

North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS
2022

NDSU

EXTENSION

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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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North Dakota

Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS FOR 2022

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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 7.3% of adults and a lower percentage of children in North Dakota eat the recommended amount of vegetables for a healthy diet.^{3,4}

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 enjoy healthy 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 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.

⁴ Lee, S.H., L.V. Moore et al. 2022. Adults meeting fruit and vegetable intake recommendations—US, 2019. *MMWR Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report* 71:1–9.

³ Moore, L.V., F.E. Thompson and Z. Demissie. 2017. Percentage of youth meeting federal fruit and vegetable intake recommendations, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, United States and 33 states, 2013. *J. Acad. Nutr. Diet.* 117(4): 545–553.

3. Gardeners will grow more productive gardens and enjoy healthier diets.
4. Youth will develop skills in science, eat healthier diets, 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/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

Tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds were available in late winter. Gardeners could choose up to six of these trials for \$3 each with no postage fees.

Other trials were available in early spring. Gardeners could choose up to eight of these trials for \$1.50 each with a total postage fee of \$5.50.

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

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



Fig. 1. Gardeners sowing their research plots.

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

Weather in 2022

The growing season began with extremely cold and very wet weather (Fig. 2). Plantings were delayed for weeks. On a positive note, these spring rains replenished the moisture levels in our soils that were parched due to two years of severe drought.

Temperatures were above normal through much of the summer and fall.

Rainfall amounts were below normal through much of the summer and fall. By the end of September, nearly all of the state was abnormally dry again and most of the state was in a moderate drought.

Warmer than normal temperatures in fall provided valuable time for most of the late-sown crops to mature.

The first frost in fall arrived for most gardeners on October 6–7, which was normal to one week later than normal. This was a hard, killing frost.

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

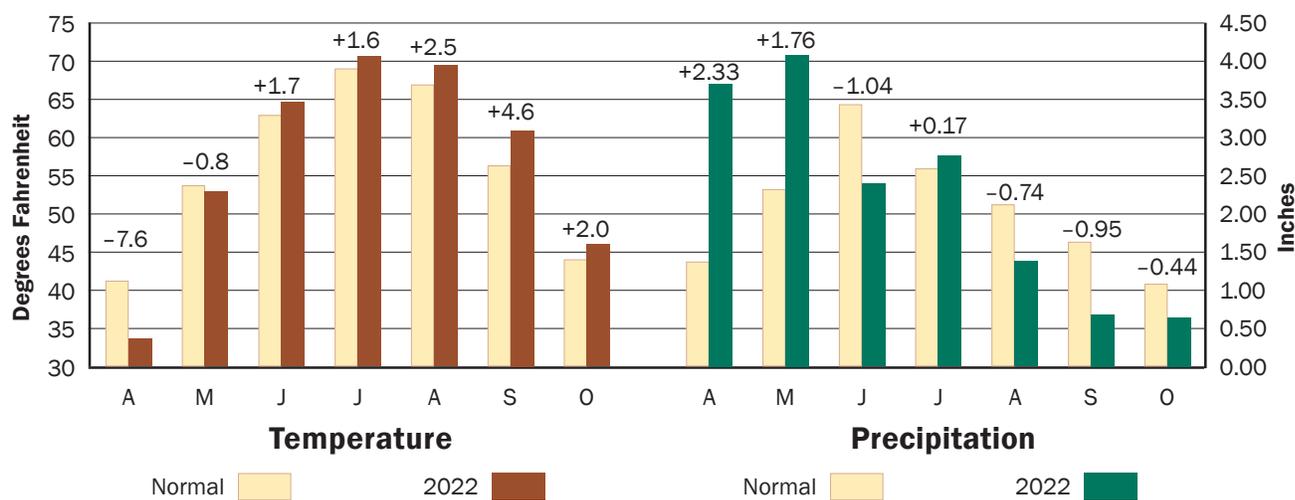


Fig. 2. Statewide monthly temperatures and precipitation amounts in normal years (1901–2000) and 2022. In spring, extremely cold and very wet conditions delayed plantings. In summer and fall, temperatures were warmer than normal and precipitation levels were below normal. By the end of the year, much of the state was in a moderate drought. The first killing frost in fall arrived for most gardeners in early October, which was normal or one week later than normal for most gardeners. Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information.

Participation in 2022

In 2022, gardeners at 287 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from 1,211 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 43 of the state’s 53 counties (Fig. 3). Our trials extended into Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Saskatchewan and South Dakota.

Gardeners in Colorado, 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.

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 of the varieties they would recommend to other

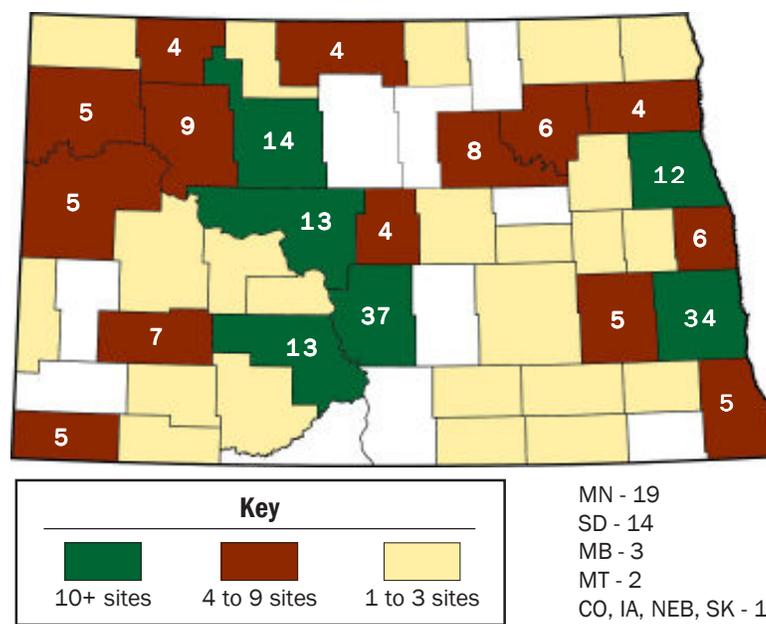


Fig. 3. Gardeners at 287 sites submitted results in 2022. Site numbers are shown above for each county with four or more sites.

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 due to grasshoppers, hail and other harsh conditions. 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 **variety 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 five-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 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
CO = Colorado
IA = Iowa
NEB = Nebraska

Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states/provinces evaluated promising vegetable and cut flower varieties. Gardeners at 287 sites rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. Reports of 1,211 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 of beautiful, delicious beans. ‘Jade’ was impressive. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Its pods were long, straight and uniform. ‘Homerun’ had attractive, dark green pods.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Homerun	38	71	7.72
Jade	63	88	8.47
			(37 sites)



Bean, Green Snap Organic

Gardeners were very impressed with both varieties. They liked ‘Provider’ for its early, reliable and high yields. They liked ‘Red Tail’ for its dark green, smooth, straight and delicious pods.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Provider	40	80	7.80
Red Tail	60	90	8.00
			(12 sites)



Bean, Green Filet

‘Crockett’ pods were dark green, glossy, tender and more flavorful. ‘Tobago’ pods were very small, thin and tender. ‘Tobago’ germinated better, which contributed to producing higher yields. ‘Tobago’ ripened earlier at more sites, too.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Crockett	71	89	8.18
Tobago	29	54	6.64
			(33 sites)



Bean, Yellow Snap

‘Gold Rush’ showed good vigor and matured earlier. It produced higher yields in the early season, but ‘Goldilocks’ came on later and matched the overall yield totals. ‘Goldilocks’ had an edge in pod quality for several gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Goldilocks	50	50	7.75
Gold Rush	50	88	8.13
			(10 sites)



Bean, Yellow Filet

Both varieties produced loads of beans all summer. Their beans were small, tender and straight. ‘Borsalino’ received higher ratings for germination and health. Its pods were full and attractive. Gardeners enjoyed the flavor of ‘Bamako’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bamako	40	60	7.40
Borsalino	60	80	7.70
			(13 sites)



Bean, Yellow Filet Pole

In two years of testing, ‘French Gold’ has consistently matured earlier and ‘Monte Gusto’ has received higher scores for taste. Both varieties were recommended by most gardeners. Data are limited this year.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
French Gold	75	100	8.25
Monte Gusto	25	75	7.00
			(6 sites)



Beet, Gold

More gardeners preferred the looks and taste of ‘Yellow Sunrise’ roots. ‘Yellow Sunrise’ germinated better and matched or outperformed ‘Touchstone Gold’ in all traits. ‘Yellow Sunrise’ was impressive and warrants further testing.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Touchstone Gold	29	57	6.36
Yellow Sunrise	71	79	7.79
			(19 sites)



Beet, Red

‘Red Cloud’ excelled in germination, health, yield and root quality traits. Its roots were smooth, attractive and superior in taste. Every gardener recommended it. ‘Eagle’ had excelled in previous trials that occurred in hot, dry years.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Eagle	25	63	6.63
Red Cloud	75	100	8.00
			(13 sites)



Beet, Red Organic

‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier. The roots of ‘Sweet Dakota Bliss’ were darker red, more attractive and better tasting to more gardeners. The tops of both varieties were delicious.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early Wonder T.T.	45	77	7.38
Swt Dakota Bliss	55	91	7.95
			(27 sites)



Carrot, Early Nantes

‘Mokum’ produced higher yields at more sites. Several gardeners felt the roots of ‘Mokum’ were more attractive and a little sweeter. ‘Adana’ reportedly has greater uniformity and stronger tops, but our gardeners rarely mentioned this.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Adana	40	77	6.48
Mokum	60	73	6.86
			(32 sites)



Carrot, Nantes

‘Caravel’ had an edge in germination that contributed to an edge in yields. The ‘Caravel’ roots were larger, broader and less likely to break when digging. ‘Narvik’ had an edge in root quality; several gardeners felt it tasted a bit sweeter.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Caravel	55	76	7.71
Narvik	45	79	7.65
			(25 sites)



Carrot, Yellow

Neither variety particularly stood out. A higher percentage of gardeners recommended ‘Yellow Moon’. They liked its vigor and attractive roots. Most gardeners preferred ‘Yellowstone’ primarily for its superior taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Yellow Moon	43	86	7.43
Yellowstone	57	71	7.43
			(9 sites)



Corn, Early Super Sweet

Gardeners liked both varieties. ‘Kickoff’ germinated better, showed strong seedling vigor and ripened earlier (key traits for early sweet corn). ‘Solstice’ received higher ratings for taste qualities. Its cobs were especially sweet and delicious.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Kickoff	53	78	7.47
Solstice	47	67	7.47
			(21 sites)



Corn, Super Sweet

‘Cadence’ germinated poorly in the cool, wet soils this spring. It is not clear if this was due to inferior genetics or a bad batch of seeds. ‘Troubadour’ received high ratings and was recommended by a very high percentage of gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cadence	10	35	5.05
Troubadour	90	90	8.45
			(27 sites)



Corn, Yellow Super Sweet

‘Icon’ germinated better in the cool, moist soils this spring. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners liked its long ears and delicious taste. ‘Vision’ has been a strong performer in previous years, but it struggled in 2022.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Icon	88	88	8.63
Vision	13	75	7.50
			(10 sites)



Cucumber, Armenian

‘Light Green’ has grown much better than ‘Striped’ in two years of trials. It has shown more vigor and produced higher yields. Gardeners who preferred ‘Striped’ often mentioned its unique, snake-like appearance and its special taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Light Green	83	67	7.83
Striped	17	33	5.17
			(6 sites)



Cucumber, Burpless

‘Nokya’ showed an edge in all traits from germination to harvest. ‘Nokya’ vines were more robust, produced earlier and yielded more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were straight and more attractive. ‘Shintokiwa’ is a good organic variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Nokya	76	89	8.32
Shintokiwa	24	63	6.76
			(41 sites)



Cucumber, Pickling

‘Max Pack’ germinated better, grew faster and produced more cucumbers. Gardeners liked the crispness of its fruits. This is its second straight year of performing well. ‘Supremo’ was satisfactory, but it did not distinguish itself.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Max Pack	76	88	8.04
Supremo	24	58	7.20
			(29 sites)



Cucumber, Slicing

‘Bristol’ produced much earlier and had higher yields. ‘DMR 401’ is famous for its resistance to a new strain of downy mildew, but it appeared this disease was not a factor. In fact, most gardeners reported ‘Bristol’ had healthier vines.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bristol	80	100	8.40
DMR 401	20	60	6.90
			(14 sites)



Cucumber, Snack

‘Green Light’ was better in every way. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of its smooth-skinned, attractive fruits. ‘Mercury’ had dark green, slender, bitter-free fruits of good quality.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Green Light	73	86	8.18
Mercury	27	65	7.19
			(44 sites)



Eggplant, Asian Long

Gardeners liked both varieties, but most preferred ‘Millionaire’. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. The varieties received similar ratings for fruit appearance and taste qualities. Data are limited for this trial.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Asian Delite	40	60	7.60
Millionaire	60	80	7.40
			(5 sites)



Eggplant, Early Italian

Most gardeners preferred ‘Traviata’. It was the more productive variety. ‘Nadia’ plants were healthy. Gardeners were pleased with the fruit qualities of both varieties. Data are limited for this trial.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Nadia	25	50	6.25
Traviata	75	75	7.50
			(5 sites)



Eggplant, Italian

It is difficult to make any conclusions as there was minimal interest in this trial. The solitary gardener recommended both varieties. She preferred ‘Classic’ for its earliness and beauty, and ‘Black Beauty’ for its yield.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Black Beauty	0	100	7.00
Classic	100	100	9.00
			(1 site)



Kale, Curly

Gardeners liked both of these varieties. ‘Winterbor’ received slightly higher scores. It germinated better, was ready to harvest earlier and had a lighter shade of blue-green for its leaf color. ‘Darkibor’ is a good organic variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Darkibor	33	75	7.25
Winterbor	67	100	7.50
			(6 sites)



Kale, Lacinato

‘Black Mamba’ was ready to harvest earlier at more sites, but neither variety distinguished itself. These varieties did not generate much excitement, and each variety was recommended by just over half of the gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Black Magic	50	63	6.60
Mamba	50	63	6.60
			(8 sites)



Kale, Siberian

‘Russian Frills’ received higher yield scores. Its ruffled leaves showed greater tolerance to grasshoppers and flea beetles in some gardens. ‘Red Russian’ leaves were more tender and easier to clean.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Red Russian	44	80	6.70
Russian Frills	56	80	7.70
			(13 sites)



Melon, Cantaloupe Hybrid

‘Aphrodite’ germinated better, ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. ‘Aphrodite’ melons were bigger and more attractive. Most gardeners felt ‘Sugar Rush’ tasted better. They liked the sweetness and firmness of its flesh.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Aphrodite	69	62	7.08
Sugar Rush	31	54	6.31
			(22 sites)



Melon, Cantaloupe Organic

‘Dakota Sisters’ produced higher yields and received high scores for its taste and other fruit qualities. ‘PMR Delicious 51’ matched ‘Dakota Sisters’ for earliness, but most gardeners did not recommend it.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dakota Sisters	80	80	8.40
PMR Delic. 51	20	40	7.00
			(15 sites)



Melon, Galia

‘Arava’ was an impressive, easy-to-grow melon. It was early-ripening, prolific and delicious. We had high hopes for ‘Divergent’, a Galia x cantaloupe cross, but this variety was a disappointment particularly for yield and taste qualities.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Arava	70	80	7.80
Divergent	30	50	6.50
			(13 sites)



Pepper, Hot Cayenne

Gardeners liked the beauty of the fruits of these varieties. They preferred ‘Cayenne Long Slim’ for its higher yields. ‘Red Ember’ is reported to have distinctive sweet and spicy flavors, but this was not noted.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cayen. Long Slim	100	100	8.50
Red Ember	0	100	7.50
			(2 sites)



Pepper, Hot Jalapeno

‘PS11435807’ was vastly superior to ‘Early Jalapeno’, a popular jalapeno variety. The fruits of ‘PS11435807’ were larger, more attractive and more flavorful. Its vines were healthier, and its yields were earlier and more abundant.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Early Jalapeno	0	38	5.38
PS11435807	100	100	9.63
			(9 sites)



Pepper, Hot Poblano

Nearly all gardeners recommended both varieties. Gardeners were split on which variety they preferred. ‘Baron’ was earlier and more productive at more sites. No comments on taste were provided.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Baron	50	100	7.83
Bastan	50	83	7.50
			(6 sites)



Pepper, Red Bell Hybrid

Gardeners liked both varieties. ‘Aristotle’ produced higher yields at more gardens and received higher scores for taste. ‘Red Knight’ produced red peppers sooner. Its fruits were large, blocky, uniform and very attractive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Aristotle	25	88	7.50
Red Knight	75	75	8.38
			(9 sites)



Pepper, Red Bell Open-Pollinated

‘King of the North’ plants were productive, sturdy, healthy and protected fruits from sunscald. Its fruits were attractive, crisp and better tasting. ‘Jupiter’ grew quickly but could not match the yields or fruit quality of ‘King of the North’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Jupiter	17	50	5.33
King of the North	83	83	7.50
			(10 sites)



Pepper, Purple Bell

All gardeners preferred ‘Dragonfly’. It matured earlier, produced higher yields and tasted better. ‘Purple Beauty’ produced larger fruits but was considered inferior by all gardeners. There was surprisingly little interest in this trial.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dragonfly	100	100	8.50
Purple Beauty	0	50	6.50
			(2 sites)



Pepper, Yellow Bell

Everyone preferred ‘Flavorburst’ for its outstanding taste. ‘Early Sunstation’ has done well in trials conducted in previous years. Gardeners in those previous trials liked its earliness and the beauty of its green, blocky, immature fruits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early Sunstation	0	100	6.00
Flavorburst	100	100	8.00
			(4 sites)



Pepper, Italian Bullshorn

Both varieties were easy to grow and produced lots of great tasting, mild peppers. ‘Giant Marconi’ matured earlier and produced higher yields. Nearly every gardener recommended ‘Giant Marconi’. ‘Sweet Delilah’ peppers were larger.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Giant Marconi	64	93	8.40
Sweet Delilah	36	67	7.40
			(16 sites)



Pepper, Snacking Mini

‘Lunchbox Mix’ produced earlier and higher yields at more sites. Gardeners liked the sweet flavor and bright colors of its fruits. ‘Sweetie Mix’ germinated better and performed well at some but fewer sites. Both varieties grew slowly.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lunchbox Mix	69	85	7.77
Sweetie Mix	31	62	7.15
			(17 sites)



Pumpkin, Small

‘Neon’ pumpkins were bright orange in color, larger and ripened much earlier. ‘Cannon Ball’ pumpkins were burnt orange in color and had a hard shell that allowed for longer use as a decoration.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cannon Ball	50	100	8.50
Neon	50	100	8.75
			(9 sites)



Pumpkin, Midsize

Both varieties produced lots of beautiful pumpkins. ‘Cargo’ pumpkins were bigger, more attractive, ripened earlier and were more abundant at more gardens. ‘Duchess’ is known for its double-ribbed rind, but this was not mentioned.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cargo	50	85	7.82
Duchess	50	67	7.45
			(14 sites)



Pumpkin, Large

‘Large Marge’ continues to impress. ‘Large Marge’ ripened earlier and produced more pumpkins. Its pumpkins were larger and more attractive. Most gardeners recommended ‘Cronus’ as well. They liked its blocky pumpkins.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cronus	33	58	7.58
Large Marge	67	92	8.50
			(12 sites)



Pumpkin, Gray

Some gardeners preferred the blue-gray color of ‘Jarrahdale’ fruits, while others preferred the deep ribs and mint green color of ‘Mint Prince’. ‘Jarrahdale’ produced higher yields at more sites. ‘Mint Prince’ was reliable and matured earlier.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Jarrahdale	50	60	6.60
Mint Prince	50	60	6.90
			(14 sites)



Pumpkin, Pink

‘Porcelain Doll’ pumpkins were larger but fewer in number. Gardeners mentioned it had more of a true, light pink or peach color, making it a more attractive variety. Gardeners were impressed with the productivity of ‘Porcelain Princess’.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Porcelain Doll	63	100	7.75
Porcelain Princess	38	88	7.38
			(15 sites)



Pumpkin, White

‘Blanco’ pumpkins were pure white and judged to be more attractive by more gardeners. Its vines were healthy, productive and aggressive. ‘Moonshine’ germinated well. Its pumpkins were slightly larger and more cream in color.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Blanco	50	86	7.33
Moonshine	50	100	7.50
			(10 sites)



Pumpkin, Yellow

Neither variety generated much excitement. Two of three gardeners preferred ‘Lemonade’. They liked the bright yellow color of its pumpkins. ‘Mellow Yellow’ was a more reliable producer. Scores of both were fairly low to medium.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Lemonade	67	67	6.33
Mellow Yellow	33	100	6.33
			(4 sites)



Squash, Green Zucchini

Both varieties were healthy and produced many high-quality zucchinis. ‘Dunja’ received slightly higher scores primarily due to its productivity. ‘Dunja’ is good for dark green fruits, while ‘Green Machine’ is good for medium green fruits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Dunja	57	71	8.24
Green Machine	43	76	7.90
			(25 sites)



Squash, Yellow Patty Pan

Both produced many delicious fruits. ‘Sunburst’ germinated better, was healthier and produced higher yields. ‘Sunburst’ had an attractive green spot on each of its fruits and ‘Lemon Sun’ did not.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Lemon Sun	27	82	7.73
Sunburst	73	100	9.00
			(12 sites)



Squash, Yellow Straightneck

‘Slick Pik YS 26’ received higher ratings in all categories. Everyone recommended it. ‘Slick Pik YS 26’ produced higher yields. Its fruits were smooth and attractive. The only award ‘Grandprize’ deserved was a participation ribbon.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Grandprize	0	38	6.13
Slick Pik YS26	100	100	8.38
			(10 sites)



Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

‘Butterbaby’ germinated better, grew more vigorously, matured earlier and produced higher yields. The performance of ‘Brulee’ was okay but unremarkable. Scores on fruit quality for these varieties were fairly similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Brulee	25	63	5.63
Butterbaby	75	100	7.13
			(8 sites)



Squash, Winter Butternut Organic

Both varieties were rated highly and recommended by all gardeners. Their plants were healthy, and their fruits were delicious. The classic variety ‘Waltham’ has always done well in our trials. ‘Havana’ looks promising as an earlier option.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Havana	67	100	9.33
Waltham	33	100	8.67
			(4 sites)



Squash, Winter Baby Hubbard

‘Steph Kuri’, named after a pro hoops star, was outscored by ‘Red Kuri’, an old veteran. ‘Red Kuri’ showed great vigor. It produced earlier and higher yields at more sites. ‘Red Kuri’ fruits were bigger and more attractive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Red Kuri	83	86	7.33
Steph Kuri	17	71	6.33
			(8 sites)



Squash, Winter Kabocha

Both varieties grew and produced well. ‘Sweet Mama’ ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Its plants were more bushy and less sprawling. ‘Delica’ received higher ratings for fruit appearance and taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Delica	45	84	7.87
Sweet Mama	55	76	7.48
			(28 sites)



Swiss Chard, Pink

‘Charbell’ germinated better, grew robustly and produced higher yields. Everyone recommended it. Both varieties were attractive, but some gardeners preferred the smoother leaves of ‘Flamingo’. Both varieties were tasty and resisted bolting.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Charbell	57	100	8.00
Flamingo	43	57	6.14
			(10 sites)



Swiss Chard, Red

Both varieties produced well. ‘Bali’ is known for its brilliant stems, but most gardeners felt ‘Ruby Red’ was more attractive. ‘Ruby Red’ tasted better and was recommended by more gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bali	50	63	8.13
Ruby Red	50	88	8.50
			(9 sites)



Tomato, Determinate

Gardeners were pleased with the beautiful, firm, meaty, blemish-free tomatoes produced by these varieties. Most gardeners preferred ‘Mountain Merit’. Its plants were very healthy and productive. ‘Celebrity Plus’ ripened first.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Celebrity Plus	42	79	7.89
Mountain Merit	58	79	7.84

(20 sites)



Tomato, Indeterminate

Gardeners seemed satisfied but not excited. ‘Big Beef Plus’ was slightly tastier, produced better, and had attractive, large tomatoes. Its vines were healthy and tall with thick stalks. ‘Jet Star’ germinated better and produced the first ripe tomatoes.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Big Beef Plus	57	57	7.71
Jet Star	43	57	7.71

(11 sites)



Tomato, Fresh Market

‘Red Deuce’ received higher scores for germination, plant health, earliness, yield and taste. The only superior score received by ‘Mountain Fresh Plus’ was for its fruit appearance. Gardeners liked its large, crack-free fruits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Mtn Fresh Plus	50	71	7.86
Red Deuce	50	71	8.00

(10 sites)



Tomato, Compact Bush

Both varieties were healthy and produced good yields. ‘Bush Early Girl’ was preferred by most gardeners. They liked its attractive, uniform, blemish-free fruits. Earliness, yield and taste qualities differed significantly across sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bush Early Girl	67	83	5.83
Husky Red	33	50	5.67

(7 sites)



Tomato, North Dakota Organic

Both varieties received fairly low ratings. ‘Cannonball’ vines were healthy and produced higher yields. Its fruits were larger. ‘Allstate’ was a reliable producer of small fruits across locations. Diseases were not an issue with these old varieties.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Allstate	33	67	5.67
Cannonball	67	50	6.33

(7 sites)



Tomato, Paste

Neither variety was outstanding. ‘Picus’ ripened much earlier. ‘Plum Regal’ had larger fruits. Some gardeners preferred the texture of ‘Plum Regal’ fruits, and it received higher scores for taste. Wherever it ripened, ‘Plum Regal’ was preferred.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Picus	53	58	6.95
Plum Regal	47	68	6.95

(22 sites)



Tomato, Gold Cherry

‘Sungold’ was healthy, vigorous and produced the first fruits. It was especially easy to grow, leading to more gardeners recommending it. ‘SunSugar’ fruits were extremely delicious, leading to most gardeners preferring it.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sungold	43	90	8.43
SunSugar	57	81	8.43

(22 sites)



Tomato, Red Cherry

‘Supersweet 100’ was preferred by most gardeners. It ripened earlier and had sweeter fruits. ‘Braveheart’ also received high scores. Its fruits were large, shiny, firm, less subject to cracking and had a tangy, tomato taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Braveheart	40	60	7.80
Supersweet 100	60	80	8.00

(6 sites)



Tomato, Yellow Pear

' Fargo Yellow Pear' fruits were larger, more attractive and received higher scores for taste. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. ' Fargo Yellow Pear' vines were easy to grow and shorter than the vines of ' Yellow Pear'.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Fargo Yell. Pear	100	88	8.63
Yellow Pear	0	50	6.75
			(8 sites)



Watermelon, Small

Both varieties were recommended by most gardeners. Many preferred 'Blacktail Mountain' because it matured earlier. Yield and taste ratings of the varieties were similar and unremarkable. Flesh qualities were crisp and sweet but seedy.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Blacktail Mtn	60	82	7.27
Wilson's Sweet	40	64	7.18
			(13 sites)



Watermelon, Midsize

'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' failed to win the blue ribbon in most gardens. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' was superior and performed well in all categories. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' particularly excelled in two key traits: earliness and taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Klondike BRS	38	53	6.38
Swt Dakota Rose	63	88	7.13
			(28 sites)



Marigold, Gold Cutting

Gardeners were amazed at the massive size of these plants. 'Oriental Gold' was healthier, bloomed earlier and had a few more flowers. Most gardeners recommended 'Coco Gold', but it did not excel in any traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Coco Gold	25	64	7.40
Oriental Gold	75	82	8.30
			(14 sites)



Marigold, Orange Cutting

Both varieties had beautiful flowers on tall stems. 'Giant Orange' received higher scores for all traits including health, earliness and beauty. Although it did not excel in any individual trait, 'Xochi' received solid overall ratings.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Giant Orange	67	79	7.89
Xochi	33	74	7.06
			(23 sites)



Marigold, White

This trial was disappointing. Gardeners expressed concerns over poor germination, late blooming, and the flowers not being white enough. 'Kilimanjaro White' germinated better, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Kilimanjaro White	68	55	5.32
Snowstorm	32	41	4.95
			(29 sites)



Sunflower, Orange

'Gold Rush' has done well in previous years and did well again this year. It excelled in all categories including germination, health, earliness and beauty. Every gardener liked it. 'Soraya' bloomed much later. Data are limited.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gold Rush	67	100	9.00
Soraya	33	33	6.67
			(3 sites)



Sunflower, Orange Cutting

These 'ProCut' varieties were easy to grow, healthy and had pollenless blooms on single stems. We were wondering if 'ProCut Brilliance', a new variety, would be more popular than 'ProCut Orange', the old standby. It wasn't.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
ProCut Brilliance	42	83	7.33
ProCut Orange	58	83	7.33
			(15 sites)



Sunflower, Orange Dwarf

Both varieties were very beautiful. Neither variety had a clear-cut advantage over the other for any trait. ‘Orange Hedge’ flowers had pollen for the bees. ‘Orange Hobbit’ flowers were pollenless and well-suited for bouquets.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Orange Hedge	50	94	7.94
Orange Hobbit	50	82	7.88
			(19 sites)



Sunflower, Yellow

‘Valentine’ flowers were beautiful. Its shorter stalk height and sturdy stems facilitated its use for cutting. ‘Moonshine’ stalks were taller, healthy and had lots of flowers borne in clusters. It may make a good background flower in a garden.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Moonshine	38	50	6.75
Valentine	63	63	7.00
			(9 sites)



Sunflower, Yellow Dwarf

This trial was not popular, and little data are available. Most gardeners preferred and recommended ‘Munchkin’. It had bigger flowers that made it prettier in the garden and as a cut flower. ‘Lemon Pixie’ germinated well and bloomed early.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lemon Pixie	33	33	7.33
Munchkin	67	67	6.67
			(6 sites)



Sunflower, Double

Most gardeners preferred ‘Golden Cheer’. It was healthier, produced more blooms and was a great cut flower. Gardeners who preferred ‘Goldy Double’ especially liked its fully double blooms.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Golden Cheer	67	89	7.44
Goldy Double	33	67	6.89
			(12 sites)



Zinnia, Orange Dahlia

‘Benary’s Giant Orange’ flowers were bigger and brighter with thick, strong stems for cutting. ‘Benary’s Giant Orange’ plants were healthy and bloomed earlier. ‘Queeny Pure Orange’ was good but did not stand out to most gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Benary’s G. Or.	64	86	8.07
Queeny P. Or.	36	50	7.21
			(19 sites)



Zinnia, Scarlet Dahlia

‘Scarlet Flame’ was healthy, bloomed early and produced lots of big flowers bursting with radiant red color. Its stems were long and sturdy for cutting. The seed of ‘Super Yoga Scarlet’ was full of impurities as it bloomed in a wide mix of colors.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Scarlet Flame	-	79	7.88
Super Yoga Scarlet	-	-	-
			(36 sites)



Zinnia, White Dahlia

Both varieties grew well and produced beautiful blooms. Most gardeners preferred ‘Benary’s Giant White’. In most cases, these gardeners felt ‘Benary’s Giant White’ flowers were larger and fuller. ‘Polar Bear’ performed well.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Benary’s G. White	67	75	8.13
Polar Bear	33	75	7.56
			(20 sites)



Zinnia, Orange Cactus

Gardeners liked both varieties. The plants were healthy, and their flowers were beautiful and elegant. ‘Inca’ and ‘Senorita Aztec’ received similar scores. The most noticeable difference was the superior germination of ‘Senorita Aztec’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Inca	40	80	7.33
Senorita Aztec	60	100	7.93
			(17 sites)



Zinnia, Pink Cactus

‘Senora’ germinated better, was healthier and produced more flowers. Gardeners loved its vivid shades of pink and salmon. The gardeners who expressed a preference for ‘Senorita’ liked the sharper points of its petals.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Senora	73	77	7.32
Senorita	27	68	6.64

(24 sites)



Zinnia, Mexican

‘Sombrero’ bloomed first. Its flowers were larger and more varied in colors and patterns, making for a very attractive display. ‘Sombrero’ had taller stems, which were useful for cutting. ‘Old Mexico’ produced more flowers.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Old Mexico	41	67	6.57
Sombrero	59	92	7.87

(28 sites)

Bean, Green Snap

Varieties

'Homerun'

58 days. Heavy yields of green, smooth, long pods. Tall, sturdy plants produce multiple harvests and withstand heat stress.

