

BETTER SEED, BETTER LIFE



The A to Z of Garden Seeds

Did You Know?

From asparagus to zucchini, all garden vegetables start with a seed. Canadian seed companies provide a wide variety of vegetable seed, so Canadians have access to many different vegetables developed to meet regional tastes from coast to coast.

- **TOMATOES FROM SPACE:** What effect does outer space have on seed germination? Students in Canadian schools have explored that very question since 2001, by planting tomato seeds that have experienced the conditions of space thanks to an exciting program called Tomatosphere™. The Tomatosphere™ program is now a regular component of the science curriculum for more than 17,800 classrooms in Canada and the United States. It's out of this world!
- **INTO THE SEED OF THE MATTER:** Canadian researchers use genetic marker technology to improve yield and quality of ethnic vegetable crops like eggplant, okra, Chinese long bean and amaranth to increase profits of Canadian farmers, reduce vegetable imports and provide consumers with fresh, locally grown produce. Researchers are also looking at increasing anti-oxidant levels in vegetables, developing new taste profiles for tomatoes and cucumbers and making vegetables more appealing to kids.
- **TAKING THE TEST:** Before Canada's vegetable seed companies offer their seeds to farmers or home gardeners, they do extensive quality testing on new and existing varieties. What are they testing for? Seed companies want to see how the seeds react to a wide range of climatic and soil conditions so they know the seeds they sell will perform well.

The Canadian Seed Trade Association is the national voice of more than 130 seed-company members that develop, produce and market high-quality seed for field crops and home gardens, nationally and internationally. CSTA's Better Seed, Better Life program is based on materials created by the American Seed Trade Association and is a collaborative effort of ASTA and CSTA.

LEARN MORE!

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