



North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS
2021

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For more information on the North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials Program, go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

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RESULTS FOR 2021

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Introduction

The First Step to Success

The first step in growing a successful garden is to select a superior variety.

Gardeners who sow **superior** varieties can grow plants that yield abundantly, resist diseases, and produce quality food.

Gardeners who sow **inferior** varieties are headed for frustrations. No matter how hard they work in the garden they may have disappointing results.

The benefits of selecting superior varieties for gardens are great. The National Gardening Association (NGA) estimates approximately one-third of households in North Dakota grow a vegetable garden.¹ This indicates there are approximately 100,000 households in North Dakota with vegetable gardens.

There are significant economic benefits to gardening. A recent survey of community gardeners in Bismarck showed each household saved an average of \$105 on produce expenses per year.² Extrapolated statewide, these findings suggest that gardeners in North Dakota save millions of dollars each year by growing some of their own vegetables.

There is an important public health dimension to gardening. Vegetables and fruits are nature's richest source of micronutrients, minerals and dietary fiber. A diet rich in vegetables and fruits is associated with a decreased risk of obesity and certain chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers. Nevertheless, only 25% of adults

and 8% of children in North Dakota eat enough vegetables for a healthy diet.³

We need to eat more vegetables—growing a productive garden can help with this.

A limited amount of vegetable research is conducted at research stations in North Dakota. These plots provide insight into the characteristics of varieties, but they do not test varieties under actual home gardening conditions. The environment at a field research station is dramatically different than at a home garden:

- The soils at field research stations are similar to soils at a farm: relatively fertile and undisturbed. Soils in a backyard garden are intensively managed and have been highly disturbed from home construction and land grading activities.
- Trials at stations utilize tractors, large-scale irrigation equipment and herbicides. Backyard gardeners use shovels, hoes (maybe a roto-tiller), garden hoses and watering cans.
- Trials conducted at stations are out in full sun. Many home gardens have shade for at least part of the day.

Gardeners in North Dakota may enjoy healthier diets and save millions of dollars on food expenses.

The Bottom Line

To identify superior varieties for **gardeners**, it makes sense to determine which varieties perform best in **gardens** under the management of **gardeners**.

Goals

This program has four major goals:

1. Gardeners will be introduced to new varieties.
2. Gardeners will identify superior varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers.

¹ National Gardening Association. 2008. Personal communication with Bruce Butterfield, Market Research Director.

² North Dakota State University Extension Service. 2016. Personal communication with Kelsey Sheldon, Burleigh County Program Assistant.

³ Centers for Disease Control. 2012. North Dakota: State Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Profile.

3. Gardeners will grow more productive gardens and enjoy healthier diets.
4. Youth will develop skills in science, eat a healthier diet, and enjoy increased levels of physical activity.

Selecting Varieties

Seed catalogs are carefully studied to identify varieties that are widely available and appear promising for North Dakota. In many situations, a promising new variety is compared with a variety that is widely grown in the state.

Preparation of Seed Packets

Seeds are ordered in bulk from seed companies. Seeds are then packed into coin envelopes. Labels containing instructions (variety name, vegetable/herb/flower type, time to plant, and recommended spacing for sowing and thinning) are affixed onto packages. Most seeds are untreated; exceptions being most sweet corn varieties. No genetically modified organism (GMO) varieties are used.

Distribution of Seeds

Interested households can participate in up to seven trials. The fees are \$1.50 per trial. A fee of \$5.00 is charged for postage.

Each gardener signs a pledge before receiving seeds, promising to grow and evaluate the varieties fairly.

Besides seeds, gardeners receive simple yet detailed instructions on laying out their plots (Appendix 1). Gardeners receive row markers and evaluation sheets (Appendix 2). We encourage a 10-foot plot length for obtaining representative data, but container gardening is allowed.

Gardeners are responsible for managing their crops (Fig. 1). This includes fertilizing, watering, mulching, and using pesticides. They are encouraged to use their own practices so the varieties are tested under actual home garden conditions.



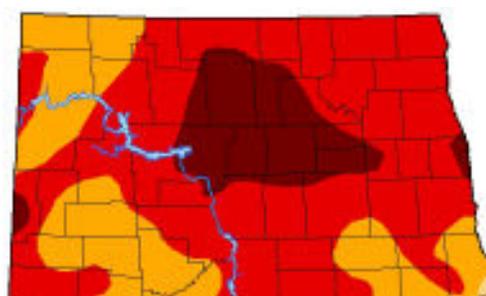
Fig. 1. Gardeners sowing their research plots.

Weather in 2021

Weather conditions were horrible for gardeners in 2021. The entire state faced a severe and historic drought throughout the entire growing season (Fig. 2).

Soils were dry when seeds were sown in spring. We had a drought in 2020 and a lack of snow over winter prevented these soils from being replenished with moisture. The dry conditions in spring led to early plantings but fewer gardens being grown.

Temperatures in summer were much warmer than normal. The drought persisted throughout the growing season until October (Fig. 3).



August 17, 2021

	Moderate drought: 100.0% of state.
	Severe drought: 99.8% of state.
	Extreme drought: 74.5% of state.
	Exceptional drought: 15.7% of state.

Fig. 2. Drought status in North Dakota. Source: Drought Monitor, Univ. of Nebraska.

To identify superior varieties for gardeners, it makes sense to determine which varieties perform best in gardens under the management of gardeners.

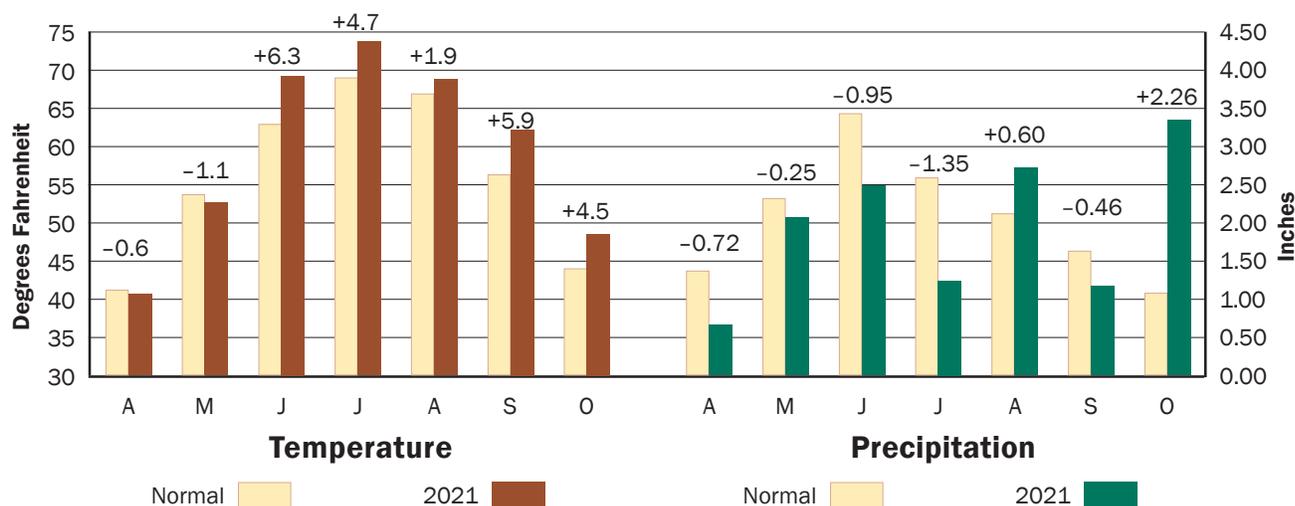


Fig. 3. Statewide monthly temperatures and precipitation amounts in normal years (1901–2000) and 2021. Dry conditions in spring led to early plantings. In summer, temperatures were much warmer than normal. A severe and historic drought persisted for a second straight year until October. The first frost in fall was later than normal, allowing late-maturing crops more time to ripen. Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information.

Our fall season trials were sown under hot, dry conditions, which hindered germination and seedling development.

A hard frost occurred in most gardens on October 20–21, 2 to 3 weeks later than normal. This delayed frost gave late-maturing crops additional time to ripen.

Participation in 2021

In 2021, gardeners at 307 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from 1,229 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 47 of the state’s 53 counties (Fig. 4). Our trials extended into Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Saskatchewan and South Dakota.

Gardeners in Iowa and Nebraska requested trials. We included their comments in this report but their data were not used in the analysis.

A pleasant finding of this program has been the quality of research conducted by home gardeners. These families demonstrate extraordinary enthusiasm in this project. They carefully fill out report forms and provide insightful comments. We especially appreciate their comments on food quality, which is rarely assessed in variety trials conducted at research stations.

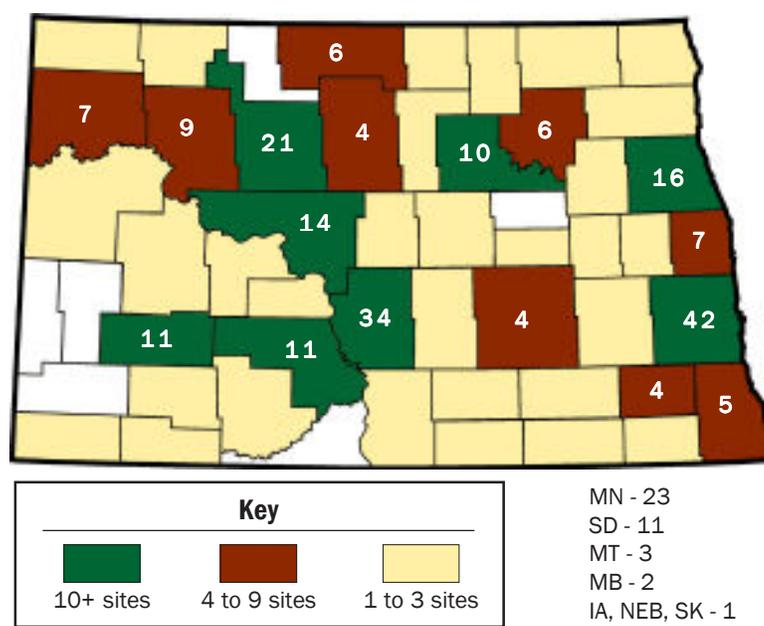


Fig. 4. Gardeners at 307 sites submitted results in 2021. Site numbers are shown above for each county with 4 or more sites.

Compiling Data

Gardeners compared the two varieties in each trial for germination rate, plant health, earliness, yield and quality of harvested product. We asked them which of the two varieties they preferred and which, if any, of the varieties they would recommend to other gardeners (Appendix 2). Comments were strongly encouraged.

Approximately 33% of reports this year were eliminated from our analysis. In most cases, these reports documented crop failures of both varieties due to drought. A few reports with inconsistent data were eliminated.

Presentation of Results

Ratings, recommendations and comments of each gardener are presented in this publication. Reports are categorized by the **varietal preferences** of the gardeners. For each trial, we start with the reports of gardeners who preferred “Variety A” and then later present the reports of gardeners who preferred “Variety B.”

These reports are separated by **location** going from east to west (see illustration below). We start with Minnesota, go to northeast North Dakota, across the central regions of the state to southwest North Dakota, and then include reports from other states and provinces. Regions in North Dakota were identified by considering landforms, soil types, length of growing season and rainfall patterns.

Then we provide the **ratings** of each variety. Gardeners rated each variety on a scale of 1 to 10. These ratings are shown using a 5-star format. Each rating point equals a half star; thus a rating of “8” by the gardener would show as “★★★★☆.”

We document whether the gardener **recommends** the variety. A positive recommendation is shown by a smiling face and a negative recommendation is shown by a frowning face.

Garden type (organic or inorganic) was documented. We asked gardeners whether or not they used inorganic fertilizers (for example, Miracle-Gro or 10–10–10) or inorganic pesticides (for example, Sevin or Daconil). Most gardeners did not, and they are listed as “organic” in this report.

Impacts

Evaluations of our project show gardeners in this project are introduced to new varieties and enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets.

Youth in this project sharpen their skills in science. Youth enjoy healthier diets and increased levels of physical activity.

Impact reports are posted on our website <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/>.

Gardeners are introduced to new varieties. They enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10)

Variety A
★★★★☆

Variety B
★★★★☆

‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation (yes or no)

☺ ☹

Garden type

🍄 = Organic
🧴 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Location

NC

Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana
IA = Iowa
NEB = Nebraska

Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states/provinces evaluated promising vegetable, herb and cut flower varieties. Gardeners at 307 sites rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. Reports of 1,229 side-by-side comparisons were submitted.

In each report, they noted which of the two varieties they preferred (Pref) and which of the varieties they would recommend (Rec) to other

gardeners. They rated the performance of each variety using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 10 = excellent. The mean rating is presented in this summary.

The following is a summary of data, including our conclusions for each trial. Additional data and comments from gardeners are in the full report available at <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/results>.



Bean, Green Snap

Both varieties produced good yields under harsh conditions. Gardeners who preferred ‘Bush Blue Lake 274’ liked its healthy plants and flavorful pods. ‘Strike’ pods were straight, smooth, and had a uniform size and shape.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
B. Blue Lake 274	47	80	7.18
Strike	53	67	7.42
(40 sites)			



Bean, Green Snap (Organic)

Gardeners were very impressed with both varieties. ‘Antigua’ pods were slender, and several gardeners felt it tasted better. ‘Provider’ germinated better at more sites, grew well, and produced earlier and higher yields.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Antigua	53	87	7.47
Provider	47	87	7.80
(19 sites)			



Bean, Purple Filet

Gardeners who preferred ‘Celine’ praised the variety for its vigorous vines and higher yields. Gardeners who preferred ‘Velour’ noted its earliness and beautiful pods. ‘Velour’ pods turned green when cooked while ‘Celine’ pods turned yellow.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Celine	47	73	7.50
Velour	53	73	7.64
(19 sites)			



Bean, Yellow Filet Pole (Organic)

Nearly every gardener recommended ‘Monte Gusto’. Its pods were long, very straight and tasted better. ‘French Gold’ produced beans quicker. The vines of both varieties were healthy and grew well.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
French Gold	30	50	7.20
Monte Gusto	70	90	7.70
(12 sites)			



Beet, Gold (Organic)

‘Touchstone Gold’ roots were more flavorful, more attractive, more consistent in size, and had a more globular shape. ‘Golden Grex’ germinated better, grew more vigorously and produced much higher yields.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Golden Grex	35	53	5.94
Touchstone Gold	65	71	6.94
(21 sites)			



Beet, Red

‘Eagle’ germinated better and produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners liked the globular shape, taste and dark-red color of its roots. Those who preferred ‘Merlin’ often mentioned its flavor and sweetness.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Eagle	53	89	7.53
Merlin	47	63	6.84
(27 sites)			



Beet, Red (Organic)

‘Detroit Dark Red’ germinated better, grew more vigorously, and produced higher yields at more sites. Its roots were attractive. ‘Boro’ was a good performer but showed no advantage over ‘Detroit Dark Red’ in any traits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Boro	30	60	6.15
Detroit Dark Red	70	90	7.45
			(22 sites)



Carrot, Chantenay

‘Hercules’ grew quickly and was ready to harvest earlier. Every gardener who expressed a preference for root quality thought ‘Hercules’ was superior. Both varieties grew well and were recommended by most gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cupar	20	60	6.00
Hercules	80	100	8.20
			(7 sites)



Carrot, Early Nantes

Gardeners liked both varieties. ‘Goldfinger’ produced higher yields at more sites. ‘Goldfinger’ carrots were large, straight, uniform and very attractive. Several gardeners felt ‘Aranka’ carrots were sweeter and tasted better.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Aranka	44	72	7.16
Goldfinger	56	77	7.70
			(53 sites)



Carrot, Nantes (Organic)

‘Naval’ produced higher yields at more sites. Its roots were sweet, crisp, uniform in shape and beautiful. It is an impressive organic carrot variety. ‘Negovia’ is a fine variety. It grew vigorously but showed no clear advantage.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Naval	68	82	7.79
Negovia	32	56	6.94
			(39 sites)



Corn, Early Super Sweet

Both varieties performed well consistently. ‘Catalyst’ ripened several days earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners liked the looks and quality of its ears. ‘Kickoff’ showed strong seedling vigor and produced good tasting corn.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Catalyst	61	89	7.83
Kickoff	39	89	7.44
			(22 sites)



Corn, Super Sweet

Most gardeners preferred ‘American Dream’ for its healthier stalks and more attractive ears. ‘Epiphany’ ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties but more preferred ‘Epiphany’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
American Dream	71	57	7.43
Epiphany	29	57	7.00
			(7 sites)



Corn, Super Sweet (Organic)

‘Enchanted’ showed its clear superiority again. It produced higher yields and had better quality ears. The only advantage of ‘Natural Sweet’ was its earliness. For the second straight year, most gardeners did not recommend ‘Natural Sweet’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Enchanted	80	60	6.60
Natural Sweet	20	40	4.80
			(8 sites)



Corn, Yellow Sweet

Every gardener preferred ‘Bodacious’. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners loved the sweetness and tenderness of its ears. ‘Honey Select’ received high marks, but it was overshadowed by ‘Bodacious’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bodacious	100	100	8.75
Honey Select	0	50	7.75
			(7 sites)



Cucumber, Armenian

‘Light Green’ germinated better, showed more vigor, and produced earlier and higher yields. ‘Striped’ cucumbers tasted much better. These striped “snake melons” were more attractive, colorful, juicy and flavorful.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Light Green	40	70	6.50
Striped	60	60	6.30
(11 sites)			



Cucumber, Burpless

‘Summer Dance’ produced earlier and higher yields. ‘Summer Dance’ cucumbers were dark green, smooth-skinned and had crisp, sweet flavor. ‘Shintokiwa’ is a promising organic burpless cucumber.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Shintokiwa	32	57	6.64
Summer Dance	68	78	8.00
(43 sites)			



Cucumber, Pickling

‘Homemade Pickles’ germinated better, produced earlier and produced more cucumbers. ‘Max Pack’ cucumbers were darker green and more attractive. Gardeners were evenly split on which variety’s cucumbers tasted better.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Home. Pickles	57	68	6.86
Max Pack	43	57	7.07
(35 sites)			



Cucumber, Slicing

Gardeners liked both varieties and were split on their preferences. ‘Speedway’ produced earlier and higher yields. ‘General Lee’ produced higher quality cucumbers. This was our least popular cucumber trial this year.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
General Lee	50	75	7.00
Speedway	50	75	6.00
(9 sites)			



Cucumber, Snack

‘Green Light’ produced earlier and higher yields at more sites. Its cucumbers had smooth skin while ‘Muncher’ cucumbers had tiny spines. Gardeners who preferred ‘Muncher’ often mentioned its crisp texture and sweetness.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Green Light	57	74	7.16
Muncher	43	76	7.30
(43 sites)			



Kohlrabi, Green (Fall)

‘Winner Improved’ excelled in all traits including germination, yield and eating quality. ‘Quickstar’ was disappointing, and few gardeners recommended it. Most kohlrabi trials reported little to no yield due to drought.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Quickstar	33	22	5.22
Winner Improved	67	89	7.33
(25 sites)			



Lettuce, Red Butterhead (Organic)

‘Sweet Valentine’ germinated better, grew faster and produced higher yields. More gardeners preferred the relatively mild taste of ‘Sweet Valentine’. Gardeners liked the dark-red color of ‘Alkindus’ and its resistance to bolting.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Alkindus	41	68	6.70
Sweet Valentine	59	86	7.81
(28 sites)			



Lettuce, Green Crisphead (Organic)

Both varieties tolerated heat, resisted bolting and produced good yields of delicious lettuce. ‘Muir’ had attractive, ruffled leaves while ‘Nevada’ had large, easy-to-pick leaves. There were no clear advantages to either variety for yield or taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Muir	48	87	8.35
Nevada	52	83	8.39
(30 sites)			



Lettuce, Red Crisphead (Organic)

‘Magenta’ germinated and grew faster, and produced higher yields. Its red-tinged leaves were beautiful. Gardeners were impressed by the mild, sweet taste of ‘Pablo’. Both varieties tolerated the intense summer heat and resisted bolting.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Magenta	67	89	8.33
Pablo	33	67	7.67
			(12 sites)



Lettuce, Green Leaf

Both varieties received high marks. Most gardeners preferred ‘Tropicana’. It germinated better and produced higher yields. Gardeners liked the beauty and taste of its bright green, thick, crumpled leaves.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Slobolt	29	75	7.75
Tropicana	71	75	7.63
			(10 sites)



Lettuce, Red Leaf (Organic)

‘New Red Fire’ and ‘Red Sails’ performed extremely well again this year under drought conditions. ‘Red Sails’ showed better resistance to bolting. Plants of both varieties were healthy and produced good tasting lettuce.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
New Red Fire	33	100	8.33
Red Sails	67	67	8.67
			(5 sites)



Melon, Early Cantaloupe

‘Goddess’ ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites than ‘Halona’. More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘Goddess’. ‘Halona’ was recommended by fewer gardeners and did not show superiority in any traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Goddess	67	73	7.20
Halona	33	53	6.26
			(18 sites)



Melon, Heirloom Cantaloupe (Organic)

Very few gardeners were interested in this trial. Our two reports showed general satisfaction with both varieties. ‘Hearts of Gold’ was recommended by both gardeners. ‘Pride of Wisconsin’ showed it may be a productive variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Hearts of Gold	50	100	6.00
Pride of Wisc.	50	50	6.50
			(2 sites)



Melon, Heirloom Honeydew

‘Jenny Lind’ produced earlier and higher yields, and gardeners preferred the taste of its fruits compared to those of ‘Montreal Market’. Both of these heirloom varieties suffered from pests and diseases. Data are limited.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Jenny Lind	80	60	5.60
Montreal Market	20	20	5.80
			(6 sites)



Pea, Shell

‘Lincoln’ vines were healthier and more productive at more sites. More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘Lincoln’. Its pods were larger and easier to open. ‘Knight’ vines were compact and produced the first yield in many gardens.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Knight	45	63	7.39
Lincoln	55	78	7.94
			(36 sites)



Pea, Snap

‘Sugar Ann’ received high ratings. Gardeners were very impressed with its earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste. ‘SL3123’ rated much lower for all traits and few gardeners recommended the variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
SL123	11	28	4.33
Sugar Ann	89	94	8.17
			(30 sites)



Pea, Snow

Both of these varieties struggled in the drought. ‘Avalanche’ matured earlier and tasted sweeter, although its pods had a tendency to curl. ‘Sweet Horizon’ pods were flatter and very attractive.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Avalanche	63	67	6.78
Sweet Horizon	38	33	6.11
			(12 sites)



Pumpkin, Midsize

‘Bellatrix’ produced higher yields and more pumpkins. Its vines showed better resistance to powdery mildew. ‘Bellatrix’ ripened earlier. ‘Howden’ is a popular Halloween pumpkin, and most gardeners felt its pumpkins were more attractive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bellatrix	60	80	6.70
Howden	40	80	6.00
			(13 sites)



Pumpkin, Large

‘Large Marge’ germinated better, was healthier, ripened earlier and produced higher yields. ‘Large Marge’ pumpkins were bigger and more attractive. Most gardeners recommended ‘Howden Biggie’, but it was inferior.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Howden Biggie	31	69	6.94
Large Marge	69	94	7.56
			(19 sites)



Pumpkin, Gray

Gardeners liked the look of the ‘Jarrahdale’ pumpkins. Jarrahdale’ germinated well and produced a higher yield at more sites. Half of our gardeners preferred ‘Queensland Blue’, but this variety did not stand out in any traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Jarrahdale	50	71	7.57
Queensland Blue	50	43	7.00
			(15 sites)



Radish, Bicolor (Spring)

Although few gardeners participated in this trial, every one of them recommended both ‘Red Head’ and ‘Diana’. ‘Red Head’ germinated well and produced good yields.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Diana	50	100	7.25
Red Head	50	100	7.50
			(6 sites)



Radish, Bicolor (Fall)

Gardeners liked both varieties and they were closely split on their preference. Many gardeners felt ‘Diana’ tasted better. They enjoyed the crisp texture of the ‘Diana’ roots. ‘Red Head’ grew faster and produced higher yields at more sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Diana	53	71	7.76
Red Head	47	71	7.24
			(21 sites)



Radish, Red (Spring)

Both varieties have reputations for being tolerant of heat, and this year’s trials reinforced that quality. ‘Rover’ edged ‘Sora’ in germination, earliness and eating qualities. ‘Sora’ produced higher yields in more gardens.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Rover	58	84	7.42
Sora	42	68	7.11
			(19 sites)



Radish, Red (Fall)

‘Rover’ germinated better in the hot summer soil and produced the first radishes at more sites. More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘Rover’ over ‘Celesta’. ‘Celesta’ received high marks for the beauty of its cherry-red roots.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Celesta	46	77	7.77
Rover	54	85	7.38
			(17 sites)



Spinach, Semi-Savoy Leaf (Spring)

Both varieties struggled in the heat, and both varieties received fairly low marks. ‘SV2146VB’ resisted bolting much better, contributing to higher yields. Its leaves were dark green and very attractive. ‘Sioux’ did not excel in any trait.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Sioux	33	56	6.11
SV2146VB	67	56	6.67
			(16 sites)



Spinach, Semi-Savoy Leaf (Fall)

‘Kookaburra’ grew faster and produced higher yields. It had larger leaves, fuller plants and was judged healthier at more gardens. Most gardeners recommended ‘Tundra’ but it did not distinguish itself. Ratings for eating qualities were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Kookaburra	58	84	7.28
Tundra	42	68	6.92
			(36 sites)



Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

The drought this year really brought out the superior qualities of ‘Space’. It germinated better, grew faster, resisted bolting better, produced higher yields and tasted better at more sites. It is an outstanding variety for spring.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lizard	27	50	7.00
Space	73	81	8.13
			(23 sites)



Squash, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

‘Space’ germinated better, grew faster and produced higher yields under drought conditions. The two varieties received similar marks for eating quality with ‘Lakeside’ getting the edge in attractiveness and ‘Space’ the edge for flavor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lakeside	41	73	6.86
Space	59	86	7.55
			(30 sites)



Squash, Green Zucchini

‘Green Machine’ was extremely impressive. Its vines were healthier, more vigorous and much more productive. The production started early in summer and continued to frost. ‘Spineless Beauty’ vines were spineless and easy to harvest.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Green Machine	87	93	8.53
Spineless Beauty	13	47	6.53
			(18 sites)



Squash, Yellow Zucchini

Both varieties grew well and produced lots of attractive, delicious fruits in gardens across the state. Most gardeners gave an edge to ‘Yellowfin’ for the uniformity and taste of its fruits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Golden Glory	44	78	7.22
Yellowfin	56	78	8.11
			(10 sites)



Squash, Winter Acorn

Both varieties received very high marks. That said, nearly every gardener preferred ‘Autumn Delight’. It matched or surpassed ‘Bellorado’ for all traits including earliness and yield.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Autumn Delight	86	100	9.29
Bellorado	14	86	8.14
			(10 sites)



Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

Both varieties received very high marks. Most gardeners preferred ‘Butterbaby’. Its fruits were smaller, more attractive and tasted better. The vines of ‘Honeynut’ were more vigorous. Yields were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Butterbaby	57	86	7.57
Honeynut	43	86	8.00
			(10 sites)



Squash, Winter Butternut (Organic)

Nearly every gardener preferred the classic variety ‘Waltham’. ‘Waltham’ produced earlier and higher yields. Its fruits were beautiful and uniform. ‘Essex’ did well but could not match the performance of ‘Waltham’.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Essex	13	57	7.88
Waltham	88	86	9.13
			(9 sites)



Squash, Winter Delicata

‘Bush Delicata’ germinated better, ripened much earlier and produced higher yields. Its vines were compact and resisted diseases. Gardeners who preferred ‘Honey Boat’ often cited its rich, sweet flavor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bush Delicata	57	86	7.21
Honey Boat	43	64	6.93
			(18 sites)



Swiss Chard, Pink (Organic)

‘Charbell’ was healthier and grew robustly. It produced a higher yield and was more attractive. Its brilliant stems outshone those of ‘Magenta Sunset’, a popular variety that looked mediocre in comparison.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Charbell	86	86	8.00
Magenta Sunset	14	57	7.14
			(7 sites)



Swiss Chard, Red (Organic)

Both varieties grew well and received high marks. Both varieties were healthy and resisted bolting. The major difference was the beauty of the ‘Bali’ leaves. The red color of its stems was brilliant and uniform.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bali	75	100	8.75
Rhubarb Supreme	25	75	7.50
			(6 sites)



Turnip, Purple Top (Fall)

Pests and drought hindered both varieties. Most gardeners preferred ‘Violet Queen’. This hybrid variety grew vigorously and matured faster at more sites. More gardeners felt the roots of ‘Purple Top White Globe’ were more attractive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Purp. T. W. Globe	38	88	7.00
Violet Queen	63	88	8.00
			(21 sites)



Watermelon, Red

‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ was healthier, ripened fruits earlier and was more productive. The flesh of its melons was crisp, sweet and delicious. ‘Fantasy’ performed inconsistently across the state and was subject to blossom end rot.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Fantasy	28	50	5.89
Swt. Dakota Rose	72	89	7.39
			(25 sites)



Watermelon, Red Icebox

‘Blacktail Mountain’ grew better, matured earlier and produced higher yields. ‘Blacktail Mountain’ grew better this year compared to previous years. Perhaps this is a sign it can tolerate heat and drought better than ‘Sugar Baby’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Blacktail Mtn.	57	57	6.57
Sugar Baby	43	43	5.71
			(8 sites)



Basil, Italian (Organic)

‘Genovese’ was rated superior in all categories, especially in taste qualities. Previous testing has shown ‘Prospera’ is the best of the downy mildew-resistant basil varieties. In the absence of the disease, ‘Prospera’ is inferior to ‘Genovese’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Genovese	85	92	8.77
Prospera	15	58	7.31
			(16 sites)



Basil, Italian Large Leaf

Both varieties received high ratings for their beautiful, healthy, productive plants. ‘Newton’ was preferred by most gardeners and recommended by all of them. It had a milder taste with less anise flavor.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Newton	63	100	8.38
Prospera I. L. Lf.	38	63	7.38
			(9 sites)



Balsam

‘Camellia Flower Mix’ bloomed earlier, had more blooms and was judged to be the prettier variety at more sites. Gardeners liked the array of colors in ‘Bush Mix’. Both varieties bloomed late in the season.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bush Mix	50	71	7.08
Camellia Flower	50	75	7.33
			(28 sites)



Marigold, Gold Cutting

The plants of both varieties were tall and sturdy with large, bright blooms. The plants kept blooming well into fall and made beautiful bouquets. Most gardeners preferred ‘Oriental Gold’. Gardeners liked the vigor of this variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Coco Gold	42	69	6.38
Oriental Gold	58	92	7.46
			(15 sites)



Morning Glory, Blue

‘Heavenly Blue’ vines were healthy, vigorous and full of velvety blue flowers. It bloomed earlier and more gardeners felt it was the prettier variety. ‘Flying Saucers’ germinated well and had interesting blue streaks on its blooms.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Flying Saucers	33	67	6.22
Heavenly Blue	67	67	6.67
			(13 sites)



Sunflower, Bicolor

Gardeners generally liked but did not love these varieties. ‘Florenza’ was more vigorous and healthy. It had taller stalks with more and larger flowers. Gardeners liked the more vibrant colors of ‘Ring of Fire’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Florenza	50	67	5.78
Ring of Fire	50	56	6.33
			(12 sites)



Sunflower, Bicolor Dwarf

‘Firecracker’ bloomed first. Its blooms were warm and vibrant. Its plants were uniform. ‘Music Box’ blooms had a wider range of colors, some bright and some pale. Its plants had many flowers, and they bloomed late into the fall.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Firecracker	69	77	7.77
Music Box	31	62	7.15
			(14 sites)



Sunflower, Orange

We were surprised at the lack of interest in this trial. The few gardeners in this trial liked both varieties and were evenly split on the variety they preferred. More gardeners felt Vincent’s Choice’ was prettier, but data are quite limited.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sunrich Orange	50	75	6.75
Vincent’s Choice	50	75	7.25
			(4 sites)



Sunflower, Orange Dwarf

‘Hella Sonnenblume’ germinated better and was healthier. It produced more flowers. ‘Orange Hobbit’ had bright orange blooms on much shorter plants. More gardeners felt it was prettier than ‘Hella Sonnenblume’. Data are limited.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Hella Sonnenbl.	50	75	6.75
Orange Hobbit	50	50	6.75
			(4 sites)



Zinnia, Cactus Mix

Both varieties produced beautiful blooms, excelled as cut flowers, and bloomed until the first frost. ‘Bright Jewel Mix’ germinated much better, bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers. It had a wider range of colors.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bright Jewel	92	100	8.62
Giant Mix Impr.	8	69	6.85
			(16 sites)



Zinnia, Dahlia Mix

Last year, most gardeners preferred ‘State Fair’ for its bold colors. This year, most gardeners preferred ‘California Giants’. ‘California Giants’ germinated well, bloomed first in most gardens and produced more flowers overall.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
California Giants	56	82	8.00
State Fair	44	68	7.38
			(31 sites)



Zinnia, Scarlet Dahlia

‘Scarlet Flame’ bloomed earlier and had more flowers. Its flowers were big, bright and uniformly red. ‘Meteor’ flowers had shades of magenta which disappointed some gardeners. ‘Meteor’ was good, but it did not stand out in any trait.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Meteor	30	60	7.40
Scarlet Flame	70	90	8.50
			(10 sites)



Zinnia, Mexican

Both had low, spreading habits and produced flowers in warm colors. ‘Jazzy Mix’ plants were healthier, stronger and fuller. They bloomed earlier and produced more flowers at more sites. ‘Aztec Sunset’ rated lower for all traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Aztec Sunset	13	56	6.67
Jazzy Mix	88	89	7.78
			(11 sites)



Zinnia, Scabiosa

‘Candy Mix’ germinated better, was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. ‘Cresto! Mix’ did not excel in any trait. Some gardeners were disappointed in the lack of flowers with crested petals for both varieties.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Candy Mix	63	63	7.25
Cresto! Mix	38	63	7.25
			(9 sites)

Bean, Green Snap

Varieties

'Bush Blue Lake 274'

56 days. The standard for quality. Pods are medium green and stringless. Dependable yields.

'Strike'

53 days. Very high yields of green, slender, smooth pods. Early ripening, easy to pick, and tasty.



Data

Gardeners at 40 sites submitted information.

Trait	B.B.L.		
	274	Strike	Same
Germinated best	28%	19%	53%
Healthier plants	32	16	52
Harvested earlier	43	43	13
Higher yields	32	42	26
More attractive pods	26	45	29
Tasted better	31	25	44
Preference	47	53	
Recommend (😊)	80	67	
Mean score ¹	7.18	7.42	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Bush Blue Lake 274'

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Strike ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Bush Blue Lake 274' is a good producer.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Strike ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Bush Blue Lake 274' was ready to harvest earlier. 'Strike' pods looked better.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Strike ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Strike' tasted slightly better, but 'Bush Blue Lake 274' tasted very good and had the advantage in all other respects.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Strike ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had superior taste and size. The drought wore these varieties out quickly. We only got to taste them once before they were too dried out and did not taste good at all.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Strike ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced higher yields. Their beans snapped better and had more flavor.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Strike ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Bush Blue Lake 274' was more productive. I had a lot of deer problems.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Strike ★★★★★ 😞 SC

I planted on May 13, but the plants didn't flower until August and didn't produce yields until September. I picked my last beans on October 11. Many 'Strike' pods were flat and somewhat rubbery.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 -
Strike ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had better flavor.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Strike ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods were greener and more tender. 'Strike' ripened earlier and produced higher yields, but its pods were tougher to chew.

Both varieties produced good yields under harsh conditions.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Annihilator

Strong performers
Antigua
Bush Blue Lake 274
Derby
Espada
Greenfield
Inspiration
Jade II
Lewis
Pike
Provider
Strike

Prefer 'Bush Blue Lake 274' (continued)

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike NW

Overall, they both produced nicely. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' had better flavor.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike NW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had quicker and larger production.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had great production.

Bush Blue Lake 274 -
 Strike SW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated much better, had hearty plants and produced well. It had decent taste. 'Strike' performed poorly in my garden under drought conditions. 'Strike' pods were smoother and more uniform.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' was all around a better variety. 'Strike' did not yield many beans.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had healthier plants. Its yields were earlier and higher. Its pods were more attractive and tasted better.

Prefer 'Strike'

Bush Blue Lake 274 -
 Strike MN

'Strike' produced unbelievably well all season long and well into the fall. We ate, froze and gave away beans. It was a tremendous variety for us!

