



CHECKLIST

Sourcing seeds: Genetics and variety

What are the right questions to ask?



Deciding whether to grow a variety with no first-hand experience can be a challenge, and obtaining the right information is fundamental to compare possible candidates and make the best choice.

This is a list of useful questions growers should ask seed representatives and suppliers when considering a vegetable variety, whether it's well established or new on the market.

Growers can use this resource as a checklist to go through when considering new variety options. This checklist can be completed for each variety being considered and compared.

Supplier/rep: _____

Variety name: _____

Performance & Agronomy	Note response
What is the recommended planting window for my region?	
How does it perform under stress (e.g. heat, cold, drought, humidity, heavy rain)?	
What is the growth habit (compact, vigorous, determinate/indeterminate, etc.)?	
How many days to reach harvestable maturity?	
Does it mature in consistently? How many picks does it need?	
What are the yield potential and the consistency across seasons?	
Do you offer technical support or agronomy advice?	
How many seasons of data are available?	
Any direct comparison with similar varieties?	



Fit for your operation	Note response
Has it been grown in conditions similar to mine?	
What type of growers are succeeding with it? (e.g. large or small, organic or conventional)	
Are there any specific management practices or requirements for this variety compared to my commercial standard (e.g. nutrition, irrigation, disease management)?	
Are demo plots or trial packs available?	

Quality and marketability	Note response
Is there any post-harvest/shelf-life or consumer data available on this variety?	
Does it meet current market or retailer specifications/ preferences? (e.g. size, colour, taste, sweetness, uniformity, shelf life)	
Is it suited more for fresh market, processing, or both?	
Is it suitable for mechanical harvest or only hand-picking?	
Any quirks during harvest (e.g. uneven ripening, fragile skin)?	
How does it handle post-harvest processing, transport and storage?	

Disease and pest resistance	Note response
Which diseases and strains is the variety resistant or tolerant to (and at what level)?	
Are seeds tested and certified disease-free?	
How does it handle local insect pest pressures?	
What is a good vegetable rotation with this variety to minimise pest and disease risks?	



Economics	Note response
What is the cost of 1000 seeds?	
Are there minimum order quantities?	
Does it have an edge on other comparable varieties? (e.g. better yield, quality premium)	
Are there any licensing or royalty fees?	

Supply and reliability	Note response
Is seed supply stable and scalable?	
What is the origin of the seeds?	
What are the lead times when ordering?	
Any risk of shortages or discontinuation?	
Is there a close alternative in case of shortages or delays?	

New variety specifics	Note response
What problem is the new variety supposed to solve?	
What makes it better than options currently available?	
Are there any trade-offs? (e.g. Yield for quality or vice versa)	
Is this variety already being trialled in my area? How is it performing?	

