

Small
Garden
News



Two Georgia Gardeners Read a Baker Creek Seed Catalog Together

Two Georgia gardeners, Amy (smallgardennews.com) and Electa, read through Baker Creek's 2017 Whole Seed Catalog together, the vegetable section, and created a list of all the varieties listed in that catalog that we have tried (though we may have purchased the seeds elsewhere.)

Comments reflect our experience, in our home gardens and in the gardens for which we have given many volunteer hours (Plant-a-Row-for-the-Hungry, a school garden, and a local garden-farm).

If no comment is provided, the plants did fine; we just didn't have anything extra to say.

Gardeners in other regions, or even other parts of Georgia, may have a different experience with these varieties. The list does give gardeners a snapshot, though, of our experience.

Seed/Crop	Comments
BEANS	
Blauhilde	
Blue Lake Bush 274	
Cherokee Trail of Tears	OK, but not super-productive for us
Golden Wax	None of the wax beans produce as well as the green beans, but the color makes them easier to find at harvest-time
Henderson's Black Valentine	Liked these better as green beans than as dried, shelled beans
Landreth Stringless	
Old Homestead Kentucky Wonder	
Purple Podded Pole	Big beans but not prolific for us
Rattlesnake Pole	These have done well for lots of local gardeners
Roma II	Not everybody likes the flat-podded beans, but some of us (Amy!) love them

Seed/Crop	Comments
McCaslan Pole	
Mountaineer Half Runner	Highly Recommended! Good as green beans, as shellie-beans, and as "leather britches"
Hyacinth bean	No
Golden Garbanzo	Not for us (not productive)
Henderson's Bush Lima	
Jackson Wonder bush lima	These did better for us than Henderson's Limas
ALL the Runner Beans	No — Need a long cool/mild season that we do not have
Soya Beans	We have not had good luck with these
Long Beans (noodle beans)	In general, these grow well but the flavor takes some getting used to.
BEETS	
Bull's Blood	Harvest early; good flavor but they get woody if left in the ground too long
Detroit Dark Red	Reliable, good flavor
Crosby's Egyptian	No
Golden beet	Earthier flavor than most of the red beets (Amy likes these, Electa doesn't)
BROCCOLI	
Goliath broccoli	This is a nice variety
Rapini	Iffy in our area
Waltham broccoli	Reliable
CABBAGE	
Premium Late Flat	need to start seeds indoors in July for this one
Golden Acre	Good for our short spring and fall seasons
CAULIFLOWER	
Purple of Sicily	Very nice, but small
CARROTS	
Atomic Red	
Oxheart	Good for gardens with heavier (clay) soil

Seed/Crop	Comments
Chantenay Red Core	
Kuroda Long	
Danvers 126 Half Long	Another one for clay soil
Kyoto Red	No
Cosmic Purple	
Little Finger	Sweet, fun for kids due to size and early maturity
Nantes Scarlet	Another one for clay soil
Parisienne	Another one that is fun to grow with kids
Snow White	
CORN	
Glass Gem	Lovely
Dakota Black Popcorn	Great flavor! Non-gardeners are put-off by the color, which can be helpful if a garden is in an easily accessible area.
Indian Berries Popcorn	
Painted Mountain	
Stowell's Evergreen	
Strawberry Popcorn	
COWPEAS (aka Southern Peas)	
Purple Hull Pinkeye	Also popular with local farmers, good flavor and easy to harvest
Pigott Family	Amy thinks this is the best tasting cowpea on the planet; plants get big so be prepared to trellis.
CUCUMBER	
Armenian Yard Long	Electa says these taste Awful; try one from an International grocery before giving them space in your garden
Beit Alpha	One of Amy's favorites; reliable, good flavor, and a good producer
Marketmore 76	
Lemon Cuke	Some people like these, some don't.
Mexican Sour Gherkin	Flavor is less cucumber-like than the description says

Seed/Crop	Comments
Parisian Pickling	Iffy in our area (neither of us has had great success with most pickling-type cucumbers)
Straight Eight	More disease-resistant than many
EGGPLANT	
Aswad	Stands up to extreme heat
Casper	Especially good for container gardens
Ping Tung	
Edirne Purple Striped	
Black Beauty	Good, reliable, but harvest early because it gets seedy
Louisiana Long Green	
Prosperosa	
Rosita	
Rotonda Bianca Sfumata di Rosa	
Ukrainian Beauty	Amy likes this one a lot
Rosa Bianca	A favorite
ENDIVE AND ESCAROLE	
Batavian Full Heart	
De Louviers	
Frisee Endive	
SOLANUM BERRIES (In the tomato plant family)	In general, not recommended for us since there are so many diseases and pests in this plant family, in our area, that could be carried on these and then infect tomatoes/peppers/potatoes/etc
Aunt Molly's Ground Cherries	Another member of the solanum/tomato family; grow in a container or far from the garden, if possible
TROPICAL FRUIT	
Pink Bananas	We both bought these seeds and never got a single one to germinate
ALPINE STRAWBERRIES	Too hot here for these to do very well, although you will get a few tiny berries each year (but Amy says each one is a treasure!)
GOURDS	