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike MN

'Strike' had less white mold and produced a very good yield. Its plants were attractive, and its beans were delicious.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SE

'Strike' produced earlier and higher yields.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SE

'Strike' had the first and higher yields.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SE

Couldn't really tell a difference between the two. I liked them both. Both varieties tasted great.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SE

Both varieties are a good choice. They were healthy and had a nice flavor.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike NC

'Strike' tasted great. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods were tough and tasted terrible.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SC

'Strike' produced a faster yield and more beans.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SC

'Strike' pods were flatter and a little sweeter. It had a slightly higher yield. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods were more bitter. Both varieties germinated well, had healthy plants, and had a nice, light-green color.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SC

Twice as many 'Strike' plants germinated. 'Strike' produced more pods including more pods per plant. 'Strike' pods looked much nicer. They were straighter with a more uniform size and shape. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods were skinner, flatter and smaller. 'Strike' tasted better also. Both varieties were healthy.

Bush Blue Lake 274
 Strike SC

'Strike' pods were deeper green, more forgiving in ripeness. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' sometimes transformed into a pole bean.

Gardeners who preferred 'Bush Blue Lake 274' liked its healthy plants and flavorful pods.

Prefer 'Strike' (continued)

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Strike ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Strike' produced more and longer. Maybe this was due to its earlier flowering and the effects of the drought.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Strike ★★★★★ ☺ NW

I liked the size and consistency of 'Strike' pods.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Strike ★★★★★ ☺ NW

I have grown 'Bush Blue Lake 274' before, and would normally recommend it. I cannot recommend this set of seed. Approximately 10% of plants were a runner bean with stringy flat pods that were inedible as green beans.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Strike ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Strike' grew faster, had stronger plants, produced faster and produced more beans.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Strike ★★★★★ ☹ SW

'Strike' produced a higher yield. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' stopped producing into the fall while 'Strike' continued to yield some beans. I preferred the green beans that we planted last year. They were slimmer and produced better. Again, the weather may have had something to do with the yield this year.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Strike ★★★★★ ☺ SD

The pods of 'Strike' were abundant and uniform in size. The tastes of the varieties were very similar. I have always planted 'Blue Lake Bush 274' beans and been satisfied, but I was more impressed with 'Strike'.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Strike ★★★★★ ☺ SD

'Strike' produced the first yield and higher yields. Its pods were more attractive.

Many gardeners were impressed with the uniform size and shape of 'Strike' pods.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced good yields under harsh conditions. Gardeners were nearly split on their preferences. Those who preferred 'Bush Blue Lake 274' liked its healthy plants and flavorful pods. Many gardeners were impressed with the look of the 'Strike' pods. 'Strike' pods were straight, smooth, and had a uniform size and shape.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →
Variety A ★★★★★
Variety B ★★★★★

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
☺ ☹

Garden type →
🐞 NC

Location →

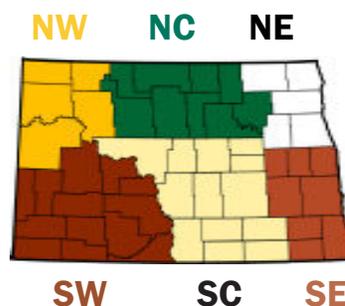
Comments →
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🧪 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Locations

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
- NC = North Central
- SC = South Central
- NW = Northwest
- SW = Southwest
- MB = Manitoba
- SK = Saskatchewan
- SD = South Dakota
- MT = Montana
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska



Bean, Green Snap (organic)

Varieties

'Antigua'

54 days. Big yields of uniform, dark-green pods. Upright 18-inch plants resist diseases. White seeds.

'Provider'

50 days. Very early and easy to grow. Tolerates cool soils. Purple seeds.



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Antigua	Provider	Same
Germinated best	13%	38%	50%
Healthier plants	31	38	31
Harvested earlier	20	60	20
Higher yields	20	67	13
More attractive pods	33	13	53
Tasted better	40	27	33
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (☺)	87	87	
Mean score ¹	7.47	7.80	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Antigua'

Antigua ☺ NE
 Provider ☺

'Antigua' was very tasty. My grandkids loved eating 'Antigua' pods when tender right off the plant (raw). There was great production off both varieties.

Antigua ☺ NE
 Provider ☹

'Antigua' produced earlier and higher yields, and tasted better. This was a short season for snap beans.

Antigua ☺ SE
 Provider ☺

'Antigua' was better tasting.

Antigua ☺
 Provider ☺ SE

Both are good beans depending on the type of bean you prefer. 'Provider' had larger pods and a higher yield, but 'Antigua' was a nicer bean to eat. I preferred its slender, tender pods even though the plants didn't tolerate the drought as well or produce as much.

Antigua ☺
 Provider ☺ SC

Both varieties did very well in my garden which surprised me with the heat. I picked lots of beans every week. Both tasted great, germinated and produced well. The only difference I found between these varieties was the functionality of the plant. 'Antigua' plants stood up tall and didn't hang over at all! There were no beans hanging on the ground getting dirty or eaten by insects. After about a month to 6 weeks, 'Provider' plants just gave up and laid over.

Antigua ☺ SC
 Provider ☺

These varieties rated similarly for all traits. Neither variety is as good as other varieties such as 'Jade' or 'Sassy'.

Antigua ☺ -
 Provider ☺ NW

I liked the taste a bit more in 'Antigua', but both were good. I used the bean frencher on those that got thicker, and they were tender to eat. Grasshoppers ruined the plants in early August.

'Antigua' pods were slender, and several gardeners felt it tasted better.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Annihilator

Strong performers

Antigua
 Bush Blue
 Lake 274
 Derby
 Espada
 Greenfield
 Inspiration
 Jade II
 Lewis
 Pike
 Provider
 Strike

Prefer 'Antigua' (continued)

Antigua   
Provider   SW

We prefer a more petite pod, which 'Antigua' provided. When we finally got rain in August, 'Antigua' provided a whole new batch of beans while 'Provider' had pretty much dried up.

Prefer 'Provider'

Antigua   
Provider   SE

'Provider' tasted better.

Antigua   
Provider   SE

'Provider' surpassed 'Antigua' in every way for this trial. Its plants were healthier and had higher rates of production. They tasted good both raw or cooked. I found 'Antigua' pods too starchy to eat raw but was pleasant when cooked but just not as delicious as 'Provider'. 'Provider' was an excellent bean and I was able to have an ample harvest. Toward the end of the season the Mexican bean beetle really enjoyed both of these varieties and I had to pull them earlier than I would have liked.

Antigua   
Provider   SE

Despite dry conditions, the plants of both varieties thrived and had an adequate, if not bountiful harvest. 'Provider' produced the most beans, germinated best, and produced the first yields. 'Provider' plants had some issues with bugs eating the pods, but I used Sevin to control them with positive results.

Antigua   
Provider   NC

I grew the trial in a raised bed with partial sun. 'Provider' grew faster and sturdier. Neither variety grew very well.

Antigua   
Provider   SC

Almost all 'Provider' seeds germinated compared to 50% for 'Antigua'. 'Provider' had larger pods and more of them. 'Antigua' pods were nice, firm, crisp and jade green. Although 'Antigua' had somewhat better quality, the quality of 'Provider' was still good. Since we try to can a lot, we need the better producer.

Antigua   
Provider   SW

'Provider' had great taste. 'Antigua' produced earlier, but 'Provider' produced more beans.

Antigua   
Provider   SD

Both varieties germinated well, but 'Provider' excelled in all other traits.

Conclusions

Gardeners were very impressed with both varieties. Both varieties produced a bountiful yield under dry conditions. 'Antigua' pods were slender, and several gardeners felt it tasted better. 'Provider' has the reputation of being one of the most reliable bean varieties. It germinated better at more sites, grew well, and produced earlier and higher yields. Its pods were larger.

'Provider' is one of the most reliable varieties. It germinated better at more sites, grew well, and produced earlier and higher yields.

Bean, Purple Filet

Varieties

'Celine'

56 days. New, organic wax bean. Magenta pods are thin and crisp.

'Velour'

58 days. Short, 5-inch pods are straight, slender and bright. Pods turn green when cooked.



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Celine	Velour	Same
Germinated best	31%	0%	69%
Healthier plants	25	25	50
Harvested earlier	27	53	20
Higher yields	47	33	20
More attractive pods	27	40	33
Tasted better	27	27	47
Preference	47	53	
Recommend (😊)	73	73	
Mean score ¹	7.50	7.64	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Celine'

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Velour ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Celine' grew better and produced higher yields. The pods of both varieties tasted very good!

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Celine' had larger plants, larger beans and higher yields.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Velour ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Celine' had the best plants and higher yields. Its pods were brighter purple; rich in color. 'Velour' pods were small and skinny.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Velour ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Celine' germinated first and resisted the drought better. 'Celine' had lovely bushes filled with little purple flowers amongst dark leaves. 'Celine' had more pods but its pods curled a bit more. 'Velour' beans turned brownish tan when cooked.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Velour ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Celine' produced more and was better tasting. I had to reseed the 'Velour' beans and still not all of them came up.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 SW

They are great for fresh eating because they don't get too big. 'Celine' tasted better.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 SK

Both varieties were excellent but 'Celine' had slightly higher yields. 'Celine' turned a pale yellow color when cooked. 'Velour' turned a green color when cooked. Both varieties tasted great raw or cooked.

Prefer 'Velour'

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Velour' performed better overall. Its plants were healthier. Its pods were more attractive and tasted better. 'Celine' produced later than 'Velour' but produced lots more pods.

'Celine'
 produced
 higher yields
 at more sites.

**Best purple
 filet bean
 variety**

Top choice
 Velour

**Strong
 performer**
 Celine

Prefer 'Velour' (continued)

Celine ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Velour' produced higher yields and more attractive pods. 'Celine' pods took a very long time to turn purple and then were hard when picked.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Velour' plants were healthier.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties were excellent and produced heavily all summer. I liked the color and shape of 'Velour' pods better. I was surprised 'Celine' pods turned yellow when cooked, not green.

Celine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both were good, but 'Velour' had higher yields and slightly better taste.

Celine ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Velour' was earlier, more attractive, a good producer and overall better. 'Celine' was later producing, but once it started, it produced well. Both varieties were good tasting.

Celine ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Velour' had great taste and was a prolific producer.

Celine ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Velour ★★★★★ 😊 SW

I preferred the taste and the look of the 'Velour' pods. When cooked the 'Celine' pods turned yellow and the 'Velour' pods were green. 'Velour' pods were better picked when slender; they were not a huge bean.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well and gardeners were nearly split on their preferences. Those who preferred 'Celine' praised the variety for its vigorous vines and higher yields. Gardeners who preferred 'Velour' noted its earliness and beautiful pods. 'Velour' pods turned green when cooked while 'Celine' pods turned yellow.

'Velour'
ripened earlier
and had
beautiful pods.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

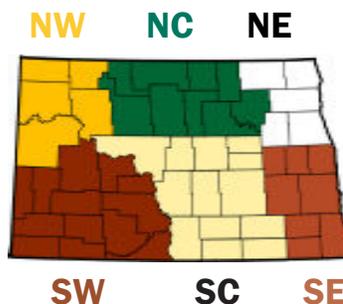
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 MB = Manitoba
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 MT = Montana
 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

Bean, Yellow Filet Pole

Varieties

'French Gold'

60 days. Very popular in France. Vines are vigorous and productive.

'Monte Gusto'

58 days. Pods are smooth, slim and bright yellow. More attractive and flavorful than older wax varieties.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	French Gold	Monte Gusto	Same
Germinated best	10%	40%	50%
Healthier plants	30	40	30
Harvested earlier	50	30	20
Higher yields	30	30	40
More attractive pods	10	40	50
Tasted better	10	50	40
Preference	30	70	
Recommend (😊)	50	90	
Mean score ¹	7.20	7.70	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'French Gold'

French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties were good, but 'French Gold' was healthier, more productive and more delicious.

French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'French Gold' was very prolific. It kept producing after other beans were done.

French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both were good varieties for North Dakota. This year was really the test and both did well. 'French Gold' had much sturdier young plants, set on beans much quicker and produced a nice basket of beans before 'Monte Gusto' had any beans ready to pick. 'Monte Gusto' pods were more attractive with long and very straight pods. Both tasted very good and produced very well. It required a lot of watering this year, of course, but both took the drought well especially with the hot, windy days we had. 'French Gold' did not vine quite as much, which worked better in my small garden. I do square-foot gardening so they were easier to deal with.

Prefer 'Monte Gusto'

French Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Monte Gusto' had straighter and longer beans.

French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both were good, but 'Monte Gusto' had a slight edge in vine health, earliness and taste.

French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Monte Gusto' produced a higher yield.

'French Gold' vines produced beans quicker.

Best yellow filet pole bean variety

Top choice
 Monte Gusto

Prefer 'Monte Gusto' (continued)

French Gold ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 NC

This trial was grown in a covered hoop garden. The pods of 'Monte Gusto' did not get as pithy. 'Monte Gusto' was healthier and produced higher yields.

French Gold ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties performed great. 'French Gold' produced its first yield a week sooner, but 'Monte Gusto' was our favorite for flavor.

French Gold ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I just loved the size of 'Monte Gusto' pods the best. The flavor also seemed slightly more delightful. I was still picking these in October! Both varieties were strong and beautiful climbers.

French Gold ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Monte Gusto' was the better producer. We had pounding rains and some plants were hailed out.

Conclusions

'Monte Gusto' was preferred by most gardeners and almost every gardener recommended the variety. Its pods were of superior quality. The pods of 'Monte Gusto' were long, very straight and tasted better. The vines of both varieties were healthy and grew well. 'French Gold' produced beans quicker, but the beans of 'Monte Gusto' were worth waiting for.

The pods of 'Monte Gusto' were of superior quality. They were long, very straight, and delicious.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

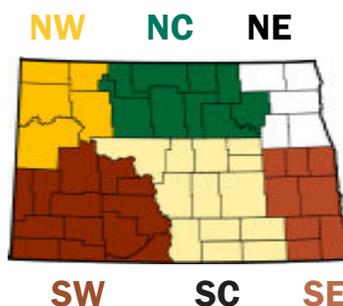
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A 😊
 Variety B ☹️

Garden type →
 🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

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Beet, Gold (organic)

Varieties

'Golden Grex'

54 days. Big, golden roots with orange blushes on sides. Inner red rings are beautiful. Lush tops.

'Touchstone Gold'

55 days. Smooth roots with vibrant yellow flesh. Retains its color when cooked. Sweet, mellow flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Golden Grex	Touch. Gold	Same
Germinated best	61%	22%	17%
Healthier plants	47	35	18
Harvested earlier	63	19	19
Higher yields	59	29	12
More attractive roots	29	47	24
Tasted better	27	53	20
Preference	35	65	
Recommend (😊)	53	71	
Mean score ¹	5.94	6.94	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Golden Grex'

Golden Grex ★★★★★😊🐞
Touchstone Gold ★★☆☆☆😞MN

'Golden Grex' was better in all traits. Some roots in this trial got woody due to hot, dry weather.

Golden Grex ★★★★★😊🐞
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊SE

'Golden Grex' produced 20.0 pounds compared to 5.6 pounds for 'Touchstone Gold'. 'Golden Grex' roots had lots of hairs and were oblong or pointed in shape. 'Touchstone Gold' roots had few hairs and were mostly round.

Golden Grex ★★★★★😊🏠
Touchstone Gold ★★☆☆☆😞NC
'Golden Grex' germinated much better (90% compared to 30% for 'Touchstone Gold'). 'Golden Grex' plants showed greater color and vigor. Its yields were bigger and more consistent.

Golden Grex ★★★★★😊🐞
Touchstone Gold ★★☆☆☆😞SC
'Golden Grex' germinated better, produced more and tasted better.

Golden Grex ★★★★★😊🐞
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊NW
'Golden Grex' germinated better and had beautiful, tall greens. It produced the first roots but they tasted bland. The roots of 'Touchstone Gold' were more flavorful, more attractive and globe shaped.

Golden Grex ★★★★★😊🐞
Touchstone Gold ★★☆☆☆😞SW
'Golden Grex' roots were larger, more attractive and tastier. It produced higher yields.

Golden Grex ★★★★★😊🐞
Touchstone Gold ★★☆☆☆😞SK
Golden Grex performed the best in all categories. It germinated at close to 100% compared to only 50% for 'Touchstone Gold'.

'Golden Grex' germinated better, grew more vigorously and produced much higher yields.

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
Boldor

Strong performers
Burpee's Golden
Touchstone Gold

Prefer 'Touchstone Gold'

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  NE
'Touchstone Gold' roots had very sweet flavor and great color. 'Golden Grex' plants were shorter and their roots were smaller.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SE
'Golden Grex' roots were emphatically not attractive—misshapen and an unappealing color. However, the variety produced four times as much as 'Touchstone Gold'. 'Touchstone Gold' roots were prettier (not something I usually care about, but they were perfect and lovely) and had better texture and taste. Its germination rate was low though.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SE
'Touchstone Gold' roots had better flavor, more consistent size and were “more durable” when cooked. Our beet crop was very poor this year. The germination was spotty and the tops got quite large and only produced small to medium beets. The yield was probably about 1/3 to 1/2 of last year.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SE
I prefer 'Touchstone Gold' because of flavor and appearance. It had a beet flavor, was more crisp and firm and had a sweeter flavor. Its flesh was golden. 'Golden Grex' showed more leaf growth and better drought stress. Its beets were nearly twice the size. 'Golden Grex' roots tasted like a turnip and had white flesh.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SE
'Touchstone Gold' tasted much better. Its roots were more attractive. 'Golden Grex' produced higher yields but was not flavorful.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SC
The plants of both varieties had lovely green, fleshy leaves along with small roots. The roots of 'Touchstone Gold' looked more like a traditional beet. The roots of 'Golden Grex' looked more like carrots.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  NW
'Golden Grex' had poor germination and its roots remained small (size of radish). 'Touchstone Gold' roots were uniform in size and symmetrical. Both varieties tolerated our summer hailstorm.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SW
'Touchstone Gold' had better flavor and a better shape of beet.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SW
'Touchstone Gold' checked all the boxes for me. It started with nicer plants and the first beets. Its roots were much larger, nicer shaped and better tasting. Its roots had a much better mouth feel. 'Golden Grex' roots were soft and separated into the layers in your mouth and did not hold up at all to pickling as they fell apart. They did not get round and were woody. Even the ones that did not seem woody had a woody portion in the center from top to bottom, so those had to be trimmed out. I would definitely plant 'Touchstone Gold' again. This is the first time I have raised golden beets, and I really liked them as they did not stain everything they touched.

Golden Grex 
Touchstone Gold  SD
'Touchstone Gold' was healthier, produced higher yields, looked more attractive and tasted better.

Conclusions

'Touchstone Gold' was preferred by most gardeners because of its superior root quality. Its roots were more flavorful, more attractive, more consistent in size, and had a more globular shape. 'Golden Grex' germinated better, grew more vigorously and produced much higher yields. Several gardeners were disappointed with the flavor and appearance of 'Golden Grex' roots.

'Touchstone Gold' roots were more flavorful, more attractive, and more globular in shape.

Beet, Red

Varieties

'Eagle'

53 days. Roots are round, uniform, smooth and dark red. Outstanding flavor and texture. Sturdy tops.

'Merlin'

55 days. Exceptional eating quality. Its dark-red roots are round and smooth. Deep-green, glossy leaves.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Eagle	Merlin	Same
Germinated best	33%	19%	48%
Healthier plants	16	11	74
Harvested earlier	32	16	53
Higher yields	37	21	42
More attractive roots	42	5	53
Tasted better	26	16	58
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (😊)	89	63	
Mean score ¹	7.53	6.84	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Eagle'

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 NE

I liked the texture and sweetness of 'Eagle' beets. Half of the 'Merlin' seeds didn't germinate. Drought was a factor.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Eagle' produced bigger yields.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties produced very well. Both are a great tasting beet.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Merlin' roots were too sweet.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Eagle' germinated better and had a larger yield. Its roots were sweeter, more tender and tastier.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These varieties were very similar, but 'Eagle' outperformed it just a bit. 'Eagle' had slightly better taste for both the root and leaves. I have always preferred 'Detroit Dark Red' for its size for pickling. These varieties are a bit smaller which are great for eating fresh out of the garden.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 NW

I had late, small beets. I blame the heat and drought. 'Eagle' had a few decent-size beets; all the 'Merlin' ones were small.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Eagle' germinated better and had more attractive roots.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Eagle' was better, but both varieties had poor germination and growth. This was probably due to drought and hot weather this year.

Both varieties struggled to grow under the drought conditions. Gardeners liked the dark-red color and globular shape of 'Eagle' roots.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Eagle

Strong performers

- Bull's Blood
- Cylindra
- Detroit Dark Red
- Merlin
- Red Ace

Prefer 'Eagle' (continued)

Eagle   
Merlin   SD

Both varieties produced virtually the same. 'Eagle' roots were maybe a bit smaller, less "woody." This is the best year I have ever had for beets! I will try one of these same varieties next year.

Prefer 'Merlin'

Eagle   
Merlin   NE

I was disappointed in the slow growth of roots. Some did not get large enough to harvest until October. 'Merlin' had an earlier yield.

Eagle   
Merlin   NC

Both were nice looking beets with good yield. However, 'Merlin' beats 'Eagle' with the taste and texture when cooked. 'Eagle' is more chewy and coarse and not as sweet as 'Merlin'.

Eagle   
Merlin   NC

'Merlin' grew faster and matured first. I pick beets at 2.0 to 2.5 inches in diameter. The drought took a toll and beets weren't as large as other years. The roots of both varieties tasted good, mild and were tender.

Eagle   
Merlin   NC

Both varieties were delicious. I prefer the darker beet color of 'Ruby Queen' and 'Detroit Supreme' and will probably only plant those varieties next year.

Eagle   
Merlin   SC

'Merlin' grew a little better. The roots of both varieties grew to about the same size. Neither beet got large which is good as they cook a little faster. They right now in early October are less than a tennis ball in size, and I usually have huge ones by now (softball size) with other varieties such as 'Detroit Dark Red'.

Eagle   
Merlin   SC

'Merlin' had a sweeter taste.

Eagle   
Merlin   SC

I like the smooth skin of 'Merlin' beets.

Eagle   
Merlin   NW

'Merlin' was more productive and tasted better. 'Eagle' had a rounder, darker red, more attractive root, but 'Merlin' produced an attractive product.

Eagle   
Merlin   SW

I would have chosen 'Eagle' if it was not for the flavor of 'Merlin'. 'Eagle' was more productive and its roots looked more attractive.

Conclusions

Many gardeners commented on how the drought reduced the growth of these varieties. 'Merlin' appeared to be most affected. 'Eagle' germinated better and produced higher yields at more sites. It was a more consistent performer across sites. Gardeners liked the globular shape and dark-red color of its roots. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties. Those who preferred 'Merlin' often mentioned its flavor and sweetness.

Gardeners who preferred 'Merlin' often mentioned the flavor and sweetness of its roots.

Beet, Red (organic)

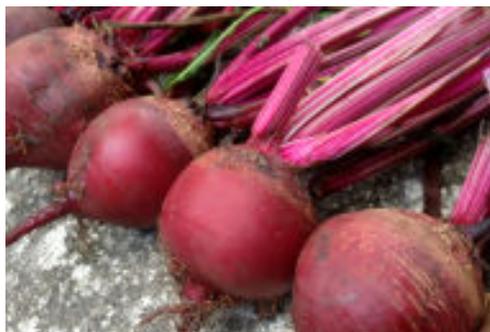
Varieties

'Boro'

50 days. Very sweet, wine-red roots. Popular for baby beets. Disease-resistant tops.

'Detroit Dark Red'

60 days. Very popular heirloom for canning. Roots are uniform, globular and smooth.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Detroit		
	Boro	Dark Red	Same
Germinated best	10%	38%	52%
Healthier plants	21	32	47
Harvested earlier	16	32	53
Higher yields	16	47	37
More attractive roots	5	32	63
Tasted better	16	16	68
Preference	30	70	
Recommend (😊)	60	90	
Mean score ¹	6.15	7.45	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Boro'

Boro ★★★★★😊🏠
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊MN

We had some trouble with woodchucks eating the plants, but once they were gone the plants flourished. 'Boro' produced higher yields.

Boro ★★★★★😊🐞
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊SC

We liked the taste of 'Boro' better. We picked most of them early in the season for beet salad and they were very tasty. 'Boro' tops were larger. Although we harvested most 'Boro' roots as baby beets, its roots grew larger; therefore, were better for our purposes (roasted, diced, frozen). The roots of both varieties were attractive.

Boro ★★★★★😊🏠
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊SC

'Boro' had more flavor. The roots of 'Detroit Dark Red' got bigger.

Boro ★★★★★😊🐞
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊SW

'Boro' had a little more flavor, but both varieties were very flavorful.

Boro ★★★★★😊🐞
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊SW

'Boro' produced more plants.

Boro ★★★★★😊🏠
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊SW

'Boro' germinated better, was healthier and more productive. There were simply more 'Boro' beet roots harvested in the end. There will be 'Boro' borscht all winter!

Prefer 'Detroit Dark Red'

Boro ★★★★★😊🐞
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties germinated well. They produced small beets which tasted good.

Boro ★★★★★😊🐞
 Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★😊NE

I think the heat and drought played a role. 'Detroit Dark Red' seemed to handle the drought better. It was healthier with lots of greens, and had large beets when mature. Nine seeds of 'Detroit Dark Red' germinated compared to only three seeds of 'Boro'.

'Boro' was a good performer but showed no advantage over 'Detroit Dark Red' in any traits.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Eagle

Strong performers

Bull's Blood
 Cylindra
 Detroit Dark Red
 Red
 Merlin
 Red Ace

Prefer 'Detroit Dark Red' (continued)

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   NE

'Detroit Dark Red' tasted sweeter.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   SE

'Detroit Dark Red' roots were more attractive. The germination rates of both varieties were poor.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   NC

'Detroit Dark Red' germinated first and produced higher yields. The drought was hard on them, but I tried to water often. The roots of both varieties were nice and round with smooth skins. They tasted tender and sweet.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   NC

I have had success with 'Detroit Dark Red' in the past. This year wasn't the best, but it was still much better than 'Boro'. 'Detroit Dark Red' had higher yields.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   NC

'Detroit Dark Red' was all around better. The old standby won hands down.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   SC

'Detroit Dark Red' just completely outdid 'Boro'. It germinated first, was healthier and produced higher yields. 'Boro' really struggled with the drought and most plants ended up dying out.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   SC

'Detroit Dark Red' germinated better, was healthier, produced earlier and higher yields, and tasted better.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   SC

'Detroit Dark Red' was matured earlier, produced larger roots and was more consistent. I have raised 'Detroit Dark Red' before and was excited to test another variety like it, but 'Boro' didn't perform nearly as well.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   NW

Beets are one of my favorite vegetables. I preferred 'Detroit Dark Red' because of its earlier yield, higher yield and the better shape of its roots.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   NW

'Detroit Dark Red' roots were more attractive and tasted sweeter. 'Boro' produced higher yields.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   NW

I liked the dark, even color of 'Detroit Dark Red', whereas there was some variation to the color of 'Boro'. They tasted the same. I produced tons of beets.

Boro   
 Detroit Dark Red   SW

Less than 3% germination—a true drought year.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Detroit Dark Red' and nearly all gardeners recommended the variety. 'Detroit Dark Red' seemed to tolerate the drought conditions better. It germinated better, grew more vigorously, and produced higher yields at more sites. Its roots were attractive. 'Boro' was a good performer but showed no advantage over 'Detroit Dark Red' in any traits.

'Detroit Dark Red' germinated better, grew more vigorously, and produced higher yields at more sites.

Carrot Chantenay

Varieties

'Cupar'

95 days. High yields of quality roots. Big roots grow 3 inches wide and 8 inches long. Organic.

'Hercules'

65 days. Cone-shaped roots with good eating quality. Tolerates rocky and heavy soils. Stores well.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cupar	Hercules	Same
Germinated best	20%	0%	80%
Healthier plants	40	40	20
Harvested earlier	0	50	50
Higher yields	20	40	40
More attractive roots	0	40	60
Tasted better	0	60	40
Preference	20	80	
Recommend (☺)	60	100	
Mean score ¹	6.00	8.20	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Cupar'

Cupar ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Hercules ★★★★★ ☺ NE

These varieties seemed pretty similar to me. I liked both. 'Cupar' produced a higher yield.

Prefer 'Hercules'

Cupar ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
 Hercules ★★★★★ ☺ SE

The intense hot and dry conditions reduced germination to about one-third of what I normally have. 'Hercules' produced a higher yield.

Cupar ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Hercules ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Both varieties had good germination and yields. 'Hercules' tasted sweeter, but I was not overly impressed with either variety for taste.

Cupar ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
 Hercules ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Hercules' had great flavor. 'Cupar' had a much smaller yield, and its roots were oddly shaped.

Cupar ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Hercules ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Both varieties grew well. 'Hercules' had better flavor.

Conclusions

'Hercules' has always done well in our trials. It grew quickly and was ready to harvest earlier. Every gardener who expressed a preference for root quality (appearance or taste) thought 'Hercules' was superior. Both varieties grew well and were recommended by most gardeners.

Every gardener who expressed a preference for root quality thought 'Hercules' was superior.

Best Chantenay carrot varieties

Top choice
Hercules

Strong performer
Cupar

Carrot, Early Nantes

Varieties

'Aranka'

56 days. Slender, 5-inch roots with smooth skin and blunt tips. Sweet and crunchy.

'Goldfinger'

69 days. Dark-orange roots with strong tops. Roots are uniform, straight and sweet. Top performer.



Data

Gardeners at 53 sites submitted information.

Trait	Aranka	Goldfinger	Same
Germinated best	17%	22%	61%
Healthier plants	12	17	71
Harvested earlier	12	12	76
Higher yields	13	48	40
More attractive roots	15	43	43
Tasted better	31	29	40
Preference	44	56	
Recommend (😊)	72	77	
Mean score ¹	7.16	7.70	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Aranka'

Aranka ★★★★★😊🐞
Goldfinger ★★★★★😊MN

'Goldfinger' had smoother roots which made them easier to clean. I took samples of both varieties to my garden club for taste testing. 'Aranka' got 8.6 and 'Goldfinger' got 6.9 on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being best.

Aranka ★★★★★😊🐞
Goldfinger ★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties were excellent. They were so tender and had excellent taste.

Aranka ★★★★★😊🐞
Goldfinger ★★★★★😊MN

'Aranka' performed better overall. It germinated better, was ready to harvest earlier and tasted better.

Aranka ★★★★★😊🏠
Goldfinger ★★★★★😊NE

'Aranka' roots were straighter, sweeter and tastier. Both varieties had roots that were crisp and 8–10 inches long. 'Goldfinger' produced 50% greater yield.

Aranka ★★★★★😊🐞
Goldfinger ★★★★★😞SE

'Aranka' was sweeter. 'Goldfinger' was more bitter.

Aranka ★★★★★😊🐞
Goldfinger ★★★★★😞SE

There was sparse emergence due to dry conditions. 'Aranka' roots were more attractive and slightly more tender. 'Goldfinger' produced fewer but larger roots.

Aranka ★★★★★😊🐞
Goldfinger ★★★★★😊SE

'Aranka' carrots were smaller and easy to snack on. 'Goldfinger' carrots were larger and longer, like a full-sized store-bought carrot. Both varieties were delicious. 'Goldfinger' produced 4 pounds compared to 3.7 pounds for 'Aranka'.

Aranka ★★★★★😊🐞
Goldfinger ★★★★★😞NC

'Aranka' roots had a sweeter taste and were a little slimmer. The plants of both varieties did well.

Gardeners were pleased with both varieties.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Laguna
Mokum
Napoli
Naval
Negovia

Prefer 'Aranka' (continued)

Aranka  😊  NC
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Aranka' tasted good. The drought hurt the development of both varieties.

Aranka  😊  NC
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Aranka' produced the first yield. Both varieties were similar and delicious! Their roots were straight, thick, uniform, crunchy and flavorful. There were a few small and crooked roots for both varieties.

Aranka  😊  SC
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Aranka' tasted a little sweeter.

Aranka  😊  SC
 Goldfinger  😊 

The heat really took its toll on my carrots. I grew them in a raised garden. The soil does have high organic matter but dries out easily. Shallow-seeded crops were just hard to start this year. 'Aranka' showed better emergence.

Aranka  😊  SC
 Goldfinger  😞 

'Aranka' roots had a nice size.

Aranka  😊  SC
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Aranka' tasted sweeter.

Aranka  😊  SC
 Goldfinger  😞 

'Aranka' germinated better, was more vigorous and produced higher yields. 'Aranka' roots were amazing and so uniform in size. 'Goldfinger' roots were spindly.

Aranka  😊  NW
 Goldfinger  😊 

Both varieties were good, but I liked the flavor of 'Aranka' a little better.

Aranka  😊  NW
 Goldfinger  😞 

Both varieties were very small and almost tasteless. I blame the hot, dry summer. It was just too hot and dry for my small raised beds.

Aranka  😊  SW
 Goldfinger  😞 

Both varieties had poor germination and plants were not especially vigorous. The roots had a nice size though. 'Aranka' grew better.

Prefer 'Goldfinger'

Aranka  😞  MN
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Goldfinger' had more attractive roots and was much better tasting. 'Goldfinger' roots were the shape more like a carrot should be; 'Aranka' roots were short and stubby.

Aranka  😊  MN
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Goldfinger' had stronger plants. Its roots had richer taste.

Aranka  😞  MN
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Goldfinger' roots were more attractive.

Aranka  😞  NE
 Goldfinger  😊 

I like the shorter, stockier carrots of 'Goldfinger'. They are more attractive and taste better.

Aranka  😞  SE
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Goldfinger' is an all-around excellent carrot variety. It has straight carrots with a crunchy, pleasing taste. Excellent germination, healthy plants and a bountiful harvest. 'Aranka' also had a good yield and tasted great, but its carrot length tended to be shorter.

Aranka  😊  NC
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Goldfinger' germinated better. Its plants were larger, sturdier and grew faster. Yields were similar and both varieties had nice roots. 'Goldfinger' tasted better.

Aranka  😞  NC
 Goldfinger  😊 

'Goldfinger' germinated more plants and grew better than 'Aranka'. Kids loved picking the carrots.

Several gardeners felt 'Aranka' carrots were sweeter and tasted better.

Prefer 'Goldfinger' (continued)

Aranka NC
 Goldfinger

The roots of 'Goldfinger' were better looking, larger and more uniform.

Aranka NC
 Goldfinger

In my 8-foot rows, I had only eight 'Goldfinger' and five 'Aranka' plants. I liked the taste of both varieties. My daughter liked the taste of 'Aranka' a little more.

Aranka SC
 Goldfinger

'Aranka' tended to have white centers. 'Goldfinger' was more consistent.

Aranka SC
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' produced higher yields and tasted better.

Aranka SC
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' had large, nicely-shaped carrots. 'Aranka' carrots were sweeter.

Aranka SC
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' roots were straighter and longer, leading to higher yields. They were easier to eat "Bugs Bunny" style. We could not discern a difference in taste.

Aranka NW
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' roots were more attractive and tasted sweeter. 'Aranka' produced earlier and higher yields.

Aranka NW
 Goldfinger

'Aranka' tasted very bland—little to no taste.

Aranka NW
 Goldfinger

I was impressed with how straight the roots of both varieties were despite being quite overcrowded. The roots of 'Goldfinger' were slightly more uniform.

Aranka NW
 Goldfinger

Both varieties produced nice, straight roots with great flavor. 'Aranka' roots were more attractive.

Aranka SW
 Goldfinger

The roots of both varieties were small. 'Goldfinger' was sweeter and crisper.

Aranka SW
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' had slightly more yield, slightly larger carrots and sweeter flavor.

Aranka SW
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' had a better yield.

Aranka SW
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' germinated more rapidly.

Aranka SW
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' had higher yields. 'Aranka' tasted better.

Aranka SD
 Goldfinger

'Goldfinger' had better flavor. Both varieties germinated at 50%.

No Preference

Aranka SC
 Goldfinger

I did not like either one. Neither variety looked or grew like carrots in the past. I thought 'Goldfinger' was sweeter, but my wife liked the taste of 'Aranka' better.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with both varieties. 'Goldfinger' has always done well in our trials and most gardeners preferred 'Goldfinger' this year. It produced higher yields at more sites. 'Goldfinger' carrots were large, straight, uniform and very attractive. Several gardeners felt 'Aranka' carrots were sweeter and tasted better.

'Goldfinger' carrots were large, straight, uniform and very attractive.

Carrot, Nantes (Organic)

Varieties

'Naval'

72 days. Long, smooth roots and strong, healthy tops. Matures early and tastes great fresh. Stores well.

'Negovia'

80 days. Big, smooth, uniform, dark-orange roots. Sweet and crunchy. Strong tops. Stores well.



Data

Gardeners at 39 sites submitted information.

