

Major Vegetable Families

Family	Crop Examples	Family Characteristics	Mode of Pollination	Isolation Distance	Seed Viability
AMARYLLIDACEAE Onion Family	onions, leeks, scallions, chives, garlic, shallots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - characteristic onion odor - monocots - inflorescence umbellate - flowers bisexual, 6 parted - fruit a capsule 	insect: flies & bees	1 - 3 miles	2 - 3 years
BRASSICACEAE Mustard Family	mustard, kale, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cauliflower, collards, kohlrabi, turnips, cress, radish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leaves alternate - flowers actinomorphic, racemose - flower parts: 4, 4, 6, 2 - fruit: nuts, silicles, siliques 	insect	1/2 mile	4 - 5 years
CHENOPODIACEAE Goosefoot Family	orach, beet, swiss chard, quinoa, spinach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - most members halophytic - alternate leaves - flowers cymose - flowers often bracteate, minute, greenish, actinomorphic - fruit a nutlet 	wind	2 - 5 miles	5 - 6 years
COMPOSITAE Composite Family	endive, radicchio, artichoke, sunflower, lettuce, jerusalem artichoke, cardoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - largest family of vascular plants - sap sometimes milky - leaves alternate or opposite - inflorescence a collection of disk and ray flowers - often have bracts - flowers uni or bi-sexual - flower parts: 5, 5, 5, 2 - fruit an achene 	self & insect	1/2 mile	3 - 8 years
CUCURBITACEAE Squash family	gourds, watermelon, cucumber, muskmelon, squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tendril bearing vines - alternate leaves, angled stems - tender heat loving annuals - have separate male & female flowers - flowers 5 parted - fruit a berry or pepo 	insect	1/2 mile	5 - 6 years

LEGUMINOSAE Bean Family	peanuts, soybeans, lentils, jicama, runner beans, lima beans, common beans, peas, fava beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one of the three largest flowering flowering plant families - leaves alternate, compound - flowers zygomorphic, bi-sexual - flower parts: 5, 5, 10, 1 - fruit a legume 	self & insect	1/2 mile	3 - 4 years
SOLANACEAE Nightshade Family	sweet & chili peppers, tomatoes, tomatillos, eggplant, potato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many members contain alkaloids - alternate leaves - flowers bi-sexual, actinomorphic - flower parts: 5, 5, 5 - 10, 2 	self & insect	500 feet	3 - 10 years
UMBELLIFERAE Carrot Family	celery, celery root, dill, chervil, cilantro, carrot, fennel, parsnip, parsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many members aromatic, oily or poisonous - flowers umbellate or umbrella-like - flowers bi-sexual - flowers 5 parted, 2 carpelled - fruit a schizocarp 	insect: honeybees & hairy insects	1/2 mile	3 - 8 years
AMARANTHACEAE Amaranth Family	amaranth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leaves alternate - flowers bracteate, bi-sexual, actinomorphic - flowers 5 parted - fruit a nutlet 	wind & insect	2 miles	5 years
GRAMINEAE Grass Family	corn, sorghum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monocots - flowers many and inconspicuous - flowers uni or bi-sexual 	wind	2 miles	4 - 10 years
LABIATAE Mint Family	basil, mint, lavender, rosemary, thyme, shiso, hyssop, sage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - many have aromatic oils - square stems, opposite leaves - flowers bilabiate, zygomorphic - flowers 5 parted - fruit: 4 nutlets 	insect	150 feet	5 years