Seed Catalog Definitions
and Disease Resistant Codes

Heirloom

A plant variety that is at least 50 years old and usually developed before WWII. The parents are the same variety or the plant is self pollinating.

Hybrid

A plant produced when parent plants of the same species, but different variety, are intentionally crossed with the intention of producing the best characteristics of each parent.

OP - Open Pollinated

A plant that either is self pollinated or pollinated naturally by wind, insects or the gardener. The parents are of the same variety. OP plants are much like heirlooms only not as old.

F1/F2

F1 is the first generation of hybrid plant. F2 is the second generation and generally will not breed true to the first generation.

Days to Maturity

The number of days it will take for a planted seed to produce fruit.

Pelleted

Seeds that are coated with an inert material (such as clay) to make them larger and easier to spread.

Annual

A plant that lives its entire life cycle in one year.

Perennial

A plant that can live for many years.

Biennial

A plant that grows stems, leaves and roots the first year, flowers or fruits the following year, then dies.

Determinate

Plants that grow to a certain point, and then stop, with a shorter stature overall.

Indeterminate

Plants that grow and set fruit for the entire growing season.

Organic

Seeds that come from plants grown strictly without the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, or the use of sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering.

GMO

Seeds genetically modified in a lab by inserting or removing certain genes to alter plant characteristics. It is used in commercial farming to prevent diseases, pests or provide resistance to herbicides.

Seed Viability
(in years)

Asparagus - 3

Melons - 5

Beans - 3

Onions -1

Beets - 4

Peas - 3

Broccoli - 5

Peppers - 2

Cabbage - 5

Pumpkins - 4

Carrots - 3

Radishes - 5

Cauliflower - 5

Spinach - 5

Corn - 2

Squash - 4

Cucumbers - 5

Tomatoes - 4

Lettuce - 5

Watermelons - 4

Resistant Variety Codes
(pertinent to our area)

N = Nematodes

F = Fusarium Wilt

V = Verticillium Wilt

MV = Mosaic Virus

PM = Powdery Mildew

Germination Requirements for Select Vegetables and Herbs

	Germination Temperature (°F)	Light Requirements for Germination	Days to Germination	Weeks Sowing to Planting
Onion	70-75	L-D	4-20	8-10
Dill	65-70	L	7-14	5-6
Kale**	65-70	D	4-7	4-6
Cauliflower	65-70	D	4-7	4-6
Cabbage	65-70	D	4-7	4-6
Broccoli	65-70	D	4-7	4-6
Brussels Sprouts	65-70	D	5-8	4-6
Pepper	70-75	D	7-10	6-8
Watermelon**	75-80	D	3-10	3-4
Muskmelon**	75-80	D	3-10	3-4
Cucumber**	75-80	D	3-10	3-4
Squash and Pumpkin**	75-80	D	5-10	3-4
Tomato	70-75	D	6-12	5-7
Basil	65-70	D	10-14	5-6
Parsley	70-75	D	20-25	6-8
Eggplant	70-75	D	7-10	6-8
Celery	70-75	L-D	14-21	10-12

** Can be successfully (and frequently are) direct sown in the garden in spring when temperatures are warm enough
Source: Iowa State University

Germination Requirements for Select Vegetables and Herbs that are Direct Sown in the Garden

Plant these vegetables directly in the garden in spring when temperatures are warm enough.

	Germination Temperature (°F)	Light Requirements for Germination	Days to Germination
Beans	70-80	D	8-10
Beets	50-80	D	5-8
Carrots	50-80	D	7-21
Sweet Corn	65-85	D	4-7
Kohlrabi	65-70	D	4-7
Lettuce	60-70	L	7-14
Peas	50-65	D	9-14
Radish	55-75	D	3-4

Source: Iowa State University

Useful websites

Plantmaps.com - built using google maps, plantmaps.com has the only fully interactive USDA hardiness zones map available on the web. In addition to plant hardiness zone map covering the continental United States, there are detailed interactive hardiness zone maps and first and last frost date maps for each individual state. Plantmaps allows the user to locate their hardiness zone and first and last frost dates based on current US Postal Service ZIP codes. The ZIP code search will zoom to the coverage area of the selected ZIP code.

Planthardiness.ars.usda.gov - details an individual's plant hardiness zone by entering a home address. This USDA interactive site provides information for a plant's hardiness as it relates to winter cold.

Sunsetplantcollection.com – details plant hardiness zones by taking into consideration length of growing season, timing and amount of rainfall, winter lows, summer highs, wind, humidity and microclimates.

Accuweather.com – website devoted to forecasting weather weeks in advance.

Useful Youtube Channel

Youtube Mariposa UCCE – a youtube channel developed by Mariposa's University of California Cooperative Extension featuring programs on home gardening, including, tomatoes and their various problems, propagating and caring for native plants, growing sweet potatoes in the foothill and growing garlic in the foothills among others.