'Jade'

53 days. Very popular for its dark green, long pods. Tender and delicious. Large, upright plants keep the pods clean. Heat tolerant.



Data

Gardeners at 37 sites submitted information.

Trait	Homerun	Jade	Same
Germinated best	24%	24%	52%
Healthier plants	16	23	61
Harvested earlier	25	50	25
Higher yields	30	37	33
More attractive pods	28	19	53
Tasted better	13	25	63
Preference	38	63	
Recommend (☺)	71	88	
Mean score ¹	7.72	8.47	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Homerun'

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Jade ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both of these green beans were incredible. They grew well, tasted great and cooked up well.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Jade ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Homerun' had better germination and higher yield.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Jade ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Homerun' pods were darker green. Both of these varieties were amazing. They were still producing in the middle of September.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Jade ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Homerun' produced 5.4 pounds; 'Jade' produced 3.8 pounds. 'Homerun' had straighter pods and a darker green color.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Jade ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Homerun' had better germination.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Jade ★★★★★ ☹ NC

They both produced well. 'Homerun' produced way more and tasted better. 'Jade' pods were smaller.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Jade ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Homerun' was much better overall. I will be trying 'Homerun' again.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Jade ★★★★★ ☺ SC

These are great, high-yielding varieties. They have good leafy plants that do not stop producing! The only complaint that I have, which is the same for most snap beans, is the plant tends to want to lean. It definitely needs fencing for support to keep fruit out of the dirt.

Homerun ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Jade ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Homerun' was a little easier to grow. It germinated better, was healthier and produced a higher yield.

Both varieties produced good yields of beautiful, delicious beans.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
 Jade

Strong performers

- Annihilator
- Antigua
- Bush Blue
- Lake 274
- Derby
- Espada
- Lewis
- Pike
- Provider
- Strike

Prefer 'Homerun' (continued)

Homerun SC
 Jade SC

Both had long, straight beans. 'Homerun' had a much darker green pod, but it developed bacterial wet spots while 'Jade' planted next to it did not. 'Jade' produced beans earlier and more beans. When I gave my extra produce to friends and the Community Cupboard (local food distribution center), the people liked the darker green bean of 'Homerun' better; most claimed 'Homerun' had better flavor.

Homerun SC
 Jade SC

The seedlings of both varieties germinated quicker than expected. 'Jade' ripened one week earlier. 'Homerun' had better yields. Plants of both varieties produced until the first frost. Both varieties had great taste and froze well.

Homerun SD
 Jade SD

'Homerun' produced earlier and higher yields. 'Homerun' plants were healthier, and its pods tasted better.

Prefer 'Jade'

Homerun MN
 Jade MN

'Jade' was more prolific. It had prettier seeds and plants. 'Homerun' had darker pods.

Homerun NE
 Jade NE

'Jade' plants produced longer and were still healthy while 'Homerun' plants were dying. Four people tasted the beans and they were split: two liked the milder taste of 'Homerun' and two liked the stronger flavor of 'Jade'.

Homerun SE
 Jade SE

'Jade' was first to germinate, first to yield, and had good flavor.

Homerun SE
 Jade SE

'Jade' had the best pods and was earlier producing.

Homerun -
 Jade SE

'Jade' pods were longer, darker and more slender. Its pods did not get as woody late in the season. 'Homerun' ripened earlier by a week.

Homerun SE
 Jade SE

I prefer 'Jade' because of its excellent taste. Both varieties produced similar yields early on, but 'Homerun' outproduced 'Jade' in the last harvests. The leaves of some 'Homerun' plants turned slightly yellow in the heat of summer.

Homerun SE
 Jade SE

I've never had beans produce so well! They produced for over a month. 'Jade' produced sooner and had a better yield.

Homerun SE
 Jade SE

Both performed well. 'Jade' was slightly more productive.

Homerun SE
 Jade SE

'Jade' had better taste and higher yield. Both varieties were very good. We had tasty beans for many weeks.

Homerun NC
 Jade NC

'Jade' kept producing and my harvest was crazy big from them.

Homerun SC
 Jade SC

'Jade' had higher yields and more uniform pods. The flavor of 'Homerun' was kind of blah.

'Homerun' had attractive, dark green pods.

Prefer 'Jade' (continued)

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Jade' had higher yields and an extended harvest period. Both varieties had beautiful, delicious pods.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

First impression: 'Jade' seeds were beautiful! While 'Jade' had slightly less yield per plant (six ounces compared to eight ounces for 'Homerun'), its plants and pods were more uniform. 'Homerun' had more pods that curled.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Jade' was earlier by about a week, had a higher yield, and had a much smoother texture when eaten. 'Homerun' had a waxier taste and was very stringy.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Jade' produced 11.2 pounds compared to 10.3 pounds for 'Homerun'. The production of 'Jade' was more even through the season.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😞 -
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Jade' beans tasted better. 'Homerun' beans were a little tougher.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

We preferred 'Jade' for its flavor and tenderness. Both had pods that measured six to seven inches long; 'Homerun' held this length throughout the season whereas 'Jade' pods seemed to get smaller and smaller. 'Homerun' pods were deeper green.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were quite similar. Neither had great germination.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 SD

I had poor germination of both varieties (only five plants each). The plants that survived looked strong and healthy. 'Jade' produced approximately seven to eight more beans per plant; its flavor was outstanding. 'Homerun' pods were slower to develop large seeds; its pods seemed bland and were not as flavorful.

Homerun ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠 🐛
 Jade ★★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Jade' had better germination and yields.

'Jade' ripened quicker and produced higher yields at more sites.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced good yields of beautiful, delicious beans. 'Jade' was especially impressive. It ripened quicker and produced higher yields at more sites. Its pods were long, straight and uniform. 'Homerun' had attractive, dark green 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

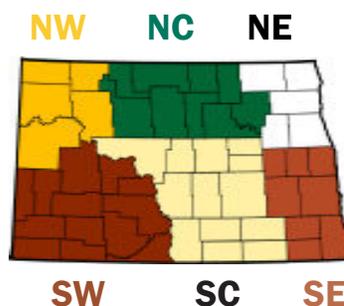
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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
- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska



Bean, Green Snap Organic

Varieties

'Provider'

50 days. Easy to grow and early ripening. Tolerates cool soils. Purple seeds.

'Red Tail'

55 days. Tall, upright plants produce high yields. Pods are dark green and shiny.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Provider	Red Tail	Same
Germinated best	36%	36%	27%
Healthier plants	22	44	33
Harvested earlier	50	30	20
Higher yields	50	30	20
More attractive pods	20	60	20
Tasted better	20	40	40
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (☺)	80	90	
Mean score ¹	7.80	8.00	
Median score ¹	8.50	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Provider'

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Provider' had more plants and fruit.

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Provider' produced more. Its pods had fewer brown spots and were more attractive.

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Provider' ripened earlier and had higher yields. It tasted better than 'Red Tail'.

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Provider' had bigger, longer beans and a better yield. 'Red Tail' had slimmer, smaller beans.

Prefer 'Red Tail'

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ MN

I enjoyed both varieties. 'Red Tail' beans were smaller, and I liked its flavor a little better.

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Red Tail' had smoother, darker green pods.

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Red Tail' pods were straighter, more uniform and easier to cook with. They tasted similar.

Provider ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ SC

The seedling vigor of 'Provider' was great. 'Red Tail' had dark green, attractive pods.

Provider ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Red Tail' produced more beans. It produced earlier, and its pods were more tender.

Provider ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Red Tail ★★★★★ ☺ SK

'Red Tail' produced one-third more beans. I loved its dark green color.

Conclusions

Gardeners were very impressed with both varieties. They liked 'Provider' for its early, reliable and high yields. They liked 'Red Tail' for its dark green, smooth, straight and delicious pods.

'Provider' produced higher yields while 'Red Tail' produced pods of higher quality.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Jade

Strong performers

Annihilator
Antigua
Bush Blue
Lake 274
Derby
Espada
Lewis
Pike
Provider
Strike

Bean, Green Filet

Varieties

'Crockett'

58 days. Beautiful, dark green, slim pods are set continuously all summer. Vines resist diseases. Very popular in our previous trials.

'Tobago'

54 days. A very attractive, refined filet bean. Sturdy, compact plants produce uniform sets of dark green pods. Outstanding yields.



Data

Gardeners at 33 sites submitted information.

Trait	Crockett	Tobago	Same
Germinated best	17%	47%	37%
Healthier plants	46	18	36
Harvested earlier	32	48	20
Higher yields	40	52	8
More attractive pods	74	15	11
Tasted better	56	15	30
Preference	71	29	
Recommend (😊)	89	54	
Mean score ¹	8.18	6.64	
Median score ¹	8.50	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Crockett'

Crockett ★★★★★😊🐞
Tobago ★★★★★😊NE

'Crockett' produced well all season with the last picking of very nice, tender beans on September 20. It had very good quality. We love green beans—our grandkids love eating them raw.

Crockett ★★★★★😊🐞
Tobago ★★★★★☹️NE

Almost all 'Crockett' seeds germinated compared to 67% of 'Tobago' seeds. 'Crockett' pods were glossy and thick. They tasted much better. 'Tobago' pods were long and narrow. 'Crockett' had better blooming plants and produced longer than 'Tobago'.

Crockett ★★★★★😊🐞
Tobago ★★★★★☹️NE

'Crockett' had longer, more tender pods.

Crockett ★★★★★😊🐞
Tobago ★★★★★☹️SE

'Tobago' emerged but both were replanted due to poor emergence and frost. 'Tobago' pods were smaller but even when harvested smaller, they could be tough and lead to discarding more pods. 'Crockett' pods were darker green, more forgiving if harvested later, and more tender. 'Tobago' pods were harder to break into pieces. I tried six different cultivars and none were superior to 'Crockett'. The variety 'Savannah' was quite similar to 'Crockett'.

Crockett ★★★★★😊🐞
Tobago ★★★★★😊SE

'Tobago' germinated three days earlier, and it showed more vigor. Germination was poor with 'Crockett'. 'Tobago' was loaded with pods. 'Crockett' pods were dark green and glossy. They had great flavor and were more tender. 'Tobago' pods were dull green and very tough. Even though 'Tobago' produced in abundance, I preferred 'Crockett' because of the look and taste of its pods.

Crockett ★★★★★😊🐞
Tobago ★★★★★☹️NC

'Crockett' was very healthy looking and very productive. It produced beautiful, very tasty pods. The pods from 'Tobago' were so tiny. It's really hard to beat a variety like 'Crockett'!

Gardeners preferred 'Crockett'. Its pods were dark green, glossy and more flavorful.

Best green filet bean varieties

Top choice
Crockett

Strong performers
Maxibel
Serengeti

Prefer 'Crockett' (continued)

Crockett 
 Tobago 

Both varieties had a near 100% germination rate, but 'Crockett' plants grew faster/bigger. 'Crockett' produced first and had larger, more frequent yields than 'Tobago'.

'Crockett' produced consistently throughout the season, but 'Tobago' caught up later on in the season. 'Crockett' had larger, more plump/crisp pods than 'Tobago'. 'Crockett' was impressive—you could truly just sow them and forget about them. I did minimal irrigation/weeding in this garden, and they still grew very well. If someone is looking for a hearty plant that they don't have to worry about watering over a long weekend, 'Crockett' is the way to go.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

'Crockett' germinated three days sooner and had better yields.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

'Crockett' has been my favorite for a few years. I love the dark green color and the flavor of its pods. 'Tobago' definitely had way more pods. 'Tobago' pods were furry.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

'Crockett' had better flavor.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

The pod quality of 'Crockett' was exceptional. 'Crockett' pods were dark green, glossy and crisp. 'Tobago' germinated much better, ripened earlier and was more productive.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

'Crockett' had nice, dark green pods and tasted wonderful. 'Tobago' had very slim pods that were almost pale green in color and didn't taste near as well.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

'Crockett' was easier to grow. It germinated better and was healthier. 'Crockett' produced earlier and higher yields.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

The pods of both varieties were tasty. We were unsure of when to pick them due to their small size. 'Crockett' plants were healthier.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

I liked 'Crockett' better for its taste and texture. Its pods were larger and did not ripen all at the same time, which extended the eating range. 'Crockett' plants were a little taller but 'Tobago' plants were bushier. 'Tobago' produced abundantly earlier, and its beans were all ready to pick at the same time. 'Tobago' produced more pods. Its pods hung lower on the plants.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

'Crockett' is far superior. 'Crockett' had nicer pods, better color, better size and better flavor. I am not a fan of the small, skinny pods of 'Tobago'.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

The dark green color and slender shape of the 'Crockett' pods were attractive. 'Crockett' yielded first and most. 'Tobago' germinated at 90% compared to 60% for 'Crockett'. 'Tobago' plants were slightly healthier. Both of the varieties tasted good and slightly better than 'Provider'.

Crockett 
 Tobago 

'Tobago' pods were very thin and didn't have much taste. 'Crockett' pods were more attractive and much better tasting. 'Crockett' produced earlier.

'Crockett' did not germinate well. Perhaps this may be due to a bad batch of seeds and not the genetics of the variety.

Prefer 'Crockett' (continued)

Crockett 
Tobago 

I would absolutely recommend both varieties and would plant them again for sure. They had very large yields, and all beans were slim, straight and tender. Both varieties germinated very well and their plants were dark green and sturdy. They held up well to early season high winds. 'Tobago' was just slightly ahead of 'Crockett' with the first yields on July 24. Both varieties produced extremely well. When I lifted the leaves, you could see handfuls of beans around the stem area. The only advantage of 'Crockett' was in taste and texture after cooking.

Prefer 'Tobago'

Crockett 
Tobago 

'Tobago' was very compact with a lot of beans. Its beans grew really slowly. This made it nice for picking as they did not get overgrown after a few days.

Crockett 
Tobago 

'Tobago' hands-down outperformed 'Crockett' all around. There were lots of 'Tobago' beans but very few 'Crockett' beans. 'Tobago' was delicious fresh out of the garden.

Crockett 
Tobago 

'Tobago' tasted better and I had an easier time growing them. I struggled with 'Crockett' and needed to sow multiple times before I had success. Both varieties produced well. The dark green pods of 'Crockett' looked better, but I will be reluctant to grow 'Crockett' in the future.

Crockett 
Tobago 

'Tobago' beans were slimmer and more abundant than 'Crockett'. If you want a slightly longer but not big bean, I would recommend 'Crockett'. Both varieties were very good yielders.

Crockett 
Tobago 

Both varieties had early bug damage (almost looked like a paper punch in the leaves), but I powdered them, and yields were not affected. 'Tobago' was a more compact plant. In the first picking, 'Tobago' had a higher yield. 'Crockett' later made a comeback after its plants looked dried up.

Crockett 
Tobago 

'Tobago' had a fuller pod. 'Crockett' ripened later. When it did, it was plentiful and tasty. We sprayed for grasshoppers.

Crockett 
Tobago 

'Tobago' had very healthy plants. The plants produced extremely high yields that kept producing throughout the summer. My last harvest was September 21, the day before our first frost. 'Tobago' pods were very small, deliciously tender, and string-free. Yum! None of the 'Crockett' seeds germinated.

Crockett 
Tobago 

'Tobago' pods were long, straight, skinny and tender like haricot verts. Delicious!

Crockett 
Tobago 

Both varieties were good. They had slim beans with a good taste. I had good germination for 'Tobago' but had to replant some of the 'Crockett'.

Conclusions

Even though 'Tobago' produced in abundance, the vast majority of gardeners preferred 'Crockett' because of the look and taste of its pods. 'Crockett' pods were dark green, glossy, tender and more flavorful. 'Tobago' pods were very small, thin and tender. 'Tobago' germinated better, which contributed to producing higher yields. 'Tobago' ripened earlier at more sites, too. The low germination rates of 'Crockett' have not occurred in past trials. Perhaps this shortcoming is due to a poor batch of seeds and not the genetics of the variety.

'Tobago' germinated better, which contributed to producing higher yields.

Bean, Yellow Snap

Varieties

'Goldilocks'

52 days. Beautiful, bright yellow pods are straight and flavorful. Large, upright plants tolerate heat and produce good yields.

'Gold Rush'

55 days. Lemon yellow pods with green tips. Pods are straight, crisp and flavorful. Its concentrated sets of pods are easy to pick.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Goldilocks	Gold Rush	Same
Germinated best	43%	43%	14%
Healthier plants	13	25	63
Harvested earlier	0	63	38
Higher yields	43	43	14
More attractive pods	38	13	50
Tasted better	29	14	57
Preference	50	50	
Recommend 😊	50	88	
Mean score ¹	7.75	8.13	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Goldilocks'

Goldilocks ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties were very similar. 'Goldilocks' had a few more plants.

Goldilocks ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both were very good. We had a good harvest of tasty beans. 'Gold Rush' produced earlier, but 'Goldilocks' produced more beans. 'Goldilocks' tasted better.

Goldilocks ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ ⚠️ 🏠 SC

'Goldilocks' had 46 seeds germinate; 'Gold Rush' had 35 seeds germinate. 'Goldilocks' had straighter pods more evenly colored, and didn't get fat and beany as quick as 'Gold Rush'. 'Gold Rush' had more blemishes on its pods.

Goldilocks ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were great, but 'Goldilocks' had better flavor.

Prefer 'Gold Rush'

Goldilocks ★★★★★ ⚠️ 🐛
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Gold Rush' plants had a longer healthy lifespan. Its pods were sweeter and plumper. 'Gold Rush' germinated faster, but both varieties ended up with 49 out of 60 seeds germinated. Both varieties produced their first harvest on July 17. Both varieties had equal damage due to bean leaf beetles, which they outgrew. 'Gold Rush' produced a total of 7.5 pounds compared to 6.8 pounds for 'Goldilocks'. Scoring for pod quality was conducted on two days. 'Gold Rush' won the most votes among my family members on the July 23 harvest, but 'Goldilocks' won on the July 28 harvest. I think 'Goldilocks' needs more time to fill out its pods so they don't look skinny.

'Goldilocks' had an edge in pod quality for several gardeners. Its pods were straight, uniform and flavorful.

Best yellow bush bean varieties

Top choice
Gold Rush

Strong performers
Carson

Prefer 'Gold Rush' (continued)

Goldilocks ★★★★★ ☹️ 🍄
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Gold Rush' germinated better and produced an earlier yield.

Goldilocks ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Gold Rush' continued to produce well through the whole season.

Goldilocks ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Gold Rush' plants were more vigorous. 'Gold Rush' matured a few days earlier and had a better first harvest. 'Goldilocks' did well in subsequent harvests.

Conclusions

Both varieties performed well, and gardeners were evenly split on their preferences. 'Gold Rush' showed good vigor and matured earlier. It was recommended by a much higher number of gardeners. 'Gold Rush' produced higher yields in the early season, but 'Goldilocks' came on later and matched the overall yield totals. 'Goldilocks' had an edge in pod quality for several gardeners. Its pods were straight, uniform and flavorful.

'Gold Rush' showed good vigor, matured early and produced high yields in the early season.

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

- 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
- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska

Bean, Yellow Filet

Varieties

'Bamako'

54 days. New variety. Bright yellow, straight pods grow up to 5 inches long. Plants are upright and compact. Pods come off easily.

'Borsalino'

60 days. Sturdy, compact plants produce good yields of tender, straight and delicious pods. Sunny yellow color.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bamako	Borsa- lino	Same
Germinated best	0%	40%	60%
Healthier plants	10	40	50
Harvested earlier	30	40	30
Higher yields	40	40	20
More attractive pods	20	40	40
Tasted better	40	30	30
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (😊)	60	80	
Mean score ¹	7.40	7.70	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Bamako'

Bamako ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Borsalino ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

'Bamako' tasted better. Nobody liked the flavor of 'Borsalino'.

Bamako ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Bamako' was better tasting, but it wasn't by all that much. Both varieties grew very well and kept producing all the way until frost. They were a nice change colorwise/tastewise from the usual green beans every year. Yields were pretty good. They produced almost all at once, and I would pick the flush of them. Then I waited for the next round with maybe perhaps a few here and there before the larger harvest. I'd grow both again.

Bamako ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

'Bamako' had higher yields and its pods tasted better. 'Borsalino' pods were fuller.

Bamako ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Borsalino ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SW

'Bamako' pods were smaller, uniform and tender. It was a much higher producer. My first picking was 90% 'Bamako'—over 14 pounds. We loved filet beans but picking them was time consuming.

Prefer 'Borsalino'

Bamako ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN

This was the first time my husband actually liked and ate yellow beans. Both varieties had bushy, productive plants. They were productive all summer. 'Bamako' produced first and was productive until mid-September. 'Borsalino' kept producing until almost the end of September. The pods of these varieties were very similar: long, yellow and thin. I preferred the taste of 'Borsalino' as it had a fresh, mild flavor.

Bamako ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NE

'Borsalino' pods were more attractive, less stringy, and tasted better.

Bamako ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

'Borsalino' had a better yield and more vigorous plants.

**Gardeners
enjoyed the
flavor of
'Bamako'.**

**Best yellow
filet bush
bean variety**

**Top choice
Borsalino**

Prefer 'Borsalino' (continued)

Bamako ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NW

These varieties were extremely similar. Their pods were tender but very small. 'Borsalino' pods were slightly larger. Neither variety produced very fast.

Bamako ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NW

'Borsalino' had long, thin, tender beans.

Bamako ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Borsalino ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SW

Both varieties were excellent in every way. They had very good germination, and they grew into lush, beautiful plants. I was amazed at the number of beans I could pick at one time. They tasted wonderful. The pods were tender, straight and very uniform in size. Beans are my favorite garden vegetable, and I would gladly plant and recommend these varieties. 'Bamako' produced the first yield for me on July 21, about three days before 'Borsalino'. Both produced very high yields with 'Borsalino' slightly better.

Conclusions

Both varieties had bushy plants that produced loads of beans all summer. The beans were small, tender, straight and uniform. 'Borsalino' was preferred and recommended by more gardeners. It received higher ratings for germination and plant health. Its pods were full and attractive. Gardeners enjoyed the flavor of 'Bamako'.

'Borsalino' received higher ratings for germination and plant health. Its pods were full and 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) →
 Variety A 😊
 Variety B ☹️

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

Location →
 NC

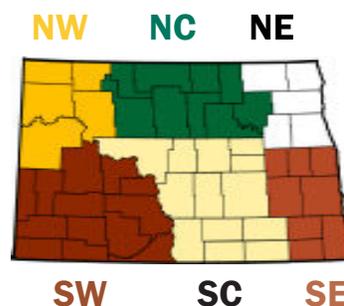
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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Bean, Yellow Filet Pole

Varieties

'French Gold'

60 days. Very popular in France. Slim, eight-inch pods have a delicate, sweet flavor and crisp texture. Vines are vigorous and productive.

'Monte Gusto'

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

Data

Gardeners at six sites submitted information.

Trait	French Gold	Monte Gusto	Same
Germinated best	20%	40%	40%
Healthier plants	25	0	75
Harvested earlier	75	25	0
Higher yields	75	25	0
More attractive pods	50	25	25
Tasted better	0	25	75
Preference	75	25	
Recommend (😊)	100	75	
Mean score ¹	8.25	7.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'French Gold'

French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'French Gold' produced sooner and produced more beans (50 pounds compared to 36 pounds for 'Monte Gusto'). 'Monte Gusto' had the best quality overall. Its beans continued to grow long and straight over the entire length of the season, whereas 'French Gold' beans began to grow shorter and started to curl halfway through the growing season. The beans of 'Monte Gusto' had a deeper yellow color. I did not notice a difference in flavor between the varieties.



French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

'French Gold' produced slightly earlier and produced slightly more beans. Both varieties were good.

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

'Monte Gusto' tasted better, but 'French Gold' tasted fine and had a much higher yield.

Prefer 'Monte Gusto'

French Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW
 Monte Gusto ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Monte Gusto' had an earlier onset of beans and produced larger quantities.

Conclusions

For two years we have compared 'French Gold' with a very popular wax pole bean, 'Monte Gusto'. In both years, 'French Gold' matured earlier and 'Monte Gusto' received higher scores for taste. Both varieties were recommended by most gardeners. Data are limited this year.

'French Gold' matured earlier. 'Monte Gusto' tasted better.

Best yellow filet pole bean varieties

Top choice
 Monte Gusto

Strong performer
 French Gold

Beet, Gold

Varieties

'Touchstone Gold'

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

'Yellow Sunrise'

55 days. Stunning, golden roots are uniform in size and shape. Plants are upright and grow vigorously.



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Touch. Gold	Yellow Sunrise	Same
Germinated best	25%	56%	19%
Healthier plants	27	33	40
Harvested earlier	15	38	46
Higher yields	36	36	29
More attractive roots	7	21	71
Tasted better	14	43	43
Preference	29	71	
Recommend (😊)	57	79	
Mean score ¹	6.36	7.79	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Touchstone Gold'

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😞 NE

While 'Touchstone Gold' didn't have as many plants that germinated, it tasted better and had great flavor.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Touchstone Gold' had healthier, larger leaves. It produced higher yields. The germination of 'Yellow Sunrise' was one week later and spotty.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Touchstone Gold' roots had a uniform size, better color and superior flavor.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both of these varieties were great! I have never planted a gold beet before and was pleasantly surprised. No more stains on anything. The roots of 'Touchstone Gold' were larger. I am not a fan of beet tops so I may not be the best judge on that, but the tops of 'Touchstone Gold' definitely had a bitter aftertaste.

Prefer 'Yellow Sunrise'

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Yellow Sunrise' had more plants and produced higher yields.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 🐞
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Yellow Sunrise' germinated better. Its roots were milder and less earthy in flavor.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 SE

They were so similar. 'Yellow Sunrise' germinated better.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Yellow Sunrise' had more and larger beets.

'Touchstone Gold' has been a standout performer in our trials for years.

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
 Boldor

Strong performers

- Burpee's Golden
- Touchstone Gold
- Yellow Sunrise

Prefer 'Yellow Sunrise' (continued)

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

Both varieties grew equally well. Their roots were similar in size, color and texture. Their roots were sweet with beautiful, gold color. 'Yellow Sunrise' was a bit prettier.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW

'Yellow Sunrise' roots were more flavorful. 'Touchstone Gold' roots tasted flat. 'Touchstone Gold' had slightly fuller greens.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW
 Only 'Yellow Sunrise' had usable produce.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NW

Neither variety germinated well. 'Yellow Sunrise' germinated better. My radishes in the nearby row germinated well. I prefer eating gold beets so I had high hopes for this trial. Maybe next year.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Yellow Sunrise' was amazing. Its roots were sweet, large (some over two pounds), uniform and tender. It tasted delicious—not as earthy as traditional red beets. 'Touchstone Gold' roots were smaller and fewer.

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellow Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SK

I liked both varieties. 'Yellow Sunrise' had slightly better germination and produced one week before 'Touchstone Gold'.

