

VEGETABLE VARIETIES

We are lucky to live in Florida because we have access to a large variety of vegetables. We do not just have one type of tomato or one type of carrot. We have many varieties of each.

There are different boys and girls in your class just like there are many different kinds of tomatoes and they all have different names. This activity helps the students understand there are lots of vegetable seeds to choose from which to choose when planning a school garden.

There are a few hybrid varieties. Explain to students that a hybrid is created when plant breeders cross-pollinate two different varieties of a plant, aiming to produce an offspring, or hybrid, that contains the best traits of each of the parent plants. Cross-pollination is a natural process that occurs with members of the same plant species to create a better tasting, longer lasting fruit or vegetable.

Directions: Cut out pictures of the eleven vegetables (pages 2-5 of this activity) and place them around the room. Cut out the name of the variety for each vegetable and pass one out to each student. Tell the students that they are to read their name and guess which vegetable they are holding and go stand by that vegetable. Unless they are avid gardeners they are not going to know the answer. This activity is to introduce students to some of the fun names vegetables have and the number of varieties available.

Extension: Get seed packets for at least two types of each vegetable (potatoes are grown from seed potatoes and celery takes longer to grow than ideal for school gardens) and have students plant them and label them. They can make hypothesis as to which ones they think will germinate first, which ones will produce vegetables first, which ones grow the tallest, etc. They can also compare and contrast the two plants of the same vegetable to see how the varieties are the same or different.

Discussion Questions:

Why have we created so many varieties of vegetables?

How has the variety benefited us?

What are the pros and cons of creating so many varieties?

How do we create these varieties?









TOMATO -	Early Girl	Fireworks	Lemon Drop
SQUASH -	Pic-N-Pic Hybrid	Cosmos Hybrid	Saffron
SNAP BEANS -	Gold Mine	Kentucky Blue	Purple Queen
SWEET CORN -	Silver Queen	Amaize Hybrid	Peaches and Cream
BELL PEPPER -	Wonder Bell	Islander	Sweet Chocolate
CUCUMBER -	Diva	Little Leaf	Northern Pickling
LETTUCE -	Road Oak Leaf	Butterhead	Romaine
POTATO -	Russet	Fingerling	New
CABBAGE -	Savoy	Napa	Green
CELERY -	Giant Red Stalk	Celebration	Florida
RADISH -	Easter Egg	Crunchy Royale	Rudolph