



Lake Merritt Trial Garden  
Oakland, California  
Vegetable Trial Results  
*September 2016*

The Master Gardeners Recommend:

## Spring/Summer Garden

### Tomatoes

#### Cherry Tomatoes

- ✓ **Sungold:** medium, orange cherry, great flavor, excellent yield, disease resistant
- ✓ **Sweet 100 or Sweet Million:** small, red cherry, good flavor, good yield, disease resistant

#### Standard Tomatoes

- ✓ **Summer Girl:** medium to large size, red, good flavor & yield, disease resistant
- ✓ **Stupice:** small, red, sweet flavor, excellent yield, disease resistant
- ✓ **Black Prince:** medium, black-purple, very good flavor & yield, disease resistant

#### Container Tomatoes

- ✓ **Lazarro:** cherry tomato, red, good flavor, disease resistant

### Eggplant

- ✓ **Little Prince:** small to medium size fruit, slow to start producing but then a great yield, disease resistant

### Summer Squash

- ✓ **Trombetta:** excellent flavor, huge yield, disease resistant

### Green Beans

- ✓ **Romano pole bean or bush bean:** excellent flavor, great yield

### Shelling Beans

- ✓ **Good Mother Stallard:** good flavor and pretty good yield for our climate

### Peppers

- ✓ **Anaheim:** mild hot green or red pepper
- ✓ **Jalapeno:** mild to somewhat hot and good yield in our climate
- ✓ **Serrano:** hot, good yield

## **Fall/Winter Garden**

### **Spinach**

- ✓ **Tyee F-1:** good flavor, great yield, disease resistant
- ✓ **Oriental Giant:** wonderful flavor, good yield, beautiful plant

### **Garden Descriptions**

#### **Tomatoes**

Tomatoes were started from seed in early March and transplanted to the Trial Garden in mid-April. Generally, cherry tomatoes and short-season varieties that don't require a lot of heat perform best in our area.

#### **Eggplant**

In general eggplant does not do particularly well in our climate because we don't get enough heat. The plants and fruit tend to be small, and the plants often get diseased. The recommended variety, however, did quite well for us.

#### **Summer Squash**

Trombetta squash (also called Trombocino) is an Italian climbing variety. It produces firm-textured, light-green fruit and are best when ½ to ¾ to 1 inch in diameter and about 12" long. They are slightly bulbous at their non-stem end. The squash remains firm upon cooking and has a delicate artichoke-like flavor.

#### **Green Beans**

Romano beans, aka Italian string beans, are broad, flat-pod green beans and are best when picked young, although are still good if allowed to get large. Good yield, equal to and sometimes better than round-pod beans. Pole variety will need a trellis or other support on which to climb. Bush variety yields for shorter time.

#### **Peppers**

Small, hot peppers do best in our climate. Large sweet peppers, like bells, don't get very large or produce abundantly in our cool summer climate.

#### **Spinach**

Spinach is a great cool season / winter crop to grow. Plant in early October and harvest in mid-November through February.