Conclusions

'Touchstone Gold' has been a standout performer in the past. Gardeners like the quality of its roots. However, more gardeners preferred the looks and taste of 'Yellow Sunrise' roots. 'Yellow Sunrise' germinated better and matched or outperformed 'Touchstone Gold' in all evaluated traits. 'Yellow Sunrise' was impressive and warrants further testing.

'Yellow Sunrise' germinated better and showed excellent root 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

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
- NC = North Central
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- SK = Saskatchewan
- SD = South Dakota
- MT = Montana
- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska

Beet, Red

Varieties

'Eagle'

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

'Red Cloud'

55 days. Beets are very sweet, smooth, and rich red with no zoning. Strong tops.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Eagle	Red Cloud	Same
Germinated best	38%	63%	0%
Healthier plants	13	63	25
Harvested earlier	38	25	38
Higher yields	13	50	38
More attractive roots	25	50	25
Tasted better	0	63	38
Preference	25	75	
Recommend (☺)	63	100	
Mean score ¹	6.63	8.00	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Eagle'

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ NC

'Eagle' seed germinated better. Plants of both varieties were healthy but did not produce well. It was a cold and windy June here, and plants didn't do well. Both varieties had the same fresh taste.

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ SC

'Eagle' had a higher yield for pickling.

Prefer 'Red Cloud'

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☹ 🐛
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ NE

'Red Cloud' tasted better and had a better yield, but it was not the best crop overall.

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☹ 🏠
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ SE

The taste, flavor and firmness were key drivers for preferring 'Red Cloud', but its healthier plants, better germination and great yield were positive traits as well. 'Red Cloud' beets were darker red with deep flavor and a little more sweetness.

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ SC

'Red Cloud' roots had a rounder shape, better color, smoother skin and better taste.

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ SC

'Red Cloud' germinated best. Otherwise these two varieties were very similar.

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ NW

I seeded pretty late [June 6] but had good emergence from both varieties, especially 'Eagle'. Both varieties were good. 'Red Cloud' was healthier and more productive.

Eagle ★★★★★☆ ☹ 🐛
 Red Cloud ★★★★★☆ ☺ NW

Only 'Red Cloud' produced usable beets.

Conclusions

'Red Cloud' excelled in germination, health, yield and root quality traits. Its roots were smooth, attractive and superior in taste. Every gardener recommended it. 'Eagle' had excelled in previous trials that occurred in hot, dry years.

'Red Cloud' excelled in germination, health, yield and root quality traits.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
 Red Cloud

Strong performers

- Bull's Blood
- Cylindra
- Detroit Dark
- Red
- Eagle
- Early Wonder
- Tall Top
- Merlin
- Red Ace
- Sweet Dakota
- Bliss

Beet, Red Organic

Varieties

‘Early Wonder Tall Top’

50 days. Very popular for its glossy, tasty leaves and dark red roots. Early and reliable yields.

‘Sweet Dakota Bliss’

55 days. Sweet, burgundy beets with lush, delicious leaves. Tolerates stressful conditions. Bred in North Dakota.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	E. Wonder Swt.		
	T. T.	Dak. Bliss	Same
Germinated best	30%	26%	43%
Healthier plants	4	13	83
Harvested earlier	52	19	29
Higher yields	30	25	45
More attractive roots	5	38	57
Tasted better	5	38	57
Preference	45	55	-
Recommend (😊)	77	91	-
Mean score ¹	7.38	7.95	-
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	-

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

Prefer ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊NE

These varieties were very similar. ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ was ready to harvest earlier.

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊-
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😞NE

Both varieties were acceptable and performed better than expected. ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ provided for an earlier harvest.

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊🐛
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊NE

‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ was ready earlier.

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊🐛
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊SE

As for the roots, I thought ‘Sweet Dakota Bliss’ had better taste. For beet tops, ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ was by far the winner. The tops of ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ were as scrumptious as its roots. I liked these varieties but feel ‘Detroit Dark Red’ surpasses both of them.

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊SC

‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier.

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊SC

We were able to eat ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ sooner—we like beet salad and these worked well for that.

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊🐛
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊NW

‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ roots had a more uniform shape and size. Both varieties were used for pickles, and they were nice.

Early Wonder T.T. ★★★★★😊🐛
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊NW

I’d recommend both varieties. I grew these pretty close to the golden beets trial, and both of these looked so good compared to the golden beets. ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ withstood the grasshoppers better and had slightly higher yields. I picked the first beets on July 31. Both varieties tasted good.

‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Red Cloud

Strong performers
Bull’s Blood
Cylindra
Detroit Dark Red
Eagle
Early Wonder Tall Top
Merlin
Red Ace
Sweet Dakota Bliss

Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Bliss'

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss NC

The plants of both varieties were healthy and large. The yields were low due to cold and windy weather in June. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' germinated better, produced earlier and more. Its roots were bigger. I liked the sweetness of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' better.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss NC

The roots of both varieties were small. 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' produced more.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SC

The roots of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' had better taste, texture, color and size. It tasted sweeter. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' germinated a few days earlier and had more plants. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' roots were more elongated and weren't bad for taste. The plants of both varieties looked healthy.

Early Wonder T.T. -
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SC

'Sweet Dakota Bliss' tasted better.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SC

'Sweet Dakota Bliss' had better flavor.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SC

We had very little rainfall and 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' outproduced 'Early Wonder Tall Top'. Both varieties produced beets, and I still have some in the garden even though I gave them away and made lots of beet pickles. Both varieties were very sweet.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss NW

'Sweet Dakota Bliss' had sweeter flavor. The germination rates and growth of the plants of these varieties were pretty similar.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SW

I preferred the taste of the roots, leaves and stems of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' and its smaller

plant size. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' germinated three days earlier, and both varieties germinated well. I always harvest some early beet tops and stems for soups before the roots are ready, and both of these had tops that were tender and tasty; not bitter at all. After the tops were more mature, I like them in salads. The mature tops from 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' tasted much better and were more tender. The roots of both were good-sized and relatively the same size.

'Sweet Dakota Bliss' roots were darker red and tasted better both roasted and steamed. Both worked well for pickled beets with good texture. They both had excellent production.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SW

'Sweet Dakota Bliss' performed better. It had sweeter, more uniform roots.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SW

We planted June 3 and got hailed out on June 13. 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' was able to bounce back better. It produced larger beets and could be harvested sooner.

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SK

'Sweet Dakota Bliss' germinated better, produced earlier and had higher yields.

No Preference

Early Wonder T.T.
 Sweet Dakota Bliss SC

These are both strong varieties. Their leaves were very tasty and the thinnings were used for salads. Then the grasshoppers started attacking. I was able to save some of the roots after the leaves were devoured. The roots of both varieties were excellent juiced or cooked.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with both varieties. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier. The roots of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' Dark Red' were darker red, more attractive and better tasting to more gardeners. The tops of both varieties were delicious.

The roots of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' were darker red, more attractive and better tasting to more gardeners.

Carrot, Early Nantes

Varieties

'Adana'

63 days. Similar in flavor to 'Mokum' but with greater uniformity and stronger tops.

'Mokum'

60 days. Very popular for its exceptionally sweet flavor and tender texture. Slender. Short tops.



Data

Gardeners at 32 sites submitted information.

Trait	Adana	Mokum	Same
Germinated best	30%	26%	43%
Healthier plants	17	22	61
Harvested earlier	35	26	39
Higher yields	30	50	20
More attractive roots	26	37	37
Tasted better	30	40	30
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (☺)	77	73	
Mean score ¹	6.48	6.86	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Adana'

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mokum ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Adana' was sweeter before the frost, and its carrots were ready to harvest early.

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ -
Mokum ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Adana' was a better producer, hardier, and its roots were pretty uniform in size.

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Mokum ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Adana' was healthier and tasted better.

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mokum ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Adana' performed better. 'Mokum' had germination issues.

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mokum ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Adana' was better all around, including its yield.

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Mokum ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Adana' outperformed 'Mokum' in all categories. Both varieties struggled in my garden this year due to insects, but 'Adana' produced the best albeit a small yield. 'Adana' tasted better.

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mokum ★★★★★ ☺ SW

They both did very well. 'Adana' roots were a little sweeter and a little larger.

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mokum ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Germination was mediocre. Grasshoppers arrived and ate the tops off all the plants by September. 'Adana' had better flavor.

Prefer 'Mokum'

Adana ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mokum ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Mokum' germinated better and produced higher yields.

Adana ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
Mokum ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Mokum' had higher yields.

'Adana' reportedly has greater uniformity and stronger tops, but these traits were rarely mentioned by gardeners.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Laguna
Mokum
Napoli
Naval
Negovia

Prefer 'Mokum' (continued)

Adana  ☹️ 
Mokum  ☹️  NE

'Mokum' had a greater yield and sweeter taste but was not as tasty as other varieties in the past. Both varieties exhibited eight- to nine-inch roots and a crispy texture. Carrots were harvested on August 31.

Adana  😊 
Mokum  😊  NE

Both varieties performed well. 'Mokum' roots had a better appearance.

Adana  ☹️ 
Mokum  😊  SE

'Mokum' produced a much higher yield. Its carrots were larger, more nicely formed and slightly sweeter.

Adana  😊 
Mokum  😊  SE

'Mokum' roots were a touch sweeter and a bit more attractive. Both were good varieties.

Adana  😊 
Mokum  😊  NC

Both were good varieties. 'Mokum' roots were crisper and a little sweeter. 'Mokum' tasted great when eaten fresh or cooked.

Adana  😊 
Mokum  😊  NC

'Mokum' had longer roots and produced better.

Adana  ☹️ -
Mokum  😊  NC

'Mokum' was sweeter and tasted more like a garden carrot—better, delicious flavor. 'Mokum' produced more carrots. Both varieties germinated quickly. Their plants were bright green, and their roots were nice.

Adana  😊 
Mokum  😊  SC

They both started out really slow and almost didn't want to grow. I was worried I was not going to have any. They really surprised me in the end. Both produced more than I expected. 'Adana' did not have as much flavor, and both varieties definitely should have been planted earlier [sown June 5].

Adana  ☹️ 
Mokum  😊  SC

'Mokum' carrots were more uniform in shape, much sweeter, and larger.

Adana  😊 
Mokum  😊  SW

I had very poor germination on both varieties, so my evaluation is based on a limited number of plants. Both varieties had attractive plants. The first yield was 'Adana' but not by much. 'Mokum' was a better looking and tasting carrot.

No Preference

Adana  😊 
Mokum  😊  SC

I have had trouble growing carrots in the past, and these ones finally produced! Their plants were very large and healthy. They both produced yields with plenty of time to harvest. Both varieties produced thick carrots that were huge. Their roots were a little bulbous in shape but large and delicious! Both were absolutely delicious and smelled incredible after I dug them up.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and most preferred 'Mokum'. 'Mokum' produced higher yields at more sites. Several gardeners felt the roots of 'Mokum' were more attractive and a little sweeter. 'Adana' reportedly has greater uniformity and stronger tops, but these traits were rarely mentioned by gardeners.

'Mokum' produced higher yields at more sites. Several gardeners felt the roots of 'Mokum' were more attractive and a little sweeter.

Carrot, Nantes

Varieties

'Caravel'

80 days. New variety. Big roots with broad shoulders. Attractive, sweet and smooth carrots. Strong tops.

'Narvik'

65 days. New variety. Dark orange roots look beautiful and taste great. Tops are dark green and sturdy.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Caravel	Narvik	Same
Germinated best	38%	25%	38%
Healthier plants	27	18	55
Harvested earlier	16	19	66
Higher yields	38	31	31
More attractive roots	30	36	33
Tasted better	31	34	34
Preference	55	45	
Recommend (😊)	76	79	
Mean score ¹	7.71	7.65	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Caravel'

Caravel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MN

The shape of 'Caravel' roots was better. 'Narvik' had more irregularly-shaped roots.

Caravel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NE

'Caravel' had high yields, and its roots were very good in flavor.

Caravel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

Both varieties germinated well, produced small roots and had a pleasant taste. 'Caravel' grew longer roots.

Caravel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

'Caravel' had better germination and a much larger yield. Its roots were longer (four to five inches compared to one to three inches for 'Narvik') and wider in diameter. 'Caravel' roots were not quite as sweet but still had good flavor. 'Narvik' carrots were crunchier and had a slightly sweeter taste. 'Narvik' would be okay for a baby carrot.

Caravel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

'Caravel' germinated better in my chunky, hard soil. Both varieties had very large carrots.

Caravel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

'Caravel' roots were huge but still sweet tasting. 'Narvik' had twice as many plants germinate and produced higher yields.

Caravel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NC

They both did well, but 'Caravel' tasted better and had nicer, even-sized carrots.

Caravel ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Narvik ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NC

About half of 'Caravel' roots were of usable size; many were just finger size. 'Narvik' roots never got bigger than finger size.

Gardeners were pleased with these varieties and gave them similar ratings.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

- Laguna
- Mokum
- Napoli
- Naval
- Negovia

Prefer 'Caravel' (continued)

Caravel   
 Narvik   SC

'Caravel' germinated better and grew faster. Its roots were straighter, longer, crisper and more orange.

Caravel   
 Narvik   SC

'Caravel' roots were more attractive and easy to harvest. When cooked, 'Caravel' tasted better than 'Narvik'. When raw, both varieties tasted good. 'Caravel' germinated poorly and 'Narvik' produced higher yields.

Caravel   
 Narvik   SC

These carrots seem to be storing well. 'Caravel' had bigger carrots.

Caravel   
 Narvik   SC

Both varieties looked very healthy, produced nicely and tasted similar. I liked the larger size of the 'Caravel' roots. 'Narvik' had better germination.

Caravel   
 Narvik   SC

'Caravel' had better germination, better production, larger roots and had a great crunch. 'Narvik' roots were long and slender but tended to break when trying to pull or dig them; this might be different with a different soil.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NW

'Caravel' roots were bigger and firmer so better to cook with. They had a better texture. 'Narvik' roots were a little sweeter but smaller and not as firm. 'Narvik' might be better as a snacking carrot.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NW

The core of 'Narvik' was loose, which made eating less pleasant.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NW

The 'Caravel' carrots were beautiful with larger, longer roots that were easier to dig/pull. We preferred their crisp, less woody texture.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NW

Both varieties had good germination, good leaf tops and small carrots. 'Caravel' had a better yield and better-looking carrots.

Caravel   
 Narvik   SW

'Narvik' roots were bigger, but 'Caravel' roots were better tasting.

Prefer 'Narvik'

Caravel   
 Narvik   NE

They both produced nice plants with very attractive roots. 'Narvik' seemed a bit sweeter in taste.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NE

'Narvik' had more flavor and was much sweeter.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NE

Both varieties produced fairly uniform carrots with very little waste (dug October 15). 'Narvik' roots were more uniform in size.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NE

Both of these varieties performed incredibly well. I liked the taste of 'Narvik' just a little more.

Caravel   
 Narvik   NC

'Narvik' performed better. 'Caravel' had germination issues.

'Caravel' had an edge in germination; this contributed to an edge in yields.

Prefer 'Narvik' (continued)

Caravel  
Narvik   SC

Both varieties sprouted quickly and were thinned heavily. Both varieties grew great. 'Narvik' roots were all straight and looked like your typical carrot. 'Narvik' roots tasted slightly better. Some 'Caravel' roots were short, fat and twisted.

Caravel  
Narvik   SC

'Narvik' roots were straighter and much sweeter. 'Caravel' had tougher and more double roots.

Caravel  
Narvik   SC

'Narvik' was far better in all categories. 'Caravel' seeds seemed slightly larger and easier to space but didn't germinate as well.

Caravel  -
Narvik   SC

'Narvik' tasted better.

Caravel  
Narvik   SC

These two varieties were extremely similar. Both produced well and were very sweet. 'Narvik' was ready to harvest earlier and had a larger yield.

Caravel  
Narvik   NW

My husband and I tasted these carrots both raw and cooked. We liked the flavor of 'Narvik' best.

Caravel  
Narvik   NW

They were both good. 'Narvik' produced more and its roots looked more attractive.

Caravel   
Narvik   SW

Both varieties had near 100% germination. 'Narvik' was a better producer—it did not bolt. 'Narvik' roots were deeper orange in color and bigger.

Caravel  
Narvik   SW

I have never grown carrots this large—amazing. Yields were impressive. 'Narvik' was a sweeter carrot that's very good for eating raw. Its roots were longer and a bit more slender. 'Caravel' roots were fatter.

Caravel  
Narvik   SD

'Narvik' had better germination. The plants of both varieties were healthy. The roots of both varieties were forked at times.

No Preference

Caravel  
Narvik   SC

Both were quality varieties that I would plant again.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with these varieties and gave them similar ratings. 'Caravel' had an edge in germination; this contributed to an edge in yields. The 'Caravel' roots were larger and broader, which some gardeners mentioned made them easier to dig and less likely to break when harvesting. 'Narvik' had an edge in root quality. Several gardeners felt it tasted a bit sweeter.

'Narvik' had an edge in root quality. Several gardeners felt it tasted a bit sweeter.

Carrot, Yellow

Varieties

'Yellow Moon'

70 days. New variety. Hefty, gold roots with less green shoulders. Excellent flavor, productivity and uniformity.

'Yellowstone'

73 days. Roots are sweet and deep yellow in color. Strong tops make it easy to harvest and bunch.



Data

Gardeners at nine sites submitted information.

Trait	Yellow Moon	Yellowstone	Same
Germinated best	38%	38%	25%
Healthier plants	38	50	13
Harvested earlier	57	14	29
Higher yields	43	43	14
More attractive roots	43	14	43
Tasted better	14	43	43
Preference	43	57	
Recommend (😊)	86	71	
Mean score ¹	7.43	7.43	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Yellow Moon'

Yellow Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellowstone ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Yellow Moon' was the overall best producer and tasted a bit sweeter. It was easier to clean due to its more uniform roots. Both varieties germinated very slowly. Both varieties grew very large when allowed. I would never have tried a yellow carrot but am thankful for this trial and glad to have participated.

Yellow Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellowstone ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Yellow Moon' grew well in my garden. Most of the seeds germinated. Its plants looked healthy and robust.

Yellow Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Yellowstone ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Seed germination was poor on both varieties as well as my other carrots. 'Yellow Moon' had better germination, growth and size. One of the biggest 'Yellow Moon' roots was seventeen inches long with nine inches around at the top and six inches at the midpoint.

Prefer 'Yellowstone'

Yellow Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellowstone ★★★★★ 😊 NE

The taste was way better for 'Yellowstone'. It actually tasted like a carrot and not just water. 'Yellow Moon' had little to no taste. 'Yellowstone' roots were dark yellow and 'Yellow Moon' roots were light yellow.

Yellow Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellowstone ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Yellowstone' had better yield and appearance.

Yellow Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Yellowstone ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Yellowstone' was overall a better tasting and more attractive carrot. It had good green development with decent-sized roots. Changing weather caused our ground to crack and deformed the roots of both varieties.

Many gardeners recommended 'Yellow Moon' for its vigor and attractive roots.

Best yellow carrot variety

Top choice
 Yellowstone

Prefer 'Yellowstone' (continued)

Yellow Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Yellowstone ★★★★★ 😊 NW

When the carrots were eaten raw, 'Yellowstone' tasted sweeter than 'Yellow Moon'. When the carrots were cooked, the varieties tasted similar.

Conclusions

Neither variety particularly stood out. A higher percentage of gardeners recommended 'Yellow Moon'. They liked its vigor and attractive roots. Most gardeners preferred 'Yellowstone' for its superior taste.

Most gardeners preferred 'Yellowstone' for its superior 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) →

😊 (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

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
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 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

Corn, Early Super Sweet

Varieties

'Kickoff XR' (shA)

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

'Solstice' (shA)

68 days. New. Seedlings show strong vigor even in cool soils. Ears are attractive and sweet.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Kickoff	Solstice	Same
Germinated best	50%	22%	28%
Healthier plants	32	21	47
Harvested earlier	53	26	21
Higher yields	41	12	47
More attractive ears	28	6	67
Tasted better	29	47	24
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (😊)	78	67	
Mean score ¹	7.47	7.47	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Kickoff'

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😞 NE

I sowed seeds on May 26 and transplanted the seedlings to the garden on June 13. High winds on August 5 affected the corn but both varieties recovered. The first ears of 'Kickoff' were harvested on August 16 and the remainder of both varieties was harvested on August 24. 'Kickoff' had a 40% higher yield. Its cobs exhibited the most uniform kernels and were very sweet with a crisp texture.

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Solstice' plants were stunted. The kernels on the 'Solstice' cobs did not fill out well.

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Kickoff' had better yield.

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Kickoff' germinated earlier and matured earlier. It produced more ears and longer ears. 'Kickoff' kernels were larger, sweeter and juicier. The ears of both varieties filled out nicely. 'Solstice' had smaller plants with larger root systems.

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😞 NC

Neither variety performed as well as my 'Silver Queen'. Both had short ears and really struggled to produce.

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties were basically identical for us. Both varieties were delicious. 'Kickoff' ripened earlier.

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Kickoff' had nice, long ears but didn't have much taste. Both varieties matured too fast! We did water.

Kickoff ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Solstice ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Kickoff' had better taste and germination.

'Kickoff' showed strong seedling vigor and ripened earlier; these are key traits for early-ripening sweet corn.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
 American Dream

Strong performers
 Anthem XR
 Catalyst
 Enchanted
 Xtra-Tender
 274A

Prefer 'Kickoff' (continued)

Kickoff  
Solstice  SC

'Kickoff' grew more vigorously and always seemed a week ahead of 'Solstice'.

Prefer 'Solstice'

Kickoff  
Solstice  NE

I liked the taste of 'Solstice' better. The taste of 'Kickoff' seemed to be a bit more diluted. 'Kickoff' germinated better (nearly 100% compared to about 50% for 'Solstice'), and ripened almost a week earlier. Plants of both varieties were healthy. Their ears were filled to the end and were attractive.

Kickoff  
Solstice  NE

Both grew well and were very tasty. 'Kickoff' had a weaker stalk and was susceptible to blowing over.

Kickoff  
Solstice  NE

'Solstice' had large, sweet cobs. 'Kickoff' cobs didn't fill adequately, perhaps 30%. 'Kickoff' plants were smaller and did not have good plant vigor.

Kickoff  
Solstice  SE

This trial didn't go well. We planted in late May, but a windstorm in late June blew down a tree and crushed the corn. We replanted in late June, but the harvest was small and the ears were stunted. The corn that we did get tasted very good. 'Solstice' tasted better.

Kickoff  
Solstice  SE

'Solstice' tasted a little bit better. Both of these varieties were the best tasting corn I've ever tasted. The corn was so good it didn't need butter! 'Kickoff' germinated at near 100% compared to 75% for 'Solstice'. The varieties matured at the same time.

Kickoff  
Solstice  SE

'Solstice' was extremely sweet and more delicious than 'Kickoff'. 'Solstice' germinated first and grew taller.

Kickoff  
Solstice  SE

The sweet flavor and tender texture of 'Solstice' was undeniable. The whole family remarked on it at the table. Best taste ever. 'Kickoff' showed better germination and seedling vigor. Germination was poor for 'Solstice'. The stalks of both varieties stood straight and didn't lodge. The ears of both varieties were amazing. They were large, filled out, and stayed tucked into the stalk.

Kickoff  
Solstice  NW

'Kickoff' germinated better. I replanted gaps in the rows and had 100% germination for round two of both varieties. 'Solstice' was so delicious! It was sweet and juicy. Everyone loved it. 'Kickoff' tasted good; it was more like the ones you get at the store.

No Preference

Kickoff  
Solstice  SW

Both varieties performed very well in the windy and dry southwest, North Dakota. They were sweet and juicy! We had a difficult time telling the differences between the plants and ears of these varieties. We ate lots and froze even more.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. 'Kickoff' germinated better, showed strong seedling vigor and ripened earlier (key traits for early-ripening sweet corn). 'Solstice' received higher ratings for taste qualities. Its cobs were especially sweet and delicious.

'Solstice' received higher ratings for taste qualities. Its cobs were especially sweet and delicious.

Corn, Super Sweet

Varieties

'Cadence XR' (shA)

78 days. New variety. Long, large ears with excellent eating quality. Seedlings germinate vigorously.

'Troubadour XR' (shA)

76 days. New variety. Large ears are filled to the tip and very tender. Stalks resist wind damage and rust.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Trouba-		
	Cadence	dour	Same
Germinated best	5%	82%	14%
Healthier plants	5	62	33
Harvested earlier	5	80	15
Higher yields	5	70	25
More attractive ears	15	65	20
Tasted better	5	63	32
Preference	10	90	
Recommend (😊)	35	90	
Mean score ¹	5.05	8.45	
Median score ¹	5.50	9.50	

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

Prefer 'Cadence'

Cadence ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Troubadour ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

'Troubadour' germinated at 80% compared to 30% for 'Cadence'. The stalks of both varieties grew to about six feet tall and produced their first ears in late August. 'Cadence' had larger cobs. The tastes of these varieties were okay, but there are lots of other varieties on the market with good germination, large cobs and good taste.

Cadence ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Troubadour ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cadence' was a little sweeter and produced a few more ears.

Prefer 'Troubadour'

Cadence ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Troubadour ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Troubadour' was very fast growing and so sweet! The first harvest was on August 13. 'Troubadour' was totally awesome. I would grow it every year.

Cadence ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Troubadour ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Troubadour' germinated better and produced more corn. 'Cadence' ripened at varying times; 'Troubadour' came all about the same time. The ears of both varieties filled out to the end. I could not detect any differences in taste; both did not achieve the sweetness and flavor of some other varieties we have grown (for example, 'American Dream') but were still delicious.

Cadence ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Troubadour ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Troubadour' was very tasty and had strong stalks. 'Cadence' was slow to grow and only yielded a few mature ears.

Cadence ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Troubadour ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Troubadour' germinated first, was a tall and proud plant, ripened a week earlier, and tasted fantastic. It produced a few more cobs, and its cobs were larger in size. Both varieties tasted delicious. Deer nipped off the six-inch plants, but the plants recovered.

Our soils were cool and wet this spring.

'Cadence' germinated poorly either due to bad genes or bad seed quality.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
 American Dream

Strong performers
 Anthem XR
 Catalyst
 Enchanted
 Xtra-Tender
 274A

Prefer 'Troubadour' (continued)

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

I was not very impressed with either variety.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' had better germination, healthier plants and larger ears. Its yield was average but higher than the yield of 'Cadence'. Both varieties tasted very good.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

They both tasted great. 'Troubadour' cobs were fuller.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' had much better germination.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Cadence' had only six of seventy seeds germinate.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' germinated better, produced nicer and more cobs, and tasted better.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' germinated better. It grew faster, sturdier and was healthier. It was the only variety to produce ears although they were very small.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' was disappointing compared to other super sweet corn that I have tried, but 'Cadence' just didn't even grow for me. Only about 10 'Cadence' seedlings came out of the ground, and the plants that did grow were very small, with small ears.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' was easier to grow.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' plants were taller, healthier and more hardy. 'Troubadour' produced higher yields. Its ears were more attractive and had great flavor.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' is the best variety we have ever grown. It had 90% germination compared to 35% for 'Cadence'. 'Troubadour' produced lots of ears and each ear consistently had lots of kernels. It tasted great. When grilled, these varieties had no difference in flavor. When steamed, 'Troubadour' was more flavorful.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' had excellent germination, yields and taste. I was very disappointed with 'Cadence' as very few plants came up.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

'Troubadour' had better plants and more ears. Its ears were tastier. Most of the 'Cadence' seeds did not come up.

Cadence  
 Troubadour  

The plants of both varieties grew very well. I had volunteer taste testers, and they all agreed that 'Troubadour' kernels were very tender.

Conclusions

Our soils were cool and wet this spring, and 'Cadence' germinated poorly. The germination was so consistently poor across locations that one must consider the major problem may be the quality of the seed and not the variety itself. One could argue any variety would look good next to 'Cadence', and 'Troubadour' did. It received high ratings. Most importantly, 90% of gardeners recommended it. Perhaps both varieties need another look: 'Cadence' to verify its weak vigor and 'Troubadour' to evaluate its true potential when matched against a strong competitor.

'Troubadour' received high ratings and nearly all gardeners recommended it.

Corn, Yellow Super Sweet

Varieties

'Icon XR' (shA)

72 days. Long ears with exceptional eating quality. Tall stalks resist diseases.

'Vison MXR' (shA)

74 days. Very popular for its amazing flavor and bright kernels. Germinates in cool soils.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Icon	Vision	Same
Germinated best	50%	13%	38%
Healthier plants	14	14	71
Harvested earlier	43	29	29
Higher yields	50	13	38
More attractive ears	50	38	13
Tasted better	29	0	71
Preference	88	13	
Recommend 😊	88	75	
Mean score ¹	8.63	7.50	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Icon'

Icon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Vision ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Icon' developed over a longer period and was a bit better in flavor.

Icon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Vision ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Icon' had beautiful, large cobs.

Icon ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Vision ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Icon' germinated first, and its plants appeared healthier. I liked its high yields. 'Vision' germinated late and had small plants throughout the season.

Icon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Vision ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Icon' produced higher yields; two cobs per stalk. Its stalks were taller and its ears were more attractive. 'Icon' kernels were delicate and great for eating off the cob. 'Vision' kernels were firmer and good for cutting off the cob for recipes.

Icon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Vision ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I was pleased with both varieties. 'Icon' had more uniform kernels.

Icon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Vision ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Icon' had better flavor, production and earliness.

Prefer 'Vision'

Icon ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Vision ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Vision' stalks grew taller and were more robust. Its ears were larger too.

Conclusions

'Icon' was strongly preferred over 'Vision'. 'Icon' germinated better in the cool, moist soils this spring. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners liked its long ears and delicious taste. 'Vision' has been a strong performer in previous years, but it did not germinate well and struggled in its growth. Nevertheless, most gardeners recommended it.

