

Recommended Varieties for Organic Vegetable Gardens

Lee & Amanda Borden

Tomatoes:

Solar Fire (heat tolerant hybrid)
Cherokee Purple (Tennessee heirloom)
Sweet 100s (reliable cherry tomato)
Yellow Pear (pear-shaped cherry tomato)
Brandywine (Amish heirloom)
Better Boy (good slicing tomato, hybrid)
Illini Gold (good fall producer)

Three we are trying for the first time this year:

Granny Catrell (red/pink Kentucky heirloom)
Old Kentucky (orange Kentucky heirloom; taste test winner)
Arkansas Traveler (pink Arkansas heirloom; heat/humidity tolerant)

Squash:

In its seed catalogue, Southern Exposure indicates four species of squash with varying susceptibility to vine borers. *C. pepo* and *C. maxima* species are susceptible to vine borers, whereas *C. mochata* and *C. argyrosperma* (*C. mixta*) have good resistance to vine borers and cucumber beetles. Unfortunately, yellow squash, zucchini, and Big Max pumpkin are all in the susceptible category.

Recommended:

Butternut
Trombocino
Tan Cheese pumpkin
Green-striped Cushaw

Generally available from stores in Central Alabama:

Tomatoes (large selection)
Clemson spineless okra (feed & seed store)
Purple hull peas (feed & seed store)
Banana peppers
Collards (Georgia)
Onion sets (be sure to get Vidalia or other sweet variety, NOT yellow/Spanish)
Strawberries (All Star, Chandler or Camerosa)
Lettuce (Buttercrunch)
Sweet potatoes (Beauregard)
Eggplant (Black Beauty)
Cabbage (regular, red or savoy)
Watermelon (Crimson Sweet)
Cantaloupe (Hale's Best)