

## HORTICULTURE NOTE: NO. 7

### VEGETABLE VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS

### FOR THE PORT MORESBY LOWLANDS

By P.B. Bull, \*Senior Horticulturist, D.P.I., Laloki

#### VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS

The choice of a good variety of any vegetable crop may mean the difference between successfully producing a good crop, and having no crop at all. These variety recommendations are the result of over 10 years of research by many staff at D.P.I. Laloki. These are not the only varieties that can be grown successfully, but they are varieties which give good yields. They are also less affected by important diseases than are some other varieties.

#### OBTAINING SEEDS

It is not always easy to obtain seed for your new crop. There are two sorts of vegetable crop. With some like corn and pumpkin you can save your own seed. For others, like cabbage, you must buy seed for every crop.

##### Saving your own seed

Those crops you can save your own seed from are marked in the Table with a star. An article on producing and saving your own vegetable seed is in HARVEST, Volume 9, No. 1. Small packets of seed of these varieties can be obtained from D.P.I. Laloki. This will give you the right variety which you can then multiply yourself.

##### Buying your seed

There are two reasons why seed cannot be saved from some crops. Some crops like cabbages will not flower and produce seeds in the lowlands. The other reason is that some vegetable seed sold by commercial firms is labelled hybrid or F1 hybrid. If the seed you bought is labelled F1 hybrid, DO NOT try to save seed from your crop.

In Port Moresby vegetable seed can be bought from the following companies: Brian Bell, Burns Philp, Carpenters, Central Food Marketing, South Pacific Machinery and Steamships. Some smaller stores also sell seeds and some other companies will order seed overseas for you. When you are buying seed you should always ask the salesman for the particular variety you want. Sometimes the seed on sale is of unsuitable varieties.

#### FURTHER READING

Bourke, R.M. and Bull, P.B. (1983). Growing introduced vegetables in the lowlands. 1. The lowlands environment. *Harvest* 9 (2): 63-67.

Bull, P.B. and Bourke, R.M. (1983). Growing introduced vegetables in the lowlands. 2. Fruit vegetables, corn, legumes, bulb and root vegetables. 3. The green vegetables. *Harvest* 9 (2): 68-70

Fitzgerald, J. and Bull, P.B. (1983). Producing and saving your own vegetable seeds. *Harvest* 9 (1): 1-4.

Van Greve, J. (1983). Safe storage for small quantities of seed. *Harvest* 9 (1): 5-10.

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*This article first appeared in Harvest Volume 9, No. 2 (1983). It is reprinted as a Horticulture Note, due to demand.*

\* Present address: Yates Research, P. O. Box 587, Pukekohe, New Zealand.

TABLE 1. VEGETABLE VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PORT MORESBY LOWLANDS

CROP		VARIETY	SEED COMPANY
1. <u>Fruit vegetables</u>			
Pumpkin		* Rabaul	
Cucumber		* Singapore	
		* Green Gem	Yates, N.Z.
	(1)	Green Bowl F1	Known You
Watermelon		* Sugar Baby	Yates, N.Z.
	(1)	New Dragon F1	Known You
Rockmelon		Hales PMR 45	Yates Aust.
		Yates N.Z.	
Tomato		* NG 7536	
Eggplant	round	* Chahat	
	long	* Pin Tung Long	Known You
Capsicum	sweet	* Yolo Wonder	Yates, N.Z.
		* California Wonder	Yates, N.Z.
	hot	* Ilimo	
2. <u>Corn</u>			
		* Suwan	
		* Metro	
3. <u>Legumes</u>			
Winged bean		* UPS 31	
Peanut		* White Spanish	
Green bean	climbing	* Blue Lake	Yates, Aust.
	dwarf	* Redlands New Pioneer	Yates, Aust.
Snake bean	climbing	* Yardlong	Yates, N.Z.
	dwarf	* Bush sitao	
4. <u>Bulb and root vegetables</u>			
Onion	bulb - white	Texas Early Grano	Yates, N.Z.
		Yellow Granex F1	Yates, N.Z.
	- red	Red Creole	Yates, N.Z.
	bunching (2)	Bunching	Yates, N.Z.
Kohlrabi		Early Purple	Yates, N.Z.
Radish	European	Stoplight	Yates, N.Z.
	Japanese	Minowase No. 2. F1	Takii
Carrot		New Kuroda	Takii
5. <u>Green vegetables</u>			
Chinese cabbage	heading type	Tropical Delight F1	Sakata
	Pak choi type	* Pak Choi Kwang Moon	Yates, N.Z.
		Pai Tsai Green	
		Petiole	Known You
	Mustard	* Kai Choi Waianae	University of Hawaii

TABLE 1 (continued)

CROP	VARIETY	SEED COMPANY
Cabbage	KK Cross F1	Takii
	KY Cross F1	Takii
	YR Summer 50 F1	Takii
	Express Cross 60 F1	Takii
Cauliflower	Snow Queen F1	Takii
Broccoli	Green Comet F1	Yates, Aust.
Lettuce	* Minetto	Yates, Aust.
Silver beet	Fordhook Master	Yates, Aust.
		Yates, N.Z.
Okra	* Clemsons Spineless	Yates, N.Z.

## NOTES

Where no seed company is listed, seed is available from D.P.I., Laloki.

\* Seed can be saved from good plants of these crops.

(1) Recommended for commercial growers only.

(2) These can be multiplied by sections of the old clump.

Seed Companies listed in the Table

Takii and Sakata are in Japan;

Known You is in Taiwan;

University of Hawaii is in Honolulu;

Yates are different companies with the same name in Australia and New Zealand.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information and advice on vegetable growing contact the Area Horticulturist in your region. The addresses for the Area Horticulturists are as follows:

New Guinea Islands Region

Lowlands Agricultural Experiment Station,  
P.O. Keravat, E.N.B.P.  
Tel: 926251 or 926252

Momase Region

Bubia Agriculture Research Centre  
P.O. Box 73, LAE  
Tel: 424933

Papua Region

D.P.I. Laloki  
P.O. Box 417, KONE DOBU  
Tel: 281068

Highlands Region

Kuk Agricultural Research Station  
P.O. Box 339, MOUNT HAGEN  
Tel: 551377

Copies of this Horticulture Note can be obtained from: The Publications Officer, Publications Section, D.P.I., P.O. Box 417, KONE DOBU.