Trait	Naval	Negovia	Same
Germinated best	33%	12%	55%
Healthier plants	15	18	67
Harvested earlier	22	16	63
Higher yields	47	16	38
More attractive roots	64	9	27
Tasted better	42	24	33
Preference	68	32	
Recommend (😊)	82	56	
Mean score ¹	7.79	6.94	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Naval'

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😞 NE

I have never had as much trouble in the past with growing carrots, but struggled this season probably due to the drought. Half of the 'Naval' seeds germinated, but only five 'Negovia' seeds germinated. 'Naval' was very tasty, but 'Negovia' tasted a little bitter when fully mature.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Naval' roots had a nice orange color and great taste.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Naval' tasted better.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Naval' was easier to grow, even in challenging conditions. Both varieties struggled with germination in this dry year. 'Naval' produced higher yields although 'Negovia' roots looked more attractive. Both varieties were tasty.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Naval' produced a way higher yield. A lot of the 'Negovia' seeds didn't germinate.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Naval' roots looked nicer.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Naval' tasted better.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Naval' carrots were larger and a little sweeter.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Naval' roots were straight and crispy. 'Naval' produced higher yields.

In two years of testing, 'Naval' has shown it is an impressive organic carrot variety.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Laguna
 Mokum
 Napoli
 Naval
 Negovia

Prefer 'Naval' (continued)

Naval NC
 Negovia

Neither variety was outstanding, but 'Naval' was a little better all around.

Naval NC
 Negovia

'Naval' won the taste test from each of our 12+ testers. 'Negovia' roots had 2–3 twisted legs instead of the one straight root everyone wants. 'Naval' had nice size, yield, taste, texture, and was overall a great carrot.

Naval NC
 Negovia

'Naval' roots were straighter. They tasted sweeter and were less gritty.

Naval SC
 Negovia

Only about 20 seeds of each variety germinated. These plants produced long, straight roots. 'Naval' tasted slightly better, but both varieties were tasty.

Naval SC
 Negovia

'Naval' had better flavor.

Naval SC
 Negovia

'Naval' roots were sweeter, more tender and very consistent in their length and diameter. These are the best carrots I ever raised. Both varieties germinated well, were healthy, and produced similar yields.

Naval NW
 Negovia

These varieties were very similar.

Naval NW
 Negovia

My granddaughter liked the taste of 'Naval' better. The 'Negovia' roots got so bulky as they grew.

Naval NW
 Negovia

Both varieties produced beautifully. I liked the appearance and flavor of 'Naval' roots better.

Naval SW
 Negovia

'Naval' was crisper and sweeter than 'Negovia'. The roots of both varieties were nice and long.

Naval SW
 Negovia

'Naval' excelled in all traits. It had good color and taste.

Naval SW
 Negovia

'Naval' roots were most uniform and had slightly better flavor (still prefer the 'Yaya' carrots from last year!). 'Naval' had a high yield for a raised bed. 'Negovia' had some furry roots—and a much bigger footprint in a raised bed. The pesticide used was Tempo; only one application; grasshoppers infested; would have lost the entire garden.

Naval SW
 Negovia

'Naval' was sweeter.

Naval SW
 Negovia

'Naval' had better flavor and higher yields.

Prefer 'Negovia'

Naval NE
 Negovia

'Negovia' tasted sweeter.

Naval NE
 Negovia

'Negovia' plants were more robust. 'Negovia' roots were nice and long, and had a good taste.

Naval NE
 Negovia

'Negovia' had better germination and higher yield.

**'Naval'
 produced
 higher yields
 at more sites.
 Its roots were
 sweet, crisp,
 uniform in
 shape and
 beautiful.**

Prefer 'Negovia' (continued)

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE
 'Negovia' tasted better.

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both carrots were great, but 'Negovia' slightly edged out 'Naval' in the taste test. Getting carrots to germinate in the hot, windy and dry conditions that we had this spring was a test of will power, though the results were certainly worthwhile. This was the best carrot crop in terms of yield and appearance that we have had in years. Between the two varieties we have an abundance of very nicely shaped, long carrots.

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both 'Naval' and 'Negovia' were very good in germination, looks, and taste qualities. Both varieties were very crunchy with a sweet taste. 'Naval' produced higher yields and 'Negovia' tasted better.

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC
 'Negovia' had more vigorous plants and slightly larger roots.

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 These varieties are almost exactly the same, but 'Negovia' germinated quicker. Both varieties had beautiful tops.

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠🌱
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 These varieties were very similar and grew well in a succession planting.

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW
 'Negovia' germinated better. 'Naval' roots were more attractive, although the roots of both varieties were very nice and straight. Yields were similar.

Naval ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Negovia ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW
 'Negovia' had better flavor.

'Negovia' is a fine variety. It grew vigorously but showed no clear advantage over 'Naval'.

Conclusions

'Naval' produced higher yields at more sites. Its roots were sweet, crisp, uniform in shape and beautiful. In two years of testing, 'Naval' has shown it is an impressive organic carrot variety. 'Negovia' is a fine variety. It grew vigorously but showed no clear advantage over 'Naval'.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

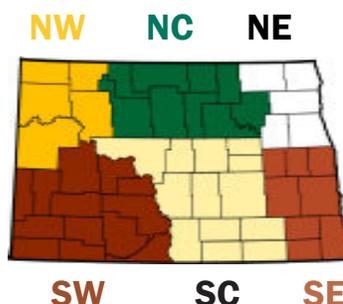
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★☆ 😞
Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🌱 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Garden type
 🐞 NC

Location

Comments



Locations

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 MB = Manitoba
 SK = Saskatchewan
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana
 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

Corn, Early Super Sweet

Varieties

'Catalyst' (shA)

66 days. Earliest super sweet. Strong seedling vigor. Attractive ears with moderate tenderness.

'Kickoff' (shA)

69 days. Outstanding eating quality and excellent ear size for an early corn. Strong seedling vigor.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Catalyst	Kickoff	Same
Germinated best	24%	33%	43%
Healthier plants	30	20	50
Harvested earlier	74	11	16
Higher yields	47	21	32
More attractive ears	47	11	42
Tasted better	33	22	44
Preference	61	39	
Recommend (😊)	89	89	
Mean score ¹	7.83	7.44	
Median score ¹	7.50	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Catalyst'

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were pretty much the same except that 'Catalyst' was ready about 5 days earlier.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Catalyst' had more full ears. Both varieties had some small ears that never matured.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Catalyst' had richer corn flavor. 'Kickoff' was a sweeter and juicier corn.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I loved the taste of 'Catalyst'. 'Catalyst' stalks showed more vigor, and the ears ripened 5 days earlier. 'Catalyst' ears were beautiful. 'Kickoff' wasn't as sweet tasting.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Catalyst' had better plants, although the plants of both varieties were thin and spindly due to drought. There were a few large ears and many small ears.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I enjoyed both of these varieties. 'Catalyst' tasted slightly better and had slightly higher yields.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Catalyst' had higher yields, matured earlier and tasted better.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Catalyst' was preferred because of better germination, ear size and ear shape.

Catalyst ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Catalyst' was sweeter and earlier. It had nice ears.

'Catalyst' ripened earlier, produced higher yields and had attractive ears.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
 American Dream

Strong performers
 Anthem XR
 Catalyst
 Enchanted
 Xtra-Tender 274A

Prefer 'Catalyst' (continued)

Catalyst  
Kickoff  SC

'Kickoff' had larger ears but more variation in ripeness. 'Catalyst' had uniformly smaller ears with more consistent ripeness. More consistent ripeness means less regret about picking too early. The drought may have affected cob size.

Catalyst  
Kickoff  SW

'Kickoff' stalks were much shorter and didn't produce any ears. This may have been due to the hot weather and wind this summer. There weren't many ears to harvest from either variety.

Prefer 'Kickoff'

Catalyst  
Kickoff  NE

Neither variety tasted as good as some other varieties we have grown. 'Kickoff' tasted better. Its kernels were smaller and more tender. Because it ripened later, the drought may have affected yield and the filling of its ears. 'Catalyst' had taller stalks and deeper roots; weather may have affected this. 'Catalyst' ripened 8 days earlier. Its ears were bigger and filled to the end. 'Catalyst' had a bit too much "corn" taste.

Catalyst  
Kickoff  NE

'Kickoff' handled drought conditions better. 'Kickoff' matured earlier and had longer ears.

Catalyst  
Kickoff  NC

'Kickoff' developed more cobs. Due to our drought conditions, I'm surprised that both varieties grew as well as they did. I did provide supplemental water, but they should have had more. Their stalks stood very well after days of strong wind. Both varieties had great flavor but not large cobs. I had no disease issues with either.

Catalyst  
Kickoff  NC

'Catalyst' produced a higher yield but 'Kickoff' tasted better.

Catalyst  
Kickoff  SC

'Kickoff' was sweeter. 'Catalyst' germinated quicker, grew taller, produced the first yield (July 30), and produced higher yields. Both varieties had nice looking cobs, uniform height and stalk strength. Cobs were either 8 inches or 3 inches long due to heat.

Catalyst  
Kickoff  SC

'Kickoff' tasted sweeter.

Catalyst  
Kickoff  NW

'Kickoff' survived the hailstorm better.

Conclusions

The interest in early sweet corn was evident in this trial since it had more participants than the other two corn trials combined. Gardeners gave high marks to both varieties, which performed consistently well across sites under dry conditions. Most gardeners preferred 'Catalyst'. It ripened several days earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners were impressed with the looks and quality of its ears. 'Kickoff' showed strong seedling vigor and produced good tasting corn.

'Kickoff'
showed strong
seedling vigor
and produced
good tasting
corn.

Corn, Super Sweet

Varieties

'American Dream' (shA)

77 days. Award winner. Sweet, tender kernels of amazing quality. Easy to grow. Sturdy stalks.

'Epiphany' (shA)

75 days. New 'Nirvana' variety, known for its unique and exceptional taste and texture.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	American Dream	Epiphany	Same
Germinated best	43%	29%	29%
Healthier plants	57	14	29
Harvested earlier	14	43	43
Higher yields	14	57	29
More attractive ears	43	29	29
Tasted better	29	43	29
Preference	71	29	
Recommend (☺)	57	57	
Mean score ¹	7.43	7.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'American Dream'

American Dream ★★★★★☺ 🐞 NC
Epiphany ★★★★★☺ 🐞 NC

'American Dream' was the best tasting corn ever produced in 40+ years of gardening. It had medium, sweet and very juicy kernels. 'Epiphany' had slightly larger kernels and was very good too. Just not as good!

American Dream ★★★★★☺ 🏠 NC
Epiphany ★★★★★☹ 🏠 NC

'American Dream' tasted better. It was healthier and had better germination.

American Dream ★★★★★☺ 🏠 NW
Epiphany ★★★★★☺ 🏠 NW

'American Dream' had larger plants and more attractive ears.

American Dream ★★★★★☹ 🏠 SW
Epiphany ★★★★★☹ 🏠 SW

I did not have good luck with the corn this year. 'American Dream' had higher yields.

American Dream ★★★★★☺ 🐞 SD
Epiphany ★★★★★☹ 🐞 SD

'American Dream' had healthier plants and ripened earlier.

Prefer 'Epiphany'

American Dream ★★★★★☹ 🐞 NE
Epiphany ★★★★★☺ 🐞 NE

'Epiphany' cobs were 8 inches long with straight, even rows and large kernels. The corn was crisp, sweet and very flavorful. It produced higher yields.

American Dream ★★★★★☹ 🐞 NC
Epiphany ★★★★★☺ 🐞 NC

'Epiphany' ears were fuller. The kernels were nice and plumb. Both varieties tasted wonderful, but 'Epiphany' was better.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'American Dream'. It had healthier stalks and more attractive ears. 'American Dream' has been a consistent performer in our trials from year to year. 'Epiphany' ripened earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties, with more gardeners preferring the taste of 'Epiphany'.

Most gardeners preferred 'American Dream' for its healthier stalks and more attractive ears.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
American Dream

Strong performers
Anthem XR
Catalyst
Enchanted
Xtra-Tender 274A

Corn, Super Sweet (organic)

Varieties

'Enchanted' (shA)

78 days. Juicy, plump kernels have exceptional flavor. Stays sweet long after harvest. Great for freezing.

'Natural Sweet' (shA)

73 days. Very sweet, tender kernels. Vigorous stalks produce uniform ears with good husk coverage.



Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Natural		Same
	Enchanted	Sweet	
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	40	0	60
Harvested earlier	40	60	0
Higher yields	50	0	50
More attractive ears	60	20	20
Tasted better	60	20	20
Preference	80	20	
Recommend (☺)	60	40	
Mean score ¹	6.60	4.80	
Median score ¹	7.00	4.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Enchanted'

Enchanted ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★☹ NE

'Enchanted' had bigger ears, tall and robust plants, and lots of ears. Only half the 'Natural Sweet' seeds germinated. It had smaller plants and ears.

Enchanted ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★☹ NE

'Enchanted' had better flavor but did not have full cobs.

Enchanted ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★☺ SE

'Enchanted' outperformed 'Natural Sweet' in both areas we planted our rows. 'Enchanted' had better germination rates and production. Both varieties tasted delicious both raw or cooked. If you've never tasted the deliciousness of freshly picked raw corn, 'Enchanted' will truly take you to an enchanted land filled with flavor.

Enchanted ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★☺ NW

'Enchanted' seemed to have more flavor. 'Natural Sweet' was appreciated for being ripe first.

Prefer 'Natural Sweet'

Enchanted ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★☹ NC

Both varieties had poor germination, weak seedlings, and cobs of average quality. 'Natural Sweet' ripened earlier and was slightly better.

Conclusions

This is the second year we have been testing these organic varieties, and 'Enchanted' showed its clear superiority again. It produced higher yields and had better quality ears. The only advantage of 'Natural Sweet' was its earliness. For the second straight year, a majority of gardeners did not recommend 'Natural Sweet'.

'Enchanted' produced higher yields and had better quality ears.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
 American Dream

Strong performers
 Anthem XR
 Catalyst
 Enchanted
 Xtra-Tender 274A

Corn, Yellow

Varieties

'Bodacious' (se+)

74 days. Golden kernels are tender with outstanding sweetness. A popular sugary-enhanced variety.

'Honey Select' (syn)

78 days. Synergistic type with exceptional sweetness and tenderness. Strong seedling vigor.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bodacious	Honey Select	Same
Germinated best	0%	17%	83%
Healthier plants	17	0	83
Harvested earlier	50	0	50
Higher yields	75	0	25
More attractive ears	25	25	50
Tasted better	75	0	25
Preference	100	0	
Recommend (😊)	100	50	
Mean score ¹	8.75	7.75	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Bodacious'

Bodacious ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Honey Select ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Bodacious' had higher yields.

Bodacious ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Honey Select ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Bodacious' was sweeter and more tender.

Bodacious ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Honey Select ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Bodacious' had nicer looking ears and tasted better.

Bodacious ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Honey Select ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Plants were very short due to drought. 'Bodacious' had nice big cobs, but the kernels were uneven. 'Honey Select' had consistent rows of kernels, but the ears were small. It was very difficult to recommend one over the other. No matter how much we tried to water the garden, the corn couldn't get enough water.

Prefer 'Honey Select'

No gardeners preferred 'Honey Select'.

Conclusions

'Bodacious' consistently performs well in our trials and this year was no exception. Every gardener in this trial recommended 'Bodacious', and every gardener preferred 'Bodacious' over 'Honey Select'. 'Bodacious' ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners loved the sweetness and tenderness of its ears. 'Honey Select' received high marks, but it was overshadowed by 'Bodacious'.

Every gardener recommended 'Bodacious', and every gardener preferred 'Bodacious' over 'Honey Select'.

Best yellow se/syn corn varieties

Top choice
Bodacious

Strong performers
Honey Select
Sugar Buns

Cucumber, Armenian

Varieties

'Light Green'

68 days. Ribbed, spineless fruits are crisp, mild, sweet and burpless. Skin does not need to be peeled. Shown at right.

'Striped'

68 days. Known as snake melon, these striped, slightly fuzzy fruits are mild, sweet and crunchy.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Light		
	Green	Striped	Same
Germinated best	67%	0%	33%
Healthier plants	60	0	40
Harvested earlier	70	20	10
Higher yields	70	20	10
More attractive cukes	22	67	11
Tasted better	0	63	38
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (☺)	70	60	
Mean score ¹	6.50	6.30	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Light Green'

Light Green ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Striped ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Light Green' produced one cucumber. It was delicious. 'Striped' produced no cucumbers.

Light Green ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Striped ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Light Green' had better production. We liked its taste better, and it had a better shelf life. We didn't care for the skin on the striped variety. I don't think we watered these enough. We had few fruits from either variety and they were often curled.

Light Green ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Striped ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Light Green' vines grew better. They produced larger fruits and higher yields. 'Striped' cucumbers were more attractive.

Light Green ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Striped ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ NW

'Light Green' showed superior germination and higher yields. Its cucumbers were long and attractive. Only one 'Striped' cucumber was produced but it did not fully mature. I liked the striped skin better.

Prefer 'Striped'

Light Green ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Striped ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Very interesting cucumbers! I grew them vertically on cattle panel fencing so they hung down and got very long. I would grow them again because they are fun looking, and their taste isn't too bad. 'Light Green' plants were more bushy and viny. They produced more blossoms, the first fruit and most fruits. Their fruits were good, but the fruits of 'Striped' were much better tasting.

Light Green ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Striped ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Striped' cucumbers were juicier and had great taste. They were easier to harvest because of their fruit color and fewer vines. 'Striped' had a very long harvest season.

'Light Green' grew much better. It showed more vigor and produced higher yields.

Best Armenian cucumber varieties

Top choice
Striped

Strong performer
Light Green

Prefer 'Striped' (continued)

Light Green ★★★★★☆ 😊 -
Striped ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

The vines of both varieties looked very healthy in my high tunnel. 'Light Green' produced the first cukes and higher yields.

Light Green ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Striped ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC

'Striped' cucumbers were fun, more colorful and had more character. 'Striped' cucumbers had more flavor and juice. 'Light Green' had more plants, more vigor, more cucumbers and ripened earlier, but they looked bland. Neither of these varieties will replace our more normal cucumber varieties.

Light Green ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Striped ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I preferred the look and flavor of the 'Striped' cucumbers. They were longer and more appealing to the eye. They were also thinner, very crunchy and refreshing! Both varieties germinated well and had healthy plants.

Light Green ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Striped ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Striped' tasted better. The 'Light Green' green cucumbers didn't produce many and for only a small amount of time.

Conclusions

'Light Green' grew much better. It germinated better, showed more vigor, and produced earlier and higher yields. However, 'Striped' cucumbers tasted much better. These striped "snake melons" were more attractive, colorful, juicy and flavorful. 'Striped' Armenian cucumbers were fun to grow and preferred by most gardeners.

'Striped' cucumbers were more attractive, colorful, juicy and flavorful.

Cucumber, Burpless

Varieties

'Shintokiwa'

60 days. Vigorous vines produce long, thin-skinned fruits. Fruits are crisp, sweet and juicy. Organic.

'Summer Dance'

60 days. Straight, glossy cukes of exceptional quality. Productive vines tolerate heat and diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 43 sites submitted information.

Trait	Shinto-kiwa	Summer Dance	Same
Germinated best	25%	33%	42%
Healthier plants	16	32	51
Harvested earlier	26	66	9
Higher yields	22	61	17
More attractive cukes	11	50	39
Tasted better	21	32	47
Preference	32	68	
Recommend (😊)	57	78	
Mean score ¹	6.64	8.00	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Shintokiwa'

Shintokiwa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★😞🐞 NE

'Shintokiwa' had about 90% of its seeds germinate. Only half of the 'Summer Dance' seeds germinated. 'Shintokiwa' produced nice cukes; its plants stayed put and didn't send runners all over the place.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★😞🐞 NE

'Shintokiwa' produced more fruit, but I didn't get a lot of cucumbers from ether variety.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★😊🐞 SE

Both varieties produced tasty cucumbers for 3 months until the first frost. These cucumbers were straight, crisp, with not too many seeds and were outstanding. My neighbors enjoyed them too, and everyone commented on how well they tasted and how crisp the fruit was. I would plant either variety again. These are the best cucumbers I've eaten.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★😞🐞 SE

'Shintokiwa' was better tasting and produced a higher yield.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★😞🐞 SE

'Shintokiwa' had better flavor and yield.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★😊🐞 SE

'Shintokiwa' produced a few more cucumbers. 'Summer Dance' had nice, straight, narrow cukes. I loved the crisp, sweet taste and little seeds of the fruits of both varieties.

Both varieties produced crisp, tasty cucumbers.

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice

Summer Dance

Strong performers

Orient
 Express II
 Sweet Slice
 Sweet Success
 Tasty Green

Prefer 'Shintokiwa' (continued)

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Shintokiwa' had a sweetness that was just scrumptious. It germinated and produced at a comparable rate to 'Summer Dance', but its flavor was superior. Both varieties were exceptional. Their cucumbers had crunchy textures, small seed cavities and pretty good shelf lives. Their vines thrived and were resistant to powdery mildew in comparison to the yellow squash that grew near these beds. I will definitely be growing 'Shintokiwa' every year and recommending it to others. I wish we could have garden cucumbers all year; grocery store varieties pale in comparison to both of these varieties.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Summer Dance' sprouted better, but the few 'Shintokiwa' plants did much better overall. Both varieties struggled in the drought.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Shintokiwa' produced more and tasted better.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Shintokiwa' is absolutely the best cucumber I've ever eaten. So delicious! Towards October they tasted "sweet." I've never had anything like it before. The vines were stunning! I grew them vertically with a tunnel and these vines were at least 16 feet long. I last picked on October 15. I would grow both varieties again but 'Shintokiwa' was stellar.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Shintokiwa' had more plants.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SK

'Shintokiwa' had 100% germination compared to 94% germination for 'Summer Dance'. 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers were straighter.

Prefer 'Summer Dance'

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Summer Dance' produced more. Its cucumbers looked better.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Summer Dance' is a great cuke. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields. 'Summer Dance' cukes were more attractive and better tasting.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Summer Dance' ripened about 2 weeks earlier and produced more cucumbers.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Summer Dance' ripened earlier and had higher yields.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Summer Dance' was a much better producer. Both varieties got anthracnose (?) and looked like they would die in late July. Then both seemed to get healthy, set fruit and were most productive in late September and through October 18!

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I liked the darker green skin of 'Summer Dance'. 'Shintokiwa' had slightly mottled skin.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Summer Dance' rated higher for all traits.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Dance' germinated better, was healthier and produced more cucumbers. It was a hot, dry summer. The cucumber plants did not grow well and the leaves often looked wilted even though I watered regularly.

'Shintokiwa' is a promising organic burpless cucumber.

Prefer 'Summer Dance' (continued)

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both 'Summer Dance' and 'Shintokiwa' are great burpless cucumbers. 'Summer Dance' germinated a little earlier. 'Summer Dance' cucumbers had a crisp, sweet flavor. It had only a slight edge on 'Shintokiwa'.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Dance' produced more cucumbers and for a longer period. Its cucumbers were better tasting.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Dance' was better in all categories. Its cucumbers were very good tasting and had a good shape. 'Summer Dance' cucumbers were excellent for eating; like candy from the garden.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Dance' produced more cucumbers and was overall better. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted good.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 📦
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Dance' was earlier, more productive, and had much better quality. After about a month, I pulled up the 'Shintokiwa' plants because they failed to produce a single edible cucumber. Every cucumber was woody and bitter.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 📦
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Dance' cucumbers have better taste, a smooth skin and a small seed pocket. The vines of 'Shintokiwa' take up a lot of space; they are still healthy and producing like mad today (September 22).

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 📦
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Dance' was an early producer and by far the best tasting!

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SC

This was a weird year with the lack of rain. The plants were small but healthy. I planted on May 13 but the plants didn't start producing until August. Most of the yield was harvested in September into October. 'Summer Dance' grew better, produced earlier, produced slightly more cucumbers, and had more attractive cucumbers.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Overall, 'Summer Dance' produced a little better. Both varieties yielded many cukes on an almost daily basis. In a taste test, one tester thought 'Shintokiwa' was a little sweeter but others thought they were the same.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

'Summer Dance' had better germination and higher yields. Neither variety germinated or produced very well.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Summer Dance' did better in all traits. It was especially good late in the season when other cucumbers were done.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ 📦
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties produced good cucumbers with small seeds. 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers were a little crisper and had a little more pleasing taste. 'Summer Dance' produced higher yields and the plants stood up longer and didn't dry out in September. 'Summer Dance' still looked healthy in October.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★ ☹️ -
 Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Summer Dance' trellised better, produced earlier and longer. I harvested 14 cucumbers on August 1. Its cucumbers were less spiny.

'Summer Dance' produced earlier. Its cucumbers were dark green, smooth-skinned and more attractive.

Prefer ‘Summer Dance’ (continued)

Shintokiwa ★★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Summer Dance ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
 ‘Summer Dance’ was a little more drought tolerant. It ripened 4 days earlier. ‘Summer Dance’ cucumbers were sweeter and crisper. ‘Shintokiwa’ cucumbers were fat in the middle, thin on the ends, and more curled. It produced higher yields. In a year with more rain, I think ‘Shintokiwa’ would do fine.

Shintokiwa ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance ★★★★★★ 😊 SD

Both varieties had very productive plants that handled the hot, dry winds. They both had a great taste and were very productive, but if I could only plant one I would choose ‘Summer Dance’. ‘Shintokiwa’ did not germinate as well but produced an abundant amount of cucumbers.

Shintokiwa ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 📵
 Summer Dance ★★★★★★ 😊 SD

‘Shintokiwa’ came up and died!

Conclusions

Both varieties produced crisp, tasty cucumbers. Production continued into mid-October. ‘Shintokiwa’ is a promising organic burpless cucumber, but the vast majority of gardeners preferred ‘Summer Dance’. ‘Summer Dance’ produced earlier and higher yields. ‘Summer Dance’ cucumbers were dark green, smooth-skinned and had crisp, sweet flavor. ‘Summer Dance’ has always done well in our trials and its overall performance this year was outstanding again.

The overall performance of ‘Summer Dance’ was outstanding again this year.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊

Variety B ★☆☆☆☆ 😞

‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊

😞

Garden type

🐞 = Organic

📵 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

Location

NC

Locations

MN = Minnesota

NE = Northeast

SE = Southeast

NC = North Central

SC = South Central

NW = Northwest

SW = Southwest

MB = Manitoba

SK = Saskatchewan

SD = South Dakota

MT = Montana

IA = Iowa

NEB = Nebraska

Cucumber, Pickling (Organic)

Varieties

'Homemade Pickles'

55 days. Vigorous, disease-resistant vines produce loads of crisp cukes ideally shaped for pickling.

'Max Pack'

55 days. Big yields of uniform and attractive picklers. Vines are vigorous and resist many diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 35 sites submitted information.

Trait	Home. Pickles	Max Pack	Same
Germinated best	59%	7%	34%
Healthier plants	36	29	36
Harvested earlier	61	32	7
Higher yields	54	32	14
More attractive cukes	23	58	19
Tasted better	26	22	52
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (😊)	68	57	
Mean score ¹	6.86	7.07	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Homemade Pickles'

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Homemade Pickles' had better looking cukes. 'Max Pack' produced the first cukes and higher yields.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 SE

I did not like either variety at all. Their cucumbers were short, stubby and oddly shaped for a pickling cucumber. The color of their cucumbers was much lighter green than what I have been accustomed to. Taste was fine. In August, I noticed the blossoms and new growing cukes were in bunches, and so as a result you would get multiple cukes coming at one joint (weird). These

cukes grew to deformed shapes and sizes. 'Homemade Pickles' was healthier, later ripening, more productive and better tasting.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 NC
'Homemade Pickles' had consistent germination, vigorous and healthy vines, and high yields.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 SC
'Homemade Pickles' produced way more cucumbers way faster.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 SC
'Homemade Pickles' produced more pickles and tasted better. The cucumbers of 'Max Pack' were more attractive.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 SC
'Homemade Pickles' was healthier, earlier and produced higher yields. I didn't care for the fatter cukes on some of the 'Max Pack' plants.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 SC
'Homemade Pickles' cucumbers weren't the prettiest, but they tasted the best. They were so juicy and plump. 'Homemade Pickles' had higher yields, but 'Max Pack' matured 3-4 days earlier.

'Homemade Pickles' germinated better, produced earlier and produced more cucumbers.

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
Homemade Pickles

Strong performers
Alibi
Calypso
Eureka
H-19 Little Leaf

Prefer 'Homemade Pickles' (continued)

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😞 🌱 SC

'Homemade Pickles' produced more cucumbers.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😞 🌱 NW

'Homemade Pickles' germinated better, was healthier, produced earlier, and produced more cucumbers. 'Max Pack' had very poor germination (20%), although these plants produced very well and had very good tasting cucumbers.

Homemade Pickles 😞 🌱
Max Pack 😞 🌱 NW

Both varieties had to be replanted although I watered them right away. Their plants were small and weak. Their yields were terrible and their cucumbers were ill shaped. 'Homemade Pickles' produced cucumbers earlier.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😞 🌱 SW

'Homemade Pickles' was superior in all traits. If this is how they perform during a bad year (drought and heat), I'd love to see what they would do in a good year!

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱 🌿
Max Pack 😞 🌱 SW

'Homemade Pickles' was very high yielding and tasted better.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😊 🌱 SW

'Homemade Pickles' produced first and most. Some 'Homemade Pickles' fruits grew into fat bulb shapes in the heat.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😞 🌱 SW

We got more cucumbers from 'Homemade Pickles'.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😞 🌱 SD

'Homemade Pickles' germinated better and had healthier vines. It produced earlier and higher yields.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😊 🌱 SD

Both varieties grew well, even for being hailed on twice.

Prefer 'Max Pack'

Homemade Pickles 😞 🌱
Max Pack 😊 🌱 SE

'Max Pack' plants withstood heat better and produced more cucumbers.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😊 🌱 SE

'Max Pack' cucumbers are darker in color, less spiny, and straight. Its vines stayed nice and green longer. 'Homemade Pickles' cucumbers were thicker at the base, then tapering out. This shape is much less preferred for canning; maybe it was drought induced.

Homemade Pickles 😞 🌱
Max Pack 😊 🌱 NC

'Homemade Pickles' hardly produced and didn't grow well. 'Max Pack' was a prolific producer. It produced enough for all my pickling needs by itself. 'Max Pack' cucumbers did get seedy quickly on its larger cucumbers.

Homemade Pickles 😊 🌱
Max Pack 😊 🌱 NC

I preferred 'Max Pack' because of its pickle shape and color. 'Homemade Pickles', though very productive, had oddly-shaped cucumbers. I have grown 'Homemade Pickles' before and have been very satisfied with them. I used a drip irrigation system, but the lack of rain may have had an effect.

Gardeners were evenly split on which variety's cucumbers tasted better.

Prefer 'Max Pack' (continued)

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Max Pack' cucumbers were darker-skinned and more colorful. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted good, but the appearance of 'Max Pack' made me want to eat them. The plants of both varieties were vibrant.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Max Pack' cucumbers were dark green, crisp and had better flavor. Its crispness held up longer. Its leaves were dark green. 'Homemade Pickles' cucumbers were light green. I will plant 'Max Pack' next year as I do lots of canning.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Max Pack' cucumbers were a very deep green. Both varieties quit yielding early on even though I used drip irrigation.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Max Pack' had earlier and higher yields. Its fruits were nice and small for pickles.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

All 'Homemade Pickles' seeds came up and half of 'Max Pack'; yet yield was better with 'Max Pack'. I liked the flavor of 'Max Pack' and how straight its cucumbers are for canning. 'Homemade Pickles' cucumbers got quite seedy if too big. I made tons of pickles and gave many cucumbers away. Both varieties produced a lot and still have some coming.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Homemade Pickles' got bitter early on. This may have been from the hot weather. We did try to water every day. 'Max Pack' produced into the fall and was never bitter. 'Max Pack' cucumbers had a nice shape; not too many seeds.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Homemade Pickles' germinated much better (100% compared to 40% for 'Max Pack'). 'Homemade Pickles' produced earlier and higher yields. 'Max Pack' had better taste. Its fruits were small, green and more attractive.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Max Pack ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both had beautiful, healthy, dark-green plants. My first picking was on July 25 for 'Homemade Pickles' and 5 days later picked both varieties. 'Max Pack' produced the most by far and produces still today (September 14). 'Max Pack' had the perfect shape and size. 'Homemade Pickles' tended to be fat at the stem end and pointy on the blossom end. Both had very good taste with no bitterness at all as they got plenty of water.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Homemade Pickles.' It germinated better, produced earlier and produced more cucumbers than 'Max Pack'. 'Homemade Pickles' has been a standout performer in our trials for several years. 'Max Pack' cucumbers were darker green and more attractive. Gardeners were evenly split on which variety's cucumbers tasted better. The drought contributed to the instances when gardeners reported odd-shaped cucumbers.

'Max Pack' cucumbers were darker green and more attractive.

Cucumber, Slicing

Varieties

'General Lee'

66 days. Very productive. Disease-resistant vines set quality slicers even under adverse conditions.

'Speedway'

56 days. Disease-resistant, gynoecious vines produce high yields of dark-green cucumbers.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	General Lee	Speedway	Same
Germinated best	25%	50%	25%
Healthier plants	25	25	50
Harvested earlier	25	75	0
Higher yields	25	50	25
More attractive cukes	50	0	50
Tasted better	50	0	50
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	75	75	
Mean score ¹	7.00	6.00	
Median score ¹	6.50	6.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'General Lee'

General Lee ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Speedway ★★★★★ ☺ SE

The quality and taste of 'General Lee' cucumbers were better.

General Lee ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Speedway ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'General Lee' grew a much bigger plant. It produced more cukes and was better tasting. 'Speedway' vines only made tiny cukes that shriveled and were yellow underneath.

Prefer 'Speedway'

General Lee ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Speedway ★★★★★ ☺ SE

We harvested 'Speedway' first.

General Lee ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
 Speedway ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Speedway' produced better.

Conclusions

There was less interest in this trial compared to the other cucumber trials. Gardeners liked both varieties and were split on their preferences. 'Speedway' produced earlier and higher yields. 'General Lee' produced higher quality cucumbers.

'Speedway' produced earlier and higher yields. 'General Lee' produced higher quality cucumbers.

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice
 General Lee

Strong performers
 Dasher II
 Raceway
 Raider
 Straight Eight

Cucumber, Snack

Varieties

'Green Light'

42 days. New, award-winning variety. Vines produce 3-inch seedless fruits. Good for trellises. Shown at right.

'Muncher'

62 days. Perfect for fresh eating—just like an apple. Mild and tender. Burpless. Good for pickling, too.



Data

Gardeners at 43 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green		
	Light	Muncher	Same
Germinated best	36%	26%	38%
Healthier plants	20	31	49
Harvested earlier	69	19	11
Higher yields	49	35	16
More attractive cukes	47	22	31
Tasted better	24	38	38
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (☺)	74	76	
Mean score ¹	7.16	7.30	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Green Light'

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Muncher ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Green Light' tasted great and produced a large yield.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Muncher ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Green Light' cucumbers ripened earlier and were tasty. 'Muncher' cucumbers had little spines on it. If you weren't watching these varieties carefully, they would get too big and seedy.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Muncher ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Green Light' produced more cucumbers overall. They started producing earlier and more consistently. Both varieties produced well and made delicious pickles.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Muncher ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Green Light' germinated better. It produced earlier and higher yields. I got powdery mildew on both varieties (did lots of watering this year) and 'Green Light' was affected earlier.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Muncher ★★★★★ ☺ SE

I thought 'Green Light' had better flavor, produced a higher yield, and had better looking cukes.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Muncher ★★★★★ ☺ SE

We have always grown 'Muncher' but 'Green Light' was far superior for our needs. We loved, loved, loved them for fresh eating! They had a perfect size and were seedless.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Muncher ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Green Light' tasted better.

Most gardeners preferred 'Green Light', a new All-America Selections award winner.

Best snacking cucumber varieties

Top choice
Green Light

Strong performer
Mercury
Muncher

Prefer 'Green Light' (continued)

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

I did not like the taste or skin texture of 'Muncher'. Its fruits were more bland in flavor. Its skin had lots of little spikes while the skin of 'Green Light' was totally smooth. 'Muncher' germinated 2 weeks earlier, and its vines were more resistant to powdery mildew.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

This trial was the surprise hit of the season. I had never been a big fan of cucumbers, but these were really delicious. I've used them for cucumber salads and for refrigerator pickles, and they worked well both ways. 'Green Light' produced a higher yield. Both varieties tasted very good.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

The skin of 'Green Light' was smooth. The skin of 'Muncher' was spiny so it had to be cut off to eat. The cucumbers of these varieties tasted the same.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Green Light' had stronger plants and better yields. It produced really well! Both varieties were very tasty. Some 'Muncher' seedlings died and I had to replant them.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Green Light' won all categories except taste. I will go back to growing picklers next year.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Green Light' cucumbers were milder flavored and a tiny bit sweeter. Their skins were thinner and smoother. 'Muncher' vines were more vigorous, putting out more runners per plant. 'Muncher' produced more than twice as many cucumbers.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Green Light' cucumbers had smoother skin and better taste.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Green Light' had healthier looking plants. 'Green Light' kept producing right up to the first frost.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Green Light' cucumbers were more uniformly shaped. 'Green Light' produced higher yields.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Green Light' produced cucumbers 10 days earlier, and its yields kept going. 'Green Light' cucumbers were larger, more uniform in shape and had thicker skin. 'Muncher' cucumbers had a nicer texture.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SD

'Green Light' had better yield. These are not my favorite cucumbers.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SD

'Green Light' produced earlier. It had nice, slender cukes.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SK

Trials were conducted in a pot and in a raised bed. 'Green Light' had 100% germination compared to 94% with 'Muncher'. I picked our first 'Green Light' cucumber 5 days before 'Muncher'. 'Green Light' performed better overall and had slightly higher yields in both the pot and raised bed trials.

