

Veggie Varieties for the Low Desert

KEY: **HT** = Heat Tolerant **EM** = Early Maturing

T = Tolerant of Adverse Conditions **DE** = Drought Evader

From *Growing Food in a Hotter, Drier Land* by Gary Nabhan

Compiled by David Hill, Desert Botanical Garden, July 2018

[General Rule: Choose early-maturing varieties. They'll require less water to grow.]

Globe Artichokes

Rouge d'Alger Cardoon	60 days	adapted to Algerian climes
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Chile/Bell Peppers

CalWonder, Early	66 days	loves hot days, cool nights
Charleston Belle	67 days	HT, resist. to root knot nematodes
Datil	80 days	HT, relative of habaneros
Tabasco Short Yellow	75 days	EM

Cowpeas, Long Beans

Bisbee Black	65 days	HT, EM
Blue Goose	80 days	HT
Brown Crowder	54 days	HT, table pea from Mississippi
Calico Crowder	65 days	HT
CA Back-Eyed Pea	55 days	HT, nematode-resistant shell
Chinese Red Noodle Long	75 days	HT, T
Haricot Rouge Du Burkino Faso	70 days	HT, T
Mayo Colima Cowpea	70 days	HT, desert adapted
Pink Eye Purple Hull BVR	63 days	HT, virus resistant
Six Weeks Browneye	42 days	EM

Whipporwill Purple Hull	70 days	T
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Cucumbers

Armenian Cucumber-Melon	50 days	HT
Beit-Alpha	56 days	heat-adapted, mosaic virus resistant
Dekah	42 days	EM, T
Edmondson	70 days	DE, pest resistant

Eggplant

Aswad	70 days	HT from Iraq
Aubergine Du Burkina Faso	70 days	
Black Beauty	72 days	suited to southern climes
Easter Egg	65 days	EM
Florida High Bush/Florida Market	76 days	HT
Ichiban	70 days	EM, HT
Ping Tung Long	65 days	EM, disease resistant from Taiwan
Turkish Orange	65 days	EM, HT, disease resistant

Maize/Corn

Black Aztec	70 days	DE
Black Mexican	62 days	hardy in all kinds of weather
Chapalote	90 days	HT, ancient variety
Mexican June	90 days	HT, DE
Reventador	80 days	HT, DE
Sixty-Day Flour (Harinoso de Ocho or Maiz Blando de Sonora)	55-60 days	adapted to low deserts of Sonora & AZ

Malabar Spinach

Red	70 days	HT
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Melons

Ashkabad Honey Dew	80 days	HT
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Casaba New Mexican	90 days	HT
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Persian	100 days	HT
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Mustard

Florida Broad Leaf Giant Red	23 days	EM, HT
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Southern Giant Curled	50 days	HT
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New Zealand Spinach

Perpetual	70 days	HT, non-bolting
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Okra

Alice Elliot	80 days	HT, DE
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Burgundy	49 days	HT, DE
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Clemson Spineless	50 days	HT
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Gold Coast	62 days	HT
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Louisiana Southern Velvet	55-65 days	HT
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Star of David	60 days	HT from Israel
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Pole Beans

Blue Coco conditions	55 days	EM, productive in hot, dry
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Rattlesnake	60 days	HT, DE
Selma Zesta/Selma Zebra	73 days	HT

Pumpkins, Squashes

Green Striped Cushaw	75 days	HT, DE
Big Cheese	105 days	HT, DE
Dark Star Zucchini	57-85 days	drought tolerant
Lebanese light green	40 days	adapted to hot, harsh climes
Seminole Pumpkin	95 days	HT, DE

Sunflowers

Skyscraper	75 days	HT, DE
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Tepary Beans

All varieties grown in SW	60-90 days	HT, DE
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Tomatoes

Arkansas Traveler 76	76 days	HT
Burbank	70 days	DE
Native Sun	50 days	
New Zealand Paste	80 days	HT, DE
Omar's Lebanese	80 days	HT
Orange King	55 days	sets fruit under high temps.
Ozark Pink	65 days	HT
Porter	65 days	HT, DE
Siletz	52 days	disease resistant, crack resistant
Texas Wild	63 days	HT

Tiny Tim	45 days	
Tropic	80 days	HT, disease resistant

Watermelon

Ali Baba	100 days	HT from Iraq
Arkansas Black	85 days	HT, DE
Desert King Yellow Flesh	85 days	HT, DE
Georgia Rattlesnake	90 days	HT
Louisiana King	70 days	HT, disease resistant