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New and Interesting Vegetable and Flower Seeds for 2018

How do *you* decide what to plant in your garden every year? We've perused catalogs and websites of HGSA seed sellers for a sampling of interesting varieties, new and old. Experiment with one or two alongside of your tried-and-true favorites and let us know how it goes: Drop us a line on Home Garden Seed Association's facebook page.



Tomatoes and Peppers



Left to Right: **Shimmer hybrid** from Burpee.com is an enchanting small plum tomato bursting with flavor. **Tasmanian Chocolate tomato** from Reneesgarden.com is strong yielding and compact (good for pots!) with a delicious, well-balanced flavor. **Dwarf Awesome tomato** from Victoryseeds.com produces high yields of 6-8 ounce, deep yellow tomatoes. Inside, the juicy flesh displays oranges, yellows, pinks, and reds.



Left to Right: **Brenda F1 Tomato** from NESeed.com is a late-maturing hybrid determinate Roma, a vigorous plant that produces an exceptionally high yield. **Mad Hatter Pepper** from Burpee.com is a productive plant with fruits that have a refreshing, citrusy floral flavor that remains sweet, only occasionally expressing mild heat near the seeds. **Organic African Devil Pepper** from Sustainableseedco.com grows 1-2" long and is extremely hot; fruits are used to make dried/ground spice, and are great for sauces. They turn from green to orange to red when mature.

Salad Fixins



Left to Right: **Maiko lettuce** from Westcoastseeds.com falls somewhere between classic Bibb and romaine. Upright and beautiful, it is an all-season lettuce, slow to bolt in heat and tolerant of cold. **Edible Flower Mix**, from Hudsonvalleyseed.com is a collection of nature's intricate natural candies, beautiful in the garden and edible. **SloBolt Leaf Lettuce** from Gardensalive.com remains sweet, even in warm weather; it's a great choice for summer planting

Broccoli and Kale



Left to Right: **Castle Dome hybrid broccoli** from Rohrerseeds.com is a heat and cold adaptable plant with early maturing heads that are deep and domed with tight, small beads. **Black Magic Kale** from Territorialseed.com performs well from spring plantings. Its neat, tight habit sets it apart from other lacinato types. **Ironman Kale Mix**, from Highmowingseeds.com is ideally suited for baby leaf production. Use the young greens raw or add to juices, smoothies and sautéed dishes.

Herbs and Teas



Left to Right: **Gourmet Chef basil blend** from Rohrerseeds.com is a combination of Corsican, Genovese, Lemon and Lime basil, great for cooking and perfect for attracting pollinators as well. **Lemon mint** from bbbseed.com is wonderfully aromatic and attracts hummingbirds and a host of pollinators. Use the flowers and leaves in teas or sachets. **Red Drops Hibiscus** (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) from Territorialseed.com is grown as an annual in zones colder than USDA zone 9. The shrubby plant bears late season flowers, which ripen into the ruby red buds used in teas.

Cukes and Melons



Left to Right: **Honey Boat Delicata** squash from Highmowingseeds.com produces long fruits with striped coppery skins. They hold well in storage, keeping their exceptional sweetness. **Silver Slicer Cucumber**, from Hudsonvalleyseed.com is a pale, slender slicer bred by Cornell for powdery mildew resistance. **Sponge Luffa Gourd** from Sustainableseedco.com produces renewable, 100% organic and biodegradable bath sponges! Presoak seeds; germination can be slow.



Left to Right: **Tuscan Mini Melon** and **Galia Mini Melon** from Mountain Valley Seeds, trueleafmarket.com, both weigh in at about 2½ pounds. Excellent in flavor and vigorous in habit; vines can run 8 or more feet. Sales of **Porcelain Doll Pink Pumpkin** from NESeed.com support the Pink Pumpkin Patch Foundation, a non-profit that supports breast cancer research. Fruits average 16-24 lbs, and their sweet flesh is excellent in pies and soups.

Fun Flowers!



Left to Right: **Zinderella Zinnias** from Harriseseeds.com have tufted blooms and strong 2-3 ft stems, perfect for cutting. **Chantilly Summer Flame snapdragon** from Reneesgarden.com is a multi-shade mix of open-faced, bell-shaped flowers on graceful 2-3 foot spikes. They offer glowing color in the garden or in the vase. **Black Velvet Nasturtium** from Botanicalinterests.com is both edible and glamorous. Reddish-black blooms stand out in salads. **Red Cornflower** from Victoryseeds.com blooms May through summer if planted in early spring. Plants grow 1-3 feet in height. **Neo Rose Celosia** from Harriseseeds.com is excellent for cutting and drying, unique in form and color and has a consistent bloom habit.



Left to Right: **Shock-O-Lat Sunflower** from Botanicalinterests.com is a tall, dark beauty, excellent for cutting. From Americanmeadows.com: **Butterfly Weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*), a beautiful orange Monarch butterfly plant, is native from Canada to Florida. **Rattlesnake Master** (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), a native prairie perennial, is easy to grow and boasts bluish/green foliage and white blooms with unique seed pods. **Suntastic Sunflower** from Westcoastseeds.com is an All America Selections winner bred for container growing. It blooms up to three times in a season! Vibrant orange **Mexican Sunflowers** (*Tithonia rotundifolia*) from bbbseeds.com are tall and heat loving and a must for butterfly gardens.