'Icon' germinated better in the cool, moist soils this spring. This contributed to higher yields.

Best yellow super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
Icon

Strong performer
Vision

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 six sites submitted information.

Trait	Light		
	Green	Striped	Same
Germinated best	83%	0%	17%
Healthier plants	83	0	17
Harvested earlier	50	17	33
Higher yields	83	0	17
More attractive cukes	50	50	0
Tasted better	60	40	0
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (😊)	83	50	
Mean score ¹	7.83	5.17	
Median score ¹	8.00	5.50	

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

Prefer 'Light Green'

Light Green ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
Striped ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 NE

'Light Green' vines were vigorous and more fruitful compared to 'Striped'. 'Light Green' cucumbers were crispy and great tasting.

Light Green ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
Striped ★★★★★ 😞 NE

I have nothing negative to say about 'Striped', but 'Light Green' had better seedling emergence and faster cucumber production.

Light Green ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
Striped ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SE

'Light Green' excelled in all traits. For some reason 'Striped' did very poorly.

Light Green ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
Striped ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Light Green' germinated better, ripened earlier and was much more productive. The vines of 'Striped' struggled all summer but produced a few beautiful, delicious fruits.

Prefer 'Striped'

Light Green ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
Striped ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Eighteen seedlings of 'Light Green' emerged compared to nine of 'Striped'. 'Light Green' grew more vigorously. 'Striped' cucumbers were more attractive and tasted much better.

Light Green ★★★★★ 😞 🍷
Striped ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Light Green' germinated slightly earlier. The cucumbers of both varieties were tasty, but 'Striped' cucumbers were much better tasting. The 'Striped' cucumbers also matured with a slimmer shape. 'Light Green' cucumbers would get round in the middle as they matured. I still prefer the taste of a pickling or snack cucumber, but these were better tasting than a burpless. They produced well and are still producing today [September 24].

Conclusions

'Light Green' has grown much better in two years of trials. It has shown more vigor and produced higher yields. Gardeners who have preferred 'Striped' often mentioned its unique, snake-like appearance and its special taste qualities.

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

Best Armenian cucumber varieties

Top choice
Light Green

Strong performer
Striped

Cucumber, Burpless

Varieties

'Nokya'

55 days. High yields of crunchy, sweet, 12-inch fruits with small seed cavities. No bees needed.

'Shintokiwa'

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



Data

Gardeners at 41 sites submitted information.

Trait	Nokya	Shinto-kiwa	Same
Germinated best	41%	24%	35%
Healthier plants	42	22	36
Harvested earlier	71	20	9
Higher yields	55	27	18
More attractive cukes	53	19	28
Tasted better	35	23	42
Preference	76	24	
Recommend (😊)	89	63	
Mean score ¹	8.32	6.76	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Nokya'

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Nokya' had the first cukes of summer. These varieties produced a similar yield. They were very good tasting, and I didn't even have to peel.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Shintokiwa' didn't produce.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Nokya' was better in all traits. Its cucumbers were firm, not bitter and had better taste.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Nokya' was a very heavy producer and had better germination. There were no bitter cukes from either variety. I pulled the plants in early September. There were too many cucumbers! Overall, both varieties did well and tasted great.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Nokya' plants were more robust and produced significantly earlier and yielded much higher. 'Shintokiwa' cukes were fine, but there were far fewer of them. 'Shintokiwa' plants did not tolerate the drier weather towards the end of summer nearly as well, and a lot of their cukes curled when that happened. I really liked 'Nokya' and would plant it again.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Nokya' had bigger and healthier looking plants. Had it not been for the grasshoppers, this would have been a good variety.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties were great! I loved these cucumbers. They yielded like crazy!

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Nokya' was a better producer.

Both varieties produced lots of crisp, thin-skinned, delicious cucumbers.

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice
Summer
Dance

Strong performers

Nokya
Orient
Express II
Sweet Slice
Sweet Success
Tasty Green

Prefer 'Nokya' (continued)

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties were excellent. Both germinated well and had excellent health throughout the season. There were so many cukes; we picked 50 a day at times. The cucumbers were straight and nice. 'Nokya' produced about two weeks earlier. Most people preferred the taste of 'Shintokiwa' but 'Nokya' tasted excellent too.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Shintokiwa ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 NC

'Nokya' is the best burpless I've grown. It germinated first. It had gorgeous long vines. The first harvest was on July 31, and I harvested six to eight cukes each day. The harvest continued to October 1. 'Nokya' cucumbers were beautiful, deep green, and made wonderful refrigerated pickles.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Nokya' produced three to four weeks earlier. 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers had spines.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Nokya' cucumbers were consistently slender and had great flavor, but its skins were a little tough. 'Shintokiwa' produced earlier and higher yields.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Nokya' cucumbers were easier to pick as its vines were more upright. Its cucumbers were straight and great for slicing. Its seeds were small even in the larger cucumbers, and its taste was very good. 'Nokya' yields were superior. 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers did not have the straight, even shape that 'Nokya' had.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Nokya' was earlier, tasted better and had better production. I would grow 'Nokya' every year.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I felt 'Shintokiwa' had some bitterness and 'Nokya' did not. 'Nokya' was 1.5 to 2 weeks earlier in production. Its fruits were very attractive. Both varieties produced well; it was sad the season had to end.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Nokya' cucumbers grew straighter whereas 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers curled. I really liked the smooth, thin skin of these cucumbers.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Nokya' had better germination and was easier to grow.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Nokya' germinated at almost 100%. These were some of the best cucumbers I've ever grown until we got the 100-degree temps. 'Nokya' had the more attractive and straight cucumbers until the heat. After the heat, the few remaining cukes were curled and small, and the plants didn't really recover. 'Shintokiwa' did continue to produce after the 100-degree heat, but it never produced aggressively. In mid-July I gave all the cucumbers some diluted water that fish had been frozen in, and it seemed to give both varieties a boost.

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Nokya' was amazing. I had limited space so planted only 10 seeds of each. I harvested over 100 cucumbers from the 'Nokya' plants. 'Nokya' was the crop of the year in my garden!

Nokya ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Shintokiwa ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Nokya' produced more cukes. It bloomed first and produced cukes first. Both varieties had some bottleneck fruits.

Gardeners raved over 'Nokya'. 'Nokya' showed an edge in all traits from germination to harvest.

Prefer 'Nokya' (continued)

Nokya    NW
 Shintokiwa  

'Nokya' produced first and had very nice cucumbers. It had strong vines.

Nokya    SW
 Shintokiwa  

I harvested a lot of 'Nokya' the whole season. The cucumbers of both varieties were crunchy.

Nokya    SW
 Shintokiwa  

'Nokya' outperformed 'Shintokiwa' by at least four times the yield. 'Nokya' cucumbers were sweeter, had fewer and smaller seeds, and more tender skin.

Nokya    SW
 Shintokiwa  

'Nokya' cucumbers were not too fat, never bitter, and good for fresh eating.

Nokya    SD
 Shintokiwa  

Both varieties germinated great. The vines were healthy and still producing in October. Great yields. The cucumbers did not get bitter when large, and their seed cavities were small. My taste testers preferred 'Nokya'. 'Nokya' cucumbers were long, straight and easier to peel and slice. 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers curled.

Prefer 'Shintokiwa'

Nokya    MN
 Shintokiwa  

All seeds came up for both varieties! 'Shintokiwa' had larger, more prolific vines. While crisper and more refreshing, 'Nokya' had much larger seeds that were a bit chewy and distracting when eating. 'Shintokiwa' had a more traditional cucumber flavor.

Nokya    NE
 Shintokiwa  

Both varieties were good and had great flavor. We and our grandchildren loved eating these cucumbers. 'Shintokiwa' had healthier plants and ripened earlier.

Nokya    SE
 Shintokiwa  
 'Shintokiwa' was better tasting and had better production.

Nokya    NC
 Shintokiwa  
 'Shintokiwa' tasted better, and it produced more and nicer fruits.

Nokya    NC
 Shintokiwa  
 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers were crisp and had delicious flavor. It was very productive. Its cucumbers were crisp.

Nokya    SC
 Shintokiwa  

Both varieties were very good. I would love to plant both again and will plant them on an arbor. 'Shintokiwa' cucumbers were skinnier.

Nokya    SC
 Shintokiwa  

Only four plants of 'Nokya' came up, and they produced very few cucumbers.

Nokya    SW
 Shintokiwa  

'Shintokiwa' plants didn't dry up like those of 'Nokya'. 'Shintokiwa' plants looked good right up to frost. Both varieties had good tasting cucumbers, but we preferred the taste of 'Shintokiwa'. Even if its cucumbers grew a little too big, the seeds weren't overwhelming.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of crisp, thin-skinned, delicious cucumbers. Gardeners raved over 'Nokya'. 'Nokya' showed an edge in all traits from germination to harvest. 'Nokya' vines were more robust, produced earlier and yielded more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were straight and more attractive. 'Shintokiwa' is a good organic variety, but it could not match the vigor and yields of 'Nokya'.

'Nokya' vines were more robust, produced earlier and yielded more cucumbers.

Cucumber, Pickling

Varieties

'Max Pack'

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

'Supremo'

55 days. Fruits are uniformly firm and dark green. High quality. Vines resist diseases and are productive.



Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

Trait	Max Pack	Supremo	Same
Germinated best	52%	22%	26%
Healthier plants	37	19	44
Harvested earlier	63	17	21
Higher yields	40	20	40
More attractive cukes	20	16	64
Tasted better	28	8	64
Preference	76	24	
Recommend (😊)	88	58	
Mean score ¹	8.04	7.20	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Max Pack'

Max Pack ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★☆☆☆☹️ NE

'Max Pack' germinated better and produced three times more cucumbers. 'Supremo' matured late.

Max Pack ★★★★★😊 🏠
 Supremo ★★☆☆☆☹️ NE

The size of 'Max Pack' was better for pickling.

Max Pack ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★☆☆☆☹️ SE

'Max Pack' cucumbers did not get big and yellow as fast in the garden.

Max Pack ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★☆☹️ NC

'Max Pack' vines were healthier and produced three to four weeks earlier.

Max Pack ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★☆☹️ NC

'Max Pack' germinated 16 seedlings compared to 11 for 'Supremo'. 'Max Pack' produced 12.0 pounds of little picklers and 'Supremo' produced 5.8 pounds of little picklers. 'Supremo' had a little sweeter taste; 'Max Pack' was crunchier and had a real cucumber taste. 'Max Pack' kept producing vigorously with my slicing cucumbers when I was done with picklers; 'Supremo' didn't.

Max Pack ★★★★★😊 🏠
 Supremo ★★★★★☆☹️ NC

'Max Pack' produced more. Its fruits were nicer and tastier.

Max Pack ★★★★★☆😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★☆😊 SC

The germination of 'Max Pack' was 90% compared to 50% for 'Supremo'. 'Max Pack' produced earlier but overall yields were similar. Both varieties had nice plants and similar taste. 'Supremo' had blossoms until the end of the season.

Max Pack ★★★★★☆😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★☆☹️ SC

'Max Pack' was a very large producer. It outproduced 'Supremo' by at least a third. I had to reseed 'Supremo' because the first sowing had one seedling.

'Max Pack' germinated better, grew faster and produced more cucumbers.

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
 Homemade Pickles

Strong performers

Alibi
 Calypso
 Eureka
 H-19 Little Leaf
 Max Pack

Prefer 'Max Pack' (continued)

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Max Pack' was outstanding. This is my second season planting 'Max Pack'. It was a winner both years, and I will plant it again.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Max Pack' germinated better and ripened earlier.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Max Pack' outproduced 'Supremo' two to one. 'Max Pack' cucumbers were larger and longer, whereas 'Supremo' cucumbers were short and stubby. 'Max Pack' cucumbers were crisp and sweet with a snappier texture.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Max Pack' was a great producer, and I made plenty of pickles from them.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 🍷
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Max Pack' had better flavor and crispness.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties produced high yields. Our taste-testers thought 'Max Pack' had the best flavor and was very good for pickling.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Max Pack' produced earlier and had higher yields.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Max Pack' vines were healthier and produced the first cucumbers.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SD

These varieties germinated and produced similarly. All plants were healthy; both got bitter at the end of the summer; and both made beautiful pickles. I put up many jars.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 🍷
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😞 SD

'Max Pack' was a great producer, just a little bit better than 'Supremo'. The vines of 'Supremo' lost their energy first and dried up. The cucumbers of both varieties were nicely shaped.

Prefer 'Supremo'

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 🍷
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both of the cucumber varieties germinated well, but 'Supremo' was an amazing producer and grew so well. I would be happy to grow 'Supremo' again!

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 🍷
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SE

These varieties were similar in all aspects. 'Supremo' had a better stand of plants.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Supremo' produced earlier and higher yields. It germinated better and was healthier.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 🍷
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I had a terrible germination rate on 'Max Pack'.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were similar but 'Supremo' had a higher yield.

Max Pack ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 🍷
 Supremo ★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Supremo' cucumbers were nicer. They didn't get too large as fast.

Conclusions

'Max Pack' germinated better, grew faster and produced more cucumbers. Gardeners liked the crispness of its fruits. This is the second straight year we have tested 'Max Pack' and have been impressed both times. The performance of 'Supremo' was satisfactory, but the variety did not distinguish itself in any way.

The performance of 'Supremo' was satisfactory, but the variety did not distinguish itself in any way.

Cucumber, Slicing

Varieties

'Bristol'

54 days. Slim, straight, high-quality fruits. Vigorous vines produce early and resist many diseases.

'DMR 401'

67 days. Proven to resist the new strain of downy mildew better than other varieties. Uniform fruits.



Data

Gardeners 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	DMR		
	Bristol	401	Same
Germinated best	27%	9%	64%
Healthier plants	60	10	30
Harvested earlier	78	22	0
Higher yields	60	20	20
More attractive cukes	40	20	40
Tasted better	22	11	67
Preference	80	20	
Recommend (😊)	100	60	
Mean score ¹	8.40	6.90	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Bristol'

Bristol ★★★★★😊🐞
DMR 401 ★★★★★😞NE

I liked the taste of 'Bristol' cukes better. The plants of both varieties seemed pretty healthy after they got started, but I had to mound more dirt around 'DMR 401' when they were small.

Bristol ★★★★★😊📦
DMR 401 ★★★★★😞NE

'Bristol' had larger plants but they were not necessarily healthier. 'Bristol' cucumbers seemed to keep better after picking.

Bristol ★★★★★😊🐞
DMR 401 ★★★★★😊SE

'Bristol' fruits were larger and had smooth skin. It produced a higher yield.

Bristol ★★★★★😊📦
DMR 401 ★★★★★😞NC

'Bristol' had a wonderful, heavy yield. Its cucumbers had dark green skin. I enjoyed 'Bristol' cucumbers much more than the 'DMR 401' cucumbers on a salad.

Bristol ★★★★★😊🐞
DMR 401 ★★★★★😊SC

'Bristol' was better germinating than 'DMR 401'. 'Bristol' definitely produced first and more cucumbers. 'DMR 401' had a longer harvest season. The cucumbers of these varieties tasted the same.

Bristol ★★★★★😊🐞
DMR 401 ★★★★★😊SC

'Bristol' was a good slicer and produced higher yields. 'DMR 401' cucumbers had an ideal size and uniformity for pickling but quickly got too big.

Bristol ★★★★★😊📦
DMR 401 ★★★★★😞SC

'Bristol' had a higher yield and earlier production.

Bristol ★★★★★😊🐞
DMR 401 ★★★★★😊SC

'Bristol' had better overall production.

'Bristol'
produced much
earlier and had
higher yields.

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice
General Lee

Strong performers

Bristol
Dasher II
Raceway
Raider
Straight Eight

Prefer 'DMR 401'

Bristol ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 DMR 401 ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 'DMR 401' was sweeter and was easier to eat without peeling. 'Bristol' had a more waxy, tough skin.

Bristol ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 🧴
 DMR 401 ★★★★★☆ 😊 SD
 'DMR 401' performed better in most traits. Both were good varieties.

Conclusions

'Bristol' produced much earlier and had higher yields. Every gardener recommended it. 'DMR 401' is famous for its resistance to a new strain of downy mildew, but it appeared this disease never was a factor. In fact, most gardeners reported 'Bristol' had healthier vines. 'DMR 401' appears to be useful only under special circumstances when the new strain of downy mildew is troublesome; otherwise, there are other varieties with superior earliness, yield and fruit qualities.

'DMR 401' appears to be useful only under special circumstances when the new strain of downy mildew is troublesome.

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 ★★★★★☆ 😞

← **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

Garden type →

🐞 NC

← **Location**

Locations

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
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 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

Cucumber, Snack

Varieties

'Green Light'

42 days. Vines produce high yields of three-inch, seedless and smooth fruits. Very early. Award winner.

'Mercury'

55 days. Fruits are dark green, slender, thin-skinned, crunchy and flavorful. Small seeds. High yields.



Data

Gardeners at 44 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green		
	Light	Mercury	Same
Germinated best	48%	5%	48%
Healthier plants	39	8	53
Harvested earlier	49	32	19
Higher yields	50	28	22
More attractive cukes	39	31	31
Tasted better	44	19	36
Preference	73	27	
Recommend (😊)	86	65	
Mean score ¹	8.18	7.19	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Green Light'

Green Light ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Mercury ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I had never planted this kind of cucumber before. I was very happy with them both. They both were wonderful tasting. I feel like 'Green Light' did better for me—more cucumbers and had a little bit earlier start.

Green Light ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Mercury ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Green Light' was earlier and more productive. 'Green Light' cucumbers had much better, fresher flavor than those of 'Mercury'.

Green Light ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Mercury ★★★★★ 😊 NE

The entire family enjoyed eating these tender cucumbers as snacks—all ages from 1–89 years old. 'Green Light' was a better producer.

Green Light ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Mercury ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Green Light' vines grew strong and produced three times as many cucumbers. 'Green Light' had seven plants germinate while 'Mercury' had four plants.

Green Light ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Mercury ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Green Light' cucumbers had better taste and texture. Its cucumbers were straighter and less seedy. 'Mercury' germinated better and ripened one week earlier.

Green Light ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Mercury ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Green Light' germinated much better, 21 plants vs. 9 plants, each from 25 seeds. 'Green Light' plants were more robust and produced earlier and significantly more than 'Mercury'. 'Green Light' cukes had smoother skin. 'Green Light' also tolerated some of the dry weather we had towards the end of the summer much better than 'Mercury'.

Both varieties were very good, but 'Green Light' was better in every way.

Best snacking cucumber varieties

Top choice
Green Light

Strong performers
Mercury
Muncher

Prefer 'Green Light' (continued)

Green Light SE
 Mercury

Both varieties produced well. Their cucumbers were great tasting. 'Green Light' produced sooner.

Green Light
 Mercury SE

'Mercury' had poor seed germination for me. 'Green Light' had a 100% germination rate. I loved 'Green Light' as a snacking cucumber and so did all who tried it. I would not recommend 'Mercury' based on its germination rates, plant health and taste. 'Green Light' will be grown again in our garden.

Green Light
 Mercury SE

'Green Light' was slightly better. It was more productive and tasted better. 'Mercury' was very good, too.

Green Light
 Mercury SE

Both varieties were very productive. 'Green Light' had a more cylindrical shape, which was more pleasing to the eye. 'Mercury' fruits tended to be pointy. 'Green Light' vines died about two weeks earlier which allowed an extended harvest time for 'Mercury'.

Green Light
 Mercury NC

'Green Light' produced more cukes. Its shiny green skin was pretty. The cukes of both varieties ripened fast and didn't hold in my garden as well as my "regular" cukes.

Green Light
 Mercury NC

'Green Light' germinated better and produced higher yields. 'Green Light' cucumbers were more attractive and tasted better.

Green Light
 Mercury NC

Both varieties produced lots of cucumbers. 'Green Light' cucumbers had smoother skin and better taste.

Green Light
 Mercury NC

'Green Light' ripened a few days earlier. Its cucumbers did not have bumps on its skin.

Green Light SC
 Mercury

I had to sow both varieties two times. 'Mercury' still didn't take off.

Green Light
 Mercury SC

'Green Light' cucumbers tasted slightly better.

Green Light
 Mercury SC

These varieties were amazing! I will be planting them again. 'Green Light' had skinnier cucumbers, produced more and tasted better.

Green Light
 Mercury SC

These are terrible varieties for North Dakota. They did not tolerate the extreme weather changes we experienced. I had many plants break at their stem bases. There was very little leaf cover. During the daytime heat, the growing cucumbers were not protected. The cucumbers were sunburned before they were at an appropriate size for harvesting. I assume this is what made the fruits soft or woody. We did not eat most. Many of the 'Mercury' seeds did not germinate.

Green Light
 Mercury SC

These were some of the best cucumbers we've had. 'Green Light' had higher yields and more attractive cucumbers.

'Green Light' germinated better, and its vines grew more vigorously.

Prefer 'Green Light' (continued)

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

There was very little difference between the two varieties for me, but 'Green Light' did produce more consistently. 'Mercury' produced more attractive cucumbers when the trial was a little short on water. Both varieties produced tender cucumbers that tasted great.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties were high producers. 'Green Light' cucumbers were smaller and tastier. 'Mercury' cucumbers had a tougher skin.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Green Light' germinated better, ripened earlier and produced more.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★☆ 😞 SW

'Green Light' vines produced heavily for months, even during the heat and drought of August and September. 'Green Light' vines produced hundreds of pounds of uniform, sweet cukes until the frost on October 14. We loved the cucumbers.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★☆ N SW

'Green Light' was the first to produce cucumbers. It produced higher yields and had better fruit quality.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

I am sold on snack cucumbers. They taste so good and 'Green Light' produces very early, which makes me happy. They are prolific and produce for a very long time with the plants staying nice and green the entire season. I just loved the taste of 'Green Light'. I would recommend these very highly to everyone. I would also plant both varieties as they are both great and you can start eating cucumbers super early with 'Green Light'. Two thumbs way up.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Green Light' germinated better and produced earlier. It was never bitter and had high yields. I liked its thin skins.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★☆ 😞 SK

This is the second time I've grown 'Green Light'. It has been a winner both times. 'Green Light' produced a week earlier and produced twice as many cucumbers.

Prefer 'Mercury'

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Green Light' germinated better but was more susceptible to damage from slugs. 'Mercury' plants grew faster and larger. 'Mercury' was prolific. It produced a grocery bag of produce per plant per week. 'Green Light' struggled to produce many cucumbers. 'Green Light' cucumbers were narrow, straight and more uniform in shape. It was difficult to differentiate the taste between the two varieties.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Mercury' vines produced more fruit, a few days earlier and more often. 'Mercury' fruits were longer, more uniform and nicer looking.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★☆ 😞 SE

'Mercury' plants were slightly healthier, but neither variety produced well.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Mercury' was a very heavy producer. The cucumbers of 'Mercury' were crunchier off the vine and stayed crunchier in the fridge. Neither variety had bitter cukes. Both varieties were heavy producers and tasted great.

Green Light ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Mercury' cucumbers were skinnier and longer, which I prefer.

'Green Light' ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. 'Green Light' received higher scores for fruit quality, too.

Prefer 'Mercury' (continued)

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🌱
 Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Mercury' cucumbers were great for fresh eating. They had thin skins, no bitterness and fewer seeds. 'Green Light' vines had big leaves that shaded the cucumbers.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🌱
 Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Mercury' cucumbers were slightly better tasting.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😞 🌱
 Mercury ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Green Light' cucumbers had good taste but were very seedy with large seeds.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😞 🌱
 Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Mercury' produced nice-looking fruits and a good amount of them. It kept us in cucumbers all summer.

Green Light ★★★★★☆ 😊 🌱
 Mercury ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Mercury' cucumbers had superior size, flavor and skin.

'Mercury' produced dark green, slender, bitter-free fruits of good quality.

Conclusions

Both varieties were very good, but 'Green Light' was better in every way. It germinated better, and its vines grew more vigorously. 'Green Light' ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more gardens. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of its smooth-skinned, attractive fruits. 'Mercury' produced dark green, slender, bitter-free fruits of good quality.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

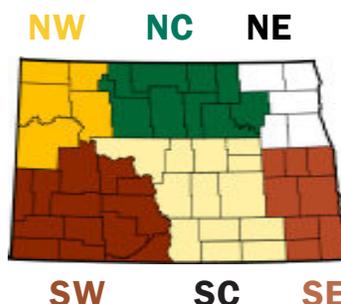
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆
 Variety B ★★★★★☆

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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Eggplant, Asian Long

Varieties

'Asian Delite'

50 days. Slender, bright purple fruits with tender, white flesh. Semi-spineless plants produce early yields and are easy to harvest.

'Millionaire'

63 days. Upright, productive plants produce long, slender, dark purple fruits. Nearly seedless and delicious.



Data

Gardeners at five sites submitted information.

Trait	Asian Delite	Millionaire	Same
Germinated best	20%	40%	40%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Harvested earlier	20	80	0
Higher yields	25	75	0
More attractive fruits	20	20	60
Tasted better	20	20	60
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (😊)	60	80	
Mean score ¹	7.60	7.40	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Asian Delite'

Asian Delite ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Millionaire ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SC

No comparison—'Asian Delite' far outproduced and provided a better tasting product. 'Asian Delite' consistently produced a good tasting fruit.

Asian Delite ★★★★★ 😊 📦
Millionaire ★★★★★ 😊 MT

'Asian Delite' had healthier plants and a bigger yield. I liked the color and shape of the 'Asian Delite' fruits. The fruits of these varieties tasted the same. Both varieties were good!

Prefer 'Millionaire'

Asian Delite ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐞
Millionaire ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The fruits of 'Asian Delite' were too long and narrow. It was hard to catch the correct time to harvest them. 'Millionaire' was more productive and had very nice fruits.

Asian Delite ★★★★★ 😊 📦
Millionaire ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Millionaire' matured earlier and tasted better. 'Asian Delite' produced a higher yield.

Asian Delite ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Millionaire ★★★★★ 😊 CO

'Millionaire' was clearly better than 'Asian Delite'. It set fruits earlier and produced more.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties, but most preferred 'Millionaire'. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. The varieties received similar ratings for fruit appearance and taste qualities.

'Millionaire'
matured
earlier and
produced
higher yields.

**Best
eggplant
varieties**

Top choice
Millionaire

**Strong
performers**
Classic
Fairy Tale
Traviata

Eggplant, Early Italian

Varieties

'Nadia'

67 days. Uniform, glossy, dark purple, teardrop-shaped fruits are blemish free. Plants may set good yields even under cool temperatures.

'Traviata'

68 days. Sturdy plants set loads of uniform, dark purple fruits even under less than ideal conditions.



Data

Gardeners at five sites submitted information.

Trait	Nadia	Traviata	Same
Germinated best	0%	25%	75%
Healthier plants	50	25	25
Harvested earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	25	75	0
More attractive fruits	25	25	50
Tasted better	33	0	67
Preference	25	75	
Recommend (😊)	50	75	
Mean score ¹	6.25	7.50	
Median score ¹	6.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Nadia'

Nadia ★★★★★ 😊 🇸🇼
Traviata ★★★★★ 😞 🇸🇼

The fruits of both varieties had a beautiful, waxy appearance and similar flavor. 'Nadia' produced almost twice as many fruits. 'Traviata' seemed to rot on the plant more easily. I had never grown or eaten eggplant. Both varieties required a lot of work for the small yield and flavorless fruits.

Prefer 'Traviata'

Nadia ★★★★★ 😊 🇲🇳
Traviata ★★★★★ 😊 🇲🇳

'Traviata' ripened earlier and produced higher yields (three fruits per plant). Its fruits had a more traditional, bigger and plumper shape. 'Nadia' plants were a little taller and healthier. Its fruits were long with smaller and fewer seeds. The fruits of both varieties were mild, but I preferred the taste of 'Nadia'.

Nadia ★★★★★ 😞 🇸🇨
Traviata ★★★★★ 😊 🇸🇨

'Traviata' fruits were beautiful, firmer and had fewer seeds inside. 'Traviata' ripened earlier and produced higher yields.

Nadia ★★★★★ 😞 🇸🇨
Traviata ★★★★★ 😊 🇸🇨

'Traviata' plants were resilient and more bountiful. Only the 'Traviata' plants were eaten by bugs, but they kept growing strong. 'Nadia' fruits were bigger and more shapely.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Traviata'. It was the more productive variety. 'Nadia' plants were healthy. Gardeners were pleased with the fruit qualities of both varieties. Data are quite limited for this trial.

Most gardeners preferred 'Traviata'. It was the more productive variety.

Best eggplant varieties

Top choice
Millionaire

Strong performers
Classic
Fairy Tale
Traviata

Eggplant, Italian

Varieties

'Black Beauty'

80 days. Broad-oval fruits are dark purple with slight ribbing. Bushy, productive plants.

'Classic'

76 days. Reliable producer. The fruits are glossy, dark purple and known for their premium quality. Excellent shelf-life. Sturdy plants.



Data

A gardener at one site submitted information.

Trait	Black		
	Beauty	Classic	Same
Germinated best	0%	100%	0%
Healthier plants	0	100	0
Harvested earlier	0	100	0
Higher yields	100	0	0
More attractive fruits	0	100	0
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	0	100	
Recommend (😊)	100	100	
Mean score ¹	7.00	9.00	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Black Beauty'

No gardener preferred 'Black Beauty'.

Prefer 'Classic'

Black Beauty ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Classic ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Classic' produced earlier and had more attractive fruit. 'Black Beauty' produced a higher yield.

Conclusions

It is difficult to make any conclusions as there was minimal interest in this trial. The solitary gardener recommended both varieties. She preferred 'Classic' for its earliness and beauty, and 'Black Beauty' for its yield.

There was minimal interest in this trial.

