Okra (also known as gumbo) is a tall-growing, warm-season, annual vegetable. Set transplants in the garden after the soil has warmed and the danger of frost has past.

**Recommended varieties**

Annie Oakley (hybrid; 52 days to harvest; compact plant; extra tender)
Dwarf Green Long Pod (52 days; ribbed pods)
Clemson Spineless (56 days)

**Yield**

One bushel of okra weighs 26 pounds and yields 16 to 18 quarts—an average of 1½ pounds per quart.

**Storage and Food Safety**

Refrigerate unwashed, dry okra pods in the vegetable crisper, loosely wrapped in perforated plastic bags. Wet pods will quickly mold and become slimy. Okra will keep for only two or three days. When ridges and tips of pods turn dark, it needs to be used immediately. Once it starts to darken, it will quickly deteriorate.

To prevent cross-contamination, keep okra away from raw meat and meat juices.

Wash hands before and after handling fresh produce. For best quality and nutritional value, do not preserve more than your family can consume in 12 months.

**How to Preserve**

**Canning**

Select young, tender pods. Wash pods and trim ends. Leave whole or cut into 1-inch pieces. Place okra in saucepan and cover with hot water, boil 2 minutes and drain. Pack hot okra into hot jars. Add ½ teaspoon salt to pints, 1 teaspoon to quarts, if desired.
Using, Storing and Preserving Okra

Fill jars to 1 inch from the top with boiling water, remove air bubbles, wipe jar rims, and adjust lids and process (see tables below for recommended processing times).

Let jars stand undisturbed for 24 hours. Remove rings. Wash jars, label, date and store. Food in jars that did not seal must be reprocessed in a clean jar with a new lid or refrigerated.

Freezing
Select young, tender pods, no longer than 2 to 2½ inches. Okra that is at peak quality for eating is best for freezing. Wash and trim stems of okra pods, leaving caps whole. Drop pods into boiling water, cover and blanch small pods 3 minutes and large pods 5 minutes.* Cool promptly and drain. Leave whole or slice crosswise. Package, leaving ½ inch headspace, seal, label and freeze.

*Water blanching: Use 1 gallon of water per pound of prepared okra. Put okra in blanching basket or strainer and lower into boiling water. Place lid on pan/blancher. Return water to boiling and start counting blanching time as soon as water returns to a boil. It should take only a minute to come back to a boil. If it takes longer, too much okra has been put in the boiling water.

References

Find out more about Michigan Fresh at msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/mi_fresh.

### Recommended process time for okra in a dial-gauge pressure canner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canner pressure (PSI) at altitudes of</th>
<th>Style of pack</th>
<th>Jar size</th>
<th>Process time</th>
<th>0-2,000 feet</th>
<th>2,001-4,000 feet</th>
<th>4,001-6,000 feet</th>
<th>6,001-8,000 feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14 lb.</td>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Pints</td>
<td>25 min.</td>
<td>11 lb.</td>
<td>12 lb.</td>
<td>13 lb.</td>
<td>14 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 lb.</td>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Quarts</td>
<td>40 min.</td>
<td>11 lb.</td>
<td>12 lb.</td>
<td>13 lb.</td>
<td>14 lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Recommended process time for okra in a weighted-gauge pressure canner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canner pressure (PSI) at altitudes of</th>
<th>Style of pack</th>
<th>Jar size</th>
<th>Process time</th>
<th>0-1,000 feet</th>
<th>Above 1,000 feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 lb.</td>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Pints</td>
<td>25 min.</td>
<td>10 lb.</td>
<td>15 lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 lb.</td>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>Quarts</td>
<td>40 min.</td>
<td>10 lb.</td>
<td>15 lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ray Hammerschmidt, Interim Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.