

2025 VEGETABLE REVIEW

Winter Reminder: Don't forget to water your trees and perennial vegetables throughout the winter periodically, depending if we get snow. More snow means less watering/less snow-more watering.

Be sure you disconnect and drain any hoses you use for watering to keep from freezing at night. I learned the hard way-I forgot once and I ended dragging up the hose and putting it in the bathtub with hot water to unfreeze the hose. I'll never do that again! Also bring any timers inside.

Gopher problem in late fall-it seems the gophers get more active in spring and fall and so far, I've caught 4 this fall. Last spring I caught 3 and then nothing all summer. Look for mounds and pound about 4' piece of rebar about a foot away around the mound but not on it to find the tunnel. Once you hit the tunnel, the rebar gives way easily. Use a shovel and dig a hole and find the tunnel going both ways. Put a snap trap in each side so you get them coming or going. I tie a piece of string to each trap and pound a smaller 12" piece of rebar by your hole and tie up the string to it so they can't carry it down in the tunnel. Then I cover the hole with a board so it is dark and also to protect any animals from getting hurt.

2025 VEGETABLES

TOMATOES

Some of my favorite slicer tomatoes this year include:

Virginia Sweet-An outstanding large yellow with red blush tomato. Exceptional producer this year producing large fruit.

Goliath-A medium size red hybrid tomato with old fashion flavor. Almost perfect with few blemishes. Did great this year-very productive and great shelf life.

Cherokee Purple-Wonderful flavor. Good production this year.

Black Sea Man-looks and tastes like **Black Krim** tomatoes only more productive. I really like them. Did well with the monsoons.

Large Barred Boar-mahogany color tomato with green stripes-great complex flavor. Got lots early but then petered out. Tastes great, but use within days as shelf life is short.

Paul Robeson-named after the famous opera singer-has superb rich smoky flavor. Did well but came in a little later.

Lucky Cross-A large yellow with red blush inside. Didn't do well here this year.

Jaune Flamme-a smaller salad tomato-yellow turning orange. Very sweet and very prolific.

Some of my favorite Cherry tomatoes. All the cherry tomatoes did well this year.

Black Cherry-A fantastic purple cherry tomato. A great producer every year.

Sungold-A yellow tomato with outstanding flavor. Prolific plants yield loads of small fruit. It may be the sweetest tomato. I only wish the fruit was a little larger even for a cherry tomato.

Super Sweet 100- red-cherry-65 days to harvest. Produces tons of very sweet fruit.

GREEN BEANS-fresh eating

Next year I think I will grow **Rattlesnake** green bean again. This year I took a break from them.

DRY BEANS-beans that we let go to seed (example pinto beans) You can eat them while green if you like or save them till dry in the pod and use in soups and stews. Save some seeds to plant next year from all heirlooms.

I grew 3 crops for **William Woys Weaver** from Pennsylvania this year. W3 (as I call him). He has many rare seeds, perhaps the most in America. **The Roughwood Seed Collection**, now comprises over 5,000 varieties of heirloom food plants. It was begun informally in 1932 by W3's grandfather.

He needed growers who could grow-out his seeds to keep his various rare varieties viable. I picked bean seeds this year. Because I grew out so many bean seeds for him this year, he calls me the 'Bean Queen' back there. I told him I'm the Tomato Lady out here! It was interesting that some of the older beans from 2016 (7 years old) that he gave me did not germinate well which is why we all need to grow and SAVE some of our own seeds every year to keep them viable especially if you like them. Just make sure they are either heirlooms or open pollinated varieties, not hybrids which do not grow out true. I'm such a believer in saving seeds, I'm glad to be growing out some rare vegetable seeds in the US. A bonus is I get to keep some of each variety. You can go to his seed store called **Roughwood Seeds** for some of them.

SUMMER SQUASH

Rugosa Friulana —A light yellow, "bumpy" fruit that is a little denser in texture than most zucchinis. It is usually less attractive to squash bugs. Out of 3 hills with 2 plants in each hill, only 1 plant succumbed to squash bugs. This is the most common zucchini in the markets of Venice in summer. I will grow again-great flavor and is not watery when cooked.

WINTER SQUASH

Waltham Butternut- Less attractive to squash bugs. I didn't get any this year. A big plant producing sweet butternut squash. I will grow again.

PEPPERS

Jimmy Nardello-a red Italian pepper-thin walled/very sweet. Good for sautéing

Lava Red- From Italy

A Corno di Horno pepper-thick wall-wonderful long red pepper-eat raw or grill-you can remove skins if you like. My favorite sweet pepper.

Poblano-a green pepper-thick walled and just a little heat. Great in Chile Rellenos. Remove skins.

Criolla de Cocina-from Nicaragua-78 days to harvest-sweet-thin wall

Piquillo Lodosa-From Spain-small sweet green pepper. Very nice.

Doux D' Espagne-from /Spain/75 days to harvest/sweet-thick wall

Calabrian Caviar-From Italy. One of my sweet red pepper- small cone shaped, maybe 3" long-great stuffed with goat cheese and grilled I do not peel them as they are thin skinned.

NOTE: I noticed that mice liked the sweet peppers but not the hot peppers. They would eat holes in the sweet ones the size of a nickel and take the seeds, thus ruining the pepper. This year no mice damage on any peppers.

Radishes-normally I don't like radishes. To me they taste like dirt but the varieties I grew this year were great and beautiful inside too. I got these new varieties from rareseeds.com. The were pink and white on the outside and white with pink star inside.

SPRING LETTUCE

Santoro-very cold tolerant-huge heads of sweet Butterhead lettuce variety

Yugoslavian Red-beautiful, sweet Butterhead lettuce-green with a rosy blush

Marshal Red Romaine-very cold tolerant.

Oak leaf varieties-more heat tolerant.

SPINACH

Carmel- good tolerance in freezes if covered with row cover.

BEETS

Cylindra beet- Cylindra beets grow up out of the soil, so they are easy to see when

ready and the cylinder shape makes beautiful cut rounds.

Badger Flame beets. Yellow with scarlet red inside. A great tasting beet. My favorite. Get at [Row 7](#) seeds online.

Chiogga-from Italy. Beautiful red beet with concentric red and white circles inside when cut.

CUCUMBERS-

Poona Kherra-best sweet eating yellow cuke. Unbelievable production. Did well with the monsoon.

Boothsby Blonde-a yellow pickling cuke that is good for bread n butter pickles and sweet pickle relish.

Carrots-Atomic Red, Purple Dragon, Black Nebula and Scarlet Nantes- all carrots did well this year and just finished harvesting in November.

Cauliflower-Both yellow variety (Cheddar) and white variety (Freedom) did great this year with big compact heads. Great flavor.

BERRIES

RASPBERRIES

Polana-a fall bearing red. Bought bare root plants from Norse farms online-produces very well. a very productive raspberry.

BLACKBERRIES

Triple Crown-a **thornless** semi-erect blackberry-Wonderful, berry plant and outstanding flavor. Did well this year. Wonderful, sweet berry.