomsdale, American) – *try succession planting if using baby leaves in salad; 2020 reports of early bolting*

Squash (Summer Medley, Summer Crookneck, White Scallop Patty Pan) – *all squash requires a lot of space; susceptible to powdery mildew – look for resistant varieties*

Stevia - 2019

Tomatoes - *Birds may eat them, ripening may be difficult; cherry tomatoes did well in 2019, 2020; see evcg.org/resources for "Growing Tomatoes in Cool, Short Season Locations: Short Season, High-Altitude Gardening", University of Idaho Extension, Bulletin 864.*

Turnips (Purple Top, White Globe)

Zinnias – *susceptible to powdery mildew*

Zucchini (Golden, Black Beauty) – *requires a lot of space; susceptible to powdery mildew- look for resistant varieties; may do better from starts than from seed due to short growing season*

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You can contact the EVCB Board at evcg@evcg.org

Worked well:

sweet peas

Peas

peas,

peas,

peas, and

peas,

Shelled Peas,

pea pods,

snow peas ,

snap peas,

sugar snap peas,

sugar snaps

sweet pea

beans

beans

beans,

Green Beans,

This year it was green beans

string beans

Green Beans (Blue Lake Bush),

purple beans,

potatoes,

potatoes i.

red potatoes,

turnips,

beets,

Beets,

beets,

carrots,

carrots

carrots,

Carrots,

carrots

carrots,

onions,

onions,

garlic,

Garlic,

Radishes

radishes,

radishes,

radishes,

radishes,

Arugula

Kale

kale,

kale,

swiss chard,

baby bok choy

Lettuce

leaf lettuce,

leaf lettuce

lettuce

Lettuce,

lettuce,

Romane lettuce

parsley

Basil

All herbs (cilantro, dill especially);

chamomile,

thyme

herbs

flowers

spinach,

spinach,

spinach.

Spinach,

strawberries

Sweet corn,

cherry tom,

sugar pumpkins

zucchini,

zucchini,

Events – K. Semerad, M. Davies, M. Aldridge, B. Engel, E. Wharton, L. Johnson, L. Alexancer

Operations – E. Wharton, L. Alexander, L.M. Williams

