

Optimum Storage Conditions for Vegetables

Commodity	Ideal Temp °C	Relative Humidity (%)	Maximum Storage Life (Days)	Bulk Density	
				Lb/Cu Ft	Kg/m ³
Asparagus	0 - 2	95 - 100	21	36	570
Beans, snap	4 - 7	95	10	48	770
Beets	0	98 - 100	180	44	700
Broccoli	0	95 - 100	14		
Brussels sprouts	0	95 - 100	35		
Cabbage, early	0	98 - 100	40		
Cabbage, late	0	98 - 100	330	28 - 31	450 - 500
Cabbage, Chinese	0	95 - 100	90		
Carrots, bunched	0	95 - 100	14	30	480
Carrots, immature	0	98 - 100	40		
Carrots, mature	0	98 - 100	270	34	550
Cauliflower	0	95 - 98	28	20	320
Celery	0	98 - 100	90	33	530
Corn, sweet	0	95 - 98	8	28	440
Cucumbers	10 - 13	95	14	38	610
Eggplants	8 - 12	90 - 95	7	26	420
Endive	0	95 - 100	21		
Garlic	0	65 - 70	210		
Kale	0	95 - 100	21		
Leafy greens	0	95 - 100	14		
Leeks	0	95 - 100	180		
Lettuce	0	98 - 100	21	19 - 22	300 - 350
Onions, green	0	95 - 100	28	17 - 19	270 - 300
Onions, dry	0	65 - 70	240	41 - 44	650 - 700
Parsley	0	95 - 100	75		
Parsnips	0	98 - 100	180	34	550
Peas, green	0	95 - 98	14	24	390
Peppers, dry	0 - 10	60 - 70	180		
Peppers, sweet	7 - 13	90 - 95	21	20	320
Potatoes, early	4	90 - 95	7	41 - 43	650 - 680
Potatoes, chipping	10	90 - 95	300	41 - 43	650 - 680
Potatoes, late	4	90 - 95	300	41 - 43	650 - 680
Potatoes, seed	2 - 4	90 - 95	210	41 - 43	650 - 680

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Pumpkins	10 – 13	50 – 70	90	37	600
Radishes	0	95 – 100	28	41	650
Rhubarb	0	95 – 100	28		
Rutabagas	0	98 – 100	180	37 – 41	600 – 650
Spinach	0	95 – 100	14	16	260
Squash, summer	5 – 10	95	14		
Squash, winter	10	50 – 70	180	37	600
Tomatoes, mature green	13 – 21	90 – 95	21		
Tomatoes, firm ripe	8 – 10	90 – 95	7	43	680
Watermelons	10 – 15	90	21		

*In addition to the temperature & humidity requirements, it is also essential to exclude commodities which produce high levels of ethylene from vegetable storages. Heavy ethylene producers include: tomatoes, apples, pears, peaches, plums & apricots.

Adapted from Ontario Vegetable Production Recommendations, 2000/01 and Agriculture Canada, Canadian Farm Buildings Handbook, 1988