Learn more about growing vegetables and fruit year-round in your desert garden. Part of the fun is figuring out the right plant variety to choose. Here is a list from our staff experts to make the decision making process just a bit easier. These suggested varieties are grown here on the Center for Desert Living Trail and at the Community Garden successfully.

**COOL SEASON (September – February)**

**ARTICHOKE** • Globe, Purple; Cardoons

**ARUGULA** • Astro, Bellezia, Rocket, Sylvetta

**BEETS** • Detroit Dark Red, Golden, Chioggia, Bulls Blood

**BROCCOLI** • Purple Sprouting, Marathon, Waltham 29, Blue Wind, & De Cicco; Broccolini; Chinese Broccoli; Broccoli Raab/Rapini

**CABBAGE** • Copenhagen, Red Acre, Red Express, Early Jersey Wakefield

**CARROTS** • Red Core Chantenay, Nantes, Danvers, Purple Dragon, Cosmic Purple, Babette

**CAPERS**

**CAULIFLOWER** • Snow Crown, Snow Queen, Romanesco, Cheddar, Purple Head

**CELERY** • Utah 52-70 Tall Improved, Coquistador

**CHINESE CABBAGE** • Napa, Bok Choi, Pac Choi

**FAVA BEANS** • Broad Windsor

**FENNEL** • Florence, Zefu Fino, Bronze

**WARM SEASON (March – September)**

**WATERMELON** • Tohono O’odham Yellow, Hopi Yellow, Desert King, Yellow Doll, Crimson Sweet, Black Diamond

**SUMMER SQUASH** • Straight & Crookneck Yellow, Scallop (Pattypan), Ronde de Nice (8-Ball)

**WINTER SQUASH** • Waltham Butternut, Acorn, Spaghetti, Luffa, Tohono O’odham Cushwa

**PUMPKINS** • Seminole, Navajo, Jack Be Little, Sugar Pie, Blue Jarrahdale

**ZUCCHINI** • Genovese, Bolognese, Verde d’ Italia, Yellowfin, Dark Star, Costata Romanesco
WARM SEASON (March – September)

AMARANTH • Hopi Red Dye, Green Callaloo

ASPARAGUS • Mary’s Granddaughter UC72, UC157

CUCUMBER • Armenian, Marketmore, Beit Alpha, Lemon

EGGPLANT • Black Beauty, Listada de Gandia, Long Purple Early, Japanese Cultivars (Ping Tung, Kamo), Indian Cultivars (Ratna, Bijli)

EGYPTIAN SPINACH • Molokhia

DRY BEANS • Bisbee Red & Bisbee Black, Tiger’s Eye, Tepary

FRESH BEANS • Provider Bush, Blue Lake Pole, Dragon’s Tongue, Scarlet Runner, Chinese Red Noodle

HIBISCUS SABDARIFFA

MALABAR SPINACH • Red & Green

MELONS • Charentais, Hale’s Best Jumbo Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Ananas, Canary, Cucamelon

OKRA • Clemson Spineless, Red Burgundy, Texas Hill Country Red

PEPPERS • Early Jalapeno, Del Arbol, Poblano, Serrano, Habanero, Ghost, Tepin/Pequin/Chiltepin, Hungarian Wax, Banana, Asian Cultivars (Shishito, Fushimi, Thai Hot)


TOMATILLOS • Green or Purple (must have two plants to cross-pollinate)

SWEET POTATO • Golden Jewel, Centennial, Georgia Red, Oklahoma Red, Yellow Jersey

COOL SEASON (September – February)

GARLIC • Soft Neck Varieties

GREENS • Collard Greens, Giant Red Mustard Greens, Purple & Green Mizuna, Radicchio, Tree Collards (Walking Stick Kale), Curly Endive, Minutina

KALE • Blue & Lacinato, Nero Di Toscana, Red Russian, Tronchuda

KOHLRABI • Vienna Purple, White Vienna, Superschmelz

LEEKS • King Richard, Musselburgh

LETTUCE • Red & Green Romaines (Parris Island Cos & Rouge D’hiver); Looseleaf Varieties, Marvel Of Four Seasons, Lollo Rossa, Black Seeded Simpson, Outredgeous

ONION • Itoi, Crystal White Wax, Other Short Day Bulb Cultivars

PEAS • Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sugar Snap, Bistro

RADISH • Watermelon, French Breakfast, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg, Russian Black

RUTABAGA • Purple Top

SPINACH • Rushmore, Bossa Nova, Bloomsdale, Polka, Unipack 151

SWISS CHARD • Bright Lights, Fordhook Giant, Rainbow

TURNIPS • Purple Top White Globe, Hakurei