



# RESEARCHING VEGETABLES TO GROW



## PLAN AHEAD:

Complete this activity **before** the upcoming season's planting.

### **Planting Windows by Season:**

- **Spring:** Mid March-Mid April
- **Summer:** Mid May- Early June
- **Fall:** Early Aug. - Late Aug.



## PROCEDURE:

1. Explain to students that deciding what to grow in their schoolyard garden each season is an important step. Let them know that this activity will give them the opportunity to participate in choosing what vegetables the class will grow, as well as research new vegetables they would like to grow and eat.
2. Instruct students to complete Sections I and II of the "Researching Vegetables to Grow" worksheet. Make sure you have the correct season as there is a different worksheet for each season (Spring, Summer and Fall)
3. Have students come together as a group to share their findings.
4. On the board, or a large piece of paper, write 2 columns, labeled 'Tasted' and 'Not Tasted'
5. In the 'Tasted' column record each vegetable that students have tried. Next to each vegetable write the number of students that HAVE tasted it.
6. In the 'Not Tasted' column record each vegetable that students state they have NOT tried. Next to each vegetable write the number of students that have NOT tasted it.
7. Ask a few students to share some of the describing words of the vegetables they have tasted.
8. Look at your columns. On the Tasted Column – circle the 4 vegetables that have been tried by the most students. On the NOT Tasted Column – circle the 2 vegetables that have NOT been tried by the most students. Use these 6 vegetables to begin completing the upcoming season's Vegetable Order Form.

*The Schoolyard Gardens team recommends planting 2-4 vegetable types per bed. If your class is planting more than 6 vegetables, choose as a class what additional vegetables you will plant.*



## PURPOSE:

- To determine which vegetables to plant in the schoolyard garden for the upcoming season
- To practice using online resource tools to learn more about the vegetables students grow



## MATERIALS:

- Researching Vegetables Worksheets
- Red and Green Colored Pencils or Markers
- iPads or laptops to research



# SPRING: Researching Vegetables to Grow

## Section I:

A garden can grow many different types of vegetables. You may eat some of them on a regular basis and others you may have never heard of before. Look at the list below. Put a **GREEN** check mark next to every vegetable you have tried before. Put a **RED** circle around each vegetable you have never tried.

### Spring Vegetables

Arugula	Mustard Greens	Turnips	Cabbage
Spinach	Green Onions	Carrots	Potatoes
Radishes	Cilantro	Peas	Onions
Lettuce	Beets	Broccoli	Collard Greens

## Section II:

Write down 4 of the vegetables you have put a **GREEN** check mark by. Next to each vegetable write 2 words to describe the vegetable, using taste, color, size, type or feel.

Example: Broccoli - Green, Crunchy

1. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Next, write down 2 of the vegetables you have put a **RED** circle around. Discuss with the student sitting nearest to you or a family member if you're working from home. Have they tried any of the vegetables that you circled Red? Ask them to tell you 2 words to describe each of those vegetables. If your classmate or family member has not tried any of those vegetables, use the attached "Crop Varieties" sheet or Kansas City Community Gardens vegetable info sheets to describe the vegetables - <http://kccg.org/vegetable-infosheets/>

1. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_



# SUMMER: Researching Vegetables to Grow

## Section I:

A garden can grow many different types of vegetables. You may eat some of them on a regular basis and others you may have never heard of before. Look at the list below. Put a **GREEN** check mark next to every vegetable you have tried before. Put a **RED** circle around each vegetable you have never tried.

### Summer Vegetables

Tomatoes	Zucchini	Cucumbers	Bush Beans
Peppers	Sweet Potatoes	Yellow Squash	
Eggplant	Okra	Basil	

## Section II:

Write down 4 of the vegetables you have put a **GREEN** check mark by. Next to each vegetable write 2 words to describe the vegetable, using taste, color, size, type or feel.  
Example: Broccoli - Green, Crunchy

1. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
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2. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_



# FALL: Researching Vegetables to Grow

## Section I:

A garden can grow many different types of vegetables. You may eat some of them on a regular basis and others you may have never heard of before. Look at the list below. Put a **GREEN** check mark next to every vegetable you have tried before. Put a **RED** circle around each vegetable you have never tried.

### Fall Vegetables

Arugula	Mustard Greens	Turnips	Collard Greens
Spinach	Cilantro	Carrots	
Radishes	Beets	Peas	
Lettuce	Cabbage	Broccoli	

## Section II:

Write down 4 of the vegetables you have put a **GREEN** check mark by. Next to each vegetable write 2 words to describe the vegetable, using taste, color, size, type or feel.  
Example: Broccoli - Green, Crunchy

1. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
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Next, write down 2 of the vegetables you have put a **RED** circle around. Discuss with the student sitting nearest to you or a family member if you're working from home. Have they tried any of the vegetables that you circled Red? Ask them to tell you 2 words to describe each of those vegetables. If your classmate or family member has not tried any of those vegetables, use the attached "Crop Varieties" sheet or Kansas City Community Gardens vegetable info sheets to describe the vegetables - <http://kccg.org/vegetable-infosheets/>

1. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Vegetable: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Describing Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_

## SPRING & FALL

### PLANTING WINDOWS:

MARCH 15TH - APRIL 15TH & AUG. 1ST - SEPT. 7TH

- **Arugula** - astro
- **Beets** - detroit dark red, red and golden
- **Bulb Onions\*** - candy (yellow), candy apple (red), superstar (white)
- **Broccoli** - blue wind
- **Cabbage** - stonehead
- **Carrots** - mokum, rainbow
- **Cilantro** - santos
- **Collards** - topbunch
- **Green Onions\*** - yellow, red, white
- **Kale** - redbor, winterbor
- **Lettuce** - buttercrunch, canasta, coastal star, red butterhead, KCCG 30th anniversary gourmet blend
- **Mustard Greens** - tendergreen, red giant
- **Seed Potatoes\*** - red norland, yukon gold, purple majesty
- **Sugar Snap Peas** - sugar ann
- **Radishes** - cherry belle, easter egg
- **Spinach** - nobel giant
- **Swiss Chard** - bright lights
- **Turnips** - purple top

\*spring only

## SUMMER

PLANTING WINDOW: MAY 1ST - JUNE 7TH

- **Basil** - sweet
- **Bell Peppers** - gypsy, red knight, early sunsation
- **Bush Beans** - dragon's tongue, provider
- **Cherry Tomatoes** - sun gold, sweet chelsea, super sweet 100
- **Cucumbers** - diva
- **Sunflowers** - giant grey stripe
- **Gourds** - baby bottle
- **Hot Peppers** - jalapeño
- **Okra** - clemson spineless
- **Pole Beans** - provider
- **Slicer Tomatoes** - beefmaster, goliath, celebrity, jet star
- **Sweet Peppers** - lunchbox
- **Sweet Potatoes** - beauregard
- **Yellow Squash** - crookneck, straightneck
- **Zinnias** - benary giants
- **Zucchini** - black beauty

# CROP VARIETIES

## BY SEASON

PLEASE CONSULT OUR  
**SEEDER'S DIGEST**

OR CONTACT YOUR SYG  
COORDINATOR WITH QUESTIONS

**Hannah Ebling-Artz** - [hannahekccg.org](mailto:hannahekccg.org)

**Crystal Fritz** - [crystalekccg.org](mailto:crystalekccg.org)

**Claire Sinovic** - [clairekccg.org](mailto:clairekccg.org)

Ready to make your garden plan?

Select the season you're planning for below:

**SPRING**

**SUMMER**

**FALL**