'Green Light' produced earlier and higher yields at more sites.

Prefer 'Muncher'

Green Light    MN
 Muncher  

'Muncher' fruits had a sleek, dark green, thick skin. The fruits had small seeds, a more typical contour, and were crisper and sweeter compared to 'Green Light'.

Green Light    NE
 Muncher  

'Muncher' had higher yields, more attractive cukes and better taste. 'Green Light' produced ball-shaped cucumbers that looked like melons.

Green Light    NE
 Muncher  

'Muncher' cucumbers had fewer seeds in the middle and had a crunch that 'Green Light' cucumbers did not.

Green Light    SE
 Muncher  

'Muncher' cucumbers tasted better. They didn't give me indigestion, were very crunchy and tasted very good! The cucumbers of neither variety stayed fresh long. They didn't refrigerate well either. 'Green Light' produced more cucumbers.

Green Light    SE
 Muncher  

'Muncher' cucumbers were crunchy, sweet, and had a prickly skin. 'Green Light' cucumbers were not as crunchy and had a smoother, thicker skin. We had horrible cucumber beetles this year.

Green Light    NC
 Muncher  

'Muncher' is a bit prickly, somewhat like a pickling cucumber. I did pickle some of them. 'Green Light' is nice and smooth skinned. Although 'Green Light' came up sooner and had the first cukes, 'Muncher' plants got larger and produced many more. 'Green Light' tended to produce more bulb-shaped cukes later in the season; whereas 'Muncher' kept producing the nice snacker shape you'd buy in a store. I won't plant either again as 'Diamont' cucumber far outproduced either of these varieties.

Green Light    SC
 Muncher  

'Muncher' fruits looked more uniform. They were a little sweeter and not as seedy.

Green Light    SC
 Muncher  

'Green Light' did not produce anything for me. 'Muncher' only gave me four cukes all year.

Green Light   F
 Muncher   SC

'Muncher' cucumbers had better flavor.

Green Light    SC
 Muncher  

Plants were small but healthy, and really grew after August. Yields did not start until late August. 'Muncher' produced healthier looking cucumbers and more cucumbers.

Green Light    SC
 Muncher  

I liked the look of the skin a bit better on the 'Muncher' cucumbers. 'Green Light' produced sooner.

Green Light    SW
 Muncher  

'Muncher' produced a large yield of crunchy, great cucumbers. 'Green Light' had smaller plants and the cucumbers were fat on one end and skinny on the other.

Green Light   -
 Muncher   SW

'Muncher' cucumbers were sweeter and crisp! 'Muncher' produced 30% higher yields. 'Green Light' cucumbers were ready to harvest a few days earlier. Both varieties had awesome germination.

Green Light    SW
 Muncher  

They were both very good varieties. I liked 'Muncher' just a bit better for flavor, size and yield.

Gardeners who preferred 'Muncher' often commented on the crisp texture and sweetness of its cucumbers.

Prefer 'Muncher' (continued)

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Very good germination for both. Literally every seed germinated. Nice plants for both; 'Muncher' vines were slightly more sturdy and compact. 'Green Light' ripened earlier, with the first harvest on July 17. 'Green Light' had slightly higher yields and was more attractive for snack cukes; very straight and slim. 'Muncher' was more rounded and not as long. 'Muncher' had better taste, and lighter, thinner skin, making it better for snacking for me. Both varieties did well and today (September 14) they are both still producing. I had never planted these before and was very happy with them and they stored in the fridge for 7–10 days well; crispy and fresh. Not like the supermarket ones that you have to eat on the way home or they go bad.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Muncher' produced higher yields. Its cucumbers had a nice flavor and size.

No Preference

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Muncher ★★★★★☆ 😞 SE

'Muncher' produced more cucumbers but I did not care for either variety.

Conclusions

Gardeners were generally pleased with both of these snacking cucumber varieties. Most gardeners preferred 'Green Light', a new All-America Selections award winner. 'Green Light' produced earlier and higher yields at more sites. Gardeners liked the perfectly smooth skin of 'Green Light' fruits compared to the tiny spines on the skin of 'Muncher' fruits. Gardeners who preferred 'Muncher' often commented on the crisp texture and sweetness of its cucumbers.

'Green Light' fruits were perfectly smooth while 'Muncher' fruits had tiny spines.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

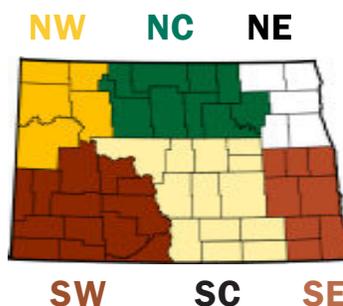
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆
 Variety B ★★★★★☆

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A 😊
 Variety B 😞

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
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Kohlrabi, Green (Fall)

Varieties

'Quickstar'

45 days. Easy to grow. Grows quickly and provides excellent yields. Good flavor.

'Winner Improved'

50 days. An improved strain of a standout variety. Very popular for its fresh, fruity flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Quickstar	Winner Impr.	Same
Germinated best	7%	57%	36%
Healthier plants	22	56	22
Harvested earlier	38	50	13
Higher yields	13	75	13
More attractive stems	22	44	33
Tasted better	13	50	38
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (☺)	22	89	
Mean score ¹	5.22	7.33	
Median score ¹	5.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Quickstar'

Quickstar ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★☺ SE

The plants emerged but only a few formed a bulb for eating. We enjoyed eating them. This was my first time growing kohlrabi.

Quickstar ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★☺ SC

'Quickstar' is overall a better kohlrabi. It was ready to be harvested earlier and looked more attractive.

Quickstar ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★☹ SC

The drought and odd temperatures were against me in this trial as neither variety did well. I had only two 'Quickstar' plants on the first planting so I planted a second time

where 'Winner Improved' did better. As of November 1, I have two very small bulbs on the 'Quickstar' plants but they are not worth picking and nothing on the 'Winner Improved' plants.

Prefer 'Winner Improved'

Quickstar ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★☺ MN

'Winner Improved' was a quick grower with a uniform bulb.

Quickstar ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★☺ NE

'Winner Improved' produced lovely plants. Its bulbs were 3–5 inches wide and had great flavor. 'Quickstar' germinated poorly and its bulbs were too small to eat.

Quickstar ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★☺ SE

'Winner Improved' bulbs were larger, more tender and had better flavor. 'Winner Improved' germinated much better and produced higher yields.

Quickstar ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★☺ SC

They germinated but it was still very hot out. Something started eating the seedlings. I treated twice with Sevin to no avail. The plants struggled until the weather cooled in late August. By the end of September, I had four 'Quickstar' plants with 1-inch-diameter bulbs. 'Winner Improved' gave six 1-inch bulbs and two that were 1.5 inches in diameter.

The performance of 'Quickstar' was disappointing. Few gardeners recommended it.

Best green kohlrabi variety

Top choice
 Winner Improved

Prefer 'Winner Improved' (continued)

Quickstar ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Winner Improved' had good germination, strong plants and excellent bulbs!

Quickstar ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Winner Improved ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Winner Improved' germinated faster and at a higher rate. 'Winner Improved' produced higher yields and tasted better.

Conclusions

'Winner' has done well in previous trials and we were anxious to see how this improved strain performed. We were impressed. 'Winner Improved' excelled in all traits including germination, yield and eating quality. On the other hand, 'Quickstar' was disappointing. Few gardeners recommended it. Most of our kohlrabi trials, which were sown in fall, reported little to no yield due to drought.

'Winner Improved' excelled in all traits including germination, yield and eating quality.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊

Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹️

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Garden type →

🐞 NC

Location →

Comments →

Locations

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Lettuce, Red Butterhead (org.)

Varieties

'Alkindus'

52 days. Dark-red outer leaves with a bright-green heart. Heads are dense and shiny. Reliable.

'Sweet Valentine'

56 days. Bronze butterhead with rounded leaves. Develops into a romaine shape. Sweet, mild taste.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sweet		
	Alkindus	Valent.	Same
Germinated best	15%	41%	44%
Healthier plants	8	36	56
Harvested earlier	12	62	27
Resisted bolting better	33	17	50
Higher yields	11	56	33
More attractive	40	12	48
Tasted better	24	44	32
Preference	41	59	
Recommend (😊)	68	86	
Mean score ¹	6.70	7.81	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Alkindus'

Alkindus ★★★★★😊🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😊SE

'Alkindus' germinated better and produced earlier. Both varieties had nice heads.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊📦
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😞SE

'Alkindus' produced a higher yield.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😊SE

'Alkindus' was more attractive. 'Alkindus' was slightly less bitter, but I also noticed it varied from leaf to leaf.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊 -
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😞 NC

I did not like the production of 'Sweet Valentine'.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊📦
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😊 NC

Both were very good. 'Alkindus' tasted slightly better than 'Sweet Valentine'. 'Sweet Valentine' was more attractive and resisted bolting better.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊📦
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😊 SC

They were both great. 'Sweet Valentine' produced more, but 'Alkindus' tasted better.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😞 NW

These varieties were similar in many ways but 'Alkindus' tasted better.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊📦
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😊 NW

These varieties were very similar.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😊 SW

I was able to pick 'Alkindus' longer because it didn't bolt.

Alkindus ★★★★★😊📦
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★😞 SW

Both varieties had very nice leaves. 'Sweet Valentine' tasted bitter.

Gardeners liked the dark-red color of 'Alkindus' and its resistance to bolting.

Best red butterhead lettuce varieties

Top choice
Sweet Valentine

Strong performers
Alkindus
Cervanek
Red Cross
Skyphos

Prefer 'Alkindus' (continued)

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SK

Both varieties germinated well (approximately 95%). I loved the red color of 'Alkindus', and it was slow to bolt during our very hot weather.

Prefer 'Sweet Valentine'

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN

I really liked them both. I like to have a mixture of colored lettuces. Both of these looked and tasted good. 'Sweet Valentine' produced more. I pulled both varieties out of the garden on July 19. At that time, only 'Sweet Valentine' had bolted.

Alkindus ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN

'Sweet Valentine' germinated better and produced higher yields. 'Alkindus' resisted bolting better, looked more attractive and tasted better.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE

'Sweet Valentine' was better tasting, crisp, and had a larger plant. It kept well when refrigerated. Both varieties tolerated the high heat at the beginning of the planting season. They resisted bolting until late July. I loved the darker red color of 'Alkindus'. Mixing both varieties in a salad was very tasty.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE

'Sweet Valentine' had better taste and higher yields. Both varieties were attractive.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE

I liked the flavor of 'Sweet Valentine' more. 'Alkindus' has a more pronounced bitter aftertaste. 'Sweet Valentine' seemed to have a bit larger plants and had a bit better production. I would definitely recommend both. It's also worthy to note that temperatures dipped down to 23 °F and the plants remained healthy and productive.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE

I loved both varieties. 'Alkindus' was my winner last year; however 'Sweet Valentine' was the clear winner this year in all categories. It had fast and excellent germination, sturdier and larger plants. Both varieties were excellent tasting. I will plan to grow them both next year.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

'Sweet Valentine' had a better, more complex taste for salads. 'Alkindus' had more leaves in each head.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

Both varieties had poor stands due to weather conditions. Their plants were very stunted and took awhile to grow. 'Sweet Valentine' had a better stand and more growth. 'Alkindus' was more attractive and resisted bolting better.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

Both of these varieties were very attractive. 'Sweet Valentine' had a mild, sweet taste, and most of its seeds germinated. Pretty lettuce! 'Alkindus' did not germinate as well.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

'Sweet Valentine' germinated at 50% and leafed well. I liked the fun color of 'Alkindus' but its low germination (5%) and slow growth were big negatives.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sweet Valentine ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

'Sweet Valentine' germinated slightly better. It had nice, big leaves and a slightly better taste. Both varieties were great. Because of their colors, I liked combining the two varieties in salads.

'Sweet Valentine' germinated better, grew faster and produced higher yields.

Prefer ‘Sweet Valentine’ (continued)

Alkindus ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 📍
 Sweet Valentine ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Sweet Valentine’ had very nice flavor. The red color of ‘Alkindus’ was cool, but tasted bitter at times. Mixing the two varieties gave super color to food and masked the more bitter ‘Alkindus’.

Alkindus ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sweet Valentine ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I was surprised at this trial because I loved ‘Alkindus’ so much last year. ‘Sweet Valentine’ had a little better texture and taste. ‘Sweet Valentine’ germinated and grew faster. Both varieties were pretty in a salad and both tasted so good.

Alkindus ★☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 📍
 Sweet Valentine ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Sweet Valentine’ never showed any signs of being a red lettuce; it was completely green. It really made me question whether it was a red variety or not. It grew well, and ‘Alkindus’ did not.

Alkindus ★★★★★☆ 😊 📍
 Sweet Valentine ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

A neighbor described the difference in taste of ‘Alkindus’ to ‘Sweet Valentine’ as the difference between a dry red wine and sweet red wine. ‘Sweet Valentine’ has larger leaves and has green/red color. The two varieties should be planted together. ‘Alkindus’ is completely red. The two complement each other.

Alkindus ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Sweet Valentine ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

‘Sweet Valentine’ was tastier.

Conclusions

This trial was a pleasant surprise. ‘Alkindus’ has excelled in previous trials. Gardeners have been impressed with the dark-red color of its leaves and its resistance to bolting. ‘Alkindus’ did well again this year, but more gardeners preferred ‘Sweet Valentine’. ‘Sweet Valentine’ germinated better, grew faster and produced higher yields. More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘Sweet Valentine’, which had large, green/leaves and mild flavor. Several gardeners mentioned these varieties complemented each other in color and flavor when mixed together in salads.

More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘Sweet Valentine’, which had large, green/red leaves and mild flavor.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★☆ ☹️

‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊

☹️

Garden types

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- 📍 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Locations

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- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska

Garden type →

🐞 NC

Location →

Comments →

Lettuce, Green Crisphead (org.)

Varieties

'Muir'

50 days. Extremely tolerant to heat. Light-green, wavy, crisp leaves with excellent flavor.

'Nevada'

48 days. Large, open heads of thick, crisp, bright-green leaves. Tolerates heat and resists diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Muir	Nevada	Same
Germinated best	35%	19%	46%
Healthier plants	16	28	56
Harvested earlier	32	27	41
Resisted bolting better	15	30	55
Higher yields	32	32	36
More attractive	43	22	35
Tasted better	26	13	61
Preference	48	52	
Recommend (☺)	87	83	
Mean score ¹	8.35	8.39	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Muir'

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☺ NE

These varieties are about equal. 'Muir' had slightly better growth.

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☹ SE

'Muir' had superior taste. It produced higher yields and looked more attractive.

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☹ NC

The flavor of 'Muir' was much better. 'Muir' had a classic, fresh lettuce look; it was crunchy and great for salads. Both varieties tolerated heat well. 'Nevada' was healthier and resisted bolting better.

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☹ NC

'Muir' tasted better and produced more.

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☺ NC

'Muir' was preferred because of better germination. Both types were excellent.

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties were fantastic. 'Muir' produced more yield and looked more attractive.

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties were excellent! This was the best lettuce I've planted for a while. The best part was they continued to yield even through the hot weather (as long as I watered well). I will definitely plant these again. 'Muir' had a slightly higher yield; its lettuce was ready just a bit earlier. 'Muir' did not bolt and stayed tender on new growth. 'Muir' had good flavor.

Muir ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
Nevada ★★★★★☆ ☹ NW

'Muir' germinated twice as well. It grew nice big heads that I harvested sooner, which stayed crisp and fresh in the fridge for over a week. I had the best luck with early crops before it got hot.

Both of these varieties were fantastic. They tolerated heat and were easy to grow.

Best green crisphead lettuce varieties

Top choice
Muir

Strong performer
Nevada

Prefer 'Muir' (continued)

Muir 
 Nevada  NW

'Muir' had a more attractive color. Our family and friends enjoyed the taste of both varieties and loved the fresh salads. Neither variety bolted.

Muir 
 Nevada  SW

I really liked both of these! I preferred the highly ruffled look of 'Muir'. Both varieties germinated well and had decent-sized heads. The heads of 'Nevada' were slightly bigger, and 'Nevada' had higher yields.

Muir 
 Nevada  SD

Both were great selections. I loved the crispness and buttery taste of 'Muir'.

Prefer 'Nevada'

Muir 
 Nevada  SE

'Nevada' had better shaped, bigger leaves. I kept cutting it and it never bolted. Both varieties gave me at least two harvests. Their leaves were very tender and good tasting.

Muir 
 Nevada  SE

'Nevada' produced a bigger leaf and resisted pests better.

Muir 
 Nevada  SE

'Nevada' heads were darker green, larger, and had less browning.

Muir 
 Nevada  SE

These varieties were pretty much identical in every category. Both were good.

Muir 
 Nevada  SE

'Nevada' was the best overall winner in most categories: germinated best, produced the first and higher yield, resisted bolting and produced fresh lettuce longer. 'Muir' tasted good.

Muir 
 Nevada  NC
 They both grew well. 'Nevada' was healthier and produced earlier.

Muir 
 Nevada  NC

Both varieties tasted great, but 'Muir' was slightly more bitter.

Muir 
 Nevada  NC

'Nevada' germinated better, produced the first yield and tasted better. 'Muir' produced a higher yield and resisted bolting better.

Muir 
 Nevada  SC

These varieties were very similar. 'Nevada' produced a little earlier. With a little protection, neither variety bolted or became bitter, even in our hot summer. These are the best varieties of lettuce I have raised.

Muir 
 Nevada  SC

I liked 'Nevada' better. It was healthier, resisted bolting, produced a higher yield and looked better.

Muir 
 Nevada  SC

They both resisted bolting very well in my garden. 'Nevada' tasted a little better.

Muir 
 Nevada  SC

Both varieties made plenty of lettuce. 'Nevada' had easy-to-pick, large leaves. 'Muir' had consistent-sized leaves. Sow both varieties for a mixture of lettuce leaves.

Conclusions

Both of these varieties have performed well in previous trials and they performed well this year in spite of the drought. Both varieties tolerated heat, resisted bolting and produced good yields of delicious lettuce. 'Muir' had attractive, ruffled leaves while 'Nevada' had large, easy-to-pick leaves. There were no clear advantages to either variety for earliness, yield or taste qualities.

Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties. 'Muir' had attractive, ruffled leaves while 'Nevada' had large, easy-to-pick leaves.

Lettuce, Red Crisphead (org.)

Varieties

'Magenta'

48 days. Shiny, red-tinged leaves form a whorled head with a crunchy green heart. Tolerates heat. Shown at right.

'Pablo'

60 days. Loose, large, wavy, green leaves with shiny red edges. Mild and sweet. Tolerates heat.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Magenta	Pablo	Same
Germinated best	56%	11%	33%
Healthier plants	11	33	56
Harvested earlier	56	22	22
Resisted bolting better	33	0	67
Higher yields	56	33	11
More attractive	44	11	44
Tasted better	25	50	25
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (☺)	89	67	
Mean score ¹	8.33	7.67	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Magenta'

Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Magenta' resisted bolting better and looked a little prettier. 'Pablo' produced higher yields. Both varieties tasted good.

Magenta ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ NC

'Magenta' germinated faster and at a higher rate. It was ready to harvest about 2 weeks earlier. 'Pablo' had beautiful coloration and tasted better. Neither variety bolted.

Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ NC

'Magenta' came up sooner and germinated quite a bit better than 'Pablo'. I liked the ruffled leaves of 'Magenta' compared to the smooth leaves of 'Pablo'. I used both for many months this summer and both were slow to bolt. I preferred the taste of 'Pablo'. Magenta did get bitter tasting before 'Pablo'.

Magenta ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SC

Both of these varieties were amazing. They both came up spectacularly and developed lovely, oblong-shaped leaves. We were able to get a couple servings until grasshoppers ate them over 2 days.

Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SC

'Magenta' was amazing, right up to the last harvest on October 22. It germinated first; near 100% germination. It was ready to eat 3 days sooner and did not bolt. It provided a constant supply of lettuce—a little slow in the heat—then picked up when the weather cooled off. 'Magenta' had fabulous taste! It held dressing very well and was beautiful in salads.

Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ NW

They are both very tasty. We are enjoying the flavors of both varieties throughout the summer. 'Magenta' produced earlier and more lettuce. It tasted better.

'Magenta' grew faster, produced higher yields and was very attractive.

Best red crisphead lettuce varieties

Top choice
Magenta

Strong performers
Pablo
Sierra

Prefer 'Pablo'

Magenta ★★★★★☹️ 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★😊 NC

'Pablo' plants were much larger and fuller. 'Pablo' had more flavor overall. Neither variety bolted.

Magenta ★★★★★😊 🏠
 Pablo ★★★★★😊 SC

'Pablo' tasted better. I would grow both varieties every year.

Magenta ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Pablo ★★★★★😊 SW

'Pablo' grew faster and produced more lettuce.

Conclusions

Both varieties received high ratings. 'Magenta' was preferred by most gardeners. It germinated and grew faster, and produced higher yields. Its red-tinged leaves were beautiful. Gardeners were impressed by the mild, sweet taste of 'Pablo'. Both varieties tolerated the intense summer heat and resisted bolting.

Both varieties received high ratings, 'Magenta' for its yields and 'Pablo' for its taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

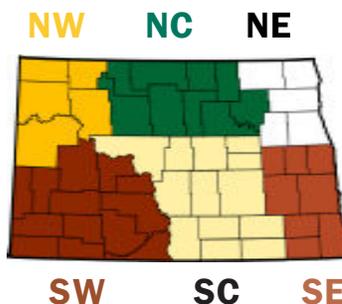
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A 😊
 Variety B ☹️

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
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- NEB = Nebraska

Lettuce, Green Leaf

Varieties

'Slobolt'

53 days. Large, thick clusters of light-green, frilly leaves. Pleasing flavor. Heirloom. Tolerates heat.

'Tropicana'

52 days. High quality, full heads with heavy, crisp leaves. One of the most heat-tolerant varieties.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Slobolt	Tropicana	Same
Germinated best	29%	43%	29%
Healthier plants	29	57	14
Harvested earlier	43	29	29
Resisted bolting better	33	17	50
Higher yields	43	57	0
More attractive	14	57	29
Tasted better	29	57	14
Preference	29	71	
Recommend (😊)	75	75	
Mean score ¹	7.75	7.63	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Slobolt'

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😊 🗑️
Tropicana ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SE

'Tropicana' only produced one plant.

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😊 🗑️
Tropicana ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Slobolt' had a little bit sweeter taste.

'Tropicana' plants stood more upright and did not flatten after rains. 'Tropicana' had deeper green color.

Prefer 'Tropicana'

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Tropicana ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Tropicana' plants were robust. 'Tropicana' produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Tropicana ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Tropicana' had better taste and growth performance. It produced the earlier and higher yields.

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😊 🗑️
Tropicana ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Tropicana' showed superior taste, appearance and yield. It is always hard to beat 'Tropicana'.

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Tropicana ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Tropicana' produced taller and darker plants. 'Slobolt' tasted slightly better.

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Tropicana ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Tropicana' tasted better. 'Slobolt' was healthier and produced higher yields.

No Preference

Slobolt ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Tropicana ★★★★★ 😊 SE

No comments.

Conclusions

Both varieties received high marks and were recommended by the vast majority of gardeners. Most gardeners preferred 'Tropicana'. It germinated better and produced higher yields. Gardeners liked the beauty and taste of its bright green, thick, crumpled leaves.

Both varieties grew well in the heat, but 'Tropicana' produced higher yields and better quality lettuce.

Best green leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice
Bergam's Green

Strong performers

Deer Tongue
Royal Oakleaf
Salad Bowl
Slobolt
Tropicana

Lettuce, Red Leaf (organic)

Varieties

'New Red Fire'

53 days. Uniform, large, open heads of attractive frilly leaves. Intense color and tolerates heat.

'Red Sails'

51 days. Early, productive lettuce that tolerates heat. Crinkly, burgundy leaves with green bases.



Data

Gardeners at 5 sites submitted information.

Trait	New Red Fire	Red Sails	Same
Germinated best	0%	0%	100%
Healthier plants	0	0	100
Harvested earlier	33	0	67
Resisted bolting better	0	67	33
Higher yields	33	33	33
More attractive	33	0	67
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (😊)	100	67	
Mean score ¹	8.33	8.67	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'New Red Fire'

New Red Fire ★★★★★😊🐞
Red Sails ★★★★★😞SE

'New Red Fire' had a larger leaf and more color. Its seeds are white, making them easy to see when planting.

Prefer 'Red Sails'

New Red Fire ★★★★★😊📦
Red Sails ★★★★★😊SE

'Red Sails' resisted bolting better, leading to higher yields. Plants of both varieties were healthy. Both varieties had good flavor and neither variety was bitter.

New Red Fire ★★★★★😊🐞
Red Sails ★★★★★😊SW

The varieties were quite similar and both did well.

Conclusions

There was surprisingly little interest in this trial. 'New Red Fire' and 'Red Sails' are two outstanding varieties, and they performed extremely well again this year under drought conditions. 'Red Sails' showed better resistance to bolting. Plants of both varieties were healthy and produced good tasting lettuce. Every gardener recommended 'New Red Fire'.

'New Red Fire' and 'Red Sails' are two outstanding varieties, and they performed extremely well again this year under drought conditions.

Best red leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice
New Red Fire

Strong performers

Merlot
Red Sails
Red Salad
Bowl
Red Velvet

Melon, Early Cantaloupe

Varieties

'Goddess'

68 days. Early ripening, high-quality melon. Firm, flavorful flesh. Heavy yields of 4-pound fruits.

'Halona'

70 days. Early and dependable. Ribbed melons with bright-orange, flavorful flesh. Vines resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Goddess	Halona	Same
Germinated best	19%	13%	69%
Healthier plants	20	7	73
Matured earlier	53	33	13
Higher yields	53	20	27
More attractive fruits	36	14	50
Tasted better	43	29	29
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (☺)	73	53	
Mean score ¹	7.20	6.26	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Goddess'

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Halona ★★★★★ ☹️ MN

'Goddess' had larger and more melons. It ripened earlier. Every 'Goddess' melon that set ripened.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Halona ★★★★★ ☹️ MN

'Goddess' produced more melons and its melons tasted better. I don't recommend either variety.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Halona ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Goddess' had healthier plants and the first ripe melons.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Halona ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

'Goddess' produced two melons while 'Halona' only made flowers.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Halona ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Neither variety did the best, but 'Goddess' did better. It produced ripe melons 5 days earlier and produced higher yields. 'Halona' melons were small and did not amount to much. The melons of both varieties were sweet and juicy.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Halona ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Goddess' melons had very good quality. They reminded me of the melons from many years ago. These melons were better than any cantaloupe I have ever bought or raised before.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Halona ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Goddess' melons had better taste and larger size.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Halona ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Goddess' melons were the perfect size. Early! Just so flavorful.

Goddess ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Halona ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

The fruits of 'Halona' detached from the vine too early. This made the fruits unable to be eaten.

'Goddess'
ripened earlier
and produced
higher yields
at more sites.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers

Athena
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Prefer 'Goddess' (continued)

Goddess ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Halona ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW
 'Goddess' seemed more hardy overall.

Goddess ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Halona ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC
 'Halona' had an overall better performance. It germinated better and handled the heat better. Its melons had a great taste.

Prefer 'Halona'

Goddess ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Halona ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE
 'Halona' germinated a week earlier and ripened earlier.

Goddess ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Halona ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC
 Both varieties were very slow to germinate. Both varieties had healthy plants but 'Goddess' did not tolerate competition; 'Halona' did. 'Halona' has a smaller seed cavity (more flesh). 'Halona' had the better flavor (sweet and smooth) and the flesh was more solid. 'Goddess' tended to be almost mushy in texture with a slightly sharp flavor.

Goddess ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Halona ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 'Halona' had larger fruits. They stayed ripe longer without going bad. It was first to ripen, produced higher yields and tasted better.

Conclusions

'Goddess' has been a standout performer in our trials for many years. In this year's trials, 'Goddess' ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites than 'Halona'. More gardeners preferred the taste of 'Goddess'. 'Halona' was recommended by fewer gardeners and did not show superiority in any traits.

'Halona' was recommended by fewer gardeners and did not show superiority in any traits.

Goddess ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Halona ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 'Halona' produced the first ripe melons but neither variety produced much. 'Goddess' melons cracked and my family thought they had a slightly odd taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

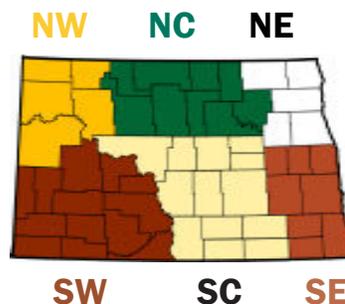
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Garden type →
 🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

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- NEB = Nebraska

Melon, Heirl. Cantaloupe (org.)

Varieties

'Hearts of Gold'

85 days. Medium-sized fruits with sweet, juicy, fragrant, orange flesh. Vigorous, productive vines.

'Pride of Wisconsin'

88 days. Large, football-shaped melons. The salmon-orange flesh is firm, juicy and sweet. Good yields.



Data

Gardeners at 2 sites submitted information.

Trait	Hearts of Pride		
	Gold	of Wisc.	Same
Germinated best	0%	50%	50%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Matured earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	0	100	0
More attractive fruits	50	50	0
Tasted better	50	50	0
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	100	50	
Mean score ¹	6.00	6.50	
Median score ¹	6.00	6.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Hearts of Gold'

Hearts of Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Pride of Wisconsin ★★★★★ 😞 SW

The 'Hearts of Gold' melons were perfectly round. The melons of 'Pride of Wisconsin' were misshapen—flat on one side. 'Hearts of Gold' melons tasted better, but 'Pride of Wisconsin' produced more melons. The varieties were very similar in timing of blossoming and setting melons. I was not able to get any large melons, but the taste was good on my small melons. This is the first time I have raised cantaloupe. Maybe I should have used some fertilizer to get larger melons, but the small melons were good for one person.

Prefer 'Pride of Wisconsin'

Hearts of Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Pride of Wisconsin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Pride of Wisconsin' germinated earlier, produced ripe melons 3–4 days earlier and produced more melons. It had a nice orange flesh. The vines of both varieties looked great.

Conclusions

Very few gardeners were interested in this trial, and data are very limited. Our two reports showed general satisfaction with both varieties. 'Hearts of Gold' was recommended by both gardeners. 'Pride of Wisconsin' showed it may be a productive variety.

'Hearts of Gold' was recommended by both gardeners. 'Pride of Wisconsin' showed it may be a productive variety.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Melon, Heirloom Honeydew

Varieties

'Jenny Lind'

80 days. A reliable, early ripening honeydew. Lime-green flesh has excellent flavor and texture. Melon slips off the vine when ripe.

'Montreal Market'

78 days. Early maturing, large-sized honeydew. Icy green, sweet flesh with outstanding flavor and aroma. Vines resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jenny Lind	Montreal Market	Same
Germinated best	60%	20%	20%
Healthier plants	20	40	40
Matured earlier	80	20	0
Higher yields	60	20	20
More attractive fruits	40	40	20
Tasted better	80	20	0
Preference	80	20	
Recommend (😊)	60	20	
Mean score ¹	5.60	5.80	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Jenny Lind'

Jenny Lind ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Montreal Market ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Jenny Lind' melons had slightly better taste. Both varieties struggled in the drought and their melons often rotted before they were ripe.

Jenny Lind ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Montreal Market ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Jenny Lind' had better taste.

Jenny Lind ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Montreal Market ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Jenny Lind' had higher yields and better taste. 'Montreal Market' ripened earlier.

Jenny Lind ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Montreal Market ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Jenny Lind' was ripe about 3 weeks earlier than 'Montreal Market' and produced about 3 times as many melons. 'Montreal Market' had a more solid rind and pests were less damaging than they were on 'Jenny Lind'. 'Montreal Market' has a not so pleasant aftertaste (husband does not agree) while 'Jenny Lind' has more honeydew-like flavor. 'Jenny Lind' appears to withstand adverse growing conditions (hot and dry) well.

Prefer 'Montreal Market'

Jenny Lind ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Montreal Market ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Montreal Market' melons were larger, 3.5–5.0 pounds. It grew fast and had a good fruit set. It was very sweet and juicy. It was hard to tell when ripe. 'Jenny Lind' melons were the size of a grapefruit. Two 'Jenny Lind' melons got spots and spoiled in the garden.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Jenny Lind'. It produced earlier and higher yields, and gardeners preferred the taste of its fruits compared to those of 'Montreal Market'. Both of these heirloom varieties suffered from pests and diseases. Data are limited because there was not much interest in this trial.

'Jenny Lind' ripened earlier and produced more melons. Its melons tasted better, too.

Best honeydew melon variety

Top choice
Earli-Dew

Pea, Shell

Varieties

'Knight'

59 days. Compact, 22-inch vines resist diseases and produce high yields of large pods. Sweet.

'Lincoln'

65 days. Good for freezing. Pods are filled with 8–10 tender peas. Excellent flavor. Grows 28 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 36 sites submitted information.

Trait	Knight	Lincoln	Same
Germinated best	18%	24%	58%
Healthier plants	17	37	47
Matured earlier	37	30	33
Higher yields	30	37	33
More attractive pods	19	47	34
Tasted better	19	41	41
Preference	45	55	
Recommend (☺)	63	78	
Mean score ¹	7.39	7.94	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Knight'

Knight ★★★★★ ☺ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Knight' ripened earlier and produced more pods. Its pods were sweeter and had more taste.

Knight ★★★★★ ☺ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Knight' produced the first yield.

Knight ★★★★★ ☺ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Knight' peas were a bit sweeter even when the pods looked a little overripe.

Knight ★★★★★ ☺ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☹ NE
 'Knight' had healthier plants and seemed more vigorous. This was a tough year overall.

Knight ★★★★★ ☺ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 'Knight' had a higher yield.

Knight ★★★★★ ☹ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 Both varieties were loaded with powdery mildew. It destroyed the pods when they were ready to be harvested.

Knight ★★★★★ ☺ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 'Knight' was better tasting.

Knight ★★★★★ ☺ 🦋
 Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 I have grown 'Lincoln' often in past years; it's just a proven winner. 'Knight' showed itself to be an equal contender. I was pleased with both peas. 'Knight' when picked early might be a little sweeter otherwise they are equal. Daily watering was required for germination, it was windy, hot and dry for weeks. Keeping the topsoil moist was a struggle. Continued frequent watering did produce a nice crop of 8 to 9 pounds of shelled peas (for freezing) between the two varieties.

The vines of 'Knight' were compact and produced the first yield at many sites.

Best shell pea varieties

Top choice
 Lincoln

Strong performers

- Early Frosty
- Green Arrow
- Knight
- Little Marvel
- Maestro
- Improved Wando

Prefer 'Knight' (continued)

Knight NC
 Lincoln NC

'Knight' produced twice as many pods. The pods were longer and contained more peas. 'Knight' peas tasted better.

Knight NC
 Lincoln NC

'Knight' had more pods and filled out better.

Knight SC
 Lincoln SC

'Knight' had bigger pods with more peas in each.

Knight SC
 Lincoln SC

I do like 'Knight'. Even though all the moisture this summer was well water, it did outperform 'Lincoln'. 'Lincoln' had more peas per pod but 'Knight' rebloomed after a long, drier-than-normal period.

Knight SC
 Lincoln SC

'Knight' produced more peas. 'Lincoln' had taller plants and grew longer pods that when filled out looked great. The only problem was they were few and far between. Just a tough year to have a garden.

Knight SC
 Lincoln SC

'Knight' showed very impressive hardiness and was still producing until frost! This trial was sown on June 9.

Prefer 'Lincoln'

Knight MN
 Lincoln MN

I had a taste test with the neighbors and 'Lincoln' won! 'Lincoln' also had nicer pods that were easier to shell.

Knight MN
 Lincoln MN

'Lincoln' outperformed 'Knight'. 'Lincoln' had more yield with larger pods. 'Knight' was ready to eat sooner.

Knight NE
 Lincoln NE

'Lincoln' has always been one of our favorite pea varieties because of taste, size of pod and ease of shelling. 'Knight' did not surpass these attributes but would be a pea we will plant again. 'Lincoln' pods and peas were larger.

