



Cornell University
College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences

Department of Horticulture
134 A Plant Science Building
Ithaca, New York 14853-5904
Telephone 607.255.4568 / 1789
Fax 607.255.0599 / 9998
Email hort@cornell.edu
www.hort.cornell.edu

Website helps gardeners find best vegetable varieties

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Contact: Lori Bushway | Office: 607-255-5918 | E-mail: ljb7@cornell.edu

ITHACA, N.Y. – Gardeners looking for help sorting through seed catalogs this winter can turn to Cornell’s Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners website for help.

“It’s like an Amazon.com for vegetable varieties, only we don’t sell the seeds,” says Lori Bushway, the Senior Extension Associate in Cornell University’s Department of Horticulture who coordinates the website.

Gardeners can register at the site (<http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu>) to rate and review their favorite vegetable varieties, as well as those that didn’t work so well for them. Anyone can visit the site to read those reviews and ratings to find varieties that will work best in their gardens.

Launched in 2004, the site has grown to include:

- More than 5,600 vegetable variety descriptions with seed sources.
- More than 3,400 reviews/ratings from more than 2,300 registered users.
- Online tools to help you find the best varieties for your garden.

“We’re calling on passionate vegetable gardeners to help us spread the word about the site and improve it by contributing more ratings and reviews,” says Bushway. “The more ratings and reviews we get, the more reliable and valuable the site becomes.”

The site also links to other Cornell gardening resources, including online growing guides for more than 60 vegetable crops, and a new project, Vegetable Varieties Investigation (VVI). This intergenerational citizen science project bridges the technology divide, helping youth connect with gardeners in their community, learn survey skills, and explore biodiversity through the whimsical world of vegetable varieties.

Visit the Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners website at: <http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu>.

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