

Insect Resistant and Disease Resistant Vegetable Crops

Version 9-2021

Compiled by Kirsten Conrad, Agriculture Cooperative Extension Agent for Arlington County and the City of Alexandria

Insect Resistant Vegetable Crops

In general, your best bets are going to be early season crops, and late season crops. Arugula, lettuce, peas Garlic, Leeks, Onions, Radishes, Herbs (many)

Most Resistance to Mexican Bean Beetle: In general, most susceptible are Wax bean varieties, Snap Bean varieties are less so, and Lima Beans are the least susceptible.

‘Regal’ snap bean, ‘Idaho Refugee’ snap bean, ‘Baby Fordhook’ lima bean, and ‘Baby White’ lima bean exhibit show high levels of resistance.

Most resistant to Colorado potato beetles? ‘King Harry’ potato

Most Resistant to Harlequin Bugs: ‘Stein’s Flat Dutch cabbage, ‘Green Glaze’ collards, ‘Red Devil’ Radish, ‘Early Snowball X, Snowball Y’ cauliflower

Cabbage Family Crops Resistant to Cabbageworms: (Cabbagees) Chieftan Savoy, Early Globe, Mommoth, Red Acre, Red Rock, Round Dutch, and Savoy Perfection Drumhead.

Collards, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and cabbage are the most tasty to these insects, and those with dark green, glossy leaves are more resistant to cabbageworms.

Cabbage butterflies sometimes avoid laying eggs on red cabbage varieties.

Resistant to Corn earworms: Country Gentlemen, Golden Security, Seneca, and Staygold and Silvergent. Any corn with a tight husk will be more resistant to earworms.

Cucurbits resistant to Cucumber beetles: (See also: Cucurbits resistant to Bacterial Wilt) Blue Hubbard squash, Ashley, Chipper, Gemini, Piccadilly, Poinsett, and Stono cucumbers; Early Prolific, Scallop, Straightneck, and White Bush squash; and Galia, Passport, Pulsar, Rising Star, and Super Star melons

In general, cucumber beetles prefer zucchini-type squash over others and don't like burpless cucumbers among others.

Squash Resistant to Squash bugs: acorn squash, butternuts, Early Summer Crookneck, Green Striped Cushaw, Improved Green Hubbard, Spaghetti, Sweet Cheese, and zucchinis (except for the susceptible Cocozelle).

Squash bugs prefer yellow summer squash over zucchinis, squash over pumpkins, pumpkins over gourds, and gourds over melons. Resistant varieties include

Squash resistant to Squash vine borers: butternuts and Green Striped Cushaw, followed by Dickenson Pumpkin and Summer Crookneck. Other varieties reputed to have at least some resistance include acorn squash, Cucuzzi (also known as snake gourd), and Connecticut Field, Dickenson, and Small Summer pumpkins. Varieties resistant to squash vine borers tend to have thin, tough stems. Vining types are more resistant than bush types since the former can root along their nodes and survive moderate levels of borer damage.

Most Disease Resistant Vegetables

Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Corn (sweet), Eggplant, Leeks, Lettuce, Onion, Peas, Peppers, Spinach, Tomato, Herbs (many)

Cucurbits Resistant to Bacterial Wilt: Connecticut Yellow Field, Harvest Moon, and Howden pumpkins; Waltham butternut; Buttercup squash; Black Beauty zucchini; and Ashley, Chinese Long, Chipper, County Fair, Eversweet, Gemini, Improved Long Green, Saticoy Hybrid, Sunnybrook, and Tokio Long cucumbers. Watermelons are usually resistant to bacterial wilt.