Knight NE
 Lincoln NE

'Lincoln' had a slightly sweeter taste. 'Knight' produced earlier, but 'Lincoln' produced more peas.

Knight NC
 Lincoln NC

'Lincoln' was more productive. Its pods were longer, more colorful and more attractive. They definitely tasted better. 'Lincoln' vines were taller and more subject to wind damage. 'Knight' produced the first yield. 'Knight' peas were more dry and mealy.

Knight NC
 Lincoln NC

'Lincoln' had hardier, healthier plants, higher yields and better tasting peas.

Knight NC
 Lincoln NC

'Lincoln' produced a better yield and tasted better.

Knight SC
 Lincoln SC

'Lincoln' had pods that were more uniform, longer, smoother and with more peas per pod. 'Lincoln' had a milder, sweeter taste, and did not get bitter when overripe.

Knight SC
 Lincoln SC

'Lincoln' had larger pods with more peas per pod. Produced okay even under difficult conditions (deer, gophers, crickets).

Knight NW
 Lincoln NW

'Lincoln' pods were much larger, longer and fuller.

The vines of 'Lincoln' were hardier, healthier and more productive at more sites.

Prefer 'Lincoln' (continued)

Knight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW

'Lincoln' peas tasted great. 'Lincoln' had higher yields. There were 7 peas per 'Lincoln' pod compared to 3–4 peas per 'Knight' pod.

Knight ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW

Both varieties were high producers and had good flavor. Once 'Knight' started producing they caught up with the production amount of 'Lincoln'. 'Lincoln' peas have great flavor always and its pods are easy to open. 'Knight' pods were a little harder to shell.

Knight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Lincoln' peas have a nice, sweet flavor off the vine. It matured earlier, too.

Knight ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Lincoln' had a higher yield and better germination.

Knight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Lincoln' had a stronger plant. Drought and wind played a part in poor production. I feel the season for peas was too short.

Knight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SD

Both varieties germinated well, but 'Knight' plants always seemed to struggle when compared to 'Lincoln'. 'Lincoln' plants appeared thicker, greener and healthier. 'Lincoln' pods were more appealing; longer, larger and fuller. 'Lincoln' peas were sweeter, larger and better tasting. The vines of 'Knight' were heavily infested with aphids, while 'Lincoln' vines were only slightly infested. 'Lincoln' matured 1 week earlier. I was totally surprised the heat didn't shut down either variety.

Knight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SD

'Lincoln' was by far my favorite. It had twice as many pods.

Conclusions

Both varieties performed well in spite of the drought conditions. Most gardeners preferred 'Lincoln'. These gardeners noted that 'Lincoln' vines were hardier, healthier and produced higher yields. They stated the pods of 'Lincoln' were larger and easier to open, and its peas were sweeter and more flavorful. 'Lincoln' has always been a top performer in our trials. The vines of 'Knight' were compact and produced the first yield at many sites.

Several gardeners stated the pods of 'Lincoln' were larger and easier to open; its peas were sweeter and more flavorful.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

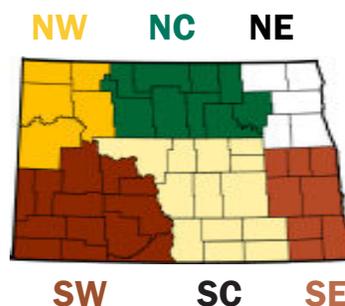
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

Garden type →
 🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

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Pea, Snap

Varieties

'SL3123'

66 days. Straight, stringless, heavy, dark-green pods on 32-inch vines. Tolerates stress. Consistent yields.

'Sugar Ann'

58 days. Very early and reliable. The 27-inch vines produce sweet, crisp pods. A proven performer.



Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sugar		
	SL3123	Ann	Same
Germinated best	9%	77%	14%
Healthier plants	14	76	10
Matured earlier	11	68	21
Higher yields	6	83	11
More attractive pods	12	71	18
Tasted better	12	77	12
Preference	11	89	
Recommend 😊	28	94	
Mean score ¹	4.33	8.17	
Median score ¹	4.00	8.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'SL3123'

SL3123 😊
 Sugar Ann 😞 SC

'Sugar Ann' got mildew and had to be pulled out much earlier than 'SL3123'.

SL3123 😊
 Sugar Ann 😊 NW

'SL3123' pods were much larger and more attractive. Its vines were very short and produced the first yield. You can't beat the taste of 'Sugar Ann'.

Prefer 'Sugar Ann'

SL3123 😊
 Sugar Ann 😊 MN

'Sugar Ann' germinated better, had healthier and more productive vines, and tasted better.

SL3123 😞
 Sugar Ann 😊 MN

'SL3123' had less than 5% germination. 'Sugar Ann' pods were smaller than normal perhaps due to drought. We did irrigate the garden.

SL3123 😞
 Sugar Ann 😊 NE

'Sugar Ann' plants were bushier, higher yielding, and about half of its seeds germinated. 'SL3123' had small bushes, lower yield, and only seven seeds germinated.

SL3123 😊
 Sugar Ann 😊 SE

'Sugar Ann' had a higher germination rate, faster growth, healthier plants and better taste. While 'SL3123' did produce and tasted okay, it paled in comparison to 'Sugar Ann'. I will grow 'Sugar Ann' from now on! It is such a good cultivar.

SL3123 😞
 Sugar Ann 😊 SE

'Sugar Ann' was superior for all traits.

SL3123 😞
 Sugar Ann 😊 SE

'Sugar Ann' was way better. It had better peas and yield. 'SL3123' didn't latch well to the garden fence and just clumped on the ground.

Gardeners were very impressed with the earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste of 'Sugar Ann'.

Best snap pea varieties

Top choice
Sugar Ann

Strong performer
Super Sugar Snap

Prefer 'Sugar Ann' (continued)

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' is the winner. 'Sugar Ann' germinated faster and produced more plants. 'Sugar Ann' grew faster and had bigger, healthier plants. Its peas were good tasting. My kids loved picking and eating the peas.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' had bigger pods and faster yields. 'SL3123' got off to a slow start, had shorter plants and smaller pods.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' had better germination and produced more pods. The pods of both varieties were good tasting.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' matured earlier, produced higher yields and tasted better.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' was superior in all traits. Its taste was far superior. 'SL3123' had a hard time germinating, was slow to produce, had very few pods, and these pods were tasteless.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' did better in all traits. The 'SL3123' seeds hardly germinated and very few plants made it.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' was superior throughout the growing period. It had much better growth, looks and taste.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'Sugar Ann' excelled over 'SL3123' in all categories for me. Its pods were consistently tender and sweet and I ate them by the handful. The vines of both varieties were healthy. 'Sugar Ann' vines were sturdier and not as tall. First picking was all 'Sugar Ann' on June 28. I like to have full pods for eating snap peas and 'Sugar Ann' filled evenly. On July 6, I had my largest harvest with both varieties producing well. 'SL3123' pods were flatter and did not fill as uniformly as 'Sugar Ann'. 'Sugar Ann' also had more tender pods and was sweeter by far. 'SL3123' pods were quite tough unless picked fairly flat, and I like a fuller snap pea. It was also easier to remove the string on 'Sugar Ann' pods. I stir-fried these and that leveled the playing field quite a lot. It brought out the sweetness in 'SL3123' and made them more tender.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

Both varieties germinated poorly and were replanted. The overall performance and production were better on 'Sugar Ann'. 'SL3123' pods were a little sweeter.

SL3123 
 Sugar Ann 

'SL3123' had nice long pods; wish it had germinated better. 'Sugar Ann' was sweeter and more productive.

Conclusions

'Sugar Ann' proved again it is the best snap pea for North Dakota. It received high ratings and was preferred by the vast majority of gardeners. Gardeners were very impressed with its earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste. 'SL3123' rated much lower for all traits and most gardeners did not recommend the variety. We keep trying to find a variety that's better than 'Sugar Ann' and we keep failing.

'Sugar Ann' proved again it is the best snap pea for North Dakota.

Pea, Snow

Varieties

'Avalanche'

61 days. Heavy yields of tender, sweet pods are easy to pick on semi-leafless, compact vines.

'Sweet Horizon'

65 days. Very straight, gourmet quality, dark-green pods. Upright vines grow 30 inches. Reliable.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Avalanche	Sweet Horizon	Same
Germinated best	22%	44%	33%
Healthier plants	33	33	33
Matured earlier	44	22	33
Higher yields	33	33	33
More attractive pods	33	44	22
Tasted better	44	11	44
Preference	63	38	
Recommend (😊)	67	33	
Mean score ¹	6.78	6.11	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Avalanche'

Avalanche ★★★★★😊🐛
Sweet Horizon ★★★★★😊SE

'Avalanche' had better germination and production rates, as well as a better overall taste. Its pea pods however looked curly instead of laying flat like 'Sweet Horizon'. Both of my children ate these so quickly so it was hard to tell just how big of yields we had. They just can't resist fresh peas, especially snow peas!

Avalanche ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Horizon ★★★★★😞SE

'Avalanche' had nicer pods that were straight and bright green. I didn't really enjoy the flavor of either variety. They lacked typical sweetness, and I think the early heat affected flavor.

Avalanche ★★★★★😊🐛
Sweet Horizon ★★★★★😞SE
'Avalanche' pods were sweeter and less fibrous. 'Avalanche' vines had more tendrils. 'Sweet Horizon' vines produced higher yields.

Avalanche ★★★★★😊🐛
Sweet Horizon ★★★★★😞NC

I'd grow 'Avalanche' again! 'Avalanche' germinated earlier, tasted better and had larger yields. It was so productive, had nice looking pods and was good tasting. Wow, this trial filled my refrigerator with snow peas! These two varieties had amazing yields.

Avalanche ★★★★★😊-
Sweet Horizon ★★★★★😞SC

I planted on July 31, grew this as a fall crop, and the experiment turned out well. There was no powdery mildew, few bugs, and the vines bloomed through October. I covered them at night. 'Avalanche' produced 84 pods compared to 'Sweet Horizon' producing 79 pods using 8-foot rows.

Prefer 'Sweet Horizon'

Avalanche ★★★★★😞🏠
Sweet Horizon ★★★★★😊SE

Both varieties came up in one week. Both near 100% germination. 'Avalanche' had way too many tendrils and that made it difficult to see the pods and pick them. 'Avalanche' produced fewer peas and the pods were curled. 'Sweet Horizon' pods were flat.

More gardeners preferred the taste of 'Avalanche'.

Best snow pea varieties

Top choice
Sweet Horizon

Strong performers

Avalanche
Oregon Giant
Oregon Sugar Pod II

Prefer 'Sweet Horizon' (continued)

Avalanche ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Sweet Horizon ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Sweet Horizon' was better overall. It resisted heat better and longer. Its yields were higher and its pods were more attractive.

Avalanche ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Sweet Horizon ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Both varieties did poorly in my garden this summer due to the heat. 'Sweet Horizon' tasted better.

No Preference

Avalanche ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Sweet Horizon ★★★★★ 😞 SW

I would not grow either one; maybe it was the heat.

Conclusions

Both of these varieties struggled in the drought. Most gardeners preferred 'Avalanche'. It matured earlier and tasted sweeter, although its pods had a tendency to curl. 'Sweet Horizon' pods were flatter and very attractive. We conducted this same trial 5 years ago with more gardeners and better weather conditions. 'Sweet Horizon' tasted sweeter and was preferred by most gardeners that year.

'Sweet Horizon' matured later, but its pods were flat and very attractive.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 = Yes
 😞 = No

Garden type →

🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →

NC

Comments →

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

Locations

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Pumpkin, Midsize

Varieties

'Bellatrix'

95 days. Medium-orange fruits with sturdy handles. Vines are productive and resist diseases.

'Howden'

115 days. The classic Halloween pumpkin. Deep-orange, ribbed, 20-pound fruits. Organic seeds.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bella-	Howden	Same
	trix		
Germinated best	30%	20%	50%
Healthier plants	40	30	30
Harvested earlier	89	11	0
Higher yields	50	38	13
Bigger pumpkins	44	33	22
More attractive	44	56	0
Preference	60	40	
Recommend (😊)	80	80	
Mean score ¹	6.70	6.00	
Median score ¹	7.50	6.00	
Median weight (lbs)	16	16	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Bellatrix'

Bellatrix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Howden ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MN

'Bellatrix' had larger, nicer looking pumpkins. 'Howden' had white flecks on the skins of the pumpkin.

Bellatrix ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Howden ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Bellatrix' had bigger pumpkins and higher yield.

Bellatrix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🕒
 Howden ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Bellatrix' produced more and nicer pumpkins.

Bellatrix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Howden ★★★★★ 😊 SW

While 'Bellatrix' outproduced 'Howden', I've grown 'Howden' in previous years with very good success. I think some sort of fungus got to 'Howden' this year.

Bellatrix ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Howden ★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Howden' had more fruits, but they were not pretty. They had lots of bumps and odd shapes.

Bellatrix ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Howden ★★★★★ 😊 SD

There was not much difference between the varieties. Neither produced many fruits.

Prefer 'Howden'

Bellatrix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🕒
 Howden ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Howden' was preferred because of its larger fruits. Its fruits averaged 15 pounds compared to 12 pounds for 'Bellatrix'. I have grown 'Bellatrix' in the past and have been satisfied with its production. The 'Bellatrix' plants appeared sickly though they did produce some fruit. This year was a difficult one with no rain so plants received treated town water through a drip irrigation system on a daily basis.

'Bellatrix' is an outstanding organic pumpkin variety.

Best jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
 Early King

Strong performers

Autumn Gold
 Bellatrix
 Cronus
 Early Dakota
 Howden
 Gladiator
 Magic Lantern

Prefer 'Howden' (continued)

Bellatrix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Howden ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both are good varieties, producing pumpkins that average 20 pounds. I prefer the shape of 'Howden' pumpkins. I did not water my garden and production this year was late due to dry conditions. The fruits set after rains started in late August.

Bellatrix ★★★★★☆ 😞 🍷
 Howden ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Howden' had better looking fruit. 'Howden' fruits were larger (22 pounds compared to 12 pounds for 'Bellatrix') and more uniform in size.

Bellatrix ★★★★★☆ 😞 🍷
 Howden ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I loved these mid-size pumpkins. We had very poor conditions with drought, but these varieties produced! 'Howden' pumpkins had a better size and shape, and there were more of them.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. For the second year in a row, 'Bellatrix' was preferred over a 'Howden' type ('Early Dakota Howden' last year). 'Bellatrix' is an outstanding organic variety. 'Bellatrix' produced higher yields and more pumpkins. Its vines showed better resistance to powdery mildew. 'Bellatrix' ripened early, although this was not a key factor this year due to our late frost. 'Howden' is a popular Halloween pumpkin, and most gardeners felt the 'Howden' pumpkins were more attractive.

'Howden' is a popular Halloween pumpkin. Most gardeners felt the 'Howden' pumpkins were more attractive.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★☆ 😞

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 ☹️

Garden type

🍷 = Organic

🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

Location

NC

Comments

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Pumpkin, Large

Varieties

'Howden Biggie'

115 days. Dark-orange, 40-pound fruits. Dark, strong handles. Fruits have a globular to barrel shape.

'Large Marge'

105 days. Vigorous vines produce 30-pound fruits. Fruits are dark orange with stocky handles.



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Howden Biggie	Large Marge	Same
Germinated best	17%	56%	28%
Healthier plants	6	41	53
Harvested earlier	25	63	13
Higher yields	21	43	36
Bigger pumpkins	36	57	7
More attractive	21	50	29
Preference	31	69	
Recommend (😊)	69	94	
Mean score ¹	6.94	7.56	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	19	25	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Howden Biggie'

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🐛
Large Marge ★★★★★😊SE

'Howden Biggie' produced larger pumpkins. 'Large Marge' pumpkins started turning orange sooner. The pumpkins of both varieties were attractive.

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🏠
Large Marge ★★★★★😞SE

'Howden Biggie' germinated first and was very tolerant of the heat and drought. It grew consistently in the heat and then really grew when the rains came. It produced huge pumpkins that averaged 15 pounds. 'Large Marge' was stunted in the heat and did not produce any fruits.

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🐛
Large Marge ★★★★★😊SW

'Howden Biggie' pumpkins were bright orange and had a nice shape. Its pumpkins matured earlier and were bigger.

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🐛
Large Marge ★★★★★😊SD

'Howden Biggie' had larger fruits. Its pumpkins weighed 15–20 pounds compared to 10–15 pounds for 'Large Marge'.

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🐛
Large Marge ★★★★★😊SD

'Howden Biggie' fruits averaged 35 pounds compared to 30 pounds for 'Large Marge'.

Prefer 'Large Marge'

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🐛
Large Marge ★★★★★😊SE

'Large Marge' germinated better, was healthier and matured earlier. Its pumpkins were bigger and more attractive.

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🏠🕒
Large Marge ★★★★★😊NC

'Large Marge' was more productive, even though conditions were poor.

Howden Biggie ★★★★★😊🐛
Large Marge ★★★★★😊NC

'Large Marge' germinated better and produced more fruit.

Most gardeners recommended 'Howden Biggie', but it was inferior to 'Large Marge' in all traits we evaluated.

Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Big Moose

Strong performers
Dill's Atlantic
Giant
Early King
Early Giant
Large Marge
Polar Bear

Prefer 'Large Marge' (continued)

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

'Large Marge' produced bigger pumpkins (35 pounds compared to 25 pounds for 'Howden Biggie') and produced more of them. Both varieties grew well under the dry conditions. I did not water my garden and production was late due to dry conditions. The fruits set after rains started in late August.

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

'Large Marge' had nicer pumpkins for carving.

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

Both were pretty good pumpkins, well worth raising. 'Large Marge' pumpkins were just a little bigger and nicer.

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

'Large Marge' pumpkins matured earlier and had a better shape.

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

Neither one did as well as 'Cronus', which I would recommend as an easier variety to grow. 'Large Marge' has potential; if not for the fraught conditions it may do better. It is easier to grow bigger pumpkins with 'Large Marge', but I don't have luck growing pumpkins bigger than 25 pounds with any variety.

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

'Large Marge' yielded the largest pumpkins. Its vines looked healthier. 'Howden Biggie' pumpkins were smoother and had a prettier appearance.

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

With the goal being decorative and jack-o'-lantern pumpkins, 'Large Marge' was the winner. There were three 'Large Marge' pumpkins on three plants; about 20 pounds each.

Howden Biggie 
Large Marge 

'Howden Biggie' vines grew more quickly and flowered, but it did not produce any pumpkins. 'Large Marge' vines caught up and spread more. 'Large Marge' produced two excellent pumpkins and had two more large green pumpkins when the first frost hit.

Conclusions

'Large Marge' continues to impress us. It germinated better, was healthier, ripened earlier and produced higher yields than 'Howden Biggie'. 'Large Marge' pumpkins were bigger and more attractive. 'Large Marge' was strongly preferred over 'Howden Biggie', and nearly every gardener recommended it. Most gardeners recommended 'Howden Biggie' as well, but it was inferior to 'Large Marge' in all traits we evaluated.

'Large Marge' continues to impress us.

Pumpkin, Gray

Varieties

'Jarrahdale'

95 days. Blue-gray fruits for eating and decoration. Eight-pound fruits have delicious flesh and store well.

'Queensland Blue'

110 days. Stunning blue-gray, ribbed, 10-pound fruits. Thick, sweet, orange flesh. Stores well.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jarrahdale	Queens'd Blue	Same
Germinated best	50%	25%	25%
Healthier plants	25	13	63
Harvested earlier	38	38	25
Higher yields	43	29	29
Bigger pumpkins	43	43	14
More attractive	43	14	43
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	71	43	
Mean score ¹	7.57	7.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	
Median weight (lbs)	9	11	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Jarrahdale'

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Queensland Blue ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Jarrahdale' produced some of the most beautiful pumpkins I have ever seen. They produced bigger (10 pounds compared to 8 pounds for 'Queensland Blue') and more fruits. That being said, I prefer the flavor of 'Queensland Blue'. It tasted like a buttercup squash. 'Jarrahdale' had a more mild, watery flavor.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Queensland Blue ★★★★★ 😊 SE

They were both beautiful! We love to grow and cook the 'Jarrahdale' pumpkins every year. We loved the look of the 'Queensland Blue' pumpkin but only got one perfect pumpkin and haven't eaten it yet. We got six 'Jarrahdale' and only one 'Queensland Blue'.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Queensland Blue ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Jarrahdale' produced ten pumpkins compared to four for 'Queensland Blue'.

Prefer 'Queensland Blue'

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ 😞 -
Queensland Blue ★★★★★ 😞 NE

I didn't like the color or shape of either variety. They looked like squash.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Queensland Blue ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Queensland Blue' pumpkins were bigger (12 pounds on average compared to 8 pounds for 'Jarrahdale') and were more consistent in size. 'Queensland Blue' vines grew very well and produced 5-6 pumpkins compared to 3 pumpkins for 'Jarrahdale'. Both varieties had very characteristic fruits.

More gardeners recommended 'Jarrahdale'. They liked the look of its pumpkins.

Best gray pumpkin variety

Top choice
Jarrahdale

Prefer ‘Queensland Blue’ (continued)

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Queensland Blue ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Queensland Blue’ was more productive by 25% and had healthier plants. Its fruits were more reliably sized as well. The pumpkins of both varieties were very attractive. I liked the color of ‘Jarrahdale’ a little better—it was lighter.

No Preference

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Queensland Blue ★★★★★ 😞 NE

Both varieties had a low yield. I had to replant as the first time they didn’t take.

Conclusions

More gardeners recommended ‘Jarrahdale’. They liked the look of its pumpkins. ‘Jarrahdale’ germinated well and produced a higher yield at more sites. Half of our gardeners preferred ‘Queensland Blue’, but this variety did not stand out in any traits.

Half of our gardeners preferred ‘Queensland Blue’, but this variety did not stand out in any traits.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10)

Variety A
 Variety B

‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)

😊
 😞

Garden type

🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location

NC

Locations

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Radish, Bicolor (Spring)

Varieties

'Diana'

25 days. Vibrant-purple, globular roots with white tips. Tolerates heat and resists cracking. Peppery flavor.

'Red Head'

30 days. Snow-white, round roots with bright-fuchsia crowns. Mild and crisp. From the Netherlands.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red		
	Diana	Head	Same
Germinated best	25%	50%	25%
Healthier plants	25	0	75
Harvested earlier	25	50	25
Higher yields	0	75	25
More attractive	25	50	25
Tasted better	33	0	67
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	100	100	
Mean score ¹	7.25	7.50	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Diana'

Diana ★★★★★😊🐞
 Red Head ★★★★★😊NE

'Diana' had better shaped roots.

Diana ★★★★★😊🐞
 Red Head ★★★★★😊SE

'Diana' tasted much better. Both varieties were spicy, but 'Diana' had a bit of sweetness when harvested early. Both varieties were easy to grow!

Prefer 'Red Head'

Diana ★★★★★😊🐞
 Red Head ★★★★★😊MN

Something ate a lot of the seedlings from my first planting. I replanted May 31. 'Diana' tasted very hot. I preferred the milder taste of 'Red Head'. 'Red Head' produced higher yields.

Diana ★★★★★😊🐞
 Red Head ★★★★★😊NE

'Red Head' roots had a nicer size and were more attractive.

Conclusions

Although few gardeners participated in this trial, every one of them recommended both varieties. 'Red Head' germinated well and produced good yields.

Although few gardeners participated in this trial, every one of them recommended both varieties.

Best bicolor radish varieties for spring sowing

Top choice
 French
 Breakfast

Strong performer
 Red Head

Radish, Bicolor (Fall)

Varieties

'Diana'

25 days. Vibrant-purple, globular roots with white tips. Tolerates heat and resists cracking. Peppery flavor.

'Red Head'

30 days. Snow-white, round roots with bright-fuchsia crowns. Mild and crisp. From the Netherlands.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red		
	Diana	Head	Same
Germinated best	18%	24%	59%
Healthier plants	18	29	53
Harvested earlier	21	57	21
Higher yields	27	40	33
More attractive	33	20	47
Tasted better	47	27	27
Preference	53	47	
Recommend 😊	71	71	
Mean score ¹	7.76	7.24	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Diana'

Diana ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Red Head ★★★★★ 😞 MN

It grew better and tasted better.

Diana ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Red Head ★★★★★ 😞 NE

Of all the people I shared with, all liked 'Diana' best. It wasn't as hot and stayed crisp through the whole season, even when I let them get bigger. 'Red Head' had a better stand, which contributed to a higher yield. It was ready to harvest 10 days sooner but tasted hotter. 'Red Head' became more hollow as it got bigger and later in the season.

Diana ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Red Head ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Diana' roots were more of a maroon than red—pretty classy! The roots of both varieties were very easy to clean and pretty. The taste of 'Diana' had a bit more heat, but both varieties were mild.

Diana ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Red Head ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties tasted good; however 'Red Head' didn't have as much flavor. 'Diana' is a crisp radish with a great radish taste. Fall-grown radishes never fail!

Diana ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Red Head ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Diana' outperformed 'Red Head' in every way, especially taste. 'Red Head' became very bitter.

Diana ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Red Head ★★★★★ 😞 SC

There was very little red on the crown of 'Red Head'. Most of its color was lost when trimming the tops. 'Diana' was such a beautiful purple. 'Diana' roots had a nice crunch while 'Red Head' roots had a slightly soft/spongy texture.

Diana ★★★★★ 😞 -
 Red Head ★★★★★ 😞 SD

Both varieties tasted pretty hot. 'Diana' was not as hot.

Many gardeners felt 'Diana' tasted better. They enjoyed the crisp texture of the 'Diana' roots.

Best bicolor radish varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
 French
 Breakfast

Strong performers
 Diana
 Red Head

Prefer 'Diana' (continued)

Diana  😊 
Red Head  😊 

I think the roots of 'Diana' have a very pretty color. My husband preferred the classic red/white color of 'Red Head'. 'Red Head' produced higher yields. Some 'Red Head' roots tasted very hot.

Diana  😊 
Red Head  😊 

I preferred the taste of 'Diana'. 'Diana' produced a yield of 23.0 ounces, compared to 18.6 ounces for 'Red Head'. 'Red Head' was ready to harvest 2 days earlier and its roots were more attractive.

Prefer 'Red Head'

Diana  😊 
Red Head  😊 

'Red Head' was the biggest radish I have ever grown. It was healthier and tasted better, too.

Diana  😞 
Red Head  😊 

'Red Head' had bigger, healthier plants. Both varieties bolted from the heat so there were no roots to try.

Diana  😞 
Red Head  😊 

'Red Head' had bigger radishes with longer roots. It produced higher yields and tasted better. 'Diana' roots looked more attractive.

Diana  😊 
Red Head  😊 

'Red Head' roots were slightly more attractive. 'Diana' produced higher yields.

Diana  N 
Red Head  😊 

We loved the taste of 'Red Head'. 'Diana' roots were a little larger and hotter.

Diana  😊 
Red Head  😊 

Both varieties were very easy to grow. Both varieties germinated quickly and at nearly the same pace. 'Red Head' produced higher yields. I preferred the taste of 'Red Head' but each variety was good.

Diana  😊 
Red Head  😊 

'Red Head' roots were more attractive and had milder flavor. 'Diana' had healthier plants. The severe drought hindered growth. Roots were small, especially those of 'Diana'.

Diana  😞 
Red Head  😊 

'Red Head' grew faster and grew up rather than growing down into the soil. They were easy to pick because you could see when they were ready to eat. These varieties tasted kind of hot but good.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and they were closely split on their preference. Many gardeners felt 'Diana' tasted better. They enjoyed the crisp texture of the 'Diana' roots. 'Red Head' grew faster and produced higher yields at more locations.

'Red Head' grew faster and produced higher yields at more locations.

Radish, Red (Spring)

Varieties

'Rover'

21 days. Smooth, dark-red roots with crisp flesh. Tolerates heat. Consistent performer. Strong tops.

'Sora'

23 days. Superior quality. Red, globular roots with juicy, crisp white flesh. Tolerates heat. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Rover	Sora	Same
Germinated best	33%	17%	50%
Healthier plants	6	22	72
Harvested earlier	33	22	44
Higher yields	35	41	24
More attractive	39	33	28
Tasted better	33	17	50
Preference	58	42	
Recommend (😊)	84	68	
Mean score ¹	7.42	7.11	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Rover'

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Rover' roots were more attractive. The roots of both varieties tasted too hot; perhaps caused by drought and heat.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Rover' germinated faster and grew more plants. It seemed to grow better for us. Both varieties made nice radishes.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Rover' produced a greater yield, and I liked its milder flavor better.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Rover' roots had more of a sharp taste; more of what I expect when I taste radishes. 'Rover' roots had better color. 'Sora' had fuller leaves and larger roots.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Rover' tasted better. We struggled with drought and a hailstorm.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😊 NW

I was very pleased with both varieties. I have not been able to grow radishes for many years and to have these two varieties grow and produce so well was very rewarding. Both had very nice, healthy tops. 'Rover' had slightly bigger roots. 'Rover' had a better yield and appearance overall.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😊 NW

The plants of both varieties bolted pretty quickly. I think I did not water enough. 'Rover' roots were ready to be harvested earlier and looked more attractive.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sora ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Rover' had better flavor, bigger roots and higher yields. 'Sora' tasted bland.

'Rover' performed consistently well under hot, dry conditions across the region.

Best red radish varieties for spring sowing

Top choice

Rover

Strong performers

Champion
Cherry Belle
Roxanne
Sora

Prefer 'Rover' (continued)

Rover
Sora SW

'Rover' produced earlier and higher yields.
Both varieties were good.

Rover
Sora SW

'Rover' had better taste.

Rover
Sora SW

'Sora' grew better and produced more roots,
but I preferred the taste of 'Rover'.

Prefer 'Sora'

Rover
Sora MN

Both varieties tasted too hot. 'Sora' roots had
better crunch and produced higher yields.
'Rover' roots were less spicy.

Rover
Sora SE

I preferred 'Sora' for its look. Both varieties
suffered damage from bugs. The dry weather
caused the flavor of the radishes to have
more bite.

Rover
Sora SE

'Sora' roots looked more attractive.

Rover
Sora NC

'Sora' roots had better size and color.

Rover
Sora SC

Both varieties had great germination. Both
varieties had similar, generous yields, but
'Rover' had a tad more yield and larger roots.
'Sora' roots were smaller and rounder.

'Rover' was too hot for us. 'Sora' was also
hot, but milder. We learned we like mild
(‘French Breakfast’) radishes best.

Rover
Sora SC

'Sora' grew so much faster and tasted good.

Rover
Sora NW

'Sora' had more uniform shapes. Because of
the extremely hot weather, I harvested the
roots early before they got strong and tough.

Rover
Sora SD

'Sora' produced better, and I preferred its
milder flavor. Both varieties did well in 100-
degree weather during the first week in June.
I planted both varieties again on May 14, 2
weeks after the initial sowing (April 30).
'Rover' produced better this time. I might
recommend planting 'Rover' if planting later
(May/June).

Conclusions

Both of these varieties have reputations for
being tolerant of heat, and this year's trials
reinforced that quality. Both varieties
performed well in spite of the drought. Most
gardeners preferred 'Rover'. 'Rover' edged
'Sora' in germination, earliness and eating
qualities. 'Sora' produced higher yields in
more gardens.

'Sora'
produced
higher yields
in more
gardens.

Radish, Red (Fall)

Varieties

'Celesta'

24 days. Bright, cherry-red roots. Mild flavor with a slight kick. Sturdy compact tops. Organic.

'Rover'

21 days. Smooth, dark-red roots with crisp flesh. Tolerates heat. Consistent performer. Strong tops.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Celesta	Rover	Same
Germinated best	23%	38%	38%
Healthier plants	23	31	46
Harvested earlier	40	50	10
Higher yields	36	36	27
More attractive	42	17	42
Tasted better	25	50	25
Preference	46	54	
Recommend (😊)	77	85	
Mean score ¹	7.77	7.38	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Celesta'

Celesta 😊 MN
 Rover 😞 MN

'Celesta' had better taste, appearance and production. It produced cherry-red roots with good taste and crispness later than 'Rover'. 'Rover' roots were less round and had a sharper taste and toughness. Both varieties were affected by weather conditions (heat) despite receiving regular waterings of rainwater and compost tea.

Celesta 😊 NE
 Rover 😊 NE

These seemed to have a stronger taste than some radishes we've had over the years, but the color and shape of each variety's roots were good. 'Celesta' plants seemed less robust, but their roots were more attractive and nicely sized.

Celesta 😊 SE
 Rover 😊 SE

These varieties were very similar. They had high germination rates. Their roots were nice and round with good taste. 'Celesta' plants had more and bigger leaves. 'Celesta' was ready to harvest earlier and produced higher yields.

Celesta 😊 NC
 Rover 😊 NC

'Celesta' yielded much more, and its roots had a great cherry-red color! 'Rover' had taller and thicker plants, larger roots, and yielded 2 days earlier. Both varieties tasted great.

Celesta 😊 SC
 Rover 😞 SC

'Celesta' roots were very mild, crisp, crunchy, round, and had a beautiful color.

Celesta 😊 SD
 Rover 😊 SD

'Celesta' roots were more attractive and tasted milder.

Gardeners were impressed with the beautiful, cherry-red color of 'Celesta' roots.

Best red radish varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
Roxanne

Strong performers
Champion
Cherry Belle
Rover
Sora

Prefer 'Rover'

Celesta ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN

'Rover' germinated best, had the first radishes, and tasted better.

Celesta ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 MN
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN

'Celesta' germinated better. 'Rover' plants were healthier. Both varieties bolted from the heat and there were no roots to eat.

Celesta ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 NE
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE

'Rover' roots were crisper and spicier than 'Celesta' roots, which won the taste test in our family. 'Rover' roots were round and attractive. 'Rover' produced higher yields. 'Celesta' had a good flavor and tasted good in salads.

Celesta ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE

'Rover' was milder tasting. It started out growing a couple days behind 'Celesta' but performed just as well.

Celesta ★★★★★ Y 🐞 NC
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

'Rover' roots were more uniform in shape and size.

Celesta ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 SC
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

'Rover' had slightly larger roots and better production.

Celesta ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SK
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SK

'Rover' produced more full-sized roots. 'Rover' roots had more "bite" to them, more flavor. The plants of both varieties were healthy.

Celesta ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 IA
 Rover ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 IA

'Rover' germinated better and produced higher yields. Its plants were darker green. 'Rover' roots were larger and better tasting.

'Rover' germinated best, had the first radishes, and tasted better at more gardens.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well under hot, dry conditions. 'Rover' was recommended by more gardeners. It germinated better in the hot summer soil and produced the first radishes at more sites. More gardeners preferred the taste of 'Rover' over 'Celesta'. 'Celesta' received high marks for the beauty of its cherry-red roots.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

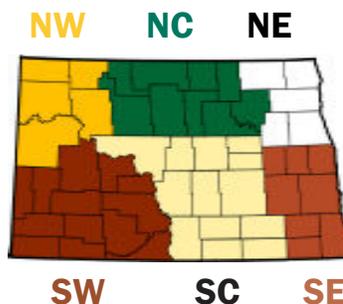
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A
 Variety B

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 MB = Manitoba
 SK = Saskatchewan
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana
 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

Spinach, Semi-Savoy Leaf (Spring)

Varieties

'Sioux'

42 days. Large, slightly crinkled, dark leaves. Sprightly sweet flavor. Vigorous and holds well in field.

'SV2146VB'

43 days. Dark-green leaves are uniform, large and round. Exceptional heat tolerance.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sioux	SV21-46VB	Same
Germinated best	27%	18%	55%
Healthier plants	10	20	70
Harvested earlier	20	20	60
Higher yields	13	63	25
Resisted bolting better	11	56	33
More attractive	25	50	25
Tasted better	20	20	60
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (😊)	56	56	
Mean score ¹	6.11	6.67	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Sioux'

Sioux ★★★★★ (👎) 🐛 SE
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (👎) SE

The plants of both varieties were small.

'Sioux' was better tasting and suffered less bolting.

Sioux ★★★★★ (😊) 🐛 SC
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (👎) SC

'Sioux' was first to germinate. Its leaves were sturdy, less bitter and stayed fresh longer.

Sioux ★★★★★ (😊) 🐛 SW
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (👎) SW

'Sioux' produced a higher yield. 'SV2146VB' resisted bolting better. 'Sioux' bolted immediately after the first picking but the temps were in the high 90s.

Prefer 'SV2146VB'

Sioux ★★★★★ (👎) 🐛 SE
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (😊) SE

'SV2146VB' had darker green, larger leaves. It produced a slightly greater yield and bolted 5–7 days later. 'SV2146VB' produced many more usable leaves after bolting! Both varieties were healthy and there were no differences in taste.

Sioux ★★★★★ (😊) 🐛 SE
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (😊) SE

Both are very good varieties. 'SV2146VB' produced higher yields and looked more attractive. It bolted July 11, 10 days after 'Sioux' bolted.

Sioux ★★★★★ (👎) 🐛 SC
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (😊) SC

'Sioux' bolted much earlier and attracted more leafminers.

