RICK'S FAVORITE SEED VARIETIES FOR THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Suggested Seed Sources: (F) = Fedco Seeds, (J) = Johnny's Seeds, (T) = Territorial Seeds

Artichoke: Imperial Star (F) - "Will produce the first year from seed but grow more as a novelty and for its attractive appearance than for a great crop of 'chokes."

Beet: Early Wonder Talltop (F), Kestrel (F), Golden Grex (F), Touchstone Gold (F), Boldor (T)

Bean: Masai (French filet) (F), "Prolific, dependable, doesn't need to be picked every day", Denver (French filet) (T), Nickel (French filet) (T or search on-line), Provider (snap) (J), Helda (pole romano) (T), Limka (pole romano) (T), Seychelles (pole snap), Monte Gusto (pole snap, yellow) (F)

Broccoli: "I've grown Arcadia, Bay Meadows, Green Magic, Umpqua among others and all performed well as spring and fall crops."

Cabbage: Caraflex (spring, fall) (J), Ruby Perfection (spring, fall) (red) (F), January King (fall) (T)

Carrot: Napoli (F), Hercules (J), Romance (J)

Cauliflower: Candid Charm (T), Bishop (J), Snowbowl (F), Snow Crown (J)

Cucumber: Diva (J), Tasty Jade (J), Summer Dance (T)

Eggplant: Orient Express (Asian), Nadia (Italian)

Leeks: Lincoln (F), "Can be sown thickly, then gradually thinned during the season first as scallions, then as baby leeks, then mature leeks."

Lettuce: Tango (leaf) "can be cut, fertilized and cut again once or twice", (F), Merlot (leaf, ditto) (F), Optima (butterhead) (F), Jericho (romaine) (F), Concept (summer) (F), Newham (mini romaine) (J), Rosaine (mini romaine) (J), Muir (summer) (J), Skyphos (butterhead)

Onion: Whitewing "not for storage, great raw and grilled" (F), Forum (yellow, storage) (J)

Pea: Sugar Snap (snap)

Peppers: New Ace (sweet) (F), Revolution (sweet) (F), Takara (shishito) (F), Mellow Star (shishito) (T), Early Jalapeno (F), Hidalgo (serrano), Roulette "not hot, but looks like habanero, sweet and fruity" (J), Staddon's Select (sweet) (T), Caballero (poblano) (T)

Radishes: Champion (F), French breakfast (F)

Scallions: Guardsman (J)

Spinach: Giant Winter (F), Space (F)

Squash: Slick-pik (yellow summer) (F), Raven (zucchini) (J), Dark Star "My absolute favorite, but now hard to find. After an on-line search, I ordered from Hudson Valley Seed Company", Burpee's butterbush (butternut) (F) "Butternut squash is the easiest and most prolific winter squash to grow, because it survives the inevitable attack of squash borers."

Tomatoes: Honey Bunch (grape, no splitting, prolific) (F), Celebrity (J), Buffalo Steak (T or search online), Aosta (paste) (F)

Basil: Prospera (downy mildew resistant) (J), Rutgers Obsession (downy mildew resistant) (J), Rutgers Devotion (downy mildew resistant) (J)