Best eggplant varieties

Top choice
Millionaire

Strong performers
Classic
Fairy Tale
Traviata

Kale, Curly

Varieties

'Darkibor'

75 days. Curled, green leaves on sturdy, dense and compact plants. Very cold hardy. Organic.

'Winterbor'

60 days. Ruffled, blue-green leaves. Very productive and cold hardy. Taste improves after light frost.



Data

Gardeners at six sites submitted information.

Trait	Darki- bor	Winter- bor	Same
Germinated best	0%	50%	50%
Healthier plants	25	25	50
Harvested earlier	25	50	25
Higher yields	0	25	75
More attractive	0	0	100
Tasted better	0	44	100
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (☺)	75	100	
Mean score ¹	7.25	7.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Darkibor'

Darkibor ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Winterbor ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Darkibor' stayed healthy and attractive at the end of the season while 'Winterbor' started to dry up.

Prefer 'Winterbor'

Darkibor ★★★★★ ☹ -
 Winterbor ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Both varieties were good. Deer sure liked them as well. 'Winterbor' produced slightly better.

Darkibor ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Winterbor ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Germination was poor, but the plants that grew were quite vigorous. 'Winterbor' germinated better. I picked for one meal, then was out of town, and when I returned, flea beetles had totally destroyed all the plants.

No Preference

Darkibor ★★★★★ ☺ -
 Winterbor ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Both varieties were flavorful and are still growing! Both have nice, curly leaves. It was fun to try a different variety of kale. All of the kale was damaged by flea beetles, but they came back to produce a good crop. I chose not to put any pesticides on them.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both of these curly kale varieties. 'Winterbor' received slightly higher scores. It germinated better, was ready to harvest earlier and had a lighter shade of blue-green for its leaf color. 'Darkibor' is a good organic variety.

Gardeners liked both of these curly kale varieties.

Best curly kale varieties

Top choice
 Winterbor

Strong performers
 Darkibor
 Vates

Kale, Lacinato

Varieties

'Black Magic'

65 days. Leaves are dark green, puckered, long and narrow. Upright plants are easy to harvest.

'Mamba'

65 days. Dark green leaves are uniform, flavorful and deeply savoyed. Vigorous plants.



Data

Gardeners at eight sites submitted information.

Trait	Black		
	Magic	Mamba	Same
Germinated best	33%	33%	33%
Healthier plants	0	17	83
Harvested earlier	17	50	33
Higher yields	20	0	80
More attractive	0	0	100
Tasted better	0	20	80
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	63	63	
Mean score ¹	6.60	6.60	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Black Magic'

Black Magic ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mamba ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Black Magic' had long, narrow leaves. I got only one harvest due to flea beetles that moved in.

Black Magic ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mamba ★★★★★ ☺ SK

I prefer lacinato kale over other types of kale. Both of these varieties were great! 'Black Magic' germinated better.

Prefer 'Mamba'

Black Magic ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
Mamba ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

I did not care for either variety. Their leaves were extremely small and had a tendency to be tough. 'Mamba' seemed more resistant to bugs.

Black Magic ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Mamba ★★★★★ ☺ SE

We enjoyed both varieties, but 'Mamba' had slightly better taste.

No Preference

Black Magic ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
Mamba ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

They were both pretty plants in the garden, but we didn't like the taste. They were bold in color and bold in taste. We prefer the lighter green color and milder taste of 'Vates'.

Conclusions

'Black Mamba' was ready to harvest earlier at more sites, but neither variety distinguished itself. These varieties did not generate much excitement, and each variety was recommended by just over half of the gardeners.

These varieties did not generate much excitement.

Best lacinato kale varieties

Top choice
Dazzling Blue

Strong performer
Black Magic

Kale, Siberian

Varieties

'Red Russian'

50 days. Smooth, blue-green leaves with purple veins (shown). Its taste improves under cool temperatures. Tender.

'Russian Frills'

50 days. Leaves with purple veins become frilly as they mature. Attractive and tender. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red Russian	Russian Frills	Same
Germinated best	11%	33%	56%
Healthier plants	30	30	40
Harvested earlier	10	40	50
Higher yields	10	40	50
More attractive	30	30	40
Tasted better	22	11	67
Preference	44	56	
Recommend (☺)	80	80	
Mean score ¹	6.70	7.70	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Red Russian'

Red Russian ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☺ SE

'Red Russian' was a bit better tasting and suffered less damage from bugs.

Red Russian ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☹ SE

'Red Russian' produced more and was better looking.

Red Russian ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☺ SC

'Red Russian' was a little easier to wash and a little less stringy.

Red Russian ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☹ NW

'Red Russian' was more tender and had better taste. I struggled with aphids and flea beetles mightily. I harvested baby kale leaves and that was it. 'Russian Frills' was attractive but tougher.

Prefer 'Russian Frills'

Red Russian ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☺ MN

Both varieties did quite well and withstood the hot sun. They kept producing all summer! 'Russian Frills' produced higher yields. 'Red Russian' was healthier and looked more attractive.

Red Russian ★★★★★☺ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☺ NC

'Russian Frills' was a more attractive plant; otherwise, they were relatively the same.

Red Russian ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☺ SC

'Red Russian' tasted bitter. 'Russian Frills' withstood the grasshopper and flea beetle attacks better.

Red Russian ★★★★★☹ 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☺ NW

'Red Russian' had extremely poor germination. Both varieties were attacked by flea beetles multiple times, and little produce was gathered.

'Red Russian' leaves were more tender and easier to clean.

Best Siberian kale varieties

Top choice
Russian Frills

Strong performer
Red Russian

Prefer 'Russian Frills' (continued)

Red Russian ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

'Russian Frills' had sturdier leaves. We planted on June 3 and got hailed out on June 13. Both germinated well and bounced back. We left for the 4th of July weekend and when we came back, the kale had been infested with flea beetles. I tried a soap and water mixture that didn't do anything. A couple days later, I had to remove all the kale as it was completely destroyed.

No Preference

Red Russian ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Russian Frills ★★★★★★ 😊 NE

This was the first kale I've ever planted to not die back in hotter summer weather. There was incredible growth throughout the entire growing season. I could see no difference between the varieties.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. This is the second time we have compared 'Red Russian' with 'Russian Frills', and the ruffled variety won both times. 'Russian Frills' received higher yield scores in this year's trial. Gardeners did not particularly admire the beauty of its frilly leaves, but the leaves did show greater tolerance to grasshoppers and flea beetles in some gardens. 'Red Russian' leaves were more tender and easier to clean.

'Russian Frills' leaves showed greater tolerance to insect pests in some gardens.

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 →

🐞

NC

Location →

Comments →

Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Locations

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
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- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska

NW NC NE

SW SC SE

Melon, Cantaloupe Hybrid

Varieties

'Aphrodite'

72 days. Salmon-colored flesh is firm and sweet. Big, seven-pound fruits ripen early. Resists mildew.

'Sugar Rush'

74 days. Outstanding flavor and sweetness. Firm, oval, five-pound melons. Vines resist mildew.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sugar		
	Aphrodite	Rush	Same
Germinated best	57%	14%	29%
Healthier plants	31	15	54
Matured earlier	54	38	8
Higher yields	38	23	38
More attractive fruits	38	15	46
Tasted better	15	54	31
Preference	69	31	
Recommend (☺)	62	54	
Mean score ¹	7.08	6.31	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Aphrodite'

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Aphrodite' was more productive. 'Sugar Rush' tasted better.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ ☹ NE

Both had numerous flowers but didn't set any fruit until late in the year. I had only one ripe melon.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ ☹ SE

I was very disappointed in this trial. It seemed impossible to tell when the fruits were ripe. Then the grasshoppers, voles and

deer destroyed anything that might be edible. 'Aphrodite' had more vigor and a better stand, but germination was poor for both varieties [sown June 17]. 'Sugar Rush' fruits were small, round and stayed green. 'Aphrodite' fruits had an oval shape and looked ripe. The flesh of these varieties were very mushy.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Aphrodite' melons were a bit larger.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ ☹ NC

I planted seeds in the garden and did not experience problems with melons maturing. The plants were watered by drip irrigation. 'Aphrodite' produced more melons and tasted better.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Aphrodite' excelled in all traits.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Aphrodite' produced larger melons with more weight. Some of its melons weighed 10 pounds! Four plants of 'Aphrodite' produced 170 pounds while four plants of 'Sugar Rush' produced 123 pounds. 'Sugar Rush' produced a few more melons, but its melons cracked at the top when ripe making them rot faster.

'Aphrodite'
 ripened earlier
 and produced
 higher yields
 at more sites.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
 Aphrodite

Strong performers
 Athena
 Goddess
 Solstice
 Superstar

Prefer 'Aphrodite' (continued)

Aphrodite ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

'Aphrodite' exceeded 'Sugar Rush' in so many categories, but 'Sugar Rush' was oh, so sweet! This was the first year in many that I was able to grow melons so it was an absolute delight to have them!

Aphrodite ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

These were both very sweet melons that ripened quickly and even ripened after a light frost. Even the smaller melons of only four to five inches were very good from both varieties. I would give a little preference to 'Aphrodite' because it was the first variety we picked.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ 😊 NEB

'Aphrodite' produced big, beautiful melons. Its flesh had more taste and was not as firm. Some of my taste testers did not like the firm flesh of 'Sugar Rush', but I didn't mind it.

Prefer 'Sugar Rush'

Aphrodite ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Sugar Rush' was amazing. Its melons were bigger and much better tasting.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Sugar Rush' had smaller melons and firmer flesh. The melons of both varieties had great taste and smelled so good when ripe.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Sugar Rush' looked like cantaloupes at the grocery store. They were sweeter with firmer flesh. I have planted cantaloupe before with no success, but these were great.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ 😞 🏠🕒
 Sugar Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SD

'Sugar Rush' produced earlier.

'Sugar Rush' tasted better. Its flesh was firm and sweet.

Conclusions

'Aphrodite' has been a standout performer in our trials for many years. In this year's trials, 'Aphrodite' excelled in all traits but taste. 'Aphrodite' germinated better, ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. 'Aphrodite' melons were bigger and more attractive. Most gardeners felt 'Sugar Rush' tasted better. They liked the sweetness and firmness of its flesh.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

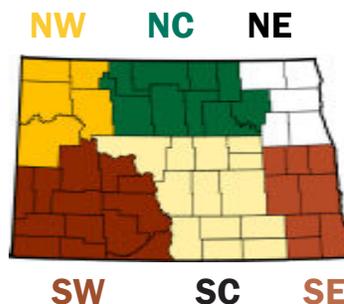
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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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Melon, Cantaloupe Organic

Varieties

‘Dakota Sisters’

80 days. Rich orange flesh is sweet, thick and aromatic. Developed in North Dakota.

‘PMR Delicious 51’

75 days. Early and reliable. Dark orange flesh is sweet and flavorful. Vines resist powdery mildew.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dakota Sisters	PMR Del. 51	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	0	0	100
Matured earlier	40	40	20
Higher yields	60	20	20
More attractive fruits	40	0	60
Tasted better	40	0	60
Preference	80	20	
Recommend (☺)	80	40	
Mean score ¹	8.40	7.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.00	

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

Prefer ‘Dakota Sisters’

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★☺🐛
 PMR Delicious 51 ★★★★★☹️🐛 NC

‘Dakota Sisters’ fruits looked very inviting and had more flavor. ‘Dakota Sisters’ produced higher yields. ‘PMR Delicious 51’ melons ripened earlier but were rather bland in taste. We had three ‘PMR Delicious 51’ melons that rotted.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★☹️🐛
 PMR Delicious 51 ★★★★★☹️🐛 NC

Seeds were sown in the garden. ‘Dakota Sisters’ had slightly better production in this trial, but my hybrid varieties produced better.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★☺️🐛
 PMR Delicious 51 ★★★★★☺️🐛 NC

‘Dakota Sisters’ melons were larger.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★☺️🐛
 PMR Delicious 51 ★★★★★☹️🐛 SC

‘Dakota Sisters’ had more but smaller melons. Its smaller size was a plus for my small family. I loved the taste of ‘Dakota Sisters’. ‘PMR Delicious 51’ tasted good, but I preferred the taste of ‘Dakota Sisters’ much more.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★☺️🐛
 PMR Delicious 51 ★★★★★☹️🐛 NEB

‘Dakota Sisters’ did not germinate well, but the plants were healthy. Its melons were ribbed and did not ripen all at once. It tasted sweeter. ‘PMR Delicious 51’ germinated much better. Its vines struggled all season and did not look healthy. It produced a higher yield, but its melons ripened all at the same time.

Prefer ‘PMR Delicious 51’

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★☺️🐛
 PMR Delicious 51 ★★★★★☺️🐛 SC

These varieties are some of the best we have ever grown. Both were really sweet with good flavor. ‘PMR Delicious 51’ had more consistent flavor, a slightly higher yield, and it was easier to tell when it’s ripe.

Conclusions

‘Dakota Sisters’ produced higher yields and received high scores for its taste and other fruit qualities. It was highly recommended by gardeners. ‘PMR Delicious 51’ matched ‘Dakota Sisters’ for earliness, but most gardeners did not recommend it.

‘Dakota Sisters’ produced higher yields and received high scores for its fruit qualities.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Melon, Galia

Varieties

'Arava'

77 days. Luscious, green flesh. Reliable yields. Three-pound fruits slip from vines when ripe.

'Divergent'

75 days. This Galia x cantaloupe cross is very sweet and aromatic. Thick, orange flesh. Organic.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Arava	Divergent	Same
Germinated best	50%	0%	50%
Healthier plants	30	10	60
Matured earlier	50	30	20
Higher yields	78	0	22
More attractive fruits	40	20	40
Tasted better	67	0	33
Preference	70	30	
Recommend (☺)	80	50	
Mean score ¹	7.80	6.50	
Median score ¹	8.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Arava'

Arava ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Divergent ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Arava' tasted better and was a better producer.

Arava ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Divergent ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Arava' germinated better, bloomed earlier and produced 15 days earlier. 'Arava' produced more edible melons. Most 'Divergent' melons spoiled before ripening.

Arava ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Divergent ★★★★★ ☺ NC

I planted seeds in the garden and had no difficulty with melons maturing. 'Arava' had superior taste and sweetness. The sweetness of Galia melons is amazing.

Arava ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Divergent ★★★★★ ☹ NW

'Arava' was extremely high yielding. Its melons were gorgeous and had a firmer flesh. 'Divergent' yields were very small. 'Divergent' melons had slightly more flavor, but the texture was more mealy.

Arava ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Divergent ★★★★★ ☹ NW

'Arava' grew well and its melons were delicious. I had to replant 'Divergent', and its vines stayed stunted.

Arava ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Divergent ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Arava' lacked the musky taste of cantaloupe so I liked it slightly better. It had more of a honeydew flavor. 'Divergent' had a top-notch muskmelon flavor. Both were delicious! The vines had a similar size. 'Arava' had bigger fruits.

Arava ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Divergent ★★★★★ ☺ SD

'Arava' was a great tasting melon, quick to produce, very prolific, and easy to spot when ripe. I harvested more 'Arava' melons. The golden yellow rind of 'Arava' was very attractive to me, and I loved its cream white interior. I preferred the smoother, slightly sweet taste of 'Arava'. 'Arava' fruits were slightly smaller making them easier to transport and prepare. Some of my friends stated the beautiful, orange flesh of 'Divergent' made it a "true" melon. They were turned off by the white flesh of 'Arava'.

'Arava' was superior in all ways: germination, earliness, yield and fruit quality.

Best Galia melon varieties

Top choice
Arava

Strong performer
Passport

Prefer 'Arava' (continued)

Arava ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NEB
 Divergent ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NEB

'Arava' seemed like it took forever to ripen, but I loved the green flesh! I had a hard time picking it since I was not sure when it was ripe. Some of its vines wilted and died. 'Divergent' germinated better and had dark green leaves. Its melons were big, had a spicy taste and were picked until frost.

Prefer 'Divergent'

Arava ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SE
 Divergent ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SE

This trial didn't go well. The plants produced just a few small melons which had not fully ripened by the time of the first frost. I'm not inclined to try growing melons again.

Arava ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE
 Divergent ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

Both varieties were good but didn't produce as much as I expected. They tasted great.

Arava ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC
 Divergent ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Divergent' had larger melons, sweet flavor and less cracking. 'Arava' produced higher yields.

Conclusions

'Arava' was an impressive, easy-to-grow melon. It was superior to 'Divergent' in all ways. 'Arava' was early-ripening, prolific and delicious, which is what you look for in a melon. We had high hopes for 'Divergent', a Galia x cantaloupe cross, but this variety was a disappointment particularly for yield and taste qualities.

'Divergent', a Galia x cantaloupe cross, was a disappointment.

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

CO = Colorado

IA = Iowa

NEB = Nebraska

Garden type

🐛 NC

Location

Comments

Pepper, Hot Cayenne

Varieties

‘Cayenne Long Slim’

75 days. Wrinkled, five-inch-long peppers. Brilliant red color. Very productive and dependable.

‘Red Ember’

70 days. Tasty blend of spicy and sweet flavors. Large, four-inch, thick-walled fruits mature early. High yields even under cool temperatures.



Data

Gardeners at two sites submitted information.

Trait	Cay. Long Slim	Red Ember	Same
Germinated best	0%	0%	100%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Matured earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	100	0	0
More attractive fruits	0	50	50
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	100	0	
Recommend (😊)	100	100	
Mean score ¹	8.50	7.50	
Median score ¹	8.50	7.50	

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

Prefer ‘Cayenne Long Slim’

Cayenne Long Slim ★★★★★ 😊 🌶️
 Red Ember ★★★★★ 😊 🌶️ NW

I liked the long, slim look of the ‘Cayenne Long Slim’ red peppers. I direct sowed these on May 20 and am happy with the results.

Cayenne Long Slim ★★★★★ 😊 🌶️
 Red Ember ★★★★★ 😊 🌶️ SW

Both varieties were great producers, but ‘Cayenne Long Slim’ produced a little better. The peppers of both varieties were beautiful.

Prefer ‘Red Ember’

No gardeners preferred ‘Red Ember’.

Conclusions

There was little interest in this trial, and data are quite limited. Both gardeners in this trial liked the beauty of these cayenne peppers and recommended both varieties. They preferred ‘Cayenne Long Slim’ for its slightly higher yields. ‘Red Ember’ is reported to have distinctive sweet and spicy flavors, but this was not noted by our pair of testers.

‘Cayenne Long Slim’ was preferred for its slightly higher yields.

Best cayenne pepper variety

Top choice

Cayenne Long Slim

Pepper, Hot Jalapeno

Varieties

'Early Jalapeno'

60 days. Compact plants produce quick crops of small, thick fruits. Popular heirloom.

'PS11435807'

65 days. Large, four-inch, deep green, smooth fruits. Vigorous plants resist diseases and produce good yields. Hybrid.



Data

Gardeners at nine sites submitted information.

Trait	Early Jalapeno	PS1143-5807	Same
Germinated best	22%	22%	56%
Healthier plants	0	75	25
Matured earlier	0	100	0
Higher yields	25	75	0
More attractive fruits	0	75	25
Tasted better	0	38	63
Preference	0	100	
Recommend (☺)	38	100	
Mean score ¹	5.38	9.63	
Median score ¹	6.00	10.00	

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

Prefer 'Early Jalapeno'

No gardener preferred 'Early Jalapeno'.

Prefer 'PS11435807'

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 PS11435807 ★★★★★ ☺️ MN

I liked 'PS11435807' because its fruits were larger and more flavorful. I would love to grow these again. 'PS11435807' plants were a little larger and they grew faster. 'Early Jalapeno' produced smaller peppers and higher yields.

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 PS11435807 ★★★★★ ☺️ SE

The 'PS11435807' peppers were huge and beautiful compared to those of 'Early Jalapeno'. It was so nice for chopping up

peppers for salsa to have the larger peppers to deal with.

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★ ☺️ 🏠
 PS11435807 ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

'PS11435807' had better taste and more peppers. Its peppers were long, full and much bigger. All of its seeds germinated, but 'Early Jalapeno' germinated and grew slowly. The peppers of both varieties were hot!

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 PS11435807 ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

'PS11435807' was hardier and produced a lot of fruits. 'Early Jalapeno' did not survive as well.

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 PS11435807 ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

'PS11435807' was a far superior pepper. I live so far north that a quick, heavy producer is needed. 'PS11435807' was a sturdier plant and produced double the amount. I really appreciated the larger size of 'PS11435807' peppers, and they had a bit more heat to them. The first full-sized, green fruits of 'PS11435807' were harvested on August 6 compared to August 22 for 'Early Jalapeno'.

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★ ☺️ 🏠
 PS11435807 ★★★★★ ☺️ SC

'PS11435807' was healthier. It produced earlier and higher yields.

'PS11435807' has a terrible name but is a tremendous variety.

Best jalapeno pepper variety

Top choice
 PS11435807

Prefer 'PS11435807' (continued)

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 PS11435807 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

'PS11435807' peppers were dark green, hot and much larger. 'PS11435807' produced peppers two weeks earlier. The peppers of both varieties had a good, hot flavor. My wife liked both varieties, but she always used 'PS11435807' first.

Early Jalapeno ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 PS11435807 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW

'PS11435807' had larger, more rounded, and more attractive fruits. It produced almost twice as many pounds.

Conclusions

'PS1143807' has a terrible name but is a tremendous variety. It was vastly superior to 'Early Jalapeno', the most popular jalapeno variety grown in gardens. The fruits of 'PS11435807' were larger, more attractive and more flavorful. Its vines were healthier, and its yields were earlier and more abundant. 'PS11435807' received extremely high scores and was recommended by all gardeners.

'PS11435807' was vastly superior to 'Early Jalapeno', the most popular jalapeno variety grown in gardens.

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

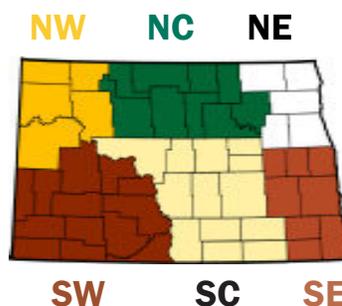
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

- 🐛 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
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Locations

- MN = Minnesota
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- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska



Pepper, Hot Poblano

Varieties

'Baron'

65 days green/85 days red. Large, five-inch, two-lobed fruits. Productive even under challenging conditions.

'Bastan'

65 days green/85 days brown. High yields of uniform, smooth, five-inch fruits. Excellent fried, roasted or made into chile rellenos.



Data

Gardeners at six sites submitted information.

Trait	Baron	Bastan	Same
Germinated best	17%	17%	67%
Healthier plants	0	17	83
Matured earlier	50	33	17
Higher yields	50	33	17
More attractive fruits	17	33	50
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	100	83	
Mean score ¹	7.83	7.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Baron'

Baron ★★★★★😊☹️🏠
 Bastan ★★★★★☹️🏠 SE

'Baron' produced earlier and higher yields, and its fruits were more attractive. Both varieties took a long time to produce.

Baron ★★★★★😊🏠
 Bastan ★★★★★😊🏠 NC

I did sow them early but not early enough to have a good harvest before our first frost. There were no noticeable differences with the plants, which had good coloring and straight stems. The varieties had similar numbers of buds and fruits. 'Baron' ripened first, and I snagged a few of them before the frost took them away. Frost killed 'Bastan' before it ripened.

Baron ★★★★★😊🏠
 Bastan ★★★★★😊🏠 SC

'Baron' produced higher yields and had stronger plants. 'Bastan' peppers were more attractive. Our poblano peppers were comparable to those at the grocery store for size and quality!

Prefer 'Bastan'

Baron ★★★★★😊🏠🔥
 Bastan ★★★★★😊🏠 NW

'Bastan' ripened earlier.

Baron ★★★★★😊🏠
 Bastan ★★★★★😊🏠 SW

Both varieties had 100% germination and showed great vigor. 'Bastan' produced a few more peppers but 'Baron' peppers were slightly bigger.

Baron ★★★★★😊🏠🔥
 Bastan ★★★★★😊🏠 SD

'Bastan' produced the first ripe peppers and produced more peppers—a lot of them. 'Bastan' fruits were nice looking and had no disease. I've never planted poblanos before.

Conclusions

Nearly all gardeners recommended both varieties. Gardeners were split on which variety they preferred. 'Baron' was earlier and more productive at more sites. No comments on taste were provided.

Nearly all gardeners recommended both varieties.

Best poblano pepper variety

Top choice
Baron

Pepper, Red Bell Hybrid

Varieties

'Aristotle'

73 days green. Jumbo, blocky fruits with thick walls. A reliable and heavy producer under a wide range of growing conditions.

'Red Knight'

72 days green. High-quality, dark green, blocky fruits turn brilliant red when mature. Strong, upright plants resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at nine sites submitted information.

Trait	Red		
	Aristotle	Knight	Same
Germinated best	13%	50%	38%
Healthier plants	25	13	63
Matured earlier	0	83	17
Higher yields	50	33	17
More attractive fruits	0	86	14
Tasted better	38	0	63
Preference	25	75	
Recommend (😊)	88	75	
Mean score ¹	7.50	8.38	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Aristotle'

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ ☹️ SE

The fruits of both varieties were attractive and very large. 'Red Knight' peppers were more blocky while 'Aristotle' peppers were more elongated. 'Aristotle' peppers were firmer and tasted a little better, but neither variety had great flavor. I have eaten better red peppers. 'Aristotle' ripened too late.

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

I had better luck with the 'Aristotle' peppers turning red, although we did have some deer issues.

Prefer 'Red Knight'

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ 😊 MN

'Red Knight' produced red peppers sooner. Its peppers were large and uniform; wonderful for stuffed peppers. The plants of these varieties looked very similar. I didn't notice a difference in the flavor of their fruits.

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🍆
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Red Knight' peppers were large and very attractive. They had a very good, strong pepper flavor but were not quite as sweet. 'Aristotle' peppers had a squat shape with thick walls and fewer seeds. They tasted very sweet.

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🍆
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Red Knight' was easier to grow and had more attractive peppers. 'Aristotle' produced higher yields.

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🍆
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Red Knight' produced the largest fruits and highest yields (40 pounds from eight plants compared to 24 pounds from eight plants of 'Aristotle'). We harvested the fruits of both varieties when they were green because they would get rot spots if left to turn red. The fruits of both varieties had good flavor when green.

'Aristotle' produced higher yields at more gardens and received higher scores for taste.

Best green/red bell pepper varieties

Top choice
New Ace

Strong performers

Bell Boy
 King of the North
 North Star
 Red Knight

Prefer 'Red Knight' (continued)

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 Both varieties had nice, big, red peppers with thick walls. I still prefer the flavor of 'Carmen' peppers.

Aristotle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Red Knight ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Red Knight' was first to ripen, had higher yields and more attractive fruits. The peppers of both varieties were gorgeous and extra large, but those of 'Red Knight' were more consistently so.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. 'Aristotle' produced higher yields at more gardens and received higher scores for taste. 'Red Knight' produced red peppers sooner. Its fruits were large, blocky, uniform and very attractive.

'Red Knight' was first to ripen and had more attractive fruits.

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

Location →
 NC

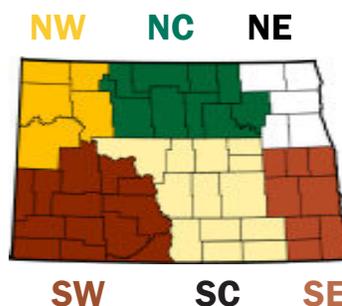
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Pepper, Red Bell O.P.

Varieties

'Jupiter'

72 days green. Open-pollinated (non-hybrid). Large, blocky fruits with thick, sweet flesh. Great for stuffing and freezing. Productive.

'King of the North'

69 days green. Heavy yields of huge, blocky, six-inch fruits with thick walls and sweet flavor. Grows well under cool temps.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	King of the		
	Jupiter	North	Same
Germinated best	33%	17%	50%
Healthier plants	17	50	33
Matured earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	17	50	33
More attractive fruits	17	50	33
Tasted better	0	40	60
Preference	17	83	
Recommend (😊)	50	83	
Mean score ¹	5.33	7.50	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Jupiter'

Jupiter ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
King of the North ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW

'Jupiter' produced the first ripe peppers and higher yields. I was disappointed because wasps ate most of the peppers in this trial before they ripened. If the wasps didn't eat them, they shriveled before turning red.

Prefer 'King of the North'

Jupiter ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
King of the North ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC

'King of the North' plants produced earlier and higher yields. 'Jupiter' plants emerged first, grew faster and were hardier. 'King of the North' peppers had a sweet taste; 'Jupiter' peppers were larger but had no taste.

Jupiter ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
King of the North ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC

'King of the North' was very impressive. It produced more than double the yield. Its plants were sturdy and healthy. Its peppers were well-formed, bigger and had a crisper texture. The first green pepper was harvested on August 10; the first red pepper was harvested on September 12. No 'Jupiter' fruits ripened before the hard frost.

Jupiter ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
King of the North ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

'King of the North' had blockier fruits. These were good for stuffing and circular slicing. They were sweeter and better tasting. 'Jupiter' produced earlier, and its fruits were better keepers. Both produced huge fruits.

Jupiter ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
King of the North ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

'King of the North' had less sunscald.

Jupiter ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
King of the North ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NW

It was a tough growing year in our location. 'King of the North' was healthier, ripened earlier and produced a higher yield.

Conclusions

'King of the North' was the king of this trial. Its plants were productive, sturdy, healthy and protected fruits from sunscald. Its fruits were attractive, crisp and better tasting. 'Jupiter' plants grew quickly but could not match the yields or fruit quality of 'King of the North'.

'King of the North' produced high yields of quality fruits.

