

Vegetable Gardens for the Rio Grande Valley

Spring Planted or Warm Season Crops

Vegetable gardening is the major pastime for Americans. In Cameron County, Texas, we can garden nearly year-around which allows us the luxury to grow both the familiar and new or unusual vegetable varieties. Part of the enjoyment of gardening is choosing and purchasing vegetable seeds and or plants.

If you are starting with seeds it is recommended that crops with small seeds (pin-head size or a little larger) they be planted in trays filled with seedling mix (trays and mix should be available at your nursery/garden center). Grow seedlings until they are strong then transplant into your garden. Seeds of root crops: beets, carrots, radish, onion and others although small, are best sown directly in the garden. Plus large seeds of crops like cucumber, squash and melons are best sown directly in the garden. Always remember to read and follow sowing instructions (i.e. seed sowing depth) listed on your seed packet. For sowing times for specific crops in Cameron County, Texas observe the dates listed below.

Note: The planting times listed below will be for seeds and seedlings. If you are starting with plants, you can delay planting by one month and reduce the days to harvest by 10 to 14 days. Many of the more common vegetables are available as plants at your local nursery/garden centers. (Primary information source: Vegetable Crops of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Weslaco, Texas tel. 956 -968-5581).

Article written by the Cameron County Horticulture Education Committee.

Questions or Comments write to: Cameron County Master Gardeners Association, 1390 W. Expressway 83, San Benito, TX 78586-3869.

Phone: 956-361-8236 or Fax: 956-361-8289 or email:

camerountymastergardeners@gmail.com

Bean (green, snap)

Suggested varieties: Topcrop, Tendercrop, Tendergreen

plant: March

harvest: 50 to 80 days later

Beets

Suggested varieties: Pacemaker, Detroit Dark Red S.T., Red Ace

plant: February

harvest: 50 to 90 days later

Cantaloupe

Suggested varieties: Explorer, Mission, Cruiser

plant: mid-February thru mid-March

harvest: 85 to 90 days later

Corn (sweet)

Suggested varieties: Merit Y, Jubilee Y, Silver Queen
plant: March thru mid-April
harvest: 70 days later

Cucumbers

Suggested varieties: Pickling (Carolina, Fncypak M, Flurry) Slicing (Poinsett 76, Dasher II, Supersweet).
plant: mid-February thru mid-March
harvest: 65 to 70 days later

Okra

Suggested varieties: Clemson Spinless, Lee, Emerold
plant: February thru March
harvest: 100 to 120 days later

Peas (southern)

Suggested varieties: Texas Pinkeye, Purple Hull, Pinkeye Purple Hull BVR
plant: mid-March thru mid-April
harvest: 65 to 75 days later

Pepper (hot)

Suggested varieties: TAM mild-1, TAM Varacruz, Jalapeno M
plant: mid-February thru mid-March
harvest: 80 to 100 days later

Pepper (sweet)

Suggested varieties: Jupiter, Capistrano, Supersweet 860
plant: mid-February thru mid-March
harvest: 90 to 100 days later

Pumpkin

Suggested varieties: Jack-be-little, Small sugar, Pro Gold 500 (large), Big Max
plant: March
harvest: 90 to 100 days later

Potato

Suggested varieties: Russet Norkatah, Atlantic (white), Red LaSoda, Yukon Gold (yellow)
plant: tubers sections early-January
harvest: 90 to 100 days later

Potato (sweet)

Suggested varieties: Beauregard, Jewel, Excel
plant: mid-March thru mid-April
harvest: 90 to 120 days later

Squash

Suggested varieties: Multipak, Golden Girl, Early Golden

plant: mid-February thru mid-April

harvest: 40 to 60 days later

Tomato

Suggested varieties: Celebrity, Carnival, Whirlaway, Merced, Sunrise, Spitfire,
Pik Red, Bingo

plant: mid-January thru mid-March

harvest: 90 to 120 days later

Watermelon

Suggested varieties: Royal Jubilee, Sangria, Fiesta, Seedless (Queen of Hearts)

plant: mid-February thru mid-March

harvest: 90 to 100 days later