Seed/Crop	Comments
Birdhouse Gourd	Vines sprawl a very long distance; give them plenty of room.
Small Spoon	
Dishcloth or Luffa	
GRAINS AND COVER CROPS	
Buckwheat	Great as a summertime “placeholder” between crops
Crimson Clover	
ORIENTAL GREENS AND CABBAGE	
Canton Bok	
Chinese Pak Choy	
Extra Dwarf Pak Choy	
Komatsuna Tendergreen	
Hong Tae Pak Choy	
Tatsoi	Grew well; unusual flavor
SALAD GREENS	
Corn Salad, Dutch	needs cool weather to do well
Corn Salad or Marche, Verte a Coeur	needs cool weather to do well
French Dandelion	
Mustard Greens Southern Giant Curled	
KOHLRABI	
Early White Vienna	
KALE & COLLARDS	
Blue Curled Scotch Kale	
Nero di Toscana (Dinosaur or Lacinato Kale)	
Russian Red or Ragged Jack	
Tronchuda Kale	Huge
Vates Collards	
LEEK	

Seed/Crop	Comments
Giant Musselburgh	Start in Spring; allow a year until harvest
Autumn Giant	
LETTUCE	
Baby Oakleaf	
Bronze Beauty	takes both heat and freezes better than many lettuces
Blonde du Cazard	
Buttercrunch	Recommended
Cimmaron	
Henderson's Black Seeded Simpson	Recommended
Iceberg	Surprisingly ok in some years
Little Gem	
Lolla Rossa	
Mascara	
Merveille des Quatre Saisons (Marvel of four seasons)	Recommended
Mignonette Bronze	Tiny! Very cute.
Oak Leaf	similar to Bronze Beauty in temperature tolerance
Outredgeous	
Rouge D'Hiver	
Rubin	
Speckled	
Flashy Lightning	
Red Velvet	
Brune D'Hiver	
MELON	
Ananas	ok
Ananas d'Amerique A Chair Vert	NO
Charentais	
Golden Jenny	No

Seed/Crop	Comments
Green Machine	
Hale's Best 45	No
Ha'Ogen	Disappointing
Jenny Lind	ok
Mother Mary's Pie Melon	Was not tasty for us
Sakata's Sweet	
Schoon's Hardshell	Did well for us
Tigger	not productive for us
Yellow Canary	
Vert Grim pant	
OKRA	
Clemson Spineless	A Southern classic, but takes longer to reach harvest than the 60 days claimed in the catalog
Louisiana 16" Long Pod	Recommended
ONION	All Bulbing Onions Must Be Short Day types for Southern Gardens
Tokyo Long White Bunching	
PARSNIP	Plant in spring for harvest the following winter
Hollow Crown	
Half Long Guernsey	
Harris Model	
GARDEN PEAS	
Alaska	
Blue Podded Blauwschokkers	
Lincoln	Prolific producer
Little Marvel	
Tall Telephone	
Wando	
SNOW & SNAP PEAS	

Seed/Crop	Comments
Mammoth Melting Sugar	
Oregon Sugar Pod II	
Sugar Ann	
Sugar Snap	
PEANUTS	
Tennessee Red Peanut	
HOT PEPPERS	
Hungarian Hot Wax	
Leytschauer Paprika	Dry and grind these for paprika, as the name suggests.
Lightning Mix	Productive and Hot
Lemon Drop	
Trinidad Scorpion Mustard	Super Hot
SWEET PEPPERS	
Banana	Productive
Canary Bell	
Chocolate Beauty	Recommended
Etiude	
Golden California Wonder	Not as sweet as Canary Bell
Lilac Bell	Good; they turn red when fully ripe
Italian Peperoncini	
Jimmy Nardello Italian	
Quadrato d'Asti Giallo	Recommended. Electa says these are fantastic
Red Marconi	
Sheepnose Pimento	Good dried for paprika
Sweet Chocolate	
White Lakes	
RADICCHIO & CHICORY	
Italiko Rosso Dandelion	