Best green/red bell pepper varieties

Top choice
New Ace

Strong performers
Bell Boy
King of the North
North Star
Red Knight

Pepper, Purple Bell

Varieties

‘Dragonfly’

55 days purple. Dark purple, three-inch fruits are thick-walled and sweet. New award winner. Ripens to red. Extra early hybrid.

‘Purple Beauty’

71 days purple. Compact plants produce loads of dark purple fruits. Ripens to a warm purple-red. Open-pollinated.



Data

Gardeners at two sites submitted information.

Trait	Dragon-fly	Purple Beauty	Same
Germinated best	50%	0%	50%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Matured earlier	100	0	0
Higher yields	100	0	0
More attractive fruits	50	50	0
Tasted better	100	0	0
Preference	100	0	
Recommend (😊)	100	50	
Mean score ¹	8.50	6.50	
Median score ¹	8.50	6.50	

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

Prefer ‘Dragonfly’

Dragonfly ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Purple Beauty ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

‘Dragonfly’ had better flavor, higher yields and nicer-looking fruit.

Dragonfly ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Purple Beauty ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

Both varieties had 100% germination and showed great vigor. ‘Dragonfly’ ripened two days earlier. ‘Dragonfly’ produced more fruits while ‘Purple Beauty’ produced larger fruits. The fruits of ‘Purple Beauty’ had fewer blemishes. My wife preferred the taste of ‘Purple Beauty’ while I preferred the taste of ‘Dragonfly’.

Prefer ‘Purple Beauty’

No gardeners preferred ‘Purple Beauty’.

Conclusions

All gardeners preferred ‘Dragonfly’, a new All-America Selections winner. It matured earlier, produced higher yields and tasted better. ‘Purple Beauty’ produced larger fruits but was considered inferior by all gardeners. There was surprisingly little interest in this purple pepper trial.

All gardeners preferred ‘Dragonfly’, a new All-America Selections winner.

Best purple pepper variety

Top choice
Dragonfly

Pepper, Yellow Bell

Varieties

‘Early Sunsation’

70 days yellow. Large, smooth fruits turn from dark green to bright yellow. Thick walls and sweet taste. Early ripening.

‘Flavorburst’

87 days gold. Beautiful, lime green, three-lobed fruits turn gold. Juicy flesh with citrus flavor. Compact plants are productive all season.



Data

Gardeners at four sites submitted information.

Trait	Early Sunsation	Flavorburst	Same
Germinated best	0%	33%	67%
Healthier plants	0	33	67
Matured earlier	67	33	0
Higher yields	0	0	100
More attractive fruits	50	0	50
Tasted better	0	100	0
Preference	0	100	
Recommend (😊)	100	100	
Mean score ¹	6.00	8.00	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

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

Prefer ‘Early Sunsation’

No gardeners preferred ‘Early Sunsation’.

Prefer ‘Flavorburst’

Early Sunsation ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Flavorburst ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Flavorburst’ germinated better by far. ‘Flavorburst’ produced ripe peppers sooner, and its taste was very sweet. At the green stage, ‘Early Sunsation’ peppers looked more attractive with their deep green color versus the pale coloring of ‘Flavorburst’ peppers.

Early Sunsation ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Flavorburst ★★★★★ 😊 SD

‘Flavorburst’ peppers had better taste. ‘Early Sunsation’ produced the first ripe peppers.

Conclusions

Our data are limited in this trial, but all gardeners recommended both varieties. Everyone preferred ‘Flavorburst’ for its outstanding taste. ‘Early Sunsation’ has done well in trials conducted in previous years. Gardeners in those previous trials liked its earliness and the beauty of its rich green and blocky immature fruits.

Gardeners recommended both varieties, but they preferred ‘Flavorburst’ for its outstanding taste.

Best yellow bell pepper varieties

Top choice
 Early
 Sunsation

Strong performer
 Flavorburst

Pepper, Italian Bullhorn

Varieties

'Giant Marconi'

70 days green. Robust plants produce huge, eight-inch, fruits. Sweet, smoky taste for frying, grilling or roasting. Award winner.

'Sweet Delilah'

70 days green. Large, upright plants produce giant, ten-inch fruits. Fruit tips are blunt or pinched like a sheep's nose.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Giant Marconi	Sweet Delilah	Same
Germinated best	20%	33%	47%
Healthier plants	43	7	50
Matured earlier	60	13	27
Higher yields	53	13	33
More attractive fruits	33	33	33
Tasted better	20	33	47
Preference	64	36	
Recommend (😊)	93	67	
Mean score ¹	8.40	7.40	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Giant Marconi'

Giant Marconi ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Delilah ★★★★★😊🏠 SC

The 'Giant Marconi' plants seemed unstoppable—so many peppers! Either variety would be a great choice! Both varieties had tall, vigorous plants that were great producers.

Giant Marconi ★★★★★😊🐞
Sweet Delilah ★★★★★😊🏠 SC

'Giant Marconi' ripened earlier. I will plant these varieties next year.

Giant Marconi ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Delilah ★★★★★😞🏠 SC

'Giant Marconi' had a sweet taste, thick walls and won all the other tests.

Giant Marconi ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Delilah ★★★★★😞🏠 SC

'Giant Marconi' peppers had a nice size. They were easy to chop since they grew straight.

Giant Marconi ★★★★★😊🐞
Sweet Delilah ★★★★★😊🐞 NW

'Giant Marconi' was higher yielding and had healthier plants. Both varieties produced beautiful, large peppers, but the peppers of 'Giant Marconi' were straighter, less curved.

Giant Marconi ★★★★★😊🏠🐞
Sweet Delilah ★★★★★😞🏠 SW

'Giant Marconi' was a better performer overall. It germinated at near 100% compared to 80% for 'Sweet Delilah'. 'Giant Marconi' ripened earlier and produced higher yields. 'Giant Marconi' peppers were more attractive.

Giant Marconi ★★★★★😊🏠
Sweet Delilah ★★★★★😊🏠 SW

Both varieties were very easy to grow and produced great tasting, mild peppers. 'Giant Marconi' produced far more volume and slightly larger peppers than 'Sweet Delilah'. I couldn't tell much difference in taste.

Both varieties were easy to grow and produced lots of great tasting, mild peppers.

Best frying/roasting pepper varieties

Top choice
Giant Marconi

Strong performers

Carmen
Flamingo
Gypsy
Jimmy
Nardello's

Prefer ‘Giant Marconi’ (continued)

Giant Marconi MT
Sweet Delilah

‘Giant Marconi’ ripened first, had a bit bigger peppers, and a slightly higher yield.

Giant Marconi MB
Sweet Delilah

‘Sweet Delilah’ did not produce any peppers. I had a lot of bees in my garden. ‘Sweet Delilah’ didn’t have as many flowers as ‘Giant Marconi’.

Prefer ‘Sweet Delilah’

Giant Marconi MN
Sweet Delilah

I loved growing both of these! Both varieties were highly productive and produced many huge, very tasteful peppers. ‘Sweet Delilah’ had long and straight, larger, and better tasting peppers. ‘Giant Marconi’ peppers were first to turn red.

Giant Marconi SC
Sweet Delilah

‘Sweet Delilah’ germinated better and had higher yields. Its fruits were larger and more attractive.

Giant Marconi SC
Sweet Delilah

‘Sweet Delilah’ had large, beautiful peppers (some were nine inches long and ten ounces). They were also very sweet, even if they weren’t quite mature. Both varieties took longer to develop than expected but were fun to grow.

Giant Marconi SW
Sweet Delilah

We grew them in a high tunnel and outside. Both varieties germinated well and produced plenty of peppers. They both had large, beautiful peppers. ‘Sweet Delilah’ had a sweeter almost citrus flavor, and ‘Giant Marconi’ had a more traditional pepper flavor. The plants outside grew to about 1.5 to 2.0 feet and in the tunnel 3.0 to 3.5 feet. I would absolutely plant both varieties outside and in the tunnel.

Giant Marconi SW
Sweet Delilah

‘Giant Marconi’ did well, but ‘Sweet Delilah’ did great. Both varieties had 100% germination. The plants were vigorous; the tallest, bushiest plants we’ve had. ‘Sweet Delilah’ ripened a week earlier, had larger fruits and more peppers. The fruits of ‘Sweet Delilah’ had a really nice red color and tasted a little sweeter.

No Preference

Giant Marconi MN
Sweet Delilah

Both varieties outproduced any other pepper I grew. They were very prolific. Peppers were over six inches long. These peppers were not as flavorful as bell peppers.

Conclusions

Both varieties were easy to grow and produced lots of great tasting, mild peppers. ‘Giant Marconi’ matured earlier and produced higher yields. It received high scores and nearly every gardener recommended it. ‘Sweet Delilah’ peppers were larger.

‘Giant Marconi’ matured earlier and produced higher yields.

Pepper, Snacking Mini

Varieties

'Lunchbox Mix'

60 days green. Tiny, 2.5-inch fruits are extra sweet, flavorful, crisp and nearly seedless. Perfect for snacking, grilling or frying.

'Sweetie Mix'

73 days green. Small, 3.5-inch fruits for snacking. Fruits are crunchy, juicy and sweet. Vivid orange, red and yellow colors. Heavy yields.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lunchbox Mix	Sweetie Mix	Same
Germinated best	14%	43%	43%
Healthier plants	46	23	31
Matured earlier	46	31	23
Higher yields	46	31	23
More attractive fruits	46	8	46
Tasted better	33	25	42
Preference	69	31	
Recommend (☺)	85	62	
Mean score ¹	7.77	7.15	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Lunchbox Mix'

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

Both varieties were quite slow to ripen and were not very tasty until they did ripen. They ripened too late for a typical North Dakota growing season. 'Lunchbox Mix' had nicer plants and sweeter peppers.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐞
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

Both varieties were very good. 'Lunchbox Mix' had larger peppers, which I liked. 'Lunchbox Mix' produced 1.2 pounds and 'Sweetie Mix' produced 0.9 pounds.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

'Lunchbox Mix' plants produced more, and its peppers had a sweeter taste. The fruits of both varieties had a light pepper taste. The plants of both varieties were hardy but stayed small and didn't grow much until August.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐞
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Lunchbox Mix' fruits were sweeter, juicier and had better flavor.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐞
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Lunchbox Mix' fruits were sweeter and crisper—even good green. 'Lunchbox' Mix' peppers ripened first, but I wished the fruits of both varieties would've ripened quicker.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ SC

'Lunchbox Mix' had larger, more vigorous plants with heavy fruits all along its stems. It ripened earlier. The yields and fruit qualities of these varieties were similar.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ ☺️ 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Lunchbox Mix' had a better yield, and its peppers were of uniform size.

There was strong interest in snacking peppers. This was our most popular pepper trial.

Best snacking mini pepper variety

Top choice
Lunchbox Mix

Prefer 'Lunchbox Mix' (continued)

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NW

These varieties were very close to the same. It took these a long time to get fruit but they ended up being very high producers. I got all yellow and orange peppers. I gave a couple plants to a relative in Bismarck and they got all red peppers.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ 😞 SW

Both varieties had 100% germination and showed great vigor. 'Lunchbox Mix' fruits ripened earlier, were a lot brighter and a little sweeter. 'Sweetie Mix' fruits had a slightly bitter taste.

Prefer 'Sweetie Mix'

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Sweetie Mix' had almost double the production. It ripened about a week earlier. 'Sweetie Mix' peppers were well formed and larger. Its flavor and sweetness far exceeded that of 'Lunchbox Mix'.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sweetie Mix' produced sweeter fruits, earlier yields and higher yields.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Sweetie Mix' produced more fruits and ripened sooner. 'Lunchbox Mix' took over two weeks to germinate. I did enjoy growing these varieties as to get multiple colors of fruits on one plant is nice visually and for eating.

Lunchbox Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sweetie Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Sweetie Mix' germinated at 100% to 30% for 'Lunchbox Mix'. The plants of 'Sweetie Mix' were healthier and bushier with more branches and flowers leading to higher yields. The plants of 'Lunchbox Mix' were taller. The fruits of 'Lunchbox Mix' were more attractive.

Conclusions

There was strong interest in snacking peppers. This was our most popular pepper trial. 'Lunchbox Mix' was outstanding. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners liked the sweet flavor and bright colors of its fruits. 'Sweetie Mix' germinated better and performed well at some but fewer sites. Some gardeners expressed concern at the slow growth and late maturity of these varieties.

Gardeners liked the sweet flavor and bright colors of 'Lunchbox Mix' peppers.

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

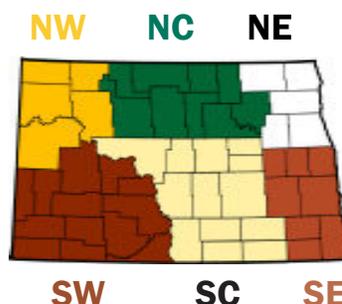
Comments →
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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Locations

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Pumpkin, Small

Varieties

'Cannon Ball'

100 days. Round, five-pound fruits with burnt orange color. Hard shells provide extended shelf life.

'Neon'

80 days. Uniform, eight-pound fruits with fluorescent orange color. The earliest variety. Compact vines.



Data

Gardeners at nine sites submitted information.

Trait	Cannon		
	Ball	Neon	Same
Germinated best	0%	25%	75%
Healthier plants	25	50	25
Harvested earlier	25	63	13
Higher yields	25	25	50
Bigger pumpkins	25	63	13
More attractive	38	50	13
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	100	100	
Mean score ¹	8.50	8.75	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.50	
Median weight (lbs)	4	7	

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

Prefer 'Cannon Ball'

Cannon Ball ★★★★★😊🎃
 Neon ★★★★★😊 MN

'Cannon Ball' had bigger, more attractive fruits.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★😊🎃
 Neon ★★★★★😊 SE

I liked the uniform size of 'Cannon Ball' pumpkins. Its pumpkins were darker. 'Neon' germinated quicker and more of its seeds germinated. 'Neon' plants looked good throughout the season. 'Neon' matured in August; 'Cannon Ball' matured in mid-September. 'Neon' produced four to five pumpkins per plant compared to two pumpkins for 'Cannon Ball'. 'Neon' pumpkins were bigger and brighter orange.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★😊🎃
 Neon ★★★★★😊 NC

'Cannon Ball' fruits were smaller but more uniform in shape.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★😊🎃
 Neon ★★★★★😊 NW

'Cannon Ball' pumpkins looked better.

Prefer 'Neon'

Cannon Ball ★★★★★😊🎃
 Neon ★★★★★😊 SE

Both germinated pretty well (11 and 12 plants) out of 15 seeds. 'Neon' plants were slightly more robust and started yielding significantly earlier, although both ended up with only six pumpkins per variety. I loved the bright orange, early color of 'Neon' pumpkins. I liked that the 'Neon' pumpkins turned orange early; this was very pretty in the garden.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★😊🎃
 Neon ★★★★★😊 SE

We loved both varieties and were very pleased with both. 'Neon' produced many more fruits. We just loved the bright orange color of the 'Neon' young pumpkins. 'Cannonball' pumpkins were attractive. They stayed mostly green with some bright orange markings; this was quite stunning in its own way.

Both varieties were rated highly and recommended by all gardeners.

Best small jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
Neon

Strong performer
Cannon Ball

Prefer 'Neon' (continued)

Cannon Ball ★★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were very nice. 'Neon' was definitely bigger [average seven pounds] and earlier than expected. The earlier, the better for North Dakota.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

I liked the dark green handles and bright orange rind of the 'Neon' pumpkins.

Conclusions

Both varieties were rated highly and recommended by all gardeners. 'Neon' pumpkins ripened much earlier, were larger in size, and bright orange in color. 'Cannon Ball' pumpkins were burnt orange in color and had a hard shell that allowed for longer use as a decoration.

'Neon' pumpkins ripened much earlier, were larger in size, and brighter orange in color.

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 →

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Pumpkin, Midsize

Varieties

'Cargo'

100 days. Beautiful, 20-pound pumpkins with strong handles. Short vines resist diseases.

'Duchess'

100 days. New variety. Twenty-pound fruits with striking double ribs. Short vines resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cargo	Duchess	Same
Germinated best	25%	25%	50%
Healthier plants	33	17	50
Harvested earlier	36	18	45
Higher yields	36	27	36
Bigger pumpkins	64	9	27
More attractive	40	10	50
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	85	67	
Mean score ¹	7.82	7.45	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	22	18	

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

Prefer 'Cargo'

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☹️ MN

'Cargo' produced beautiful, bright, bold, deep orange pumpkins. 'Cargo' pumpkins were more uniform in size and shape.

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☹️ NE

'Cargo' germinated better (14 of 15 seeds compared to 6 of 15 seeds for 'Duchess'). 'Cargo' pumpkins were larger.

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☺ NW

I loved the look of the 'Cargo' pumpkins.

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ -
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

It was very fun and exciting to see the pumpkins grow. The kids were excited to grow the largest pumpkin, which was a 'Cargo' pumpkin that weighed 11.4 pounds.

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☹️ SW

I have never had such nice pumpkins!

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☹️ SW

'Cargo' matured earlier and produced better.

Prefer 'Duchess'

Cargo ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Duchess' produced more pumpkins, but they were smaller.

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties yielded great and looked great! Both produced a good variety of sizes. Some didn't ripen in time before the frost though.

Cargo ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Both varieties did very well and produced many pumpkins. These were very nice pumpkins for carving. 'Duchess' had slightly better production.

'Cargo' pumpkins were bigger, more attractive and more abundant at more gardens.

Best jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
 Early King

Strong performers
 Autumn Gold
 Bellatrix
 Cargo
 Cronus
 Early Dakota
 Howden
 Gladiator
 Magic Lantern

Prefer 'Duchess' (continued)

Cargo ★★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Duchess ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Duchess' had some hefty pumpkins that got the kids attention.

Cargo ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

'Duchess' produced a nicer-looking pumpkin for carving. 'Cargo' pumpkins were misshaped.

Cargo ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Duchess ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The size of the pumpkins varied with both varieties, 'Cargo' pumpkins had thicker walls and were heavier. 'Duchess' flesh was a bit darker orange. I made two pumpkin pies with the exact same ingredients and did a taste test at a family dinner. Everyone but one person preferred the flavor of the 'Duchess' pumpkin pie.

No Preference

Cargo ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Duchess ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

All the pumpkins were beautiful. They had a great shape and nice size.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of beautiful pumpkins. More gardeners recommended 'Cargo'. 'Cargo' pumpkins were bigger, more attractive, ripened earlier and were more abundant at more gardens. 'Duchess' is best known for its double-ribbed rind, but this was not mentioned by our testers. Most gardeners recommended 'Duchess', but it did not excel in any of our evaluated traits.

Both varieties produced lots of beautiful pumpkins.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

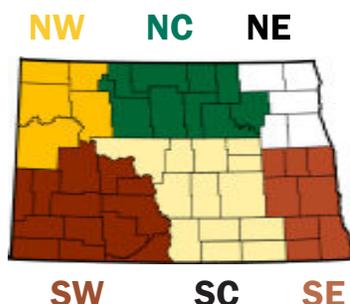
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★☆ 😞

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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Pumpkin, Large

Varieties

'Cronus'

115 days. Dark orange, 40-pound, blocky fruits with strong, dark stems. Vigorous vines.

'Large Marge'

105 days. Vigorous vines produce 30-pound fruits. Fruits are dark orange with stocky handles.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cronus	Large Marge	Same
Germinated best	27%	9%	64%
Healthier plants	9	36	55
Harvested earlier	18	45	36
Higher yields	27	64	9
Bigger pumpkins	9	73	18
More attractive	17	58	25
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (😊)	58	92	
Mean score ¹	7.58	8.50	
Median score ¹	8.50	9.00	
Median weight (lbs)	20	22	

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

Prefer 'Cronus'

Cronus ★★★★★😊🐞
Large Marge ★★★★★😊SE

'Cronus' produced higher yields and its pumpkins were slightly rounder. 'Large Marge' pumpkins weighed 20 pounds on average compared to 12 pounds for 'Cronus'.

Cronus ★★★★★😊🏠
Large Marge ★★★★★😊🏠SE

I liked the shape of the 'Cronus' pumpkins better. Its pumpkins averaged 20 pounds compared to 15 pounds for 'Large Marge'. 'Large Marge' had a better stand, but its pumpkins were still green when the first frost came.

Cronus ★★★★★😊🐞
Large Marge ★★★★★😊NC

Both varieties were great for large pumpkins. They had great production and beautiful flowers. 'Cronus' produced more pumpkins.

Cronus ★★★★★😊🐞
Large Marge ★★★★★😊NW

'Cronus' pumpkins had a better overall appearance.

Prefer 'Large Marge'

Cronus ★★★★★😊🏠
Large Marge ★★★★★😊MN

'Large Marge' had a better shape and was bigger in size. Neither variety produced many pumpkins. For the amount of space that these plants took up, we harvested just a few pumpkins. We like the midsize pumpkins more than the large ones.

Cronus ★★★★★😊🐞
Large Marge ★★★★★😊NE

'Large Marge' pumpkins were larger and had a uniform shape.

Cronus ★★★★★😊-
Large Marge ★★★★★😊SE

'Large Marge' had bigger fruits.

'Large Marge' ripened earlier and produced more pumpkins. Its pumpkins were larger and more attractive.

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)

Cronus ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Large Marge ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Large Marge' performed very well. It ripened quicker and produced several huge pumpkins that were prizeworthy. The pumpkins of both varieties were nice and rounded. The vines of both varieties grew quickly and were very healthy.

Cronus ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Large Marge ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Large Marge' had more vigorous vines. Both varieties had nice yields. 'Large Marge' had better yields and larger size.

Cronus ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Large Marge ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties produced large pumpkins that my grandsons could not lift (15–20 pounds on average).

Cronus ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Large Marge ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Large Marge' produced only a few pumpkins, but these pumpkins were huge and pretty. 'Cronus' pumpkins were still green on September 25.

Cronus ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Large Marge ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Large Marge' grew well along with my other pumpkins, but 'Cronus' yielded zero fruits.

Conclusions

'Large Marge' continues to impress us. 'Large Marge' ripened earlier and produced more pumpkins. Its pumpkins were larger and more attractive. Nearly every gardener recommended 'Large Marge'. Most gardeners recommended 'Cronus' as well. They liked its blocky pumpkins.

'Large Marge' continues to impress us.

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

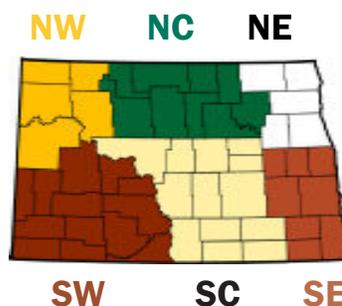
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Pumpkin, Gray

Varieties

‘Jarrahdale’

95 days. Blue-gray fruits for eating and decoration. Eight-pound fruits have delicious flesh and store well.

‘Mint Prince’

100 days. Unique, mint color. Eight-pound fruits have a slightly flattened shape and deep ribs. Vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jarrahdale	Mint Prince	Same
Germinated best	10%	40%	50%
Healthier plants	10	80	10
Harvested earlier	30	50	20
Higher yields	50	40	10
Bigger pumpkins	40	40	20
More attractive	40	40	20
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	60	60	
Mean score ¹	6.60	6.90	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	
Median weight (lbs)	11	7	

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

Prefer ‘Jarrahdale’

Jarrahdale ★★★★★😊☹️🐛 NE
Mint Prince ★★★★★☹️😊🐛

‘Jarrahdale’ produced higher yields.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★😊☹️🐛 SE
Mint Prince ★★★★★☹️😊🐛

I preferred the color and size of ‘Jarrahdale’. Its pumpkins had a lighter, sage-green color while the ‘Mint Prince’ pumpkins were darker. ‘Jarrahdale’ pumpkins were 20 pounds on average compared to 10 pounds for ‘Mint Prince’.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★😊☹️🐛
Mint Prince ★★★★★☹️😊🐛 SE

‘Jarrahdale’ produced more and bigger fruits. Its fruits had deeper veins and were flatter. Both of these varieties needed lots of room to spread out (at least 20 by 20 feet for four plants). Squash vine borers damaged this planting.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★😊☹️🐛
Mint Prince ★★★★★☹️😊🐛 SC

‘Jarrahdale’ pumpkins averaged at 15 pounds compared to 7 pounds for ‘Mint Prince’.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★😊☹️🐛
Mint Prince ★★★★★☹️😊🐛 NW

‘Jarrahdale’ pumpkins had better color, size and durability.

Prefer ‘Mint Prince’

Jarrahdale ★★★★★☹️😊🐛
Mint Prince ★★★★★😊☹️🐛 NE

Both germinated in less than a week. ‘Mint Prince’ had longer vines. ‘Jarrahdale’ turned out to be a complete crop failure. I assume it didn’t have enough time to mature.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★😊☹️🐛
Mint Prince ★★★★★😊☹️🐛 SE

The vines of ‘Mint Prince’ really took over and produced lots of pumpkins. Its pumpkins had various sizes. The pumpkins of both varieties were very pretty and had uniform color.

‘Jarrahdale’ produced higher yields at more locations. Its fruits were blue-gray and attractive.

Best gray pumpkin variety

Top choice
Jarrahdale

Prefer 'Mint Prince' (continued)

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Mint Prince ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Mint Prince' plants were much healthier. 'Jarrahdale' did not produce any pumpkins.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Mint Prince ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Neither variety reached full maturity before the frost came. 'Mint Prince' vines started producing fruit earlier and had more vigor.

Jarrahdale ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Mint Prince ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Mint Prince' matured earlier. I harvested three beautiful pumpkins from it. 'Jarrahdale' set lots of fruits, but they did not ripen before frost.

Conclusions

Most gardeners recommended these varieties, and they were evenly split on their preferences. Some gardeners preferred the blue-gray color of 'Jarrahdale' fruits, while an equal number of gardeners preferred the deep ribs and mint green color of 'Mint Prince' fruits. 'Jarrahdale' produced higher yields at more sites, but 'Mint Prince' matured earlier and more reliably. The vines of both varieties were aggressive, particularly those of 'Mint Prince'.

'Mint Prince' had vigorous vines that produced early and reliable crops of deeply-ribbed, mint green pumpkins.

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

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Map: A map of North Dakota divided into six regions: NW (Northwest, yellow), NC (North Central, green), NE (Northeast, white), SW (Southwest, brown), SC (South Central, yellow), and SE (Southeast, red).

Pumpkin, Pink

Varieties

'Porcelain Doll'

100 days. Stunning, 18-pound fruits with deep ribs. Thick, orange flesh. Sold to support breast cancer awareness.

'Porcelain Princess'

100 days. Attractive, smaller version with deep ribs. Productive, vigorous vines resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Porcel'n.		Same
	Doll	Princess	
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	11	22	67
Harvested earlier	38	25	38
Higher yields	25	38	38
Bigger pumpkins	63	0	38
More attractive	50	0	50
Preference	63	38	
Recommend (😊)	100	88	
Mean score ¹	7.75	7.38	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	12	8	

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

Prefer 'Porcelain Doll'

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Porcelain Doll' produced larger but fewer pumpkins. It averaged 21 pounds compared to 11 pounds for 'Porcelain Princess'. 'Porcelain Doll' produced 6 pumpkins compared to 11 pumpkins for 'Porcelain Princess'. The pumpkins of both varieties had a nice, squatty, quirky shape, but 'Porcelain Doll' had more uniform color. All 'Porcelain Princess' pumpkins had green mixed with pink color on its rind.

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Porcelain Doll' produced more.

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Porcelain Doll' had higher yields.

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Porcelain Doll' pumpkins were lighter pink and larger. They weighed 17 pounds on average compared to 8 pounds for 'Porcelain Princess'.

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★ 😊 NC
 'Porcelain Doll' pumpkins were bigger and pinker.

Prefer 'Porcelain Princess'

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both of these pumpkin varieties were wonderful, but 'Porcelain Princess' germinated and matured a few days earlier, and it produced more fruits. Several pumpkins of both varieties were fully mature but many were not mature before the frost. It should be noted these pumpkins pass through several beautiful shades of color (yellow, orange and sage green) as they mature to their blush pink, so they are still so lovely for décor even though not fully mature. Highly recommended!

'Porcelain Doll' produced larger but fewer pumpkins.

Best pink pumpkin varieties

Top choice
 Porcelain Doll

Strong performer
 Porcelain Princess

Prefer 'Porcelain Princess' (continued)

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

Neither variety was really pink. 'Porcelain Princess' pumpkins had a more attractive shape. These varieties need a long growing season.

Porcelain Doll ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Porcelain Princess ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NW

These were fun to watch grow and a lot of people commented on the pink color. The pumpkins of 'Porcelain Princess' had better shape and color, but they are close. 'Porcelain Doll' ended up more peach-colored with some blue spots while 'Porcelain Princess' ended up more orange. Both varieties looked nice next to the 'Moonshine' white pumpkins. Both of these pink varieties had deep wells around the stems.

Conclusions

Nearly all gardeners were enchanted by both varieties. 'Porcelain Doll' pumpkins were larger but fewer in number. Gardeners mentioned it had more of a true, light pink or peach color. This quality helped to make it the more attractive variety. Gardeners were impressed with the productivity of 'Porcelain Princess'.

Gardeners were impressed with the productivity of 'Porcelain Princess'.

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**

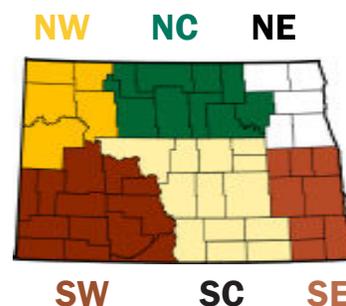
← **Location**

← **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
 - CO = Colorado
 - IA = Iowa
 - NEB = Nebraska



Pumpkin, White

Varieties

'Blanco'

100 days. Round fruits are pure white with green stems. Resists turning pink when exposed to sun.

