

Garlic Selection Assistance Chart v2  
Minnesota Premium Garlic Project, 2018  
[www.sfa-mn.org/the-garlic-project](http://www.sfa-mn.org/the-garlic-project)

**Preface:** These comments are for general reference only. What any experienced grower will tell you is that, in any given year, depending on conditions in the soil, weather and other factors, the characteristics of each group may change. For example, in some years, storage is poor overall; or bulbs may produce more/less cloves than normal; or the seed stock you obtain has not adapted to our climate. Likewise, garlic can develop landraces as it adapts to different conditions, and may change over seasons to something quite different than what you originally planted. As Chris Kudrna of Plum Creek Garlic says, “Where you start is not where you will finish.”

The intent here is not to recommend one kind of garlic over another, but rather to give growers information so that they can choose the right garlics for their operations. Many other factors also should be considered, such as what other cultivars are being grown near you, customer preference, and your own marketing style and goals.

The cultivars (often called “varieties”) listed here are by no means complete: more are grown in Minnesota, and far more are grown across the U.S.

Bolting/Hardneck Groups

Group & cultivars	# of Cloves	Hardiness 1=Hardest 2= least hardy	Harvest Time	Storage	Notes
<b>Porcelain</b> <i>Music, German Porcelain/Extra Hardy, Armenian, Georgian Fire/Crystal, Rosewood, Russian Giant, Romanian Red, Krasnodar White</i>	4-6	1	Middle	Medium/ Long	Porcelains tend to be one of the hardest and easiest to grow in Minnesota. The small number of cloves means that you get fewer plants per pound in seed stock, and you have to hold back more to replant from your own bulbs.
<b>Marbled Purple Stripe</b> <i>Metechi, Bogatyr, Brown Tempest, Siberian, Estonian, Krasnodar Red</i>	4-6	1	Middle	Long	Fewest cloves of the three Purple Stripe groups. Also very hardy here.
<b>Glazed Purple Stripe</b> <i>Purple Glazer</i>	4-7	1	Late	Long	Some growers/customers like the look of the “glazed” bulbs. At least one long-term MN grower’s experience is that <i>Purple Glazer</i> is the does not store long.
<b>Purple Stripe</b> <i>Deerfield Purple, Shatili “Shvelisi/Chesnok Red, Tien Shan, Dugunsky</i>	8-10	1/2	Middle	Medium	The closest group to the genetic progenitor of all garlic ( <i>Allium sativum</i> ). One MN grower has had Chesnok Red store for up to a year. Another grower reports that it is as hardy as the Porcelains.
<b>Rocambole</b> <i>German Red, Brown Saxon, Belgian Red, Russian Red, Spanish Roja,</i>	8-12	2	Early/ Middle	Short/ Medium	Rocamboles are hardy and have more cloves, so you get more plants per pound of seed stock, and you do not have to hold back as much of your own bulbs for replanting.
<b>Asiatic</b> <i>Asian Tempest, Sakura, Japanese</i>	6-8	3	Early	Medium	It has been recommended to harvest when the plant has more green leaves than with other groups for better storage, especially with

					<i>Sakura and Japanese.</i>
<b>Creole</b> <i>Creole Red, Burgundy, Moroccan, Ajo Rojo</i>	4-12	3	Early/ Middle	Medium	Can be a wide variety in number of cloves per bulb depending on cultivar. Tend not to get big, but prized for their flavor.
<b>Turban</b> <i>Shandong, Xian, Thai Purple, Thai Fire, Uzbek, Red Janice, Blossom, Tzan</i>	8-14	4	Early (earliest?)	Short	Can make large bulbs. Tends to lodge, especially if it does not bolt (form a scape.)
<b>Silverskin</b> <i>Silver White, Sicilian Silver, St. Helen's, S&amp;H Silverskin Chilean Silver, Western Rose</i>	12-20	4	Late	Long (longest?)	Sometimes bolts in northern climates, but some growers in Minnesota report that it rarely does for them. When it does not bolt, it could certainly be considered a softneck. A grower in WI reports that, for him, it always "weakly" bolts.

### Non-Bolting/Softneck

<b>Artichoke</b> <i>Lorz Italian Red, Incheilum Red, Susanville, California Early/Late, , Chamiskuri, Italian Late, Thermadrone, Transylvania</i>	10-20	5	Early	Long	Can "partially" bolt, forming an umbel partway up the stalk. Can be braided if it doesn't bolt. Can make large bulbs, but not consistently. One MN grower reported crop failures with <i>California Early</i> and <i>Late</i> . Another grower says that <i>Italian Late</i> and <i>Chamiskuri</i> are hardy at their farm.
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### Additional Notes:

- Under certain circumstances, non-bolting (softneck) cultivars will bolt, and some of the "less hardy" bolting/hardneck groups will not bolt.
- We have chosen not to list the Middle Eastern group since it is rare in the U.S. and generally does not do well in northern climates.
- Cultivar names can be arbitrary: i.e. "*German Porcelain*" is also called "*German Extra Hardy*"; and the name "*Metechi*" has been given to cultivars from two groups.
- All of these characteristics are based on published works and grower experience; however, garlic is mutable and adaptable depending on growing conditions, and there will certainly be exceptions to the information put forth here.
- We have refrained from citing information on flavor since it is perhaps the most subjective of characteristics.

### Sources:

- "The Complete Book of Garlic" by Ted Jordan Meredith, Timber Press, 2008
- "Growing Great Garlic" by Ron L Engeland, Filaree Productions, 1991
- "Growing Garlic in Minnesota", University of Minnesota Extension, by Dr. Carl Rosen et al, <https://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/fruit-vegetable/growing-garlic-in-minnesota/index.html>

- Filaree Garlic Farm 2018 Catalogue
- Anecdotal information compiled by Jerry Ford from garlic growers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Manitoba, including Lee Taylor, Chris Kudrna, Melissa Driscoll, Paul Schmidt, Susan Johnson, Carl Rosen, Larry Fildes and others.



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