Sioux ★★★★★ (😊) 🐛 SC
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (😊) SC

These varieties were pretty even across the board. Both varieties bolted fairly soon. 'SV2146VB' had a better leaf shape, darker green color, better texture and a bit better taste. I did like both and would plant both again.

Sioux ★★★★★ (👎) -
SV2146VB ★★★★★ (👎) SW

'SV2146VB' germinated quicker. Both varieties bolted in hot June weather and there was not much for yield.

Both varieties struggled in the heat.

Best savoy-leaf spinach varieties for spring sowing

Top choice
Escalade

Strong performer
SV2146VB

Prefer 'SV2146VB' (continued)

Sioux ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 SV2146VB ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'SV2146VB' looked more attractive and was slower to bolt.

Conclusions

Both varieties struggled in the heat. Recommendation percentages were relatively low in this trial. Most gardeners preferred 'SV2146VB'. It resisted bolting much better, contributing to higher yields. Its leaves were dark green and very attractive. 'Sioux' did not excel in any trait.

'SV2146VB' resisted bolting much better, contributing to higher yields.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

☺
 ☹

Garden type →

🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →

NC

Comments →

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

Locations

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 MB = Manitoba
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 NEB = Nebraska

Spinach, Semi-Savoy Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

'Kookaburra'

26 days. Fast growing plants are upright and easy to harvest. Dark green, oval, flavorful leaves.

'Tundra'

27 days. Glossy, dark green, elongated-oval leaves. Upright plants are easy to harvest. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 36 sites submitted information.

Trait	Kooka- burra	Tundra	Same
Germinated best	39%	18%	43%
Healthier plants	46	19	35
Harvested earlier	54	21	25
Higher yields	52	30	17
More attractive	36	16	48
Tasted better	28	28	44
Preference	58	42	
Recommend (😊)	84	68	
Mean score ¹	7.28	6.92	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Kookaburra'

Kookaburra ★★★★★😊🐞
Tundra ★★★★★😞MN

Both varieties came up at the same time and about perfectly. I liked the smaller leaves (more baby spinach-like) of 'Tundra'. If 'Kookaburra' leaves weren't picked, they got fuzzy. Also, it seemed 'Kookaburra' had more insect holes. Some of 'Tundra' plants died—looks like root damage. 'Kookaburra' plants continued to thrive.

Kookaburra ★★★★★😊🐞
Tundra ★★★★★😞MN

'Kookaburra' plants grew better and had healthier plants. Only one plant of 'Tundra' survived.

Kookaburra ★★★★★😊🐞
Tundra ★★★★★😞NE

The leaves of 'Kookaburra' were bigger and healthier. It produced higher yields.

Kookaburra ★★★★★😊🏠
Tundra ★★★★★😊NE

'Kookaburra' germinated in 14 days at about 90% germination. 'Tundra' was slower to germinate at 19 days at about 70% germination. 'Kookaburra' grew a little faster. Both varieties are attractive with deep-green leaves. They are both highly productive and very delicious.

Kookaburra ★★★★★😊🐞
Tundra ★★★★★😞SE

'Kookaburra' was healthier, more attractive and tasted better.

Kookaburra ★★★★★😊🐞
Tundra ★★★★★😞SE

'Kookaburra' tasted milder than 'Tundra'. Both varieties were healthy and attractive.

Kookaburra ★★★★★😊🐞
Tundra ★★★★★😊NC

I planted in containers, near water, and both varieties did well. I was still picking on October 15, when it froze. 'Kookaburra' has a larger leaf.

'Kookaburra' had larger leaves, fuller plants and was judged healthier at more gardens.

Best savoy-leaf spinach varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
Emperor

Strong performers
Bloomsdale
Long
Standing
Escalade
Kookaburra

Prefer 'Kookaburra' (continued)

Kookaburra NC
Tundra NC

'Kookaburra' germinated faster, grew larger, and was ready to harvest a solid 10 days before 'Tundra'. 'Tundra' had better flavor'. Our spinach is still in the garden (November 2), and we just keep them under several layers of plastic so it gets heat and sun. Today's high is 37 °F and we are having fresh spinach for supper!

Kookaburra SC
Tundra SC

'Kookaburra' germinated better in my dry soil. It produced many more leaves and larger leaves. 'Tundra' had a milder flavor and a better texture.

Kookaburra SC
Tundra SC

Both varieties germinated within 3–4 days. There was daily intense heat without any rain. 'Kookaburra' had healthier plants and higher yields.

Kookaburra SC
Tundra SC

'Kookaburra' had larger leaves and was mild and sweet. 'Tundra' had a slight bitter undertone. Most of 'Tundra' died out prematurely (not sure why).

Kookaburra NW
Tundra NW

Both varieties were quite vigorous. 'Kookaburra' produced a higher yield. Its foliage was fuller with better taste and texture.

Kookaburra SW
Tundra SW

'Kookaburra' grew bigger and faster.

Kookaburra SC
Tundra SC

'Kookaburra' grew better, produced earlier and higher yields, and tasted better.

Prefer 'Tundra'

Kookaburra NE
Tundra NE

'Tundra' produced earlier.

Kookaburra NE
Tundra NE

Both varieties grew well in the garden. The raw taste of 'Tundra' is better—more flavor. 'Kookaburra' was bland and chewier (tougher). 'Kookaburra' germinated better, suffered less insect damage and produced higher yields. Neither variety bolted.

Kookaburra SE
Tundra SE

'Kookaburra' did not germinate very well. 'Tundra' produced higher yields and looked more attractive.

Kookaburra NC
Tundra NC

I grew these in a raised bed. Neither variety did well until the weather cooled down. They both resisted several hard freezes and are continuing to produce with the 50-degree days we have been having. It seems 'Tundra' is holding up better with cold nights but both are still alive (November 10).

Kookaburra NC
Tundra NC

I felt the taste of 'Tundra' was better. 'Tundra' grew more, faster, and was better looking!

Kookaburra SC
Tundra SC

'Tundra' had better germination and larger leaves.

Kookaburra SC
Tundra SC

'Tundra' tasted better; it was less bitter. Both varieties were good for salads. 'Kookaburra' plants were fuller and looked healthier. 'Kookaburra' grows much faster after being picked.

**'Kookaburra'
grew faster
and produced
higher yields.**

Prefer 'Tundra' (continued)

Kookaburra ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Tundra ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Tundra' germinated better. It had larger plants although neither variety got very large possibly due to heat and drought. 'Tundra' had more flavor.

Kookaburra ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Tundra ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I harvested spinach up thru Thanksgiving! I had a pallet fence directly to the north of them to shield them a bit. Both varieties did so well in the frost and cold. 'Tundra' produced slightly more.

Kookaburra ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Tundra ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Tundra' seemed more drought-resistant and tasted better.

No Preference

Kookaburra ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Tundra ★★★★★ 😊 MN

These varieties were similar in all traits, including taste.

Conclusions

'Kookaburra' grew well across the state and was recommended by more gardeners. 'Kookaburra' grew faster and produced higher yields. It had larger leaves, fuller plants and was judged healthier at more gardens. Most gardeners recommended 'Tundra' but it was not special in any way. The eating qualities of the varieties received equal ratings.

Most gardeners recommended 'Tundra', but it was not special in any way.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 = Yes
 ☹️ = No

Comments →

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Location →

NC

Locations

- MN = Minnesota
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Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

Varieties

'Lizard'

45 days. Smooth, round leaves on upright plants stay clean and are easy to harvest. Tolerates heat.

'Space'

37 days. Thick, dark-green, sweet and juicy leaves. A top performer in North Dakota. Resists diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lizard	Space	Same
Germinated best	5%	53%	42%
Healthier plants	25	25	50
Harvested earlier	20	60	20
Higher yields	7	60	33
Resisted bolting	21	43	36
More attractive	33	33	33
Tasted better	6	31	63
Preference	27	73	
Recommend 😊	50	81	
Mean score ¹	7.00	8.13	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Lizard'

Lizard ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Space ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Lizard' looked better and stayed smoother as it got bigger. Bolting was not a problem for either variety.

Lizard ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Space ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Lizard' had a better, not-so-dirty taste. It produced the first and higher yields. Both varieties bolted fast!

Lizard ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Space ★★★★★ 😞 SE

It was a tough year for spinach. There was a short harvest window before bolting with the hot temps and 'Lizard' lasted longer. 'Lizard' leaves were more attractive. 'Space' germinated better, and produced earlier and higher yields.

Lizard ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Space ★★★★★ 😞 SE

My trial was sown in mid-June and neither variety had great germination rates. 'Lizard' had especially low germination; however the plants were bigger and more vigorous than 'Space'.

Prefer 'Space'

Lizard ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Space ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Space' produced first, most, and was nice looking. It died first, too.

Lizard ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Dry conditions and high temps caused very poor germination for both varieties. 'Space' produced the first yield, but it was hard to harvest. I was disappointed in both varieties because the plants were flat to the ground and there was lots of soil on the leaves. The plants just didn't grow upright like normal.

'Lizard' has grown well in previous trials, but it really struggled in this year's drought.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for spring sowing

Top choice
Space

Strong performers
Lizard
Olympia

Prefer 'Space' (continued)

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 NC
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

'Space' was healthier early in the season, but 'Lizard' seemed to stay healthy longer. Both varieties bolted by July 20. 'Lizard' leaves were darker and more attractive. 'Space' was more productive and tasted better.

Lizard ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

We enjoyed the flavor of 'Space' best. It had attractive, dark-green, smooth, upright leaves that were very easy to clean. Both of these were very good varieties.

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 NC
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

'Space' did not bolt nearly as fast, and I liked the shape of its leaves better. 'Lizard' bolted almost immediately! 'Lizard' produced the first yield but 'Space' was not far behind.

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😞 -
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Space' had bigger leaves, more production, and resisted bolting better.

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 SC
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

'Space' had smaller leaves, went to seed slower than 'Lizard' and tasted better.

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 🏠 SC
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 🏠 SC

'Space' produced longer and had good taste. It produced higher yields. 'Lizard' plants were healthier and deep green in color.

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 SC
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

'Space' had taller plants and produced more. Its leaves were lighter in color.

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 NW
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NW

'Space' germinated twice as good. The leaves tasted better and were more tender. I had good luck with the early crops considering how hot it was. I was impressed with both varieties in that they stood up quite well before bolting.

Lizard ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 SW
 Space ★★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Space' had higher germination, better appearance and healthier plants.

The drought this year really brought out the superior qualities of 'Space'.

Conclusions

'Space' has been a strong and reliable performer in our trials for many years. The drought this year really brought out its superior qualities. 'Space' germinated better, grew faster, resisted bolting better, produced higher yields and tasted better at more gardens. No variety can match 'Space' for reliability and production in spring sowings.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

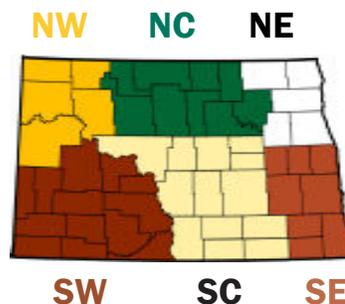
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★☆ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★☆ 😞

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🐞 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



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Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

'Lakeside'

30 days. Plants produce large, oval, very flavorful leaves even under harsh conditions. Early.

'Space'

37 days. Thick, dark-green, sweet and juicy leaves. A top performer in North Dakota. Resists diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lakeside	Space	Same
Germinated best	25%	50%	25%
Healthier plants	18	32	50
Harvested earlier	20	60	20
Higher yields	14	57	29
More attractive	36	23	41
Tasted better	25	30	45
Preference	41	59	
Recommend (☺)	73	86	
Mean score ¹	6.86	7.55	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Lakeside'

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★☺ SE

These varieties were similar in performance. The flavor of 'Lakeside' was milder.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★☺ SE

I planted them a little late (August 15) and they did not grow enough to produce much. They tasted very good raw but lost some of their flavor when cooked. 'Lakeside' had the best taste.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🏠
 Space ★★★★★☺ SE

Both varieties performed very well. They had large, dark-green leaves and grew very well. 'Lakeside' tasted less bitter.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★☺ SC
 'Lakeside' held up really well despite the heat. I lost quite a few seedlings on both varieties due to so many 100-degree days in a row.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🏠
 Space ★★★★★☹ SC
 'Lakeside' leaves were thicker and had better flavor.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★☹ SC
 'Lakeside' had very good germination (sowed August 13). Had it matured I think I would have had a good harvest. 'Space' had poor germination.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🏠
 Space ★★★★★☺ NW
 These varieties performed about the same for all traits.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★☺ NW
 'Lakeside' had smaller leaves and would be more appetizing in a salad. It had a milder taste and would mix better with other greens in a salad. 'Space' produced more plants and seemed to grow easier. Neither variety bolted.

Lakeside ★★★★★☺ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★☹ SW
 'Lakeside' did better all around. It germinated better, was healthier, produced more and looked more attractive.

Both varieties were easy to grow and tasted delicious.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
Space

Strong performers
Gazelle
Olympia

Prefer 'Space'

Lakeside  
 Space   MN
 'Space' grew faster. Neither variety did well; it must have gotten too hot.

Lakeside  
 Space   MN
 'Space' had a darker appearance and slightly better taste. Overall both of them were very nice and enjoyed by my family. Both varieties were healthy and strong performers.

Lakeside  
 Space   MN
 'Space' grew better and produced higher yields. 'Space' leaves were bigger and greener.

Lakeside  
 Space   SE
 'Space' produced higher yields than 'Lakeside'. Both varieties were very easy to grow, tasted delicious and never bolted. Their plants were very healthy and resilient. I had spinach up until the first frost in late October. I have never grown spinach before, but will definitely plant again and in the fall.

Lakeside  
 Space   SE
 I really preferred the taste of 'Space', plus the row looked so nice and healthy and edible in my garden this fall. 'Lakeside' had darker, more attractive leaves.

Lakeside  
 Space   SE
 'Space' came up better/faster in the very dry conditions. Its earlier germination made it more productive. Both varieties were very nice. Fall-planted spinach is great—it works out 100 times better than spring planted.

Lakeside  
 Space   SE
 'Space' had better, milder taste and was more productive. Neither variety bolted.

Lakeside  
 Space   NC
 'Space' was more productive. 'Lakeside' leaves were slightly darker green, denser and more flavorful. Both varieties are hardy, frost resistant, and still producing in early November. The leaves of both varieties are thicker, heavier, milder and more flavorful than restaurant spinach.

Lakeside  
 Space   SC
 'Space' was the clear winner for us. It grew faster and larger, and had a nicer flavor.

Lakeside  
 Space   SC
 'Space' leaves were larger and more flavorful. Both varieties were great.

Lakeside  
 Space   SC
 'Space' yielded more and larger leaves.

Lakeside  
 Space   SD
 'Space' grew better.

Lakeside  
 Space   MT
 'Space' seemed to do better in the adverse conditions. 'Space' had slightly more plants and a slightly higher yield. Both varieties delayed producing at first due to drought.

Conclusions

'Space' was the winner of both spring and fall spinach trials. It shines brightest under stressful conditions. Just as in the case of the spring season, 'Space' in the fall germinated better, grew faster and produced higher yields. It grew consistently well across locations under drought conditions. 'Lakeside' and 'Space' received fairly similar marks for eating quality with 'Lakeside' getting the edge in attractiveness and 'Space' the edge for flavor.

'Space' was the winner of both spring and fall spinach trials. It shines brightest under stressful conditions.

Squash, Green Zucchini

Varieties

'Green Machine'

45 days. Disease-resistant vines produce exceptional yields of straight fruits over a long period.

'Spineless Beauty'

50 days. Longtime favorite. Uniform fruits form on spineless, productive vines. Easy to pick.



Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green Spineless		
	Machine Beauty	Beauty	Same
Germinated best	53%	6%	41%
Healthier plants	44	13	44
Harvested earlier	62	15	23
Higher yields	87	7	7
More attractive fruits	36	29	36
Tasted better	14	7	79
Preference	87	13	
Recommend (😊)	93	47	
Mean score ¹	8.53	6.53	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Green Machine'

Green Machine ★★★★★😊🐛
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😞NE

'Green Machine' produced more fruit. Its fruits were straighter and more uniform. 'Green Machine' stalks scratched your hands when harvesting the fruit.

Green Machine ★★★★★😊🏠
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😊SE

These varieties were very similar. The only difference was 'Green Machine' ended up having taller plants. The produce ended up looking the same though, and we couldn't tell a difference. Both varieties were awesome!

Green Machine ★★★★★😊🐛
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😞SE
'Green Machine' had nice, long, straight fruit so less was wasted due to deformation.

Green Machine ★★★★★😊🐛
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😊SE
'Green Machine' outproduced 'Spineless Beauty'. Both varieties produced attractive fruits that were tasty.

Green Machine ★★★★★😊🐛
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😞SE
'Green Machine' germinated better and showed better resistance to bacterial wilt.

Green Machine ★★★★★😊🐛
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😞NC
'Green Machine' plants had vibrant, tall leaves and produced many more fruits compared to 'Spineless Beauty'. The fruits of both varieties were attractive and delicious.

Green Machine ★★★★★😊🐛
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😞SC
'Green Machine' plants grew huge! They produced many, many fruits! 'Spineless Beauty' did not survive for some reason. A few seeds sprouted and then died.

Green Machine ★★★★★😊-
Spineless Beauty ★★★★★😊SC
'Green Machine' was very productive! Its yield was tremendous all the way to October. I liked the smooth, soft skin of 'Green Machine' fruits.

'Green Machine' vines were healthier, more vigorous and much more productive.

Best green zucchini varieties

Top choice

Green Machine

Strong performers

Cashflow
Desert
Payload
Raven
Spineless Beauty

Prefer 'Green Machine' (continued)

Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Spineless Beauty ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Green Machine' germinated slightly better and produced higher yields.

Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Spineless Beauty ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Green Machine' produced a higher yield. It grew better, requiring less maintenance. I grill zucchini and 'Green Machine' tasted better.

Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Spineless Beauty ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Green Machine' was hands down the best pick. I think I will go back to 'Dunja'.

Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Spineless Beauty ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Green Machine' was the first to produce and the last to produce. Its plants were healthier, and its fruits were more attractive.

Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Spineless Beauty ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties were great. They germinated well and had very nice foliage. 'Green Machine' plants were harvested 6 days earlier and produced 30% higher yield. I liked the blackish-green, more variegated coloring of 'Spineless Beauty' fruits.

Prefer 'Spineless Beauty'

Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Spineless Beauty ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The fruits of 'Spineless Beauty' had a better look. Our zucchini grew well despite the extreme heat.

Green Machine ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Spineless Beauty ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Spineless Beauty' had lower germination, but the fruits were much better. A large portion of 'Green Machine' fruits were misshapen and bitter. 'Spineless Beauty' fruits were perfect and beautiful. I know 'Green Machine' usually does well and assume 'Spineless Beauty' was just better at adapting to drought.

Conclusions

'Green Machine' was extremely impressive. Its vines were healthier, more vigorous and much more productive. The production started early in summer and continued to frost. 'Spineless Beauty' vines were spineless and easy to harvest. The fruit qualities of both varieties were praised. 'Spineless Beauty' has been a strong performer in the past, but it simply could not compare to the extraordinary productivity of 'Green Machine'.

Gardeners liked the fruit qualities of both varieties.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Garden type →

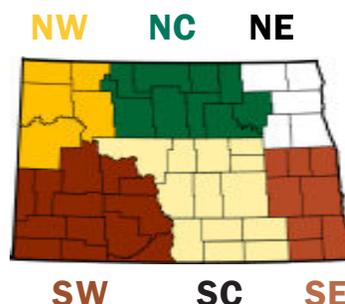
🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →

NC

Comments →

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



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Squash, Yellow Zucchini

Varieties

‘Golden Glory’

50 days. Bright-yellow fruits with green stems. Nearly spineless, productive vines resist diseases.

‘Yellowfin’

50 days. Golden fruits with yellow stems. Productive, compact plants resist diseases. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Golden Glory	Yellowfin	Same
Germinated best	11%	11%	78%
Healthier plants	0	13	88
Harvested earlier	13	38	50
Higher yields	25	25	50
More attractive fruits	25	50	25
Tasted better	13	38	50
Preference	44	56	
Recommend	78	78	
Mean score ¹	7.22	8.11	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Golden Glory’

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I liked both varieties. Great produce! The plants of the varieties were really similar. It was interesting that some fruits of both varieties were yellow while other fruits were more of an orange color.

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😞 SE

‘Golden Glory’ fruits were long; the fruits of ‘Yellowfin’ were more elliptical. ‘Yellowfin’ was earlier by 4 days but ‘Golden Glory’ produced higher yields.

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😞 NC

The only difference was the stems of ‘Yellowfin’ fruits broke off when picked so the squash does not keep as long.

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😊 SW

‘Golden Glory’ had a slightly higher yield. ‘Yellowfin’ fruits were a little blander. Both varieties produced some hard fruits.

Prefer ‘Yellowfin’

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😊 SE

We appreciate both varieties. The harvest of both varieties started July 8. ‘Yellowfin’ produced higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive and tasted better.

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Yellowfin’ had huge healthy plants with a constant supply of perfect fruits. ‘Golden Glory’ had small, funny-shaped fruits. In early/mid-September, all ‘Yellowfin’ fruits were a mottled green and yellow—really pretty actually. I read this could be squash mosaic, but the plant itself remained healthy and continued producing and producing, just as a good zucchini does.

Both varieties produced lots of attractive, delicious fruits.

Best yellow zucchini varieties

Top choice
Yellowfin

Strong performers
Gold Rush
Easypick
Gold

Prefer 'Yellowfin' (continued)

Golden Glory ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I struggled to get my vines to grow because I was unable to do much watering. Yields were poor. 'Yellowfin' was the best tasting and had fewer seeds. 'Golden Glory' had tough skin.

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Even though 'Golden Glory' produced earlier, by just a few days, 'Yellowfin' produced fruit that stayed seedless longer, stayed a beautiful light-yellow longer, and had a better flavor longer.

Golden Glory ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Yellowfin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Yellowfin' produced a week earlier than 'Golden Glory'. Both varieties produced copious amounts. 'Yellowfin' had uniform yellow fruits, but on occasion 'Golden Glory' produced some with green splotches.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well and produced lots of attractive, delicious fruits in gardens across the state. Most gardeners gave an edge to 'Yellowfin' for the uniformity and taste of its fruits.

Most gardeners gave an edge to 'Yellowfin' for the uniformity and taste of its fruits.

Key to Site Reports

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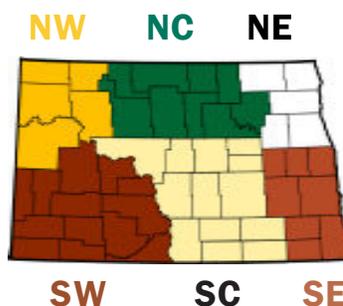
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

Garden type →
 🏠 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🏠 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



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Squash, Winter Acorn

Varieties

'Autumn Delight'

80 days. High yields of uniform fruits with dark-green skin. Semi-bush vines tolerate mildew.

'Bellorado'

80 days. New variety. Very dark fruits with tasty, sweet orange flesh. Large bush plants. Good yields.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Autumn Delight	Bello-rado	Same
Germinated best	33%	0%	67%
Healthier plants	38	0	63
Harvested earlier	43	0	57
Higher yields	20	0	71
More attractive fruits	14	14	71
Tasted better	33	0	67
Preference	86	14	
Recommend	100	86	
Mean score ¹	9.29	8.14	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Autumn Delight'

Autumn Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Bellorado ★★★★★ 😞 MN

I preferred the nutty squash flavor of 'Autumn Delight'. 'Autumn Delight' was healthier, produced the first fruits, and produced higher yields.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Bellorado ★★★★★ 😊 SE

These varieties were very similar.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Bellorado ★★★★★ 😊 NC
 These varieties were very similar.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Bellorado ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties did wonderful in our garden. Their fruits taste great when making baked squash dessert.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Bellorado ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Autumn Delight' ripened earlier and looked more attractive. It was a tough year for growing squash.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Bellorado ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Autumn Delight' produced higher yields and had nice flavor.

Prefer 'Bellorado'

Autumn Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Bellorado ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Bellorado' fruits were larger and very tasty. The plants of both varieties were very healthy.

Conclusions

Both varieties received very high marks and were recommended by nearly every gardener in the trial. That said, nearly every gardener preferred 'Autumn Delight'. It matched or surpassed 'Bellorado' for all traits including earliness and yield.

Nearly every gardener preferred 'Autumn Delight'.

Best acorn squash varieties

Top choice
 Autumn Delight

Strong performers
 Black Bellota
 Carnival
 Table Ace
 Table King

Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

Varieties

'Butterbaby'

100 days. Petite, 0.5–1.5-pound fruits with flavorful, dark-orange flesh. Stores well. Semi-bush plants.

'Honeynut'

110 days. Burnt-orange fruits with flavorful orange flesh. Small, 1-pound fruits. Semi-bush. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Butter- baby	Honey- nut	Same
Germinated best	13%	38%	50%
Healthier plants	14	43	43
Harvested earlier	33	50	17
Higher yields	43	43	14
More attractive fruits	57	29	14
Tasted better	67	17	17
Preference	57	43	
Recommend	86	86	
Mean score ¹	7.57	8.00	
Median score ¹	9.00	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Butterbaby'

Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Honeynut ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Butterbaby' had better yield and better flavor.

Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Honeynut ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Butterbaby' was a pleasant surprise. It ripened quicker, was the perfect size for two people, and makes a great tasting butternut pie. I preferred the taste of 'Butterbaby' versus 'Honeynut'. 'Honeynut' had a more green squash taste for us. I was surprised by the dark-green rind color of 'Honeynut'. Its rinds started to develop orange stripes in late fall.

Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Honeynut ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Honeynut' fruits were difficult to tell when they were mature. Both varieties produced well, but we had at least a 20% higher yield (by number, not weight) for 'Butterbaby'. 'Honeynut' had an excellent flavor that reminded us of buttercup squash, but the texture tended to be a bit stringy. 'Butterbaby' produced about 3 weeks earlier than 'Honeynut'. 'Butterbaby' fruits were easy to tell when they were ripe.

Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Honeynut ★★★★★ 😊 NW

They were very similar in taste but I think the meat of 'Butterbaby' fruits was moister and had a finer texture. Both were delicious.

Prefer 'Honeynut'

Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Honeynut ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Honeynut' produced two fruits. 'Butterbaby' produced flowers but no fruits.

Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Honeynut ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Honeynut' fruits have nice flavor and color.

'Butterbaby' fruits were smaller, more attractive and tasted better.

Best butternut squash varieties

Top choice
Waltham

Strong performers

Early
Butternut
Butterbaby
Butterscotch

Prefer 'Honeynut' (continued)

Butterbaby ★★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Honeynut ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Honeynut' vines grew all over my fence and trellis while 'Butterbaby' vines did not. 'Honeynut' vines were prolific and produced twice as many fruits. The fruits of 'Honeynut' were twice the size; they were full sized and not baby sized. 'Butterbaby' had better (sweeter) flavor but I put brown sugar in my squash so that isn't my top priority.

Conclusions

Both varieties received very high marks. Most gardeners preferred 'Butterbaby'. Its fruits were smaller, more attractive and tasted better. The vines of 'Honeynut' were more vigorous. Yields were similar.

Both varieties received very high marks.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆

Variety B ★★★★★★

← **Comments**

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊

☹️

← **Location**

NC

Garden types

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- 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Garden type

🍄

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Squash, Winter Butternut (Org.)

Varieties

'Essex'

100 days. New variety. Large, 4-pound fruits with long necks. Vigorous vines. Flavorful.

'Waltham'

95 days. Popular for its dry, sweet, nutty flavor. Large fruits with small seed cavities. Vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Essex	Waltham	Same
Germinated best	13%	38%	50%
Healthier plants	13	25	63
Harvested earlier	25	50	25
Higher yields	13	75	13
More attractive fruits	13	50	38
Tasted better	14	14	71
Preference	13	88	
Recommend	57	86	
Mean score ¹	7.88	9.13	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Essex'

Essex ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

'Essex' was bountiful. It had large, nicely shaped squash. Delicious!

Prefer 'Waltham'

Essex ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 MN
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 MN

'Waltham' matured earlier and produced more squash. Its fruits were more attractive.

Essex ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MN
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN

'Waltham' matured earlier. This is important to us because of our short growing season. The plants of both varieties were very healthy and produced lots of fruit!

Essex ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE

'Waltham' germinated better and produced more squash.

Essex ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE

While the taste of both varieties is good, 'Waltham' produced larger squash. The lack of frost until late in the season was needed to allow the squash to mature nicely.

Essex ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC

Both varieties were good. 'Waltham' produced more squash.

Essex ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC

'Waltham' matured earlier.

Essex ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

'Waltham' fruits were just beautiful and uniform; slightly larger than 'Essex'. 'Essex' vines struggled for me. 'Waltham' gave me ten squash compared to five for 'Essex'.

Conclusions

The classic variety 'Waltham' was outstanding. Nearly every gardener preferred it over the newcomer 'Essex'. 'Waltham' produced earlier and higher yields. Its fruits were beautiful and uniform. 'Essex' did well but could not match the performance of 'Waltham'.

The classic variety 'Waltham' was outstanding. Nearly every gardener preferred it over the newcomer 'Essex'.

Best butternut squash varieties

Top choice
Waltham

Strong performers

Early
Butternut
Butterbaby
Butterscotch

Squash, Winter Delicata (Organic)

Varieties

'Bush Delicata'

85 days. Received awards for its compact plants that resist mildew. Sweet, nutty flavor. Edible rinds.

'Honey Boat'

100 days. One of the sweetest squashes. Long fruits with copper skin and green striping. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bush Delicata	Honey Boat	Same
Germinated best	69%	13%	19%
Healthier plants	43	14	43
Harvested earlier	57	7	36
Higher yields	50	21	29
More attractive fruits	36	14	50
Tasted better	18	36	45
Preference	57	43	
Recommend	86	64	
Mean score ¹	7.21	6.93	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Bush Delicata'

Bush Delicata SE
 Honey Boat SE

'Bush Delicata' germinated better. Both varieties were very prolific, producing 8–10+ squash.

Bush Delicata SE
 Honey Boat SE

'Bush Delicata' had more produce, although the squash was small. 'Honey Boat' had bigger squash but was slow to ripen.

Bush Delicata SE
 Honey Boat SE

I had a very poor germination of 'Honey Boat' and got very few squash from it.

Bush Delicata -
 Honey Boat NC

The yields of both varieties suffered due to drought. 'Bush Delicata' ripened first, but 'Honey Boat' produced more squash.

Bush Delicata NC
 Honey Boat NC

'Bush Delicata' came up first and more seeds of it germinated. Its taste was excellent—solid squash taste. The vines of both varieties were strong and swift growers once the temperature was above 75 °F. Both varieties produced a lot.

Bush Delicata SC
 Honey Boat SC

'Bush Delicata' excelled in all traits.

Bush Delicata NW
 Honey Boat NW

'Bush Delicata' produced about twice as many fruits. I've never grown Delicata squash before, but I really like them. They are better than acorn squash. Delicata squash sold really well at the farmers' market.

Bush Delicata SD
 Honey Boat SD

'Bush Delicata' performed better in all areas. I liked that its vines were compact and used less space.

'Bush Delicata' ripened earlier and produced higher yields.

Best delicata squash varieties

Top choice
Bush Delicata

Strong performer
Zeppelin

Prefer 'Honey Boat'

Bush Delicata ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Honey Boat ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Honey Boat' tasted a bit sweeter. 'Bush Delicata' produced more fruits, and its fruits were more uniform in size.

Bush Delicata ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Honey Boat ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The flesh of 'Honey Boat' was moist and better tasting. 'Bush Delicata' was dry. 'Bush Delicata' produced eight squash, each 6 to 8 inches long; 'Honey Boat' produced six squash, each 4 to 6 inches long.

Bush Delicata ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Honey Boat ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Honey Boat' fruits had a little more flavor. 'Bush Delicata' fruits were a little bland. Both varieties germinated about the same and showed similar vigor. 'Honey Boat' produced a few more fruits. Its fruits were darker and looked dirty.

Bush Delicata ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Honey Boat ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Honey Boat' tasted better. Both varieties produced well under irrigation. Their fruit coats were very hard.

Bush Delicata ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Honey Boat ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Honey Boat' had larger plants, higher yields and more attractive fruits.

Bush Delicata ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Honey Boat ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Honey Boat' produced higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive. Drought caused low yields for both varieties.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Bush Delicata'. 'Bush Delicata' germinated better, ripened much earlier and produced higher yields. Its vines were compact and resisted diseases. More gardeners preferred the clean, light-green rind of 'Bush Delicata' fruits over the copper-skinned 'Honey Boat'. Gardeners who preferred 'Honey Boat' often cited its rich, sweet flavor.

Gardeners who preferred 'Honey Boat' often cited its rich, sweet flavor.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

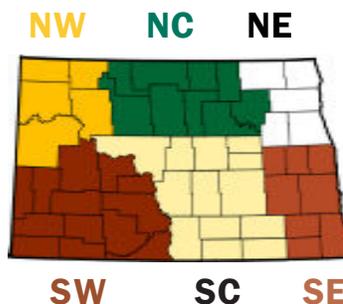
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Garden type →
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Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



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Swiss Chard, Pink (Organic)

Varieties

'Charbell'

65 days. Brilliant, magenta stems and heavy, textured leaves. Upright habit and resists diseases.

'Magenta Sunset'

60 days. Bright, magenta stems and veins. Slightly crumpled leaves. Tolerates heat.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	Magenta.		
	Charbell	Sunset	Same
Germinated best	71%	14%	14%
Healthier plants	83	0	17
Harvested earlier	67	17	17
Higher yields	57	14	29
Resisted bolting	25	0	75
More attractive	100	0	0
Tasted better	33	0	67
Preference	86	14	
Recommend	86	57	
Mean score ¹	8.00	7.14	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Charbell'

Charbell MN
Magenta Sunset MN

I really liked both varieties. 'Charbell' plants were healthier and looked more attractive.

Charbell SE
Magenta Sunset SE

'Charbell' was more attractive, tasted better and did not bolt.

Charbell SE
Magenta Sunset SE

'Charbell' had a little smaller plant that grew well. It had higher yields and looked more attractive. 'Magenta Sunset' got rust.

Charbell SE
Magenta Sunset SE

'Charbell' was healthier and more robust. It produced a higher yield and was more attractive.

Charbell SC
Magenta Sunset SC

'Charbell' tasted better, looked better and produced better. This was my first time planting Swiss chard; this was fun. 'Charbell' did way better in the heat and remained a great producer. There was nothing wrong with 'Magenta Sunset'; it was just a mediocre, boring plant.

Charbell SK
Magenta Sunset SK

Both varieties had good germination, approximately 95%. 'Charbell' had more vigorous growth. I loved the dark-fuchsia color of 'Charbell'. 'Charbell' did not bolt in our hot weather.

Prefer 'Magenta Sunset'

Charbell SW
Magenta Sunset SW

'Charbell' did not germinate.

Conclusions

'Charbell' was healthier and grew robustly. It produced a higher yield and was more attractive. Its brilliant stems outshone those of 'Magenta Sunset', a popular variety that looked mediocre in comparison.

'Charbell' was healthier, grew robustly and had brilliant stems.

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bright Lights

Strong performers

Charbell
Flamingo
Improved
Rainbow
Lucullus
Oriole
Peppermint
Rhubarb

Swiss Chard, Red (Organic)

Varieties

'Bali'

55 days. Stunning, ruby stems with dark-green leaves. Juicy and tender with a mild flavor. Upright habit.

'Rhubarb Supreme'

60 days. New. The most bolt-resistant chard. Wide, deep-red stems with dark-green, crinkly leaves.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Rhubarb		
	Bali	Supreme	Same
Germinated best	25%	0%	75%
Healthier plants	25	0	75
Harvested earlier	25	0	75
Higher yields	25	0	75
Resisted bolting	0	0	100
More attractive	75	0	25
Tasted better	25	0	75
Preference	75	25	
Recommend	100	75	
Mean score ¹	8.75	7.50	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Bali'

Bali ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Rhubarb Supreme ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE

These varieties were very similar. 'Bali' had nicer leaves.

Bali ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Rhubarb Supreme ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Overall, there was very little difference. Both varieties were flavorful. The stalks of both varieties got a bit tougher as the summer went on but are still producing. The heat likely made the stalks tough. 'Rhubarb Supreme' had some white stalks on some of the plants while 'Bali' stalks were all a deep red. They are a very flavorful plant, especially cooked with a cheese sauce.

Bali ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Rhubarb Supreme ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

There were five times more 'Bali' plants. 'Bali' produced far more leaves, looked better and tasted better.

Prefer 'Rhubarb Supreme'

Bali ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Rhubarb Supreme ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

My friends loved 'Rhubarb Supreme'. Both varieties were healthy and resisted bolting.