'Moonshine'

100 days. White pumpkins with smooth skin. Good for painting. Strong, dark handles.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blanco	Moonshine	Same
Germinated best	0%	50%	50%
Healthier plants	50	17	33
Harvested earlier	33	33	33
Higher yields	50	33	17
Bigger pumpkins	25	50	25
More attractive	67	33	0
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	86	100	
Mean score ¹	7.33	7.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	5	7	

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

Prefer 'Blanco'

Blanco ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Moonshine ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Blanco' was healthier later in the season. Its pumpkins were pure white and prettier.

'Blanco' produced 11 pumpkins and 'Moonshine' produced 10.

Blanco ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Moonshine ★★★★★ ☺ SE

I liked the color of 'Blanco' better.

Blanco ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Moonshine ★★★★★ ☺ NW

Both varieties produced well and withstood a variety of weather conditions. 'Blanco' vines seemed much more aggressive to begin with. It matured earlier. 'Blanco' pumpkins were

more white and 'Moonshine' pumpkins were more cream in color. Both were attractive. I had a lot of trouble with grasshoppers and blister beetles in my garden, but they did not damage the pumpkin plants. 'Moonshine' pumpkins did look really nice next to the pink pumpkins.

Prefer 'Moonshine'

Blanco ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
 Moonshine ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Moonshine' had higher yields. Its pumpkins were bigger and more attractive.

Blanco ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 🍷
 Moonshine ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Moonshine' germinated better. Neither variety performed as well as expected.

Blanco ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Moonshine ★★★★★ ☺ NW

'Moonshine' pumpkins had a better shape and a harder rind.

Conclusions

Nearly all gardeners recommended both varieties, and they split on the variety they preferred. 'Blanco' pumpkins were pure white and judged to be more attractive by more gardeners. Its vines were healthy, productive and aggressive. 'Moonshine' germinated well. Its pumpkins were slightly larger and more cream in color.

'Blanco' pumpkins were pure white and judged to be more attractive by more gardeners.

Best white pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Polar Bear

Strong performer
Casperita

Pumpkin, Yellow

Varieties

'Lemonade'

105 days. Bright yellow, 18-pound fruits are round with strong stems. Strong vines set reliable yields.

'Mellow Yellow'

100 days. Lemon yellow, 14-pound fruits with medium ribs and strong handles. Nice when paired with other colors.



Data

Gardeners at four sites submitted information.

Trait	Mellow		
	Lemonade	Yellow	Same
Germinated best	33%	33%	33%
Healthier plants	67	33	0
Harvested earlier	0	33	67
Higher yields	0	67	33
Bigger pumpkins	67	33	0
More attractive	67	33	0
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (😊)	67	100	
Mean score ¹	6.33	6.33	
Median score ¹	7.00	6.00	
Median weight (lbs)	6	6	

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

Prefer 'Lemonade'

Lemonade ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🇺🇸
 Mellow Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked the size of 'Lemonade'. Its yellow color was brighter and more attractive than 'Mellow Yellow'.

Lemonade ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🇺🇸
 Mellow Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 NW

The color was of 'Lemonade' was much deeper and prettier!

Prefer 'Mellow Yellow'

Lemonade ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Mellow Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Lemonade' didn't originally come up, and I had to replant it a few weeks later. 'Mellow Yellow' produced two pumpkins and 'Lemonade' produced one. The 'Mellow Yellow' pumpkins were better looking. The 'Lemonade' pumpkin was very misshapen.

Conclusions

This was not a popular trial, and neither variety generated much excitement. Two of the three gardeners preferred 'Lemonade'. They liked the bright yellow color of its pumpkins. 'Mellow Yellow' was a reliable producer and was recommended by all gardeners. Scores of both varieties were fairly low to medium.

Gardeners liked the bright yellow color of 'Lemonade' pumpkins.

Best yellow pumpkin variety

Top choice
Lemonade

Squash, Green Zucchini

Varieties

'Dunja'

47 days. Disease-resistant vines produce glossy, dark green fruits. Open plants are easy to harvest.

'Green Machine'

45 days. Disease-resistant vines produce exceptional yields of straight fruits over a long period.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green		
	Dunja	Machine	Same
Germinated best	38%	14%	48%
Healthier plants	19	29	52
Harvested earlier	29	38	33
Higher yields	52	29	19
More attractive fruits	24	10	67
Tasted better	5	21	74
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (😊)	71	76	
Mean score ¹	8.24	7.90	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Dunja'

Dunja ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Dunja' had a much higher germination rate and was more productive. 'Green Machine' fruits had narrower stems and were less susceptible to breaking when twisting off.

Dunja ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Green Machine ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Dunja' germinated twice as well as 'Green Machine' (16 plants vs. 8 plants from 20 seeds each). 'Dunja' plants were more robust. 'Green Machine' produced the first fruit, but 'Dunja' produced much more. I would definitely plant 'Dunja' again.

Dunja ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 NC
'Dunja' produced so many zucchinis. I also like to harvest the blossoms and 'Dunja' had more. The plants of both varieties had excellent health and produced very nice zucchinis.

Dunja ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Green Machine ★★★★★ 😞 NC
Neither variety performed as well as my other zucchini; however, they were planted later [June 20]. 'Dunja' produced higher yields and had more attractive fruits.

Dunja ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 NC
Both varieties were very good in all respects. I had great yields of excellent fruit. No disease issues at all with either of them. 'Dunja' yielded a few more fruits overall and had very good flavor.

Dunja ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Green Machine ★★★★★ 😞 SC
'Dunja' had better taste, production and appearance.

Dunja ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Green Machine ★★★★★ 😞 SC
'Dunja' had healthier plants and better yields. There are better varieties of zucchini on the market versus these two.

Both varieties were healthy and produced loads of high-quality zucchinis.

Best green zucchini varieties

Top choice
Green
Machine

Strong performers

Cashflow
Desert
Dunja
Payload
Raven
Spineless
Beauty

Prefer 'Dunja' (continued)

Dunja SC
Green Machine

Both varieties were healthy and produced loads of high-quality zucchinis. 'Dunja' produced more fruits. I liked the silver mottling on its leaves.

Dunja NW
Green Machine

'Dunja' matured two weeks earlier and had amazing fruit production. Once 'Green Machine' got going, it did very well.

Dunja NW
Green Machine

'Dunja' yielded more.

Dunja SW
Green Machine

'Dunja' was prolific and produced fruit for my family and all my friends and coworkers! I was very surprised that 'Green Machine' didn't perform for me like it did last year. This year, it rotted its first fruit and had low germination (30%) and minimal production. Last year, it was amazing. I will try it in a different spot next year.

Dunja SD
Green Machine

'Dunja' fruits were long and slender. Its vines did have some mildew. 'Green Machine' fruits were short and stocky.

Prefer 'Green Machine'

Dunja SE
Green Machine

We enjoyed both varieties. 'Green Machine' produced a higher yield.

Dunja SE
Green Machine

Both varieties were great! Their yields were amazing!

Dunja SE
Green Machine

Both of these varieties produced an abundance of fruit! 'Green Machine' produced the first yield.

Dunja NC
Green Machine

'Green Machine' produced nicer, more and better-tasting fruit.

Dunja NC
Green Machine

These were excellent varieties. I had great production and no watering was required. 'Green Machine' produced later in the season, leading to higher yields overall.

Dunja SC
Green Machine

I enjoy growing and eating zucchini. Both were up in five days—a record for my gardens! Both varieties were strong and resisted the grasshoppers in my garden. Both had excellent yields. 'Dunja' developed a white film on the tops of the leaves, but it did not affect the fruit. 'Dunja' also had more 'yellow end' squashes compared to 'Green Machine'.

Dunja -
Green Machine NW

'Dunja' ripened first, but 'Green Machine' produced a higher yield. Both varieties produced zucchini with tough skin later in the season.

Dunja -
Green Machine NW

The fruits of both varieties were nice and tender, but 'Green Machine' produced more.

Dunja SD
Green Machine

'Green Machine' handled drought conditions better. 'Dunja' did not produce fruit for me. This was a really hard growing year.

Conclusions

Both varieties were healthy and produced loads of high-quality zucchinis. Both varieties received high scores. 'Dunja' received slightly higher scores primarily due to its productivity. 'Dunja' is a good choice for gardeners who prefer dark green fruits, while 'Green Machine' is a solid choice for gardeners looking for medium green fruits.

'Dunja' received slightly higher scores primarily due to its productivity.

Squash, Yellow Patty Pan

Varieties

'Lemon Sun'

45 days. Open, nearly spineless plants produce lots of smooth fruits with bright green stems.

'Sunburst'

50 days. Bright yellow fruits with a green spot. Compact, open plants produce high yields. Award winner.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lemon		
	Sun	Sunburst	Same
Germinated best	0%	58%	42%
Healthier plants	9	55	36
Harvested earlier	18	36	45
Higher yields	18	45	36
More attractive fruits	9	36	55
Tasted better	0	20	80
Preference	27	73	
Recommend	82	100	
Mean score ¹	7.73	9.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Lemon Sun'

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sunburst ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

The fruits of 'Lemon Sun' stayed smaller longer (smaller fruits taste better). Both varieties were very productive.

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sunburst ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Lemon Sun' produced a load of squash. Both varieties made us smile! We used the fruits for decorations as well.

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sunburst ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

'Lemon Sun' plants did not have as many spines.

Prefer 'Sunburst'

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sunburst ★★★★★☆ 😊 MN

I highly urge people to try these varieties! I got a lot of nice, yellow fruits. They were good tasting, and I enjoyed them. I had never tried this type of squash before. The fruits hold up better when cooking than regular summer squash. 'Sunburst' grew a little better in my garden. It had healthier plants. I had a problem with mold on the base of 'Lemon Sun' plants.

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sunburst ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Sunburst' plants were more compact and thus easier to harvest. Both varieties produced more than we could use. Both varieties have very prickly stems so wearing gloves is helpful when harvesting.

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sunburst ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Our family loved 'Sunburst' and will grow it again. Both varieties were good producers, but 'Sunburst' was more prolific, better tasting, a better all-around squash and did not have any mildew problems all season!

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Sunburst ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Sunburst' ripened a bit ahead of 'Lemon Sun'. Both varieties were very good.

Both varieties produced lots of delicious fruits.

Best patty pan summer squash variety

Top choice
Sunburst

Prefer ‘Sunburst’ (continued)

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Sunburst ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Sunburst’ germinated earlier. Its plants had larger leaves and produced a higher yield. ‘Sunburst’ fruits were so beautiful. They have green spots in the centers of the yellow fruits.

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
 Sunburst ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Sunburst’ performed better in all traits including yield.

Lemon Sun ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sunburst ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Sunburst’ was the more consistent producer through the season. For the first month or so, ‘Sunburst’ was the dominant producer. In August and September, the yields became more comparable to each other. We did a taste test between the two (prepared the same way, baked in the oven), and neither of us could tell a difference in taste. We got a lot of produce from both varieties in the end. Our ‘Sunburst’ patty pans were more “saucer” in shape, whereas the ‘Lemon Sun’ squashes were sometimes dome-topped and not as easy to chop for cooking.

Lemon Sun ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
 Sunburst ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Sunburst’ grew much more vigorously and produced much higher yields. The fruits of both varieties were delicious.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of delicious fruits. ‘Sunburst’ matched or exceeded ‘Lemon Sun’ in all traits. It germinated better, was healthier, and produced higher yields. ‘Sunburst’ had a green spot on the center of each of its fruits and ‘Lemon Sun’ did not. The vast majority of gardeners preferred ‘Sunburst’ and every gardener recommended the variety.

**‘Sunburst’
 matched or
 exceeded
 ‘Lemon Sun’ in
 all traits
 including vigor
 and yield.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

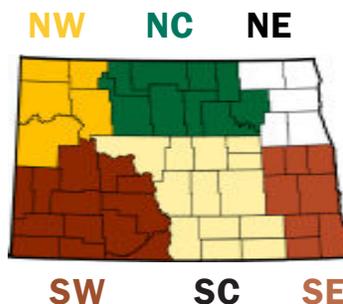
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★★ 😞

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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Squash, Yellow Straightneck

Varieties

‘Grandprize’

42 days. Upright, semi-open plants are nearly spineless and resist diseases. Yields are early and heavy.

‘Slick Pik YS 26’

48 days. Early yields of flavorful fruits. Spineless vines lead to easy harvesting and blemish-free fruits.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Grand-prize	Slick Pik YS 26	Same
Germinated best	0%	25%	75%
Healthier plants	0	43	57
Harvested earlier	0	50	50
Higher yields	0	50	50
More attractive fruits	0	63	38
Tasted better	0	29	71
Preference	0	100	
Recommend	38	100	
Mean score ¹	6.13	8.38	
Median score ¹	6.00	9.00	

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

Prefer ‘Grandprize’

No gardeners preferred ‘Grandprize’.

Prefer ‘Slick Pik YS26’

Grandprize Slick Pik YS 26 SE
 ‘Slick Pik YS 26’ was great—loads of fruit and stayed productive throughout September. It was better by just about every measure. Regarding health, ‘Slick Pik YS 26’ was more susceptible to bugs, but the ‘Grandprize’ plants were still smaller.

Grandprize Slick Pik YS 26 SE

‘Slick Pik YS 26’ fruits were more cylindrical and uniform, making them more attractive for slicing. The slower seed development of ‘Slick Pik YS 26’ fruits allowed for fresh eating for a longer period of time. This was the first time I have tried straightneck squash. I may plant some again.

Grandprize Slick Pik YS 26 SE

A horse apiece.

Grandprize Slick Pik YS26 SE

I am not a huge fan of either variety since the outsides of their fruits were so hard.

Grandprize Slick Pik YS 26 NC

‘Slick Pik YS 26’ had more fruit and better plants, although I wasn’t very impressed with either. These were planted quite late [June 20], and we had unusual weather this year so results may be different next year.

Grandprize Slick Pik YS 26 SC

‘Slick Pik YS 26’ grew vigorously and was much more productive. I harvested ‘Slick Pik YS 26’ before ‘Grandprize’ set any fruits. The fruits of ‘Slick Pik YS26’ had smooth skin and were uniform in color.

The only award ‘Grandprize’ deserved was a participation ribbon.

Best yellow straightneck varieties

Top choice

Slick Pik YS 26

Strong performers

Fortune
 Multipik
 Zephyr

Prefer 'Slick Pik YS 26' (continued)

Grandprize ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Slick Pik YS26 ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

All the plants produced like crazy. Lots of yellow squash. These varieties were so similar in production that I am not sure there is a superior one.

Grandprize ★★★★★☆ 😞 -
 Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

'Slick Pik YS 26' was a better overall performer. Its plants were bigger and produced almost a week earlier. Its yields were twice as much. Its fruits were deeper yellow in color.

Conclusions

'Slick Pik YS 26' is a winner. It received higher ratings in all categories. Every gardener preferred it over 'Grandprize' and every gardener recommended it. 'Slick Pik YS 26' produced higher yields. Its fruits were smooth, uniform and attractive. The only award 'Grandprize' deserved was a participation ribbon.

'Slick Pik YS 26' received higher ratings in all categories. Every gardener recommended it.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

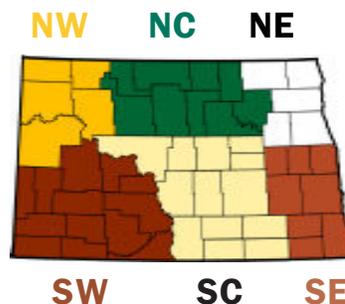
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆
 Variety B ★★★★★☆

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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Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

Varieties

'Brulee'

92 days. Squat, 0.5–1.5-pound fruits have savory flavor. Productive vines. Organic.

'Butterbaby'

100 days. Petite fruits with flavorful, dark orange flesh. Stores well. Semi-bush plants.



Data

Gardeners at eight sites submitted information.

Trait	Brulee	Butter- baby	Same
Germinated best	25%	63%	13%
Healthier plants	13	75	13
Harvested earlier	25	50	25
Higher yields	25	50	25
More attractive fruits	13	25	63
Tasted better	0	25	75
Preference	25	75	
Recommend	63	100	
Mean score ¹	5.63	7.13	
Median score ¹	6.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Brulee'

Brulee ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were very good. It was hard to tell the difference between them.

Brulee ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Brulee' produced more and larger fruits. Both varieties had a bit of "woodiness" in their taste.

Prefer 'Butterbaby'

Brulee ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Butterbaby' grew more vigorously and had longer vines. 'Butterbaby' produced more squash. Like its name, its flesh tastes like butter! The fruits of these varieties look identical in size, shape and color.

Brulee ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Five of fifteen seeds of 'Butterbaby' germinated compared to two of fifteen seeds of 'Brulee'. Most of the 'Brulee' squash did not mature due to an early frost.

Brulee ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Germination of both varieties was less than 50%. 'Butterbaby' produced slightly more than 'Brulee'.

Brulee ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Butterbaby' produced more.

Brulee ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both of these varieties grew well. The fruits were smaller than I anticipated. 'Butterbaby' had a higher yield.

Brulee ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Butterbaby ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Butterbaby' emerged and grew faster, but neither variety produced harvestable fruit.

Conclusions

'Butterbaby' was the superior variety. It germinated better, grew more vigorously, matured earlier and produced higher yields. Every gardener recommended it. The performance of 'Brulee' was okay but unremarkable. Scores on fruit quality for these varieties were fairly similar.

'Butterbaby' was the superior variety. It germinated better, grew more vigorously, matured earlier and produced higher yields.

**Best
butternut
squash
varieties**

Top choice
Waltham

Strong
performers

Early
Butternut
Butterbaby
Butterscotch

Squash, Winter Butternut Org.

Varieties

'Havana'

90 days. Uniform, blocky, midsize fruits. Thick necks with small seed cavities provide lots of nutty flesh.

'Waltham'

95 days. Popular for its dry, sweet, nutty flavor. Large fruits with small seed cavities. Vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Havana	Waltham	Same
Germinated best	33%	0%	67%
Healthier plants	33	0	67
Harvested earlier	67	0	33
Higher yields	33	33	33
More attractive fruits	0	33	67
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	100	100	
Mean score ¹	9.33	8.67	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Havana'

Havana ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Havana' had bigger fruits and was ready to harvest much earlier. It tasted good.

Havana ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 MB

Both varieties grew large, healthy plants and produced bountiful crops. The squash of both varieties tasted excellent. 'Havana' produced somewhat larger squash.

Prefer 'Waltham'

Havana ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Waltham ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Waltham' produced 222 pounds compared to 203 pounds of 'Havana'. 'Waltham' fruits were larger and slightly sweeter. I liked both varieties!

Conclusions

This trial was not popular and data are limited. Both varieties were rated highly and recommended by all gardeners. The plants of both varieties were healthy, and their squash was delicious. The classic variety 'Waltham' has always done well in our trials. 'Havana' looks very promising as an earlier ripening alternative to 'Waltham'.

The plants of both varieties were healthy, and their squash was delicious.

Best butternut squash varieties

Top choice
Waltham

Strong performers

Early
Butternut
Butterbaby
Butterscotch

Squash, Winter Baby Hubbard

Varieties

'Red Kuri'

92 days. Early ripening, scarlet squash from Japan. Thick, yellow flesh is smooth, very sweet and nutty. Good for pies and purees.

'Steph Kuri'

83 days. Flesh has sweet flavor and tender texture. Very uniform, three-pound, red-orange fruits. Vigorous, productive vines.



Data

Gardeners at eight sites submitted information.

Trait	Red Kuri	Steph Kuri	Same
Germinated best	50%	33%	17%
Healthier plants	40	0	60
Harvested earlier	50	17	33
Higher yields	33	17	50
More attractive fruits	50	0	50
Tasted better	20	0	80
Preference	83	17	
Recommend	86	71	
Mean score ¹	7.33	6.33	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Red Kuri'

Red Kuri MN
Steph Kuri MN

Both varieties were good. 'Red Kuri' germinated better and produced the first fruits.

Red Kuri -
Steph Kuri SE

'Red Kuri' fruits were 25% larger. Yields were similar and scanty.

Red Kuri SE
Steph Kuri SE

Neither variety produced well. There was not much meat in the squash.

Red Kuri NC
Steph Kuri NC

Neither variety was particularly better for any trait. 'Red Kuri' vines were slightly healthier. I always plant 'Red Kuri'.

Red Kuri SC
Steph Kuri SC

'Red Kuri' showed great germination and vigor. It produced bigger fruits and higher yields.

Prefer 'Steph Kuri'

Red Kuri NC
Steph Kuri NC

I preferred the size and color of the 'Steph Kuri' fruits. 'Steph Kuri' produced a higher yield.

Conclusions

'Steph Kuri', named after a pro basketball player, was good but was consistently outscored by 'Red Kuri', an old veteran performer. 'Red Kuri' showed great germination and vigor. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. 'Red Kuri' fruits were bigger and more attractive.

'Red Kuri' grew better, ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites.

Best orange hubbard squash variety

Top choice
Red Kuri

Squash, Winter Kabocha

Varieties

'Delica'

90 days. Flesh is dry, finely grained, and sweet with creamy texture. Stores well. Vigorous vines.

'Sweet Mama'

95 days. Bright yellow flesh tastes sweet and nutty with a dry texture. Semi-bush vines are productive.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Delica	Sweet Mama	Same
Germinated best	21%	25%	54%
Healthier plants	8	25	67
Harvested earlier	27	50	23
Higher yields	36	45	18
More attractive fruits	38	24	38
Tasted better	33	11	56
Preference	45	55	
Recommend	84	76	
Mean score ¹	7.87	7.48	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Delica'

Delica NE
Sweet Mama NE
'Delica' plants were much viner while 'Sweet Mama' plants were very bushy. 'Delica' produced more squash, and its squash was more attractive.

Delica
Sweet Mama NE
I liked both varieties. Their vines set flowers late in the season but were very productive. The flesh of the squash was dry due to the dry season; I like that. 'Delica' tasted better.

Delica
Sweet Mama NE
Both varieties were good. 'Delica' had healthier plants, more yield and better flavor.

Delica
Sweet Mama SE
'Delica' was amazing—great germination and big flowers that lasted for ages. 'Sweet Mama' had very few flowers—all small. I only got squash from 'Delica'.

Delica
Sweet Mama NC
'Delica' produced twelve fruits compared to three fruits for 'Sweet Mama'. 'Sweet Mama' vines were more vigorous.

Delica
Sweet Mama NC
Both varieties grew well. The plants did not receive any watering, and production was very good. The texture of the 'Delica' flesh was better.

Delica
Sweet Mama SC
'Delica' produced higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive and tasted better.

Delica
Sweet Mama SC
These varieties grew and produced well. We had very little rain after June, and our garden was not watered. Both varieties were very hardy for the conditions. 'Sweet Mama' plants were greener with larger leaves. 'Sweet Mama' produced the first fruits and larger fruits. Two 'Delica' plants produced 34 fruits compared to two 'Sweet Mama' plants that produced 25 fruits. 'Delica' tasted a little sweeter and its flesh is moister.

'Delica' received higher ratings for fruit appearance and taste.

Best kabocha squash varieties

Top choice
Sweet Mama

Strong performers
Delica
Sunshine

Prefer 'Delica' (continued)

Delica 
Sweet Mama  NW

'Delica' fruits were variegated and beautiful. Its flesh was slightly sweeter and more vibrant orange in color.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SW

'Delica' had more fruits, and its fruits were more attractive.

Prefer 'Sweet Mama'

Delica 
Sweet Mama  MN

These plants did not produce many squash. 'Sweet Mama' plants were healthier.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  NE

Both varieties performed well and their fruits tasted excellent. The fruits of 'Sweet Mama' were more uniform.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SE

'Sweet Mama' had higher yield and larger produce.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SE

'Sweet Mama' had larger fruits and its flavor was excellent! Both varieties were slow to germinate.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SE

'Sweet Mama' grew better.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  NC

I harvested more fruits from 'Sweet Mama'.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  NC

Both varieties were very prolific, but 'Sweet Mama' produced more.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  NC

'Sweet Mama' was more productive.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SC

The fruits looked the same until they were cut open. The flesh of 'Sweet Mama' was a smoother, darker orange and 'Delica' was a lighter orange. The texture of 'Sweet Mama' was smooth and creamy—it is the best buttercup squash we have ever grown. 'Delica' is a typical buttercup squash in taste and texture.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SC

Both had similar flavor and growth so it's a tough call, but the flesh of 'Sweet Mama' was a little smoother in texture and I liked that. Both varieties got a white mildew in mid-season, and I only got one squash per plant.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SC

We harvested 249 pounds of 'Sweet Mama' compared to 162 pounds of 'Delica'. I liked the slightly less sprawling vines of 'Sweet Mama.' The squash of both varieties had good flavor.

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SW

'Sweet Mama' produced a higher yield.

No Preference

Delica 
Sweet Mama  SW

We did not care for either variety. Their fruits were very dry and tasteless.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew and produced well. 'Sweet Mama' ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Its plants were more bushy and less sprawling. 'Delica' received higher ratings for fruit appearance and taste.

'Sweet Mama' ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites.

Swiss Chard, Pink

Varieties

'Charbell'

65 days. Bright magenta stems and heavy, textured leaves. Upright habit and resists diseases.

'Flamingo'

55 days. Hot pink stems with dark green, smooth and glossy leaves. Uniform habit.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Charbell	Flamingo	Same
Germinated best	67%	33%	0%
Healthier plants	50	25	25
Harvested earlier	63	13	25
Higher yields	57	14	29
Resisted bolting	0	0	100
More attractive	17	33	50
Tasted better	0	14	86
Preference	57	43	
Recommend	100	57	
Mean score ¹	8.00	6.14	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Charbell'

Charbell SE
 Flamingo SE

'Charbell' germinated better. It produced a higher yield.

Charbell NC
 Flamingo NC

'Flamingo' had to be reseeded and never caught up. 'Charbell' had much brighter pink stalks and was much more attractive. Both varieties were still producing in September. Both had good flavor and texture.

Charbell NW
 Flamingo NW

'Flamingo' had almost 0% germination. Both varieties were attacked by chickens and

grasshoppers multiple times. Both came back and a small crop in fall was harvested.

Charbell SK
 Flamingo SK

Both varieties performed well. They recovered well after a hailstorm in July.

Prefer 'Flamingo'

Charbell MN
 Flamingo MN

Both varieties did very well.

Charbell NE
 Flamingo NE

I liked the smoother leaf of 'Flamingo' and its spinach-like taste. 'Charbell' germinated better and was a better producer. 'Charbell' had more leaves per plant and its veins were more pronounced. 'Charbell' had an earthy flavor like a beet green. Neither bolted.

Charbell SW
 Flamingo SW

We planted June 3 and got hailed out June 13. Both bounced back well. I was able to harvest multiple times into October. 'Flamingo' had heartier, fuller leaves.

Conclusions

'Charbell' germinated better, grew robustly and produced higher yields. Every gardener recommended it. The plants of both varieties were attractive, but some gardeners preferred the smoother leaves of 'Flamingo'. Both varieties were tasty and resisted bolting.

'Charbell'
grew robustly
and produced
higher yields.

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bright Lights

Strong performers

Bali
 Charbell
 Improved
 Rainbow
 Lucullus
 Oriole
 Peppermint
 Ruby Red

Swiss Chard, Red

Varieties

'Bali'

55 days. Brilliant red stems with dark green leaves. Juicy and tender with a mild flavor. Upright habit.

'Ruby Red'

59 days. Heirloom variety with bright red stems and dark green, crinkly leaves. Grows 20 inches.



Data

Gardeners at nine sites submitted information.

Trait	Bali	Ruby Red	Same
Germinated best	25%	25%	50%
Healthier plants	25	13	63
Harvested earlier	14	29	57
Higher yields	25	38	38
Resisted bolting	14	0	86
More attractive	25	50	25
Tasted better	13	50	38
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	63	88	
Mean score ¹	8.13	8.50	
Median score ¹	8.50	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Bali'

Bali SE
 Ruby Red SE
 Both varieties were tasty and produced well. 'Ruby Red' did have some issues with leafminers at one point in the season.

Bali SC
 Ruby Red SC
 'Bali' had bigger leaves and higher yields.

Bali SC
 Ruby Red SC
 'Ruby Red' was less vigorous with poor germination. I did not detect taste differences.

Bali
 Ruby Red SW
 Both varieties were good producers. 'Bali' had a redder color. They both grew big, tall leaves and had a similar taste. When mature, 'Ruby Red' leaves got thicker and tougher. 'Bali' leaves remained thin and tender.

Prefer 'Ruby Red'

Bali
 Ruby Red SC
 'Ruby Red' germinated better. Its leaves were tender and beautiful.

Bali -
 Ruby Red NW
 'Ruby Red' had very pretty leaves. They were tender when young and cooked up nicely when larger.

Bali
 Ruby Red SW
 'Ruby Red' had fuller flavor.

Bali
 Ruby Red SW
 'Ruby Red' produced twice as much as 'Bali'. The plants actually looked like beet plants. Neither variety bolted.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced well. 'Bali' is known for its brilliant stems, but most gardeners felt 'Ruby Red' was more attractive. 'Ruby Red' tasted better and was recommended by more gardeners.

'Ruby Red' was more productive, attractive and tasty to more gardeners.

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bright Lights

Strong performers

Bali
 Charbell
 Improved
 Rainbow
 Lucullus
 Oriole
 Peppermint
 Ruby Red

Tomato, Determinate

Varieties

'Celebrity Plus'

73 days. All the great qualities of the popular variety 'Celebrity', now with improved disease resistance.

