B.U.G.S. WORKSHOP April 5 & 8, 2007

Preferred pH and Approximate Seed Life of Some Vegetables

The pH value of soil refers to the concentration of hydrogen ions (electrically charged particles) in solution. The pH value of water is neutral = 7. A soil value below 5 is referred to as acid. A soil value above 8.5 is referred to as alkaline. When the soil pH value is between 5 and 7, the soil is referred to as slightly acid. When the soil pH value is between 7 and 8.5, the soil is referred to as slightly alkaline. As you can see in the table below, most vegetables prefer a slightly acid soil.

The following table also shows approximately how long you can reasonably save the seeds of each vegetable and expect to have a good germination rate (75% - 90%).

Vegetable	Preferred pH (Approximate)	Seed Life Years (Approximate)					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Beans (bush)	6.0 – 6.5			X			
Beans (pole)	6.5 – 7.5			X			
Beets	7.0 – 7.5				X		
Broccoli	7.0 – 7.5			X			
Brussels Sprouts	7.0 – 7.5				X		
Cabbage	7.0 – 7.5				X		
Carrots	6.0 – 6.5			X			
Cauliflower	7.0 – 7.5				X		
Celeriac	6.5 – 7.0			X			
Celery	6.0 – 7.0			X			
Collards	6.0 – 7.0			X			
Corn	6.5 – 7.0		X				
Cucumbers	6.5 – 7.0					X	
Eggplant	6.0 – 6.5				X		
Garlic	6.0 – 7.0	X					
Kale	6.0 – 7.0				X		
Leeks	6.0 – 7.5		X				
Lettuce (Head)	6.5 – 7.0						X
Lettuce (Leaf)	6.5 – 7.0						X
Melons	6.5 – 7.0					X	
Mustard Greens	5.5 – 7.0			X			
Okra	6.0 – 8.0		X				
Onions	6.0 – 7.5	X					
Parsnips	6.0 – 6.5	X					
Peas	6.0 – 7.0			X			
Peppers	5.5 – 7.0		X				
Potatoes	5.0 – 6.5						
Pumpkins	6.0 – 6.5				X		
Radishes	4.5 – 6.0				X		
Salad Greens	5.5 – 7.0			X			
Spinach	6.5 - 7.5			X			
Squash (Summer)	6.0 – 6.5				X		
Squash (Winter)	5.5 – 6.5				X		
Sweet Potatoes	5.5 – 6.5	X					
Swiss Chard	6.0 – 7.0				X		
Tomatoes (indeterminate)	6.0 – 6.5				X		
Tomatoes (determinate)	6.0 – 6.5				X		
Turnips/Rutabagas	6.4 – 7.2				X		
Watermelons	6.5 – 7.0				X		

Prepared by Fleurette Huneault