Seed/Crop	Comments
RADISH	
China Rose	
French Breakfast	
Chinese Red Meat	Recommended! Plant late summer for early winter harvest
Chinese Green Luobo	
German Giant	Recommended
Helios	
Long Black Spanish	
Long Scarlet	Good flavor
Munchener Bier	
Pink Beauty	
Pink Summercicle	
Purple Plum	Beautiful radishes
White Hailstone	
White Icicle	
Zlata	
RUTABAGAS	
American Purple Top	These grow well here
ROSELLE	
SORGHUM	
Mennonite	
Tarahumara Popping	Amy was not able to clean the seed well enough (so much chaff!) to actually pop these for eating
Tennessee Tall Girls	
SPINACH	
Bloomsdale Longstanding	
New Zealand Spinach	We have had trouble getting this to grow well
Red Malabar spinach	Vigorous grower; not really like spinach

Seed/Crop	Comments
SUMMER SQUASH	
Crookneck, Early Golden	
Early Prolific Straightneck	Southern Classic
Ronde de Nice	
Tondo Scuro di Piacenza	
White Scallop	No
Zucchini, Black Beauty	
Zucchini, Fordhook	
Zucchini, Green Bush	
Zucchini Rampicante	Vigorous and very long vines; productive
Costata Romanesco	Did not have good luck with this one
SQUASH AND PUMPKINS	
Big Max	Success varies year to year, but this can be great
Betternut, Waltham	
Butternut, Rogosa Violina "Gioia"	
Canada Crookneck	
Candy Roaster, North Georgia	Some years this does well, others less so
Iran	
Jack Be Little	No
Long Island Cheese	Recommended
Mini Red Turban	No
Seminole	Vigorous and very long vines; productive; good-flavored and good keepers
Sucrine du berry	small but productive and sweet
Turk's Cap or Turban	No
Kabocha	No
SWISS CHARD	
Fordhook Giant Chard	
Perpetual Spinach	Best spinach substitute, in Amy's opinion

Seed/Crop	Comments
TOMATILLO	
Tomatillo Verde	
Rio Grande Verde	
TOMATO	
Green Tomatoes	
Aunt Ruby's German Green	
Emerald Evergreen	
Green Zebra	
Orange Tomatoes	
Amana Orange	
Dad's Sunset	Died in Amy's yard before ripening any fruit
Brandywine Yellow	
Dr. Wyche's Yellow	
Kellog's Breakfast	Good flavor but not a big producer
Pink Tomatoes	
Arkansas Traveler	Recommended
Brandywine - Sudduth's strain	
German Johnson	
Mortgage Lifter	
Rose de Berne	
Tlacolula	"different"
PURPLE, BLACK ,& BROWN TOMATOES	
Black Krim	Great flavor
Black from Tula	
Carbon	
Cherokee Purple	
Paul Robeson	
True Black Brandywine	

Seed/Crop	Comments
RED TOMATOES	
Amish Paste	
Abe Lincoln Original	
Cosmonaut Volkov	Died
Costoluto Genovese	
Moneymaker	“not impressed”
Red Fig or Pear Shaped	
Riesentraube	“not for our area”
Roma	
Rutgers	Recommended
San Marzano Lungo No. 2	
Stupice	iffy
Reisetomate	not super-tasty
STRIPED, STREAKED, SPLASHED, & SPOTTED TOMATOES	
Ananas Noire or Black Pineapple	only got a couple of tomatoes before the plant died
Berkeley Tie-Dye Green	Died
Large Barred Boar	only got a couple of tomatoes before the plant died
Pineapple	Died
Pork Chop	Died
Red Zebra	
Big Rainbow	Not for us (died)
Tigerella	Not very productive
OTHER TOMATOES	
Purple Bumblebee	Not very purple, but taste good
Black Beauty	only got a couple of tomatoes before the plant died
BLUE TOMATOES	
Blue Berries	Died
Indigo Apple	Died

Seed/Crop	Comments
WHITE TOMATOES	
Great White	Makes a pretty, and tasty, tomato sauce
White Beauty or Snowball	
YELLOW TOMATOES	
Yellow Pear	Very good
TURNIP	
Round Red	
Purple Top White Globe	Classic Southern variety
WATERMELON	
Ali Baba	some years this is very good
Black Seeded Ice Cream	
Charleston Gray	
Crimson Sweet	Really Good
Georgia Rattlesnake	Huge melons on huge plants
Golden Honey	Really good
Moon and Stars	
Moon and Stars, Yellow Fleshed	
Royal Golden	
Stone Mountain	
Sugar Baby	small but productive and sweet
Wilson's Sweet	

Note: Not all of our seeds/varieties were purchased through Baker Creek, but the variety names are the same on our seed packets.