

**Seeding,  
Weeding  
and mulch  
more**

*For the avid gardener*

**Tomato rates highest**

Are you having trouble trying to decide what to plant this year in your garden?

The best vegetables to plant, of course, are those your family enjoys most. But if your family isn't hard to please, you may want to compare your list to that of the top 18 vegetables planted in U.S.

gardens. That way, if you tend to overdo in the garden and find yourself selling the "extras" every year, you will be selling most of America's favorite vegetables.

"The most popular item in the gardens of 38 million American households is the tomato" said Jack Robinson, president of

Gardens for All, the non-profit National Association for Gardening based in Vermont.

According to the National Gardening Survey conducted by the Gallup Organization for Gardens for All, tomatoes are grown by 93 percent of all gardeners.

"The tomato has ruled as king of vegetable gardens for the last 10 years," said Robinson.

Let's take a look at the top 18 vegetables and how they rank in the gardens of Americans. They are listed in order of use and are followed by the percentage of gardeners growing each:

1. Tomatoes — 93 percent;
2. Onions — 64 percent;
3. Snap Beans — 61 percent;
4. Cucumbers — 58 percent;
5. Peppers — 57 percent
6. Lettuce — 54 percent
7. Radish — 47 percent
8. Carrots — 42 percent;
9. Peas — 40 percent;
10. Corn — 39 percent;
11. Cabbage — 37 percent;
12. Summer Squash — 35 percent;
13. Beets — 28 percent;

14. White Potatoes — 26 percent;
15. Spinach — 16 percent;
16. Winter Squash — 16 percent;
17. Broccoli — 15 percent;
18. Eggplant — 14 percent.

It's no surprise that tomatoes, onions, beans and cucumbers are the top four vegetables when you consider how much room most grocery stores devote to these popular items.

What may be surprising on the

list is the fifth most popular item, however — peppers. This spicy vegetable is just a reflection of the changing trends in American diets with foods hot and spicy in taste rising swiftly to the forefront.

Choose now what your garden will hold — whether your list matches the one above or not — because the time for seeding and weeding is swiftly approaching.

**N.J. prep club forms**

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The Hunterdon County 4-H office announces the formation of a new 4-H prep club. Franklin/Raritan Township youngsters and their parents are invited to an introductory meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Extension Center on Rt. 31 in Flemington.

Four-H prep clubs are open to children ages 7-9. These clubs introduce the members to a variety of projects offered by the 4-H program. Each club generally meets twice a month—usually a business meeting and again for a

field trip, craft project, etc. The format is flexible to meet the needs of the group and its leader.

County 4-H prep members have been treated to a kite flying contest, herpetology program, visits to various animal farms and a trip to the Great Swamp in South Jersey in the past.

Raritan and Franklin Township 2nd-4th graders will receive an informational packet to take home with them on Monday, April 19. Any questions should be directed to Terry Opsahl, 4-H program associate at 788-1340 or 1341.

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