

Economic Value of Crops

A study has been done to attempt to determine which crops bring the most value per square foot of garden space. This was done to help the small-space gardeners in making decisions on the best vegetables to plant. This list that you see was taken from the *West Virginia Master Gardeners Manual* which is provided by the WVU. According to this study, perennial crops also have considerable economic worth: Asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish. The values were based on pounds per square foot, retail value per pound at harvest time, and the length of time in the garden.

The top 15 vegetables in economic value are:

- Beans (pole & bush)
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Carrots
- Cucumbers
- Edible-pod peas
- Green bunching onions
- Head Lettuce
- Leaf Lettuce
- Onion bulbs
- Peppers
- Summer Squash
- Swiss Chard
- Tomatoes
- Turnip (greens & roots)

Conversely, according to the same study, the following are considered low-value crops. In other words, not recommended for small space gardens:

- Corn
- Melon
- Pumpkins
- Squash (winter)

From Wilma Myers

Source: WV University Extension Master Gardener Manual