

Not everyone is lucky enough to have a full day of sun to grow a garden of vegetables. While tomatoes might not be the best choice for a shady area, there are lots of options! Here is a list of vegetables that require at least four hours of sunlight per day, but often thrive with less than six hours of direct sunlight.

Beans

Bush beans do better with closer to 6 hours of sunlight, vine varieties can do great with less as long as they're trellised.

Beets

Beets thrive when they're partially shaded, even in relatively dry conditions.

Broccoli

Broccoli that gets full sun will flower quickly, ruining the taste, while partial sun encourages tighter heads and slower flowering.

Cabbage

Too much sun will dry cabbage out and encourage smaller heads.

Carrots

Too much sun encourages carrots to grow more foliage than root, so limiting sunlight means larger carrots.

Cauliflower

Similar to broccoli, limit sunlight to under 6 hours daily for tighter cauliflower heads.

Cilantro/Coriander

Limiting sunlight to this popular herb and spice will help keep the plants smaller and larger-leafed, meaning better harvest and more concentrated flavor.

Leek

Leeks thrive in cooler, more moist environments compared to their regular root onion cousins.

Onions

Like most root-based vegetables, onions need less sun in order to encourage below-ground growth.

Pea

Like beans, peas will grow more plant than edible pods if it has too much light.

Radish

Another root plant where it's more important to focus on root growth.

Rutabaga

Growing similar to beets and onions, rutabagas need restricted sunlight to encourage larger roots.

Turnips

Turnips, similar to carrots, send roots downwards with less light available.

The following vegetables thrive in even less sunlight- as little as 2-4 hours per day.

Arugula

Sunlight shrivels arugula leaves, so this is a good plant to put under larger plants or in containers on shaded patios.

Brussels sprouts

Brussels sprouts are a cold-tolerant plant that enjoy limited sunlight.

Endive

Of all the lettuce-type plants, endive is likely the most shade-loving.

Kale

Like its cabbage relatives, kale loves cold weather and little light.

Leaf lettuce

Most lettuce plants prefer less sun. Too much heat produces bitter lettuce.

Mustard greens

Grow in flower gardens and near porches where sunlight is limited.

Spinach

Spinach needs cooler temperatures and less sun.

Swiss chard

Like other leafy vegetables, swiss chard doesn't enjoy a lot of sunlight.

Use the shade of other plants to provide perfect growing conditions for plants that prefer less light. Use stalks of corn to provide partial shade for smaller radishes and peas, and large-leafed squash and pumpkin plants for near complete shade for smaller carrots or turnips.