Conclusions

This was not a popular trial and data are limited. Both varieties grew well and received high marks from gardeners. Both varieties were healthy and resisted bolting. The major difference was the beauty of the 'Bali' leaves. The red color of its stems was brilliant and uniform. Every gardener recommended 'Bali'.

The major difference was the beauty of the 'Bali' leaves. The red color of its stems was brilliant and uniform.

Best red Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bali

Strong performer
Rhubarb

Turnip, Purple Top

Varieties

'Purple Top White Globe'

50 days. Most popular turnip in the USA. Smooth, round roots. Leaves are good for cooking. Organic.

'Violet Queen'

50 days. Purple blushed skin. Juicy and tender, with a pleasing mix of sweet and spicy flavors.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	P.T.W. Globe	Violet Queen	Same
Germinated best	25%	13%	63%
Healthier plants	38	38	25
Harvested earlier	25	38	38
Higher yields	38	38	25
More attractive roots	50	38	13
Tasted better	14	29	57
Preference	38	63	
Recommend (😊)	88	88	
Mean score ¹	7.00	8.00	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Purple Top White Globe'

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★😊🐞
 Violet Queen ★★★★★😊 MN

I was unable to taste them because both varieties were attacked severely by white butterflies and little white worms. 'Purple Top White Globe' roots were bigger and brighter.

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★😊🐞
 Violet Queen ★★★★★😞 SE

'Purple Top White Globe' grew better. It produced higher yields and its roots were more attractive compared to 'Violet Queen'.

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★😊🐞
 Violet Queen ★★★★★😊 NC

Both varieties were excellent. 'Purple Top White Globe' roots were more attractive.

Prefer 'Violet Queen'

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★😞🐞
 Violet Queen ★★★★★😊 SE

'Violet Queen' germinated first. Its plants looked better, having larger and greener tops. It grew faster and was ready to harvest a couple weeks earlier. 'Violet Queen' produced larger and more turnips.

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★😊🐞🐞
 Violet Queen ★★★★★😊 SE

Flea beetles had a great time this year. I was fighting them all season. I knew this before I started the trial and ended up using Sevin multiple times just to give the plants a chance. 'Violet Queen' was a little more resistant to the pests and had bigger roots. Some 'Violet Queen' plants grew and matured faster than others. The growth of 'Purple Top White Globe' was slower but more uniform throughout the crop.

Pests and drought hindered both varieties. Many of these trials failed.

Best purple-top turnip varieties

Top choice
 Purple Top White Globe

Strong performer
 Violet Queen

Prefer ‘Violet Queen’ (continued)

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Violet Queen ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Violet Queen’ grew bigger turnips, was more pest resistant, and tasted better raw compared to ‘Purple Top White Globe’. ‘Purple Top White Globe’ tasted better than ‘Violet Queen’ when cooked—sweeter. ‘Purple Top White Globe’ was harder to peel and produced a significantly smaller yield than ‘Violet Queen’. I’d rather have more turnips that don’t taste quite as good than few turnips that taste better.

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Violet Queen ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

Even though ‘Purple Top White Globe’ yielded first and had a higher yield, I preferred the taste of ‘Violet Queen’, and I liked the color of the stems. Both varieties were excellent.

Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★☆ 😊 🕒
 Violet Queen ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Violet Queen’ tasted better.

Conclusions

Pests and drought hindered both varieties. Many of these trials failed. Among the successful trials, it was clear that gardeners liked both varieties. Most gardeners preferred ‘Violet Queen’. This hybrid variety grew vigorously and matured faster at more sites. More gardeners felt the roots of ‘Purple Top White Globe’ were more attractive.

**‘Violet Queen’
 grew
 vigorously and
 matured faster
 at more sites.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★★ 😊

‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊

☹️

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Garden type

🐛 NC

Location

Comments

Watermelon, Red

Varieties

'Fantasy'

85 days. Very sweet, bright-red flesh. Good yields of 20-pound, long, blocky fruits.

'Sweet Dakota Rose'

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 15 pounds. Reliable.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	S.Dak.		
	Fantasy	Rose	Same
Germinated best	9%	45%	45%
Healthier plants	5	45	50
Matured earlier	11	72	17
Higher yields	17	67	17
More attractive fruits	28	39	33
Tasted better	24	47	29
Preference	28	72	
Recommend (☺)	50	89	
Mean score ¹	5.89	7.39	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Fantasy'

Fantasy ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Fantasy' melons seemed sweeter, but they are both very good tasting melons. Excellent production from both varieties. 'Fantasy' melons were oblong and weighed 14 pounds. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons were round and weighed 15 pounds. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' matured a few days earlier.

Fantasy ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 🌿
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Fantasy' was a more aggressive variety; it was overall more robust. 'Fantasy' produced larger fruits. I grew them in a raised garden and it worked out great. Both varieties seemed to handle the heat well.

Fantasy ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☹ SC

The vines of both varieties were very healthy, and their melons looked nice. 'Fantasy' tasted better, ripened earlier, produced about 50% more melons, and looked nicer after slicing open. 'Fantasy' melons were delicious and got better through the season. The flesh of 'Fantasy' is redder, juicier and has better texture. The rind of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' is very thick and its flesh is pink. Its flesh falls apart more easily while slicing.

Fantasy ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Fantasy' melons were bigger, more attractive and better tasting. They had great flavor and fewer seeds. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' germinated better, produced ripe melons 1 week earlier, and produced almost double the yield of 'Fantasy'.

Fantasy ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☹ SW

Neither variety produced melons we could eat. The growing season was too short. 'Fantasy' germinated better.

'Fantasy' performed inconsistently across the state and was subject to blossom end rot.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sweet Dakota Rose

Strong performers
Sangria
Stargazer
Sugar Baby

Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Rose'

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SE

'Fantasy' vines grew poorly and did not produce a melon. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced one melon, about the size of a grapefruit. This trial was planted near corn and probably did not receive enough sunlight.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SE

'Sweet Dakota Rose' had slightly higher yields.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SE

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced more melons (15 compared to 12 for 'Fantasy'). 'Sweet Dakota Rose' seedlings emerged first but less uniformly. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' was harvested first (August 15). Its melons had larger and fewer seeds. 'Fantasy' melons were larger but most had blossom end rot. Both varieties had softer flesh than I prefer, tasted the same, and their fruits were too small.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  NC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' was earlier and had larger melons. I used drip irrigation but production was limited on both varieties because of high temps and dry conditions.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' had much higher and more vigorous germination than 'Fantasy'. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' plants had multiple melons, but 'Fantasy' produced only one good full-sized melon per plant. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' was an all-around better melon to me.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' had so many melons! They were 20–23 pounds and wonderful!

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced larger melons; around 12 pounds versus 7 pounds for 'Fantasy'. We had a lot of blossom end rot in the 'Fantasy' melons. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had a sweeter, better flavor with high yields, and did not show any signs of blossom end rot. Both varieties were slow to germinate this year.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  NW

Both varieties tasted very sweet. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' tasted better. Several melons did not get big enough to harvest.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  NW

The grandkids were so excited watching these melons grow. 'Fantasy' wasn't as crisp (more toward soft to mushy). 'Sweet Dakota Rose' was more like store-bought watermelon in taste. The kids ate both, as well as the adults! We had an extra month of growing this year compared to last year, so that helped us too. The hot summer kept us watering, and the watermelon liked the heat!

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SW

'Sweet Dakota Rose' plants looked better and produced more melons. Its flesh tasted sweet but was stringy. 'Fantasy' melons tasted sweeter.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SW

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced decent-sized melons with good flavor. Only a couple plants of 'Fantasy' germinated and they did not produce any mature melons.

Fantasy 
 Sweet Dakota Rose  SW

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced more melons, but neither variety produced melons larger than a baseball.

'Sweet Dakota Rose' vines were healthier and more productive. The flesh of its melons was crisp, sweet and delicious.

Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Rose' (continued)

Fantasy ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★★ 😊 SD
 The melons of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' matured faster.

Conclusions

'Sweet Dakota Rose' was developed in North Dakota and it showed its superiority in our state again this year. Its ratings were very good for a watermelon. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' was healthier, ripened fruits earlier and was more productive. The flesh of its melons was crisp, sweet and delicious. 'Fantasy' performed inconsistently across the state and was subject to blossom end rot.

'Sweet Dakota Rose' was developed in North Dakota and it showed its superiority in our state again this year.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★★ 😊

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊

☹️

Garden type

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SW = Southwest

MB = Manitoba

SK = Saskatchewan

SD = South Dakota

MT = Montana

IA = Iowa

NEB = Nebraska

Watermelon, Red Icebox

Varieties

'Blacktail Mountain'

75 days. Developed in northern Idaho. Reliable producer of 9-inch round fruits. Sweet, crunchy flesh.

'Sugar Baby'

78 days. Popular, reliable melon. Deep-red, crisp flesh. Melons grow 8 inches long with dark rinds.



Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blacktail Mountain	Sugar Baby	Same
Germinated best	43%	29%	29%
Healthier plants	43	29	29
Matured earlier	50	17	33
Higher yields	67	0	33
More attractive fruits	50	17	33
Tasted better	50	50	0
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (☺)	57	43	
Mean score ¹	6.57	5.71	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Blacktail Mountain'

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Blacktail Mountain' melons had good taste. Its flesh had a nice red color. The flesh of 'Sugar Baby' never turned a nice red.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Sugar Baby' sprouted but never grew more than just a tiny plant.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Blacktail Mountain' had bigger, nicer melons and tasted better.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ NC

Neither variety grew well. Their plants were small and did not amount to anything. The melons were small, dark green, and not attractive. 'Blacktail Mountain' produced two melons and 'Sugar Baby' produced one.

Prefer 'Sugar Baby'

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Sugar Baby' tasted better. Its melons were more attractive. 'Blacktail Mountain' produced a higher yield.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Sugar Baby' melons were sweeter and ripened 1 week earlier. 'Blacktail Mountain' melons were slightly larger. The melons of both varieties had lots of seeds.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Both varieties produced very small melons.

Conclusions

Gardeners were not particularly excited about either variety. 'Blacktail Mountain' grew better, matured earlier and produced higher yields. 'Blacktail Mountain' grew better this year compared to previous years. Perhaps this is a sign the variety from northern Idaho can tolerate heat and drought better than 'Sugar Baby'.

'Blacktail Mountain' grew better, matured earlier and produced higher yields.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
 Sweet Dakota
 Rose

Strong performers
 Sangria
 Stargazer
 Sugar Baby

Basil, Italian (Organic)

Varieties

'Genovese'

68 days. Classic variety with authentic flavor. Dark-green leaves.

'Prospera'

68 days. Glossy leaves with classic flavor. Grows fast and resists downy mildew.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Genovese	Prospera	Same
Germinated best	57%	21%	21%
Healthier plants	46	31	23
Harvested earlier	58	25	17
Higher yields	55	27	18
More attractive	46	38	15
Tasted better	64	9	27
Preference	85	15	
Recommend	92	58	
Mean score ¹	8.77	7.31	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Genovese'

Genovese NE
Prospera NE

The drought did a number on both varieties. 'Genovese' had better germination, growth and appearance.

Genovese SE
Prospera SE

'Genovese' had a little better yield. This trial was grown in containers. Both varieties grew well, even under extreme heat. Both varieties had a nice, spicy flavor; mild but flavorful.

Genovese SE
Prospera SE

I loved the taste of both, but preferred 'Genovese'. I liked the flavor of 'Genovese' for using fresh. Both varieties grew well and needed little care. We had abundant crops!

Genovese NC
Prospera NC

I liked the taste of 'Genovese' in cooking.

Genovese NC
Prospera NC

'Genovese' was overall easier to grow, more productive, and tasted much better than 'Prospera'.

Genovese NC
Prospera NC

'Genovese' tasted better, lasted longer and didn't go to seed as soon.

Genovese SC
Prospera SC

'Genovese' germinated better.

Genovese SC
Prospera SC

'Genovese' had larger plants with deep-green and shiny leaves. These leaves made great looking pesto! 'Genovese' had better taste and production. Our second crop did better.

Genovese SC
Prospera SC

There was a slight taste preference for 'Genovese'. We used mostly for pesto but did eat some fresh.

'Genovese' grew well and was rated superior in all categories, especially in taste qualities.

Best Italian basil varieties

Top choice
Genovese

Strong performers
Amethyst
Improved
Prospera

Prefer 'Genovese' (continued)

Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Prospera ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

'Genovese' had better germination and better taste. The germination of 'Prospera' was about 30% less than 'Genovese', but 'Prospera' seemed to "bounce back" better after the first cutting. 'Genovese' still tasted better.

Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Prospera ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SW

'Genovese' was healthier, produced earlier and looked more attractive.

Prefer 'Prospera'

Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Prospera ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

Both varieties did well but 'Prospera' produced higher yields later in the season. Great regrowth. Its leaves were more vibrant in color, wider and more rounded. Its plants were bushier.

Genovese ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 🐛
 Prospera ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Prospera' was quicker to germinate and had healthier plants.

Conclusions

'Genovese' grew well and was rated superior in all categories, especially in taste qualities. 'Genovese' was recommended by nearly every gardener and was strongly preferred over 'Prospera'. Previous testing has shown 'Prospera' is the best of the downy mildew-resistant basil varieties for our state. In the absence of the disease, 'Prospera' is inferior to the classic 'Genovese' variety.

In the absence of downy mildew disease, 'Prospera' is inferior to the classic 'Genovese'.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 = Yes

😞 = No

Garden types

🏠 = Organic

🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

Locations

MN = Minnesota

NE = Northeast

SE = Southeast

NC = North Central

SC = South Central

NW = Northwest

SW = Southwest

MB = Manitoba

SK = Saskatchewan

SD = South Dakota

MT = Montana

IA = Iowa

NEB = Nebraska

Garden type

🐛 = Organic

🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🏠 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

Location

NC

Comments

Basil, Italian Large Leaf

Varieties

'Newton'

74 days. Classic basil flavor without strong tones of anise.

'Prospera Italian Large Leaf'

74 days. Four-inch leaves with anise tones characteristic of large-leaf varieties. Resists mildew. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Prospera		
	Newton	I.L.L.	Same
Germinated best	38%	13%	50%
Healthier plants	13	13	75
Harvested earlier	0	0	100
Higher yields	25	13	63
More attractive	13	13	75
Tasted better	38	38	25
Preference	63	38	
Recommend	100	63	
Mean score ¹	8.38	7.38	
Median score ¹	8.50	9.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Newton'

Newton MN
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

'Newton' had a milder taste with less anise flavor. 'Prospera Italian Large Leaf' had bigger leaves but tasted like black licorice.

Newton SC
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

'Newton' had better taste and appearance. 'Prospera' just didn't grow as well throughout the whole season.

Newton SC
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

Both varieties grew very well in pots and produced a lot of basil with large leaves which were easy to harvest. 'Newton' had a milder anise flavor which I liked.

Newton SD
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

Both varieties had beautiful, healthy, productive plants. 'Newton' had a better taste; the other had a stronger flavor.

Newton SK
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

'Newton' was slightly better in germination and yield. 'Prospera Italian Large Leaf' had a slight licorice taste which I liked.

Prefer 'Prospera Italian Large Leaf'

Newton SE
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

The varieties seemed almost identical. The taste of 'Prospera Italian Large Leaf' is stronger and has a unique licorice flavor. This is good for pesto and caprese.

Newton SE
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

I liked the fresh scent of 'Prospera Italian Large Leaf' over 'Newton'.

Newton NW
Prospera Ital. L. Lf.

'Prospera Italian Large Leaf' had larger leaves and higher yields.

Conclusions

Both varieties received high ratings for their beautiful, healthy, productive plants. 'Newton' was preferred by most gardeners and recommended by all of them. It had a milder taste with less anise flavor.

Both varieties had beautiful, healthy, productive plants. 'Newton' had a milder taste with less anise flavor.

Best Italian large leaf basil varieties

Top choice
Newton

Strong performer
Prospera
Italian
Large Leaf

Balsam

Varieties

'Bush Mix'

65 days. Unique for its multitude of blooms near the top of plant. Good for containers. 12 inches.

'Camellia Flower Mix'

65 days. Showy flowers form along its stem. Shades of pink, rose, white and violet. 12 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bush Mix	Camellia Fl.Mix	Same
Germinated best	21%	25%	54%
Healthier plants	25	29	46
Bloomed earlier	29	42	29
More blooms	25	42	33
Prettier in garden	21	38	42
Better cut flower	22	22	56
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	71	75	
Mean score ¹	7.08	7.33	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Bush Mix'

Bush Mix MN
Camellia Flower Mix MN

We sowed indoors May 2 (90% germination rate) and planted outside May 19 in partial shade. They grew about 2.5 feet. They had sturdy stems and beautiful flowers. We sowed some outside in June, some in moderate sun. These didn't grow as tall but are still pretty this fall. 'Bush Mix' germinated better in the outdoor sowing and were eaten less by deer.

Bush Mix
Camellia Flower Mix SE

This was my first time growing balsam and I loved this plant. 'Bush Mix' grew faster, stronger and fuller. Both varieties were beautiful.

Bush Mix
Camellia Flower Mix SE

'Bush Mix' bloomed first. The flowers of both varieties were long lasting and good for cutting.

Bush Mix
Camellia Flower Mix SE

'Bush Mix' flowered more and had healthier stems. I liked the variety of its colors. Both varieties did not like the extreme heat.

Bush Mix
Camellia Flower Mix SE

I enjoyed both of these varieties. Both were beautiful. 'Bush Mix' bloomed first.

Bush Mix
Camellia Flower Mix SC

'Bush Mix' bloomed several weeks earlier. It held up really well in the 100-degree heat. 'Camellia Flower Mix' suffered significantly in the heat. It drooped every day despite regular watering.

Bush Mix
Camellia Flower Mix SC

Very pretty flowers and I liked the colors. 'Camellia Flower Mix' grew so much slower.

Several of these gardeners had never grown balsam before. They were charmed by its beauty.

Best balsam varieties

Top choice
Camellia
Flower Mix

Strong performer
Bush Mix

Prefer 'Bush Mix' (continued)

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Bush Mix' had healthier plants and produced more flowers. The leaves of 'Camellia Flower Mix' curled and looked a bit diseased.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
Both varieties grew bushy and tall. 'Camellia Flower Mix' bloomed first and had a better yield of flowers. 'Bush Mix' had more colorful blooms. Both varieties bloomed much later than I had expected only getting about two weeks of blossoms before we got a frost and they were done. But in that time, it was a good attraction for the hummingbirds. They loved them.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Bush Mix' was a very pretty plant, but its flowers were hidden and not showy. Both varieties were easy to grow but very sensitive to frost. I liked the color variety of 'Camellia Flower Mix' but its plants had a messier growth habit.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
I preferred the colors of 'Bush Mix'. Both varieties germinated well. They bloomed simultaneously. They bloomed profusely; beautiful and plentiful blossoms. Both varieties were gorgeous in my garden.

Prefer 'Camellia Flower Mix'

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
The longer stem of 'Camellia Flower Mix' made it a better variety for cutting. Both varieties preferred loose soil. They did not thrive in our garden but did very well in our raised bed with potting mix.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' had taller, healthier plants. It had more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden. The color variety of 'Bush Mix' was better.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' had nicer colors. Germination was difficult, as it was during a hot, dry and windy period. The long season was needed due to the tough summer conditions. If we had a September frost we would have not had any flowers.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' had good germination, grew bigger plants and produced more flowers.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' bloomed first, produced more flowers and was more colorful.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' plants were larger and bloomed first. It only had a few blooms but more than 'Bush Mix'. Both of these varieties are too late of bloomers for North Dakota.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' plants grew faster and had a stronger stalk that was unaffected by wind. Its foliage was thicker. The flowers colors of 'Bush Mix' were more diverse and included some reds.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' germinated a bit earlier. It had sturdy plants and bloomed earlier by a week. Neither variety had many blooms.

Bush Mix 
Camellia Flower Mix 
'Camellia Flower Mix' was gorgeous. It germinated better, grew better and had large blossoms.

Gardeners liked the array of colors in 'Bush Mix'.

Prefer ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ (continued)

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🕒
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

‘Camellia Flower Mix’ was healthier at the start and bloomed earlier, but ‘Bush Mix’ caught up to it. I’ve never grown balsam before; very pretty flower.

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SW

‘Camellia Flower Mix’ was a more showy plant. Both varieties did well in the shallow wooden log in which I planted them. They did require a lot of water in the extreme heat.

No Preference

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😞 NE

These plants germinated but never produced anything despite how much I tried to take care of them.

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NW

These varieties seemed to be exactly the same.

Conclusions

Several of these gardeners had never grown balsam before. They were charmed by its beauty in the garden. Some gardeners expressed concerns over the lateness of its blooming when directly sown in the garden. Each variety received good marks and gardeners were evenly split on their preferred variety. ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ bloomed earlier, had more blooms and was judged to be the prettier variety at more sites. Some gardeners mentioned they liked the array of colors in ‘Bush Mix’.

‘Camellia Flower Mix’ bloomed earlier, had more blooms and was judged to be the prettier variety at more sites.

Key to Site Reports

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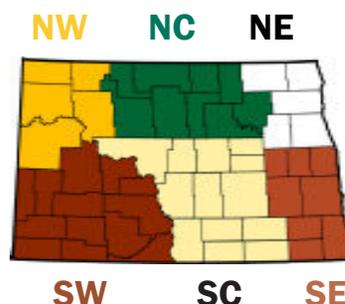
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A 😊
 Variety B 😞

Garden type →
 🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 ‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

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Marigold, Gold Cutting

Varieties

'Coco Gold'

82 days. Sturdy, 40-inch plants produce an abundance of giant, golden blooms for cutting.

'Oriental Gold'

70 days. Golden blooms with long stems. The 40-inch plants bloom early and continuously.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Coco Gold	Oriental Gold	Same
Germinated best	21%	36%	43%
Healthier plants	8	25	67
Bloomed earlier	27	36	36
More blooms	25	33	42
Prettier in garden	25	33	42
Better cut flower	38	13	50
Preference	42	58	
Recommend	69	92	
Mean score ¹	6.38	7.46	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Coco Gold'

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Coco Gold' bloomed first and had darker foliage. It produced more flowers. Fewer branches of 'Coco Gold' broke in the wind storm. The flowers of the two varieties were very close in terms of attractiveness—neither had a misshaped flower.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The plants of both varieties were very tall and sturdy with large blooms. The blooms were so big and weighty that they collapsed and hung upside down six inches. 'Coco Gold' had more blooms.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Coco Gold' had slightly bigger flowers, but the flowers of both varieties were really nice. Both varieties tolerated the heat, but did not really do well until fall when it cooled down and rained. These varieties were beautiful in late September.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Coco Gold' seemed more resilient. It looked more attractive in the garden and was a better cut flower.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Coco Gold' had a few more seeds germinate. 'Coco Gold' had blooms first by about a week. 'Coco Gold' had bigger flowers and richer yellow/orange color. 'Oriental Gold' had a paler flower. 'Coco Gold' plants were taller, but both varieties had nice, tall, healthy plants.

Prefer 'Oriental Gold'

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 SE

This trial was sown in late June and both varieties germinated well. Then 'Coco Gold' started to weaken; not sure why. 'Oriental Gold' was much more vigorous.

The plants of both varieties were tall and sturdy with large, bright blooms.

Best marigold varieties for cutting

Top choice
Oriental Gold

Strong performer
Jedi Gold

Prefer 'Oriental Gold' (continued)

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I enjoyed the excellent germination of both varieties. I'm sure every seed came up. They had tall plants and nice, large blooms.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The plants of both varieties were tall and gorgeous! The flowers were similar and so many! 'Oriental Gold' was just a bit more vigorous. It withstood the wind.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Oriental Gold' had bright, orange/yellow flowers. The bushy plants are great for borders. 'Coco Gold' stems were better for cutting.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠🕒
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 NW

This was a tough trial with trying to keep the rabbits from eating everything. About half of each variety made it. Along with the heat, the plants took a long time to flower. 'Oriental Gold' was the first variety to bloom.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Oriental Gold' was better in all traits.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Oriental Gold' became tall plants and had plenty of seed heads; could grow them next year! 'Coco Gold' did not germinate at all.

No Preference

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties were beautiful, lasted well into fall and made beautiful bouquets.

Conclusions

The plants of both varieties were tall and sturdy with large, bright blooms. The plants kept blooming well into fall and made beautiful bouquets. Most gardeners preferred 'Oriental Gold'. Gardeners liked the vigor of this variety.

Both varieties were beautiful, lasted well into fall and made beautiful bouquets.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

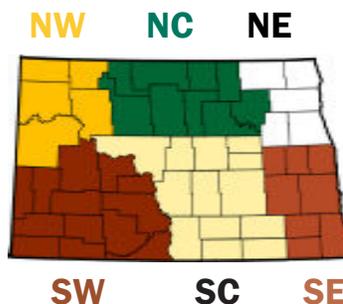
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A: 😊
 Variety B: 😞

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



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Morning Glory, Blue

Varieties

'Flying Saucers'

White blooms streaked with sky blue.
Vigorous, 10-foot vines. Poisonous seeds.
Shown at right.

'Heavenly Blue'

Most popular. Sky-blue flowers with white throats. Vigorous, 10-foot vines. Poisonous seeds.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Flying Heavenly		
	Saucers	Blue	Same
Germinated best	56%	33%	11%
Healthier plants	11	44	44
Bloomed earlier	33	56	11
More blooms	33	33	33
Prettier in garden	13	50	38
Preference	33	67	
Recommend	67	67	
Mean score ¹	6.22	6.67	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Flying Saucers'

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were nice but 'Flying Saucers' was more prolific and had a more interesting look to it. Its blue shade was stronger, and I loved the striping. 'Flying Saucers' bloomed 2 weeks earlier.

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Flying Saucers' vines grew and spread quickly. It showed beautiful growth and colors.

Prefer 'Heavenly Blue'

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I preferred the color of 'Heavenly Blue'. Both varieties had near 100% germination, and 'Flying Saucers' had more vigor. Both varieties were vigorous climbers on my hog panel and in my garden. It took forever for them to bloom. The first bloom was on September 26.

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The vines climbed to the top of our lilac bushes. Both varieties were gorgeous with huge blooms. They bloomed through even 33 °F nights. I liked the solid blue color best.

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties bloomed in late September, starting with 'Heavenly Blue'. 'Heavenly Blue' vines were fuller and thicker. It looked good in the garden but its flowers were little. 'Flying Colors' vines were less green and twiggy but had more flowers. I would mix the seeds in the future to even out the look and colors.

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Heavenly Blue' had a more attractive color and a better vining habit.

'Flying Saucers' germinated well and had interesting blue streaks on its blooms.

Best blue morning glory variety

Top choice
Heavenly Blue

Prefer 'Heavenly Blue' (continued)

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Heavenly Blue' had large, very pretty flowers. It produced more flowers than 'Flying Saucers'.

Flying Saucers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Heavenly Blue ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Heavenly Blue' produced slightly more flowers.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred the classic 'Heavenly Blue' and its large, velvety blue flowers. The 'Heavenly Blue' vines were healthy, vigorous and full. It bloomed earlier and more gardeners felt it was the prettier variety. 'Flying Saucers' germinated well and had interesting blue streaks on its blooms.

The 'Heavenly Blue' vines were healthy, vigorous and full.

Key to Site Reports

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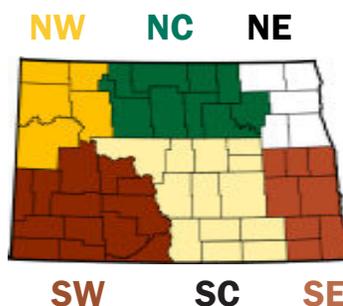
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A: 😊
 Variety B: 😞

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



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Sunflower, Bicolor

Varieties

'Florenza'

75 days. Maroon-red petals with yellow tips. Chocolate fragrance. Strong, straight branches. 50 inches.

'Ring of Fire'

75 days. An autumn favorite. Blazing red petals with golden tips. Minimal pollen. Grows 45 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Ring of		
	Florenza	Fire	Same
Germinated best	22%	22%	56%
Healthier plants	44	0	56
Bloomed earlier	22	22	56
More blooms	38	25	38
Prettier in garden	50	50	0
Better cut flower	25	25	50
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	67	56	
Mean score ¹	5.78	6.33	
Median score ¹	6.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Florenza'

Florenza ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😞 NE
 'Florenza' was pretty. Its heads stood up and did not droop.

Florenza ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 I liked the colors of 'Florenza' better.

Florenza ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😞 SW
 'Florenza' produced more blooms. However, both varieties did poorly in comparison to volunteer ornamentals that were growing nearby.

Florenza ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😞 SD
 'Florenza' had larger plants and flowers.

Prefer 'Ring of Fire'

Florenza ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😊 NE
 'Ring of Fire' had the prettiest blossoms. Its color was very vibrant. 'Ring of Fire' bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Florenza ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Ring of Fire' was like a gift that kept on giving. It was spectacular in my garden and the flowers lasted a long time. 'Florenza' flowers were too pale in color for my taste. The germination rate was about 80% for both, but 'Ring of Fire' showed more vigor.

Florenza ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Ring of Fire' had a few less heads but was prettier. Its flowers were orange with maroon centers. 'Florenza' grew taller and had bigger heads. Its flowers were yellow with maroon centers.

Florenza ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ 😊 SD
 'Ring of Fire' produced beautiful flowers.

'Florenza' was more vigorous and healthy.

Best bicolor branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
 Helios Flame

Strong performers
 Firecracker
 Ruby Eclipse
 Strawberry
 Blonde

No Preference

Florenza ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Ring of Fire ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

I was disappointed with both varieties. The flowers were not very pretty; they were uneven or missing petals. The hot weather was hard on them.

Conclusions

Gardeners generally liked but did not love these varieties. They were evenly split on the variety they preferred. 'Florenza' was more vigorous and healthy. It had taller stalks with more and larger flowers. Gardeners liked the more vibrant colors of 'Ring of Fire'.

Gardeners liked the more vibrant colors of 'Ring of Fire'.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10)

Variety A ★★★★★ ☺️
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)

☺️ ☹️

Garden types

- 🌿 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Garden type

🌿 🏠 🚫 -

Location

NC

Locations

MN = Minnesota
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 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

Sunflower, Bicolor Dwarf

Varieties

'Firecracker'

55 days. Compact, branching plants produce a mass of fiery blooms. Pollenless. 42 inches. Shown at right.

'Music Box'

70 days. Splendid mix of cream, yellow and mahogany blooms with dark centers. Grows 28 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Fire-cracker	Music Box	Same
Germinated best	38%	31%	31%
Healthier plants	23	23	54
Bloomed earlier	62	15	23
More blooms	31	54	15
Prettier in garden	38	23	38
Better cut flower	17	33	50
Preference	69	31	
Recommend	77	62	
Mean score ¹	7.77	7.15	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Firecracker'

Firecracker ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Music Box ★★★★★☆ 😞 NE

'Firecracker' germinated faster and bloomed first. Its plants had a more uniform height. I liked its height as it was a nice contrast to the height of other plants in the garden. It is well suited as a border plant around my rental garden. Some 'Music Box' flowers were misshaped with petals not going all the way around the seed head. Both varieties attracted a lot of bees.

Firecracker ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Music Box ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE

'Firecracker' plants were more uniform in appearance and more attractive in the garden. 'Firecracker' bloomed first.

Firecracker ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Music Box ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Firecracker' plants were a bit taller and had more flowers. The flowers of 'Music Box' were a bit smaller, which might be better for cut flowers.

Firecracker ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Music Box ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties grew well. 'Firecracker' bloomed earlier. I personally loved the look of 'Firecracker' better. 'Music Box' didn't grow as tall, but had more "full" looking stalks. 'Music Box' had multiple blooms per stalk, and it seemed to stay upright better. As a cut flower, its leaves were stronger and its blooms were more colorful.

Firecracker ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Music Box ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC

'Firecracker' bloomed 2 weeks earlier. Its stalks were taller. Its flowers were vibrant and maintained their vibrancy in a vase.

Firecracker ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Music Box ★★★★★☆ 😞 SC

There were twice as many blooms on 'Firecracker' as there were on 'Music Box'. 'Firecracker' held up better in the extreme heat. It had a stronger plant and was much showier than 'Music Box' due to the amount of blooms.

'Firecracker' germinated quickly and bloomed first. Its blooms were warm and vibrant.

Best bicolor branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
 Helios Flame

Strong performers
 Firecracker
 Ruby Eclipse
 Strawberry
 Blonde

Prefer 'Firecracker' (continued)

Firecracker 
Music Box  SW

I was not impressed with either variety. They had very small heads and not very impressive colors. 'Firecracker' bloomed a little more.

Firecracker 
Music Box  SD

I loved the color of 'Firecracker'.

Firecracker 
Music Box  SD

Both varieties had beautiful flowers, but 'Firecracker' excelled in all traits. 'Firecracker' germinated better and produced tons of flowers. These flowers were beautiful and full and lasted several days on the plant. They had a deeper yellow color. Both varieties handled the hot, dry winds and tough weather. I would plant both varieties again as 'Music Box' had lots of blooms and were a lighter yellow which paired next to 'Firecracker' were very attractive.

Prefer 'Music Box'

Firecracker 
Music Box  MN

I especially like these shorter varieties for my flower garden. There is no need to stake them up. They were pollinator magnets and birds loved the dried seedheads. They were beautiful in bouquets. Both varieties looked very healthy. 'Firecracker' was the first up and was a little taller. It had beautiful, bicolor flowers. 'Music Box' bloomed later into the season. In late September, it was still producing little flowers for the bees. 'Music Box' had a wide range of colors—bright yellow to pale yellow.

Firecracker 
Music Box  SC

'Music Box' had a more uniform height. I loved its colors. It was a good cut flower lasting 10–12 days.

Firecracker 
Music Box  NW

'Music Box' bloomed earlier, had more blooms, and bloomed longer. 'Firecracker' had bigger blooms that dried up earlier. The birds loved that 'Firecracker' formed seed heads earlier. This was my favorite trial—the sunflowers thrived in the heat.

Firecracker 
Music Box  SW

'Music Box' had beautiful miniature heads and plants.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Firecracker'. It germinated quickly and bloomed first. 'Firecracker' blooms were warm and vibrant. Its plants and flowers were uniform in appearance. 'Music Box' blooms had a wider range of colors, some bright and some pale. Its plants had many flowers, and they bloomed late into the fall.

'Music Box' blooms had a wider range of colors, some bright and some pale.

Sunflower, Orange Cutting

Varieties

'Sunrich Orange'

65 days. Popular, single-stem sunflower for cutting. Very uniform. Pollenless. 54 inches.

'Vincent's Choice'

55 days. Round, overlapping petals provide a refined appearance. Single stems. Pollenless. 66 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sunrich Vincent's		
	Orange	Choice	Same
Germinated best	50%	0%	50%
Healthier plants	25	50	25
Bloomed earlier	33	33	33
More blooms	0	75	25
Prettier in garden	25	50	25
Better cut flower	0	0	100
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	75	75	
Mean score ¹	6.75	7.25	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Sunrich Orange'

Sunrich Orange ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Vincent's Choice ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Sunrich Orange' was prettier. It bloomed almost a week sooner. The stalks and heads of 'Vincent's Choice' were stronger, thicker and bigger.

Sunrich Orange ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Vincent's Choice ★★★★★ ☹ SD

'Sunrich Orange' had larger plants and bigger flowers.

Prefer 'Vincent's Choice'

Sunrich Orange ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
 Vincent's Choice ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Vincent's Choice' produced more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden. Its blooms were smaller, making them easier to put in floral arrangements.

Sunrich Orange ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Vincent's Choice ★★★★★ ☺ SC

The flowers of 'Vincent's Choice' lasted a little longer.

Conclusions

We were surprised at the lack of interest in this trial. The few gardeners in this trial liked both varieties and were evenly split on the variety they preferred. More gardeners felt Vincent's Choice' was prettier, but data are quite limited.

The few participating gardeners in this trial liked both varieties and were evenly split on the variety they preferred.

Best orange sunflowers for cutting

Top choice
 Vincent's
 Choice

Strong performers
 ProCut
 Orange
 Sunrich
 Orange

Sunflower, Orange Dwarf

Varieties

'Hella Sonnenblume'

78 days. Stunning gold petals on sturdy, straight branches. Good for cutting. Grows 40 inches.

'Orange Hobbit'

55 days. Bushy plants filled with vibrant-orange blooms with dark centers. Pollenless. Grows 24 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Hella Sonnen.	Orange Hobbit	Same
Germinated best	75%	25%	0%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Bloomed earlier	50	50	0
More blooms	75	0	25
Prettier in garden	25	50	25
Better cut flower	33	67	0
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	75	50	
Mean score ¹	6.75	6.75	
Median score ¹	7.00	6.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Hella Sonnenblume'

Hella Sonnenblume ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ ☹️ NE

'Orange Hobbit' blooms were quite droopy so not quite as showy. It had more blooms sooner. 'Hella Sonnenblume' blooms faced up and out more, making it a better cut flower.

Hella Sonnenblume ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

Both varieties produced well. 'Hella Sonnenblume' bloomed earlier, and I thought its blooms were nicer. 'Orange Hobbit' plants were much shorter.

Prefer 'Orange Hobbit'

Hella Sonnenblume ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Only one 'Orange Hobbit' plant germinated. I loved its smaller flowers and daintier stalks. About 75% of 'Hella Sonnenblume' seeds germinated. Its flowers had too many of the masculine attributes of a typical sunflower.

Hella Sonnenblume ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I enjoyed 'Orange Hobbit' for its color and its single flower per stalk. 'Hella Sonnenblume' had more flowers per stalk. These varieties are very different in appearance but each is beautiful in its own way.

Conclusions

'Hella Sonnenblume' germinated better and was healthier. It produced more flowers. More gardeners recommended 'Hella Sonnenblume' than 'Orange Hobbit', but gardeners were evenly split on which variety they preferred. 'Orange Hobbit' had bright orange blooms on much shorter plants. More gardeners felt it was prettier than 'Hella Sonnenblume'. Data are limited because there was little interest in this trial.

'Hella Sonnenblume' grew well and bloomed more, but more gardeners felt 'Orange Hobbit' was prettier.

Best orange dwarf sunflower variety

Top choice

Hella Sonnenblume

Zinnia, Cactus Mix

Varieties

'Bright Jewel Mix'

Giant, ruffled blooms look like mums. Shades of scarlet, orange, pink and yellow. Grows 36 inches.

'Giant Mix Improved'

Big, shaggy blooms in a wide range of colors. Free flowering. Great for cutting. Grows 33 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bright Giant Mix		
	Jewel	Impr.	Same
Germinated best	85%	0%	15%
Healthier plants	46	0	54
Bloomed earlier	50	33	17
More blooms	75	8	17
Prettier in garden	54	0	46
Better cut flower	43	14	43
Preference	92	8	
Recommend	100	69	
Mean score ¹	8.62	6.85	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Bright Jewel Mix'

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Bright Jewel Mix' had a better variety of colors, fuller plants, and grew a bit taller. It produced more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Bright Jewel Mix' germinated first and had better germination. 'Giant Mix Improved' was slow to germinate, but once it did germinate, this variety did well. Both varieties produced beautiful blooms, excelled as cut flowers, and bloomed until first frost. Even in very dry weather, both varieties produced beautiful blooms.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Bright Jewel Mix' had a much higher germination rate. Both varieties were beautiful in the garden with brightly colored blooms and healthy plants.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I liked the variety of colors with 'Bright Jewel Mix'.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Bright Jewel Mix' had more flowers and had a wider range of colors. My 'Giant Mix Improved' was all pinks and whites, which is not my preference.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Bright Jewel Mix' had a high germination percentage and looked better. It was difficult growing zinnias this year. Hot, dry, windy days made germination tough. Twice daily watering was often required.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 NC

About 80% of 'Bright Jewel Mix' seeds came up compared to only about 60% of 'Giant Mix Improved'. The flowers of 'Bright Jewel Mix' had more beautiful, vibrant colors and their stems were longer.

'Bright Jewel Mix' was superior in every way.

Best cactus zinnia varieties

Top choice
Bright Jewel Mix

Strong performer
Burpeeanna Giants

Prefer 'Bright Jewel Mix' (continued)

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both did very well, in spite of the drought. Both bloomed for very long periods of time, and were very colorful. 'Bright Jewel Mix' germinated better, was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more blooms.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 NW

I loved the colors of 'Giant Mix Improved', but 'Bright Jewel Mix' had a lot more flowers and a wider range of colors.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Although 'Giant Improved Mix' was strong and beautiful, 'Bright Jewel Mix' stood out in color and size. Neighbors stopped to look.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Bright Jewel Mix' bloomed later, but it produced more flowers and looked more attractive in my garden.

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😞 SD

'Bright Jewel Mix' had great colors and lots of large blooms. The blooms of 'Giant Mix Improved' were smaller. Both varieties germinated very poorly. The plants of the varieties were similar. The plants did well despite the heat, lack of rain, and flea beetles. They added great color to my garden, and I truly enjoyed the birds and beneficial insects they attracted.

Prefer 'Giant Mix Improved'

Bright Jewel Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Giant Mix Improved ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Giant Mix Improved' bloomed later but produced more flowers and was prettier. The plants of both varieties were nice and healthy.

Conclusions

Even in very dry weather, both varieties produced beautiful blooms, excelled as cut flowers, and bloomed until the first frost. 'Bright Jewel Mix' was extremely impressive. It was recommended by all gardeners and preferred by all but one gardener. 'Bright Jewel Mix' germinated much better, bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers. It had a wider range of colors and long stems for cutting. 'Giant Mix Improved' was okay, but it was completely overshadowed by the brilliance of 'Bright Jewel Mix'.

Even in very dry weather, both varieties produced beautiful blooms, excelled as cut flowers, and bloomed until the first frost.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

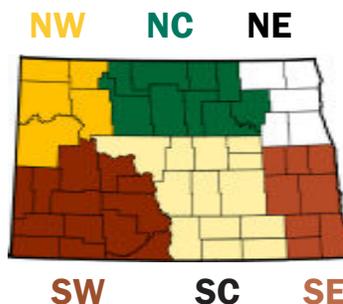
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A 😊
 Variety B 😞

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🐜 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



Locations

MN = Minnesota
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Zinnia, Dahlia Mix

Varieties

'California Giants'

80 days. Huge, semi-double flowers with rounded petals. Long stems for cutting. Grows 48 inches.

'State Fair'

90 days. Jumbo, 5-inch flowers come in a wide range of bright colors. Plants grow 36 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	California Giants	State Fair	Same
Germinated best	37%	26%	37%
Healthier plants	29	17	54
Bloomed earlier	45	32	23
More blooms	56	28	16
Prettier in garden	29	25	46
Better cut flower	27	33	40
Preference	56	44	
Recommend	82	68	
Mean score ¹	8.00	7.38	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'California Giants'

California Giants SE
 State Fair NE
 'California Giants' produced more flowers.

California Giants SE
 State Fair SE
 'California Giants' had twice as many plants germinate. It bloomed first and produced more flowers.

California Giants SE
 State Fair SE
 'California Giants' germinated better, showed more vigor and had bolder colors. Grasshoppers loved both varieties. Pollinators made many trips to these dahlia zinnias and I will definitely plant them again.

California Giants
 State Fair SE

The flowers of 'California Giants' were more aesthetically pleasing in my opinion but both performed well. Both are still thriving out in my garden providing me with bouquets that last a long time in a vase when harvested correctly. They are both beautiful varieties. 'California Giants' should be staked or they will flop all over and monopolize the space they are in. Both varieties are great to grow and did well in a compost-rich bed. I planted a few in poor soil as well and oddly enough, they too are thriving.

California Giants
 State Fair NC

'California Giants' had long, firm stems that resisted the wind. It bloomed a few days early and produced three times more flowers.

California Giants
 State Fair NC

'California Giants' germinated and grew better. It produced blooms faster and more abundantly than 'State Fair'.

California Giants
 State Fair SC

These were both great performers. 'California Giants' had longer stems than 'State Fair' as the season went on, which made them much easier to use as a cut flower.

'California Giants' produced more flowers.

Best dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice

Benary's Giant

Strong performers

California Giants

Cut and Come

Again

Giant Dahlia

Oklahoma

State Fair

Uprior Rose

Zowie! Yellow

Flame

Prefer 'California Giants' (continued)

California Giants 
 State Fair  SC

'California Giants' had larger, more colorful blooms.

California Giants 
 State Fair  SC

These were both very pretty. The flowers of 'California Giants' were a little bigger.

California Giants 
 State Fair  NW

'California Giants' grew a fuller double-petaled blossom. It bloomed earlier and had more flowers.

California Giants 
 State Fair  NW

'California Giants' was the better all-around producer with bigger and more blooms. Both varieties grew very well considering this summer's extreme heat and lack of rain. The blooms did not get real big, maybe because of the heat and having to be watered so much.

California Giants 
 State Fair  SW

Both varieties were heat and wind resistant. The blossoms of 'California Giants' were large and beautiful. It bloomed earlier and produced more blooms.

California Giants 
 State Fair  SD

'California Giants' germinated better (near 100% compared to 75% for 'State Fair'). 'California Giants' plants were stronger even after flea beetles chomped on them. The plants were covered in blooms while 'State Fair' plants were not as thick or full. 'California Giants' blossoms seemed bigger, brighter and fuller. Hummingbirds loved the 'California Giants'!

Prefer 'State Fair'

California Giants 
 State Fair  NE

'State Fair' had more colors.

California Giants 
 State Fair  NE

'State Fair' flowers were brighter and prettier.

California Giants 
 State Fair  NE

Both varieties were great this year. 'State Fair' germinated slightly earlier. Both varieties held up well to heavy grasshopper pressure. Both varieties bloomed prolifically until frost, and I brought in several bouquets of each.

California Giants 
 State Fair  SE

'State Fair' had better germination and bloomed prolifically until the first frost. 'California Giants' performed well, but was always behind 'State Fair' in performance, such as first bloom and germination. Both varieties had beautiful blooms all summer and into fall. The bees, butterflies and hummingbirds loved them.

California Giants 
 State Fair  SE

Both varieties grew well. 'State Fair' has done well in my garden in previous years, too.

California Giants 
 State Fair  SE

'State Fair' was more vibrant. It had more blooms and continued blooming. 'California Giants' had fewer blooms and some of its blooms did not fully develop.

California Giants 
 State Fair  NC

These rows were planted side by side and no one could see there were two different varieties. I gave 'State Fair' the nod because they were a 2–3 inches taller with slightly longer stems for cutting. Both varieties were excellent for cutting. 'California Giants' germinated a few days earlier.

Both varieties grew very well considering this summer's extreme heat and lack of rain.

Prefer 'State Fair' (continued)

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I loved this trial. These flowers were the only thing that looked amazing in my garden. 'State Fair' flowers lasted the longest after being cut. They lasted for weeks in the house. The colors of 'State Fair' were vibrant, and the plants were covered in blooms.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'State Fair' produced more attractive flowers.

California Giants ★★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'State Fair' had more colors and looked more attractive in the garden. 'California Giants' was a better cut flower.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties were easy to grow and kept blooming until the first heavy frost. I preferred the colors of 'State Fair'. 'California Giants' germinated better and produced more flowers.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'State Fair' had taller plants, bigger blooms and bloomed earlier.

No Preference

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😞 SE

'Benary's Giants' is better than both of these varieties.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew very well considering this summer's extreme heat and lack of rain. Both varieties kept producing large, beautiful flowers until frost. Last year, most gardeners preferred 'State Fair'. Several of those gardeners felt its colors were bolder. This year, most gardeners preferred 'California Giants'. 'California Giants' germinated well, bloomed first in most gardens, and produced more flowers overall. Both varieties did well as cut flowers.

Both varieties kept producing large, beautiful flowers until frost.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆
 Variety B ★★★★★☆

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A 😊
 Variety B 😞

Garden type →
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

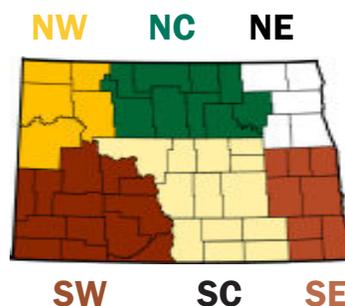
Comments →
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Sunflower, Scarlet Dahlia

Varieties

'Meteor'

Bold, red blooms. Giant flowers great for cutting. Sturdy stems and bushy plants. Grows 36 inches.

'Scarlet Flame'

Brilliant, large, double and semi-double flowers. Good for cut flowers. Grows 36 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Scarlet		
	Meteor	Flame	Same
Germinated best	20%	30%	50%
Healthier plants	20	30	50
Bloomed earlier	10	70	20
More blooms	11	44	44
Prettier in garden	30	60	10
Better cut flower	13	38	50
Preference	30	70	
Recommend	60	90	
Mean score ¹	7.40	8.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Meteor'

Meteor MN
 Scarlet Flame MN

'Meteor' grew about 18 inches, which was twice as tall as 'Scarlet Flame'. 'Meteor' bloomed first and had longer stems.

Meteor SC
 Scarlet Flame SC

I loved 'Meteor' for its vibrant color! 'Scarlet Flame' bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Meteor SW
 Scarlet Flame SW

Both these varieties did well with the drought conditions and had great scarlet color. 'Scarlet Flame' plants were taller. 'Meteor' had a thicker stem and held up better to all the wind we had in June. 'Scarlet Flame' bloomed 5 days earlier and had slightly more blooms. 'Meteor' had prettier flowers; more rounded and a little bit frilly. As cut flowers, they both kept nicely for about 3–4 days without changing out the water.

Prefer 'Scarlet Flame'

Meteor MN
 Scarlet Flame MN

'Scarlet Flame' germinated and bloomed only a day sooner. Both had wonderful blooms. 'Scarlet Flame' blooms were more red.

Meteor SE
 Scarlet Flame SE

'Scarlet Flame' flowers were all red. 'Meteor' had pink and fuchsia flowers mixed in the red.

Meteor NC
 Scarlet Flame NC

Both plants look healthy but 'Scarlet Flame' flowers are much larger and fuller (more layers of petals). 'Meteor' flowers are not really red but are more of a magenta color and 'Meteor' flowers just look skimpy compared to 'Scarlet Flame'.

'Scarlet Flame' bloomed earlier and had more blooms.

Best dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice

Benary's Giant

Strong performers

California Giants

Cut and Come Again

Giant Dahlia

Oklahoma

State Fair

Uprouse Rose

Zowie! Yellow

Flame

Prefer 'Scarlet Flame' (continued)

Meteor  NC
 Scarlet Flame 

'Scarlet Flame' was an outstanding zinnia, full of beautiful, eye-catching red blossoms! It is a taller zinnia, full of 4–5-inch red blossoms. They seem like they have bloomed all summer long and still look outstanding. I enjoyed this variety every time I visited my garden. I'd definitely plant these zinnias again.

Meteor  NC
 Scarlet Flame 

'Scarlet Flame' produced flowers sooner.

Meteor  SC
 Scarlet Flame 

Both varieties are beautiful, but 'Scarlet Flame' flowers were more red. 'Meteor' flowers were pinker.

Meteor  SW
 Scarlet Flame 

Both plants made a very attractive cut flower, but I would call 'Meteor' more of a burgundy colored flower. If you are looking for a true bright-red zinnia, 'Scarlet Flame' would be your go to. 'Scarlet Flame' bloomed a tad earlier and lasted a bit longer in the season. I wish both varieties kept green longer for a longer growing/blooming season. Neither variety is cut out for prolonged drought conditions.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Scarlet Flame'. It bloomed earlier and had more flowers. The flowers of 'Scarlet Red' were big, bright and uniformly red in color. This led to eye-catching displays in gardens. 'Meteor' flowers had shades of magenta which disappointed some of the gardeners. 'Meteor' was good, but it did not stand out in any trait.

'Scarlet Flame' flowers were big, bright and uniformly red in color.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

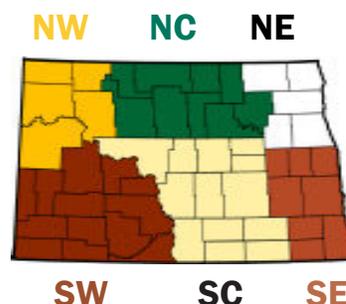
Ratings (1 to 10) → **Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** → **Garden type** → **Location** → **Comments**

Variety A  NC
 Variety B 

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types
 = Organic
 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Locations
 MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 MB = Manitoba
 SK = Saskatchewan
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana
 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska



Zinnia, Mexican

Varieties

'Aztec Sunset'

Bicolor blooms in cream, gold, rust and red. Compact, 15-inch spreading plants. Resists mildew.

'Jazzy Mix'

Earthy shades of burgundy, yellow and orange. Flowers are 1–2 inches wide. Grows 24 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Aztec Sunset	Jazzy Mix	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	11	67	22
Bloomed earlier	22	56	22
More blooms	11	33	56
Prettier in garden	11	44	44
Better cut flower	0	0	100
Preference	13	88	
Recommend	56	89	
Mean score ¹	6.67	7.78	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Aztec Sunset'

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★ ☹️ MN

Both varieties took a long time to develop well. 'Jazzy Mix' was weak for a long time. There are so many better varieties available.

Prefer 'Jazzy Mix'

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Jazzy Mix' had brighter flowers, uniform heights, fullness and stronger plants. It bloomed earlier.

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★ 😊 MN

The seedlings were eaten by something. Then it was hot. I didn't think anything was going to grow, but I kept watering. They both came back—'Jazzy Mix' more so. 'Jazzy Mix' was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Jazzy Mix' flowers were more attractive, and their plants were nicer. Hot, dry, windy days made germination tough. Twice daily watering was often required. This was a hard year to grow zinnias, but worth it.

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Jazzy Mix' had more flowers and fuller plants. Both varieties were healthy and produced a lot of flowers. 'Aztec Sunset' bloomed first.

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I really like these flowers. They add a real bright spot in planters and the garden. These will be a go to plant for fall color in planters. 'Jazzy Mix' had more bright colors.

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Aztec Sunset' grew slower. A good rain would have helped both varieties immensely.

Both varieties had low, spreading habits and produced beautiful flowers in rich, warm colors.

Best Mexican zinnia varieties

Top choice
 Jazzy Mix

Strong performers
 Old Mexico
 Persian Carpet

Prefer 'Jazzy Mix' (continued)

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

These varieties had shorter plants than I expected. 'Jazzy Mix' had more color to the flowers, a greater variety of colors, and more flowers per plant.

No Preference

Aztec Sunset ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Jazzy Mix ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Jazzy Mix' looked healthier. 'Aztec Sunset' bloomed first.

Conclusions

Both varieties had low, spreading habits and produced beautiful flowers in rich, warm colors. 'Jazzy Mix' plants were healthier, stronger and fuller. They bloomed earlier and produced more flowers at more sites. A very high percentage of gardeners preferred 'Jazzy Mix' to 'Aztec Sunset'. 'Aztec Sunset' was good and was recommended by most gardeners, but it rated lower for all traits.

'Jazzy Mix' plants were healthier, stronger and fuller. They bloomed earlier and produced more flowers at more sites.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆

Variety B ★★★★★☆

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 ☹️

Garden type

🐞 = Organic

🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

Location

NC

Comments

Locations

MN = Minnesota

NE = Northeast

SE = Southeast

NC = North Central

SC = South Central

NW = Northwest

SW = Southwest

MB = Manitoba

SK = Saskatchewan

SD = South Dakota

MT = Montana

IA = Iowa

NEB = Nebraska

Zinnia, Scabiosa

Varieties

'Candy Mix'

Bright pompom heads with petals underneath. Attracts pollinators. Great for bouquets. 30 inches.

'Cresto! Mix'

Crested flowers on sturdy stems. Perfect for cutting and for garden borders. Grows 30 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Candy Mix	Cresto! Mix	Same
Germinated best	44%	11%	44%
Healthier plants	63	0	38
Bloomed earlier	63	13	25
More blooms	75	13	13
Prettier in garden	38	25	38
Better cut flower	50	0	50
Preference	63	38	
Recommend	63	63	
Mean score ¹	7.25	7.25	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.50	

¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer 'Candy Mix'

Candy Mix MN
 Cresto! Mix

Blossoms of both varieties didn't last long due to hot weather. After rains in August, I got a second bloom which was much better.

Candy Mix NE
 Cresto! Mix

'Candy Mix' germinated better and bloomed first. Its darker foliage made the plants more attractive. 'Candy Mix' plants were a more uniform height. 'Candy Mix' flowers showed a greater variety of colors. 'Cresto! Mix' is good if you are patient.

Candy Mix
 Cresto! Mix SC

'Candy Mix' was more vigorous. Some 'Cresto! Mix' did not germinate well for whatever reason.

Candy Mix
 Cresto! Mix SC

Both came up on May 14. Germination was 100%. 'Candy Mix' held up really well in the extreme heat. Both varieties were in large pots that received some intense, late-day sun. Both varieties were very pretty and had great colors.

Candy Mix
 Cresto! Mix SC

'Candy Mix' had taller plants and I liked the look of its flowers better. There were tons of blooms on each variety, and the plants are still blooming as of October 11.

Prefer 'Cresto! Mix'

Candy Mix
 Cresto! Mix MN

'Candy Mix' had lots of small flowers with lots of different colors, but no pompom types. 'Cresto! Mix' had some pompom flowers, but only the yellow ones. I read somewhere that the heat affected pompom zinnias causing a reduction in pompom types. The few I had were very pretty and unique.

'Candy Mix' grew more vigorously, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Best scabiosa zinnia variety

Top choice
Candy Mix

Prefer 'Cresto! Mix' (continued)

Candy Mix ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Cresto! Mix ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cresto! Mix' had beautiful flowers, almost double the blooms and vibrant colors, especially magenta. 'Candy Mix' had taller plants, larger flowers and bloomed later.

Candy Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Cresto! Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Neither one really formed many pompom flowers. 'Cresto! Mix' plants grew a little taller, and its flowers produced a few more pompom types.

Conclusions

Gardeners generally liked these varieties but neither variety generated much excitement. 'Candy Mix' germinated better, was healthier, grew more vigorously, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. 'Cresto! Mix' did not excel in any trait. Some gardeners were disappointed in the lack of flowers with crested petals for both varieties.

Some gardeners were disappointed in the lack of flowers with crested petals for both varieties.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★☆

Variety B ★★★★★☆

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊

☹️

Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Garden type →

🐞 NC

Locations

MN = Minnesota
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 SK = Saskatchewan
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana
 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

NW NC NE

SW SC SE

Location →

NC

Comments →

Appendix 1

Welcome Letter

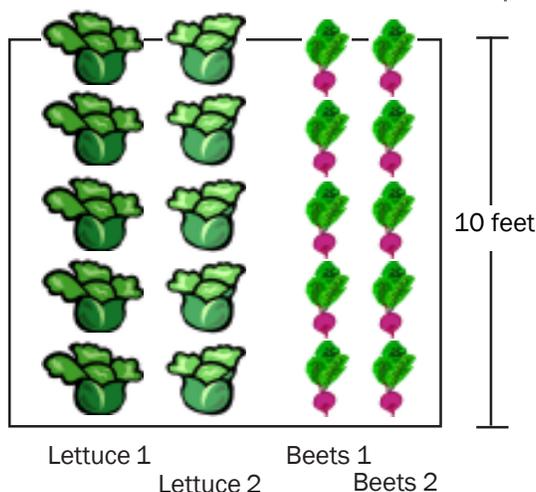
NDSU

EXTENSION

Dear Gardener,

Welcome to our research team! It will be fun to work with you this summer. Enclosed are the seeds you ordered. If you are missing anything, please let me know. Let's go over some key points:

1. Each trial compares two varieties. **You must plant both varieties.**
2. To make it a fair comparison, you need to **treat both varieties in the same manner.** They must get the same amount of sunlight and general care (watering and fertilizing).



3. We want to see how these varieties perform under real home garden situations. The packets have instructions on how to sow your seeds, but you may **use your own gardening practices.** For example, I sow my cucumber seeds in a row but you can plant them in hills if you wish. It's up to you.
4. When possible, **grow the varieties for each trial in rows near each other.** Look at the diagram (top right). Notice the varieties being compared in the lettuce and beet trials are grown next to each other. In this way, they are most likely to get the same amount of sunlight and care.

Cucumber, melon and pumpkin vines can “run” and become intertwined. Try to keep the vines of each variety within the row so you do not get confused when harvesting and evaluating each variety.

5. You have enough seeds to grow at least 10 feet of each variety. It's okay if you don't have enough space for 10-foot rows, but try to get a fair look at both varieties.

6. **Use the plot labels** that are enclosed. This will help you remember which variety is which. I strongly encourage you to **make a plot diagram after you are done planting** for your future reference in case the plot labels get removed accidentally (this happens with kids).
7. An example of a completed evaluation form is enclosed. Use this as a guide to help you when evaluating the varieties.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Tom Kalb
Extension Horticulturist
2718 Gateway Ave., Suite 304
Bismarck, ND 58503
tom.kalb@ndsu.edu
701.328.9722

**Welcome
to our
research
team!**

More Info

Go to the ND Home Garden Variety Trials website: www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegarden/varietytrials/

Appendix 2

Example of Evaluation Form

2020 Trial #00 Cantaloupe
--

Name: Jenny Gardener

Date Sown: May 30

Did you use a chemical fertilizer (for example, 10–10–10, Miracle-Gro)? Yes No

Did you use a pesticide for insects or diseases? Yes No
 If yes, was it organic? Yes No

Which variety:	Apollo	Zeus	Same	Comments
Germinated best?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor
Had healthier plants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apollo vines turned gray in fall
Produced the first ripe melons?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Three days earlier than Zeus
Produced higher yields?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6
Had more attractive melons?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh
Tasted better?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet

Overall Performance Rating	Apollo	Zeus
Rate each variety on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 5 = good and 10 = excellent. <i>Don't give both a "10". Be very critical!</i>	5	9

Preference
Circle the variety you prefer. <i>Don't circle both—make a choice!</i> Apollo Zeus
Please state the reason(s) for your preference: Zeus was outstanding. Good yields of large, sweet fruits. The vines looked healthy all summer. Apollo ripened early, but the vines were weak and the melons tasted bland.

Recommendation
Circle the varieties you recommend for North Dakota gardeners: Apollo Zeus Both Neither

Appendix 3

Acknowledgements

Researchers

North Dakota State University Extension is very thankful to the following gardeners who provided results from their research plots:

Annell Alger	Brenda Davis	Anita Haakenson
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Peg Anderson	Tabatha Durand	Ronald Harold
Naomi Anderson	Lisa Durkin	Charlie Hart
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Deborah Barnard	Kathy Fimreite	Niki Helbling
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Kelli Beneda	Cari Flores	Clara Helvig
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Bill Berg	Tricia Fossum	Jonas Heyl
Lindy Berg	Laura and Vanessa Fransen	Judy Hill
Wayne Beyer	Curtis Freeman	Lila Hlebichuk
Anne Blankenship	Jacqueline Friedt	Alicia Hoffarth
Sydney Boschert	Susan Froemke	Liana Hoffman
Michell Brabazon	Scott and Tracy Fuller	Valerie Hoffman
Harriet Bracken	David Funk	Beth Hokanson
Rachel Brag	Darci Gahner	Mary Jean Holm
Julie Brandvold	Debra Gallagher and Greg Tschider	Lucas Holmes
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Christine Bunko	Patty Gefroh	Pam Holscher
Heather, Selah and Solomon Burchill	Carol Giannonatti	Kathy Holte
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Diane Byrum	Ruth Glen	Roberta Hopkins
Bob Carlson	Deb Goplen	Nathan Horgeshimer
Debra Chambers	John and Teresa Gorman	Dick Horner
Belinda Christianson	Jo Gourneau	Sandra Horob
Sara Clemens	Mona and Lance Granrud	Molly Houn
Lori Cline	Becky Grant	Connie Lee Hourigan
Hilari Cobb	Arlene Gray	Linda Hovda
Catherine Cute	Renae Gress	Linda Hovland
Samuel Dahl	Jennifer Grote	Laura, Taylor, Lane and Kyle Huseby
Trina Daniel	Ann Guanella	Jenny Jaggi

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Greg and Allison Krieger
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Kelsey, Tristan and Ignatius Lako
Karen Lang
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Michael Luckenbill
Stephanie Luhning
Amy Madsen
Abby Majerus
Jayde Mangel
Zoe Wergeland Manstrom
Margaret Marcusen
Janell Martin
Megan Martin
Theresa Martin-Johnson
Roberta Mathiason
Betty Mautz
Becky McCleary
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Cindy McLean
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Peter Meberg
Jeffrey Miller
Stephanie Miller
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Amanda Neaveill
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Cindy and Dan Olson
Maria Olson
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Brian and Lindy Orn
Tessa Osterbauer
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Joyce Waldock

Angie and Sheyenne Waletzko

Mike Walton

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Kenneth Weinzierl and Miles
Baasch

Bri Weisbeck

Angie Wells

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Nancy Whitney

Karen Wickham

Martha Willand

Marie Williams

Christina Willison

Linda Withey

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Rainey Zettel

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SQUASH: Katie Harbath, .../katieharbath/4817646745/; Forest and Kim Starr, .../starr-environmental/24797125701/; danbruell, .../mr-morshee/7966077448/; webdesignnewcastle from Pixabay; George Chernilevsky from Wikimedia Commons; Green Mountain Girls Farm from Wikimedia Commons. **SWISS CHARD:** stux from Pixabay; 47. thansi from Pixabay. **TURNIP:** Neil Hall LRPS, .../byneilhall/8735120272/.

WATERMELON: pasja1000from Pixabay; vigilant20, .../lynnszwalkiewicz/4891304037/. **BASIL:** Cinnamon Cooper, .../cinnachick/

4710531895; Su Yin Khoo, .../ksuyin/5366112661/. **BALSAM:** Rameshng from Wikimedia Commons. **MARIGOLD:** Martin LaBar, .../martinlabar/50441467561/. **MORNING GLORY:** milomingo, .../cttc/445344441/. **SUNFLOWER:** Jo Zimny Photos, .../joeyz51/50187011037/; Domiriel, .../domiriel/7426033500/; Swallowtail Garden Seeds, .../swallowtailgardenseeds/36472461145/; Art Aspirations, .../23471014@N03/3770345292/. **ZINNIA:** MrGajowy3 from Pixabay; BlueRidgeKitties, .../blueridgekitties/4836624430/; Lotus Johnson, .../ngawangchodron/29736237652/; Swallowtail Garden Seeds, .../swallowtailgardenseeds/40817516850/; Swallowtail Garden Seeds, .../swallowtailgardenseeds/49272657051/.

Ladybird beetle, fertilizer bag and spray bottle icons made by Good Ware, mynamepong and Smashicons, respectively, all from flaticons.com.

Variety Descriptions

This is an academic report published for educational purposes only. The descriptions of varieties in this report were obtained from catalogs of numerous companies, including Fedco, Harris, High Mowing, Johnny's, Jordan, Jung, Natural, NE Seed, Osborne, Seed Savers Exchange, Siskiyou, Territorial, Vermont Bean and Veseys.

Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

2022

Selecting an outstanding cultivar can lead to a bountiful garden.

Cultivar selection checklist:

- ✓ Early maturity
- ✓ Flavorful
- ✓ Resists diseases
- ✓ Productive
- ✓ Widely adapted (cool soil, dry weather)

The finest cultivars will lead to the finest gardens. North Dakota State University and its team of over 200 gardeners evaluate promising cultivars every summer. The following cultivars have excelled in these and other trials in the Midwest:

ASPARAGUS. Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Millennium, Purple Passion.

BEAN. Bush: Annihilator, Antigua, Bush Blue Lake 274, Crockett, Derby, Espada, Inspiration, Jade II, Lewis, Maxibel, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Royal Burgundy, Serengeti, Strike. **Dry:** Arikara Yellow, Great Northern. **Lima:** Fordhook 242, Eastland. **Pole:** Fortex, Monte Cristo, Monte Gusto, Orient Wonder, Seychelles, Stringless Blue Lake S-7. **Soybean:** Envy, Tohya. **Wax:** Borsalino, Carson, Gold Rush.

BEET. Red: Bull's Blood, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Eagle, Merlin, Red Ace, Sweet Dakota Bliss. **Gold:** Boldor, Burpee's Golden, Touchstone Gold.

BROCCOLI. Green Magic, Packman.

CABBAGE. Chinese: Blues. **Head:** Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

CARROT. Orange: Baltimore, Bolero, Candynax, Cupar, Goldfinger, Hercules, Emperor 58, Laguna, Mokum, Napoli, Naval, Negovia, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes. **Other:** Chablis Yellow, Purple Haze.

CAULIFLOWER. Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

CORN. Super Sweet: American Dream, Anthem XR, Catalyst, Enchanted, Xtra-Tender 274A. **Sugary enhanced:** Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Temptation. **Synergistic:** Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select, Sweetness. **Ornamental:** Fiesta. **Popcorn:** Dakota Black.



CUCUMBER. Pickling: Alibi, Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf. **Slicing:** Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Green Light, Mercury, Muncher, Orient Express II, Raceway, Raider, Salad Bush, Silver Slicer, Straight Eight, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green.

EGGPLANT. Black Beauty, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express.

GREENS. Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Komatsuna, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Tokyo Bekana, Vegetable Amaranth, Win-Win Choi.

KALE. Black Magic, Dazzling Blue, Red Russian, Vates, White Russian, Winterbor.

KOHLRABI. Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner Improved.

LETTUCE. Leaf: Bergam's Green, Cervanek, Deer Tongue, Merlot, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Royal Oakleaf, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. **Butterhead:** Alkindus, Buttercrunch, Nancy, Red Cross, Skyphos, Sweet Valentine. **Crisphead:** Magenta, Muir, Nevada, Pablo, Sierra. **Romaine:** Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Newham, Starhawk. **Lollo:** Dark Red Lollo Rossa.

MELON. Muskmelon: Aphrodite, Athena, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. **Specialty:** Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan.

OKRA. Candle Fire, Clemson Spineless.

ONION. Ailsa Craig, Candy, Copra, Sweet Sandwich, Walla Walla.

PEA. Shell: Early Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro Improved, Wando. **Snap:** Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap. **Snow:** Avalanche, Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sweet Horizon.

PEPPER. Bell: Bell Boy, Early Sunation, Jupiter, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze. **Frying/Roasting:** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. **Hot:** Cheyenne, Early Jalapeno, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, Tiburon.

POTATO. Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

PUMPKIN. Cooking: Small Sugar, Cinderella's Carriage. **Jack-o'-lantern:** Autumn Gold, Bellatrix, Cronus, Early Dakota Howden, Early Giant, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Howden Biggie, Large Marge, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie, Warty Goblin. **Giant:** Big Moose, Dill's Atlantic Giant, Polar Bear. **Ornament:** Blaze, Casperita, Jack Be Little, Jarrahdale.

RADISH. Amethyst, Bacchus, Champion, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Red Head, Rover, Roxanne, Sora, White Icicle.

RUTABAGA. American Purple Top.

SPINACH. Avon, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Escalade, Gazelle, Kookaburra, Lizard, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, SV2146VB, Tye.

SQUASH, SUMMER. Crookneck: Gentry, Sundance. **Scallop:** Flying Saucer, Sunburst. **Straightneck:** Fortune, Multipik, Slick Pik YS 26, Zephyr. **Zucchini:** Cashflow, Desert, Easypick Gold, Gold Rush, Green Machine, Green Tiger, Payload, Portofino, Raven, Spineless Beauty, Yellowfin.

SQUASH, WINTER. Acorn: Autumn Delight, Black Bellota, Carnival, Table Ace, Table King. **Buttercup:** Bonbon, Burgess. **Butternut:** Butterbaby, Butterscotch, Early

Butternut, Waltham. **Delicata:** Cornell's Bush Delicata, Zeppelin. **Hubbard:** Blue Magic, Red Kuri. **Kabocha:** Sunshine, Sweet Mama.

SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.

SWISS CHARD. Bali, Bright Lights, Charbell, Flamingo, Improved Rainbow, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Rhubarb.

TOMATO. Cherry: Juliet, SunSugar, Supersweet 100, Sweet Baby Girl, Yellow Pear. **Fresh market:** Big Beef, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus. **Paste:** Roma VF, Viva Italia.

Heirloom: Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Striped German, Stupice, Wisconsin 55.

TURNIP. Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross.

WATERMELON. Seeded: Petite Yellow, Sangria, Stargazer, Sugar Baby, Sweet Dakota Rose, Yellow Doll. **Seedless:** Millionaire.

Seed Sources

The following is a sample of companies offering seeds. This list is provided for educational purposes only; no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Many offer free seed catalogs.

A.P. Whaley Seed, www.awhaley.com.
 Baker Creek Seed, www.rareseeds.com.
 Burpee Seed, www.burpee.com.
 Fedco Seeds, www.fedcoseeds.com.
 Gurney's Seed and Nursery, www.gurneys.com.
 Harris Seeds, www.harriseseeds.com.
 High Mowing Seeds, www.highmowingseeds.com.
 HPS Seed, www.hpsseed.com.
 Johnny's Selected Seeds, www.johnnyseeds.com.
 Jordan Seeds, www.jordanseeds.com.
 Jung Seed, www.jungseed.com.
 Osborne Seeds, www.osborneseed.com.
 Pinetree Garden Seeds, www.superseeds.com.
 Prairie Road Org. Seed, www.prairieroadorganic.co.
 Seed Savers Exchange, www.seedsavers.org.
 Siskiyou Seeds, www.siskiyouseeds.org.
 Stokes Seeds, www.stokeseeds.com.
 Territorial Seed, www.territorialseed.com.
 True Leaf Market Seed, www.trueleafmarket.com.
 Vesey's Seeds, www.veseys.com.



All gardeners are invited to join our team of backyard researchers. Go to www.ags.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

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