'Mountain Merit'

75 days. A great slicing tomato. Fruits are deep red, firm and resist cracking. Determinate vines with outstanding resistance to diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Celebrity Plus	Mtn. Merit	Same
Germinated best	20%	10%	70%
Healthier plants	21	37	42
Harvested earlier	59	29	12
Higher yields	21	58	21
More attractive fruits	21	37	42
Tasted better	37	32	32
Preference	42	58	
Recommend	79	79	
Mean score ¹	7.89	7.84	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Celebrity Plus'

Celebrity Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Mountain Merit ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MN

'Celebrity Plus' grew well. It produced lots of nice-sized, perfect tomatoes. It was a little later than I like. 'Mountain Merit' did not germinate or grow well.

Celebrity Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Mountain Merit ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

I was quite happy with both varieties. 'Celebrity Plus' ripened earlier and produced more tomatoes. Its tomatoes tasted better.

Celebrity Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Mountain Merit ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SE

'Celebrity Plus' had more fruit ripen earlier. 'Mountain Merit' tended to have more blemishes (small black spots) on the fruit.

Celebrity Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Mountain Merit ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

Both had 100% germination. 'Mountain Merit' vines grew taller and produced twice as many tomatoes. 'Celebrity Plus' produced my first ripe tomato, but 'Mountain Merit' was only about four days behind. Both varieties produced bright red fruits, but the fruits of 'Celebrity Plus' seemed more attractive (more uniform and round shape, fewer defects in the flesh of the tomato). I also found 'Celebrity Plus' to have a slightly sweeter taste. 'Mountain Merit' was still very good—just had a slightly blander flavor. I value the flavor of 'Celebrity Plus' over the yields of 'Mountain Merit'.

Celebrity Plus ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Mountain Merit ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NC

The plants of both varieties were huge and were loaded with green tomatoes until frost. They definitely needed more growing time [seeds sown indoors April 13 and transplanted June 9]. Among the ripe tomatoes, 'Celebrity Plus' had more flavor.

Celebrity Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Mountain Merit ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Mountain Merit' was more susceptible to blossom end rot. The 'Celebrity Plus' plants seemed to fizzle out earlier. The tomatoes of both varieties were delicious!

Both varieties produced beautiful, firm, meaty, blemish-free tomatoes. 'Celebrity Plus' ripened first.

Best determinate, fresh-market tomato varieties

Top choice
 Mountain
 Fresh Plus

Strong performers
 Bush Early
 Girl
 Celebrity Plus
 Mountain
 Merit
 Red Deuce

Prefer 'Celebrity Plus' (continued)

Celebrity Plus   SC
Mountain Merit   SC

'Celebrity Plus' produced smaller tomatoes, but its flavor was much better.

Celebrity Plus   SW
Mountain Merit   SW

'Celebrity Plus' tasted better and was a better producer. My husband is not a tomato lover, but he raved about how good these tomatoes were!

Prefer 'Mountain Merit'

Celebrity Plus   MN
Mountain Merit   MN

'Mountain Merit' ripened earlier and its fruits were much tastier. Both varieties had good-looking tomatoes. They were very uniform in size and shape with no cracks or blemishes. 'Celebrity Plus' plants got taller and fuller. These varieties had less blight than the other tomato varieties I grew in my garden.

Celebrity Plus   NC
Mountain Merit   NC

'Mountain Merit' ripened earlier. Its tomatoes had a better color, shape and overall look.

Celebrity Plus   SC
Mountain Merit   SC

It was almost impossible to pick the winner. I would grow both of them every season. 'Mountain Merit' tasted better.

Celebrity Plus   SC
Mountain Merit   SC

Both varieties had beautiful, firm, very meaty, blemish-free tomatoes. The tomatoes had a nice size, not huge, with no cracks or spots. Their plants were very stocky and hardy. 'Mountain Merit' tomatoes were a bit sweeter with a more tender skin.

Celebrity Plus   SC
Mountain Merit   SC

'Mountain Merit' plants were healthier and produced higher yields. Its fruits had less disease and cracking.

Celebrity Plus   SC
Mountain Merit   SC

Both varieties produced a lot of tomatoes and were delicious. 'Mountain Merit' had less cracking on the tops of fruits.

Celebrity Plus   NW
Mountain Merit   NW

I liked 'Mountain Merit' for its large and meaty fruits. Some of its fruits were quite large. 'Mountain Merit' produced more fruit quicker. 'Celebrity Plus' tasted good, but 'Mountain Merit' tasted a little better. The 'Celebrity Plus' tomatoes had a more typical round shape and size. 'Celebrity Plus' is very similar to 'Celebrity', which I've grown in the past and liked.

Celebrity Plus   SW
Mountain Merit   SW

Both varieties had great yields and beautiful fruits. Their tomatoes were perfect looking. 'Mountain Merit' tomatoes had a tad better flavor. I will plant both varieties again.

Celebrity Plus   SW
Mountain Merit   SW

We had a hailstorm on June 20. The plants of both varieties were stalks only and still produced an abundance. 'Mountain Merit' had healthier plants that recovered faster after the hail damage. It produced earlier and higher yields. 'Celebrity Plus' tasted better.

Celebrity Plus   SW
Mountain Merit   SW

'Mountain Merit' produced more fruit.

Celebrity Plus   SD
Mountain Merit   SD

'Mountain Merit' was great tasting—no dry rot. 'Celebrity Plus' ripened earlier and produced higher yields.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with the beautiful, firm, meaty, blemish-free tomatoes produced by the varieties in this trial. Most gardeners preferred 'Mountain Merit'. Its plants were very healthy and produced higher yields. 'Celebrity Plus' ripened first.

'Mountain Merit' plants were healthy and produced higher yields.

Tomato, Indeterminate

Varieties

'Big Beef Plus'

73 days. This award-winning variety now has sweeter taste, redder flesh and stronger resistance to diseases.

'Jet Star'

72 days. Large, globular, crack-free fruits. It has attractive skin and flesh color. Pleasant, low-acid flavor. Vigorous vines produce high yields.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Big Beef Plus	Jet Star	Same
Germinated best	14%	57%	29%
Healthier plants	43	0	57
Harvested earlier	29	71	0
Higher yields	57	29	14
More attractive fruits	57	14	29
Tasted better	43	29	29
Preference	57	43	
Recommend	57	57	
Mean score ¹	7.71	7.71	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Big Beef Plus'

Big Beef Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Jet Star ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Big Beef Plus' was slightly tastier, produced better, and had nice, large tomatoes. Its tomatoes were bigger. 'Big Beef Plus' plants were tall with thicker stems and less blight.

Big Beef Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jet Star ★★★★★ 😊 NC

The tomatoes of 'Big Beef Plus' were larger, had a nice shape, and were very sweet—sweeter than 'Jet Star'. The vines of 'Big Beef Plus' grew better, faster and were larger. 'Jet Star' germinated better.

Big Beef Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Jet Star ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Jet Star' seedlings germinated and grew faster until they were planted outside; then 'Big Beef Plus' accelerated. 'Jet Star' was first to set fruit, but this fruit was hit by hail on July 21. After that, 'Big Beef Plus' vines grew bigger with taller and thicker stalks, more fruits per cluster and looked better. The fruits of both varieties cracked, and a few had blossom end rot. The fruits had fewer seeds than I expected. 'Jet Star' fruits were meatier. 'Big Beef Plus' fruits were juicier and more conventional-looking inside. 'Big Beef Plus' fruits were more of what I expected in a big tomato, redder inside, but too juicy for a BLT. There were no disease or pest issues; the vines even survived the first frost. Bountiful harvest! I made great sauces that will keep through the winter.

Big Beef Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Jet Star ★★★★★ 😞 MB

'Big Beef Plus' fruits were larger and healthier (without black rot).

Prefer 'Jet Star'

Big Beef Plus ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Jet Star ★★★★★ 😞 NC

The taste of 'Jet Star' tomatoes was a little more pleasing. The plants of both varieties were huge and loaded with green tomatoes before the frost. The fruits did not have enough time to mature. Tomato seeds were sown indoors on April 13 and transplants were set out in the garden on June 9. 'Jet Star' produced the first ripe tomatoes.

'Big Beef Plus' was slightly tastier, produced better, and had attractive, large tomatoes.

Best indeterminate, fresh-market tomato varieties

Top choice
 Early Girl

Strong performers
 Big Beef Plus
 Goliath

Prefer 'Jet Star' (continued)

Big Beef Plus ★★★★★ (5 stars) ☹️ 🐞
 Jet Star ★★★★★ (5 stars) 😊 SC

'Jet Star' produced more big tomatoes with heirloom flavor. 'Big Beef Plus' had blossom end rot. Overall, 'Big Beef Plus' was not nearly as good as the old 'Big Beef'.

Big Beef Plus ★★★★★ (5 stars) ☹️ 🐞
 Jet Star ★★★★★ (5 stars) ☹️ MB

We had record rains and a cool summer. Neither plant produced large tomatoes and there weren't as many as I have had in prior years. 'Jet Star' fruits were slightly larger (three to four inches in diameter).

Conclusions

'Big Beef Plus' was preferred by most gardeners. It was slightly tastier, produced better, and had attractive, large tomatoes. Its vines were healthy and tall with thick stalks. 'Jet Star' germinated better and produced the first ripe tomatoes. The recommendation percentages suggest gardeners were satisfied but not excited by these varieties.

'Jet Star' germinated better and produced the first ripe tomatoes.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ (5 stars) 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ (5 stars) ☹️

← **Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)**

☹️ = No
 😊 = Yes

← **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

Garden type

🐞 NC

← **Location**

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
 CO = Colorado
 IA = Iowa
 NEB = Nebraska

Tomato, Fresh Market

Varieties

'Mountain Fresh Plus'

77 days. Strong yields of extra-large, firm and flavorful fruits. Very popular in the north among growers. Large, determinate vines.

'Red Deuce'

72 days. High yields of large, delicious fruits. Tomatoes ripen uniformly to a deep red color.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Mtn. Fresh Plus	Red Deuce	Same
Germinated best	0%	44%	56%
Healthier plants	0	43	57
Harvested earlier	17	83	0
Higher yields	29	71	0
More attractive fruits	29	14	57
Tasted better	14	57	29
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	71	71	
Mean score ¹	7.86	8.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Mountain Fresh Plus'

Mtn Fresh Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Red Deuce ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

I liked both varieties. 'Mountain Fresh Plus' had large fruit, slightly less cracking and larger yields. The marketable yield of 'Mountain Fresh Plus' was 380 pounds compared to 173 pounds of 'Red Deuce' (eight plants of each variety). 'Red Deuce' ripened first.

Mtn Fresh Plus ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Red Deuce ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

I was not impressed with either. Their flavors were just okay. 'Red Deuce' ripened earlier but was seedy.

Mtn Fresh Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Red Deuce ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MT

'Mountain Fresh Plus' had no blossom end rot, was slightly better tasting, and had a bit higher yield. 'Mountain Fresh Plus' ripened first, but 'Red Deuce' produced more tomatoes.

Prefer 'Red Deuce'

Mtn Fresh Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Red Deuce ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

Both varieties had amazing tomato plants. I tested them in two locations, and they did great. The yields of both varieties were outstanding. I preferred the taste of 'Red Deuce'. Its tomatoes were firm and very low in acidity.

Mtn Fresh Plus ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Red Deuce ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

'Red Deuce' produced more tomatoes and didn't get blossom end rot.

Mtn Fresh Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Red Deuce ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Red Deuce' produced a large yield, and its tomatoes had more flavor. Both varieties recovered after a June 20 hailstorm.

Gardeners liked the large, crack-free fruits of 'Mountain Fresh Plus'.

Best determinate, fresh-market tomato varieties

Top choice
Mountain Fresh Plus

Strong performers
Bush Early Girl
Celebrity Plus
Mountain Merit
Red Deuce

No Preference

Mtn Fresh Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Red Deuce ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I loved them both. These varieties produced large, beautiful, bountiful tomatoes. They were mostly disease-free until late in the season.

Conclusions

'Red Deuce' received higher scores for nearly all individual traits including germination, plant health, earliness, yield and taste. The only superior score 'Mountain Fresh Plus' received was for fruit appearance. Gardeners liked its large, crack-free fruits. Overall, gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on which variety they preferred.

'Red Deuce' received higher scores for several individual traits including earliness, yield and taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

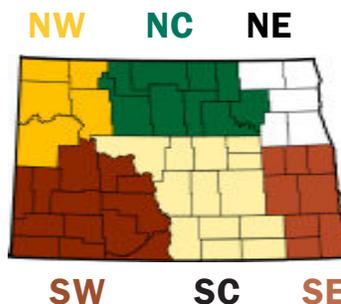
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 ★★★★★ 😊
 ★★★★★ 😞

Garden type →
 🐞
 🏠
 🚫
 - = 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
- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska

Tomato, Compact Bush

Varieties

'Bush Early Girl'

63 days. Early yields of medium-size, slightly flattened fruits. Fruits have excellent flavor and deep red color inside and out. Determinate vines.

'Husky Red'

68 days. Perfect for patio gardens. Vines resist diseases and require little pruning. Mid-sized, delicious fruits. Dwarf, indeterminate vines.



Data

Gardeners at seven sites submitted information.

Trait	B. Early Girl	Husky Red	Same
Germinated best	50%	17%	33%
Healthier plants	33	33	33
Harvested earlier	40	60	0
Higher yields	50	50	0
More attractive fruits	50	17	33
Tasted better	17	17	67
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	83	50	
Mean score ¹	5.83	5.67	
Median score ¹	6.00	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Bush Early Girl'

Bush Early Girl ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Husky Red ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MN

'Bush Early Girl' is a good bush for containers. Its tomatoes have a moderate size and have minimal cracking.

Bush Early Girl ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Husky Red ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC

The tomatoes of 'Bush Early Girl' had slightly more flavor. The vines of both varieties were hardy. Tomatoes of both varieties were very slow to ripen. 'Husky Red' ripened first and produced higher yields.

Bush Early Girl ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Husky Red ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NW

'Bush Early Girl' was healthier, produced higher yields and had more attractive tomatoes.

Bush Early Girl ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Husky Red ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SW

Both varieties germinated at near 100%. Both had very healthy plants. 'Bush Early Girl' produced ripe fruits two weeks earlier and produced double the fruits. Its fruits were more attractive, uniform and had no blemishes. 'Husky Red' produced bigger fruits.

Prefer 'Husky Red'

Bush Early Girl ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Husky Red ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW

'Husky Red' had tastier fruit, larger yield, healthier plants and more attractive tomatoes. Its fruits had better texture and fewer seeds. 'Bush Early Girl' produced tomatoes two weeks earlier.

Bush Early Girl ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Husky Red ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Husky Red' produced earlier and higher yields.

Conclusions

Plants of both varieties were healthy and produced good yields. 'Bush Early Girl' was preferred by most gardeners. They liked its attractive, uniform, blemish-free fruits. Earliness, yield and taste qualities differed significantly across sites.

Plants of both varieties were healthy and produced good yields.

Best dwarf tomato variety

Top choice
 Bush Early Girl

Tomato, North Dakota Organic

Varieties

'Allstate'

73 days. Full-sized fruits with superb flavor and quality. Compact, determinate vines produce high yields. Released by NDSU in 1940.

'Cannonball'

73 days. Determinate vines produce 12-ounce, solid fruits with high yields. Good for slicing and canning. Released by NDSU in 1973.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	All-state	Cannonball	Same
Germinated best	17%	0%	83%
Healthier plants	33	50	17
Harvested earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	17	83	0
More attractive fruits	50	50	0
Tasted better	0	33	67
Preference	33	67	
Recommend	67	50	
Mean score ¹	5.67	6.33	
Median score ¹	5.50	6.50	

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

Prefer 'Allstate'

Allstate 😊
Cannonball 😞 NC

I raised several varieties of tomato this year, and only 'Cannonball' exhibited blossom end rot. Approximately 60–75% of its fruits were affected. This is not a tomato variety for me. I'm all about production and 'Allstate' fits the bill. 'Cannonball' first ripened on August 12 compared to August 31 for 'Allstate'. 'Cannonball' had slightly better flavor. 'Cannonball' produced a higher total yield but less marketable yield.

Allstate 😊
Cannonball 😞 SW

'Allstate' performed better overall. It had higher yields and more attractive fruits.

Prefer 'Cannonball'

Allstate 😞
Cannonball 😞 NC

I had six plants of each variety for this trial. 'Allstate' produced 34.6 pounds and 'Cannonball' produced 40.7 pounds. The weight of 'Allstate' tomatoes ranged from two to four ounces, and the weight of 'Cannonball' tomatoes ranged from four to nine ounces. The 'Allstate' fruits were so small that it was hardly worth the effort of growing.

Allstate 😞
Cannonball 😊 SC

'Cannonball' had healthier plants, higher yields and more attractive fruits. Its fruits were much larger but tended to be somewhat irregular in shape. 'Allstate' plants lodged in the field and many of its tomatoes were diseased as a result. None of the plants were staked; they were planted into landscape fabric.

Allstate 😊
Cannonball 😊 SC

I liked both varieties a bunch. They were definitely better than I expected. Their tomatoes had a nice size and good flavor. There were no diseases. 'Cannonball' was great for canning.

Both of these local varieties received fairly low ratings.

Best determinate, fresh-market tomato varieties

Top choice
Mountain
Fresh Plus

Strong performers
Bush Early
Girl
Celebrity Plus
Mountain
Merit
Red Deuce

Prefer 'Cannonball' (continued)

Allstate ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Cannonball ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Cannonball' had healthier vines and higher yields. Its tomatoes looked and tasted better. 'Allstate' ripened earlier.

Conclusions

Both of these local varieties received fairly low ratings. 'Cannonball' was preferred by most gardeners. Its vines were healthy and produced higher yields. Its fruits were larger. 'Allstate' was a reliable producer of small fruits across locations. Diseases were not an issue with these older varieties.

'Cannonball' had healthier vines, higher yields and larger fruits.

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)**

← **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

Garden type

NC

Locations

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

Tomato, Paste

Varieties

'Picus'

75 days. Good yields of deep red, elongated, firm fruits. Medium-large, determinate vines. Tolerates heat. A favorite in the Midwest.

'Plum Regal'

75 days. High yields of blocky, meaty, crack-resistant fruits. Fruits are deep red in color and have balanced, full flavor. Determinate.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Picus	Plum Regal	Same
Germinated best	26%	11%	63%
Healthier plants	11	21	68
Harvested earlier	68	21	11
Higher yields	37	42	21
More attractive fruits	32	32	37
Tasted better	11	33	56
Preference	53	47	
Recommend	58	68	
Mean score ¹	6.95	6.95	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Picus'

Picus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Plum Regal ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Picus' tomatoes were large and its plants were loaded. 'Plum Regal' was not far behind in its yield. The tomatoes of these varieties tasted similar. 'Picus' produced the first fruits, but they ripened late in the season.

Picus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Plum Regal ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NC

The plants of both varieties were sturdy and attractive. 'Picus' had ripe fruit on August 29 and produced way higher yields. 'Plum Regal' did not ripen before the first hard frost.

Picus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Plum Regal ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Heat killed half the 'Plum Regal' plants when they were transplanted outside. The varieties of both plants were healthy and produced a lot of red tomatoes. Their tomatoes were delicious and made great salsa. 'Picus' matured two weeks earlier. I mailed a few boxes of these to my grandpa in St. Louis, Missouri. They transported well and he loved them. Both varieties had a lot of green tomatoes still remaining on the vines when the first frost came.

Picus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Plum Regal ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Picus' produced a heavier crop of uniform tomatoes. The flavors of both varieties were fairly bland.

Picus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Plum Regal ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Picus' was earlier and produced higher yields. 'Plum Regal' had so many unripened fruits at the end of the season.

Picus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Plum Regal ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Picus' fruits had better taste and appearance.

Picus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Plum Regal ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Picus' produced more typical-shaped fruit. 'Plum Regal' fruits were larger but that made them less attractive. I thought both varieties tasted rather bland.

'Picus' ripened much earlier. Many 'Plum Regal' fruits never ripened.

Best paste tomato varieties

Top choice
Roma VF

Strong performers
Viva Italia

Prefer 'Picus' (continued)

Picus   
Plum Regal   SW 

'Picus' grew better outside and in my high tunnel. 'Picus' produced several weeks earlier and its fruits were larger. 'Plum Regal' produced a lot of tomatoes but they did not have time to mature.

Picus   
Plum Regal   SW 

Both were great producers. 'Picus' tasted a little better.

Picus   
Plum Regal   SW 

The plants of both varieties had great vigor. 'Picus' plants produced fruits three weeks earlier and were loaded with fruits. 'Picus' fruits were more attractive and a little sweeter.

Prefer 'Plum Regal'

Picus   
Plum Regal   SE 

Both had poor germination (under 50%) and were low producers. 'Plum Regal' was slightly nicer, but I did not like either variety.

Picus   
Plum Regal   SE 

'Plum Regal' had healthier vegetation, less early blight, larger and better-looking fruits, larger yield and better taste. 'Plum Regal' tasted a little sweeter. Its texture was better and more solid. 'Picus' fruits had fewer seeds. The first 'Picus' fruits ripened on August 20. The first 'Plum Regal' fruits ripened 10 days earlier.

Picus   
Plum Regal   SE 

'Plum Regal' ripened earlier, had higher yields and tasted better.

Picus   
Plum Regal   NC 

I started with six plants of each variety. Wind damaged four plants of each variety, and I had to restart those plants. 'Plum Regal' had much larger fruits, which made them nicer for making tomato sauce.

Picus   
Plum Regal   NC 

'Plum Regal' had bigger fruits and was hardier. Only one 'Picus' plant survived.

Picus   
Plum Regal   SC 

'Plum Regal' plants produced so heavily that they tipped the cages over! They were great for canning! 'Picus' was plagued with blossom end rot. I threw almost all of the fruits away.

Picus   
Plum Regal   SC 

We like to can whole tomatoes. 'Picus' tomatoes had a good color and size for canning, but it produced no more than the 'Roma' tomato I grow. I canned two cases of 'Roma' tomatoes before either of these test varieties. 'Picus' matured two weeks earlier than 'Plum Regal'. 'Plum Regal' took forever to flower and ripen. Its tomatoes had great taste, meaty flesh and fewer seeds. The fruits were so large they had to be cut in 1/2 or 1/3 to fit into pint jars. 'Plum Regal' would be better for slicing and juicing than canning.

Picus   
Plum Regal   NW 

'Plum Regal' had larger, more attractive fruits and higher yields. The tomatoes of these varieties were similar, but the texture of 'Plum Regal' tomatoes was better.

Picus   
Plum Regal   MB 

Here in Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba we had record-setting rains and did not get the hot weather we normally do. I did not get nearly the produce as in prior years. 'Plum Regal' fruits were a little larger.

Conclusions

Neither variety was outstanding. 'Picus' ripened much earlier and many 'Plum Regal' fruits never ripened. 'Plum Regal' had larger fruits. Some gardeners preferred the texture of the 'Plum Regal' tomatoes, and it received higher scores for taste. It appears that wherever it ripened, 'Plum Regal' was preferred.

'Plum Regal' had larger fruits. Some gardeners preferred the texture of its fruits, and it received higher ratings for taste.

Tomato, Gold Cherry

Varieties

'Sungold'

57 days. Vigorous vines produce early in the season and continue until frost. Tomatoes are sweet with fruity flavor. Indeterminate.

'SunSugar'

62 days. Tomatoes taste sweet with fruity overtones. Crack-resistant fruits. Productive. Indeterminate.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sun-gold	Sun-Sugar	Same
Germinated best	32%	5%	64%
Healthier plants	36	5	59
Harvested earlier	52	19	29
Higher yields	38	14	48
More attractive fruits	14	24	62
Tasted better	24	57	19
Preference	43	57	
Recommend	90	81	
Mean score ¹	8.43	8.43	
Median score ¹	9.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Sungold'

Sungold MN
 SunSugar MN

'Sungold' had a much larger plant with many more tomatoes. Its tomatoes had a much darker yellow color.

Sungold SE
 SunSugar SE

We lost 30% of the 'Sungold' fruit due to fruit cracking and 50% of the 'SunSugar' fruit. Our traditional gold cherry ('Golden Gem') was superior to both.

Sungold SE
 SunSugar SE

I was very impressed with the germination rate of the seeds. It must have been very

close to 100% germination. I preferred the taste of 'Sungold', but others in my family preferred 'SunSugar'. I believe 'Sungold' tasted slightly more acidic. Both plants produced beautiful and delicious fruits. My four-year-old preferred 'SunSugar' and frequently harvested the fruits on her own!

Sungold NC
 SunSugar NC

'Sungold' produced more tomatoes. Its fruits were a little larger, bolder in color and sweeter in taste. I would plant that variety again.

Sungold SC
 SunSugar SC

I have always planted red cherry tomatoes, but I like these gold cherry varieties much better. Their yields were amazing, and they tolerated the extreme summer well. I string my tomatoes up, and the plants of both varieties were well over six feet tall and loaded with fruit. The plants were healthy looking all summer. Their fruits were perfect and their flavors were unbeatable. 'Sungold' tasted slightly better.

Sungold SC
 SunSugar SC

'Sungold' had a little better flavor, but both tasted good and didn't crack.

Gardeners raved over both varieties. Their plants were healthy and productive. Their flavors were unbeatable.

Best gold cherry tomato varieties

Top choice
SunSugar

Strong performer
Sungold

Prefer 'Sungold' (continued)

Sungold    NW
 SunSugar  

I would recommend either of these tomato varieties. They were both so good, easy to grow, and high producers. Both of these were very tasty. I received lots of compliments on how sweet they were at the farmers market. 'Sungold' produced a higher yield. It is my all-time favorite cherry tomato, although 'SunSugar' is very good too.

Sungold    NW
 SunSugar  

'Sungold' plants were monsters. Six-foot cages couldn't contain them. The taste and amount of fruit produced by these 'Sungold' plants were impressive. The fruits of 'SunSugar' were more uniform in size.

Sungold    SW
 SunSugar  

The flavor of 'Sungold' was better. It is a burst of sweet, fruity, tomato flavor. Both varieties had near 100% germination. Their plants were huge, needed constant pruning, and produced huge yields. I will not plant these varieties again; their flavors are too fruity.

Prefer 'SunSugar'

Sungold    SE
 SunSugar  

'SunSugar' tomatoes didn't crack; 'Sungold' tomatoes did. 'SunSugar' tomatoes tasted better.

Sungold   -
 SunSugar   SE

'SunSugar' had higher yields and more attractive tomatoes. My kids liked its taste better compared to 'Sungold'. 'Sungold' vines were healthier and produced the first ripe tomatoes.

Sungold    NC
 SunSugar  

I planted indoors and transplanted into a raised bed, but both varieties still took a while for ripe fruit. They were great in late August and September. 'SunSugar' vines had some disease spotting. The fruits of both varieties tasted good but were smaller than anticipated. 'SunSugar' fruits were sweeter.

Sungold    NC
 SunSugar  

'Sungold' was consistently ahead in growth, ripening and yields. 'Sungold' produced about twice as many tomatoes as 'SunSugar', but both varieties produced well and for a long time. Their fruits looked identical to me—if I mixed them in a bowl I wouldn't be able to tell them apart. 'Sungold' tasted slightly more acidic and less sweet than 'SunSugar'. Both were delicious. I liked the extra sweetness, and my kids also preferred 'SunSugar'. Both varieties were eaten raw. We also pureed both varieties into a vinegar-based tomato salad dressing and it was fantastic on salads and on meat dishes.

Sungold    SC
 SunSugar  

Both varieties were exceptional producers. We were picking a gallon of cherry tomatoes a day from 10 plants. 'SunSugar' produced the first ripe tomatoes and had higher yields. 'SunSugar' tomatoes were especially delicious. I will never enjoy a red cherry tomato again. 'Sungold' plants were larger.

Sungold    SC
 SunSugar  

'Sungold' produced more and tasted better, but it had too much splitting of fruits.

Sungold    SC
 SunSugar  

Yields were a bit disappointing, but they were patio plants. I would plant these in my main garden next year with more support using cages. 'SunSugar' had better taste.

'Sungold' vines were especially healthy and vigorous. 'Sungold' produced the first fruits.

Prefer 'SunSugar' (continued)

Sungold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 SunSugar ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I thought 'SunSugar' had an ever-so-slightly sweeter taste to them. I had never grown either of the two before, but had read about 'Sungold' being more prone to cracking. I didn't seem to have an issue with either variety cracking unless I neglected to harvest them in time and they overripened. I would grow both again, as they both tasted very good and produced bucket loads of tomatoes.

Sungold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 SunSugar ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties produced delicious tomatoes, like vegetative candy. 'SunSugar' fruits were slightly larger, sweeter, and had a slightly thicker skin. 'Sungold' produced higher yields.

Sungold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 SunSugar ★★★★★ 😊 SW

I loved both varieties. I grew both on a trellis and they grew about 7 feet tall with 'SunSugar' a few inches shorter than 'Sungold' all summer. 'Sungold' produced almost twice the amount of fruit in early harvests. At the end of the season, 'Sungold' slowed down and 'SunSugar' had bigger fruits. 'Sungold' had a truer tomato taste while 'SunSugar' had a sweeter, fruit-like taste. I preferred 'Sungold' for dried tomatoes and 'SunSugar' for eating fresh.

Sungold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 SunSugar ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'SunSugar' tasted better. I grow cherry tomatoes for snacking. 'Sungold' produced about 25% more.

Sungold ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 SunSugar ★★★★★ 😊 SD

The plants of both varieties were very fruitful! 'Sungold' ripened earlier but 'SunSugar' produced higher yields. 'SunSugar' tomatoes seemed sweeter.

Conclusions

Gardeners raved over both varieties. Their plants were healthy and productive. Their flavors were unbeatable. 'Sungold' vines were healthy, vigorous and produced the first fruits. It was especially easy to grow, leading to more gardeners recommending it to others. 'SunSugar' fruits were extremely delicious, leading to most gardeners selecting it as their favorite.

'SunSugar' fruits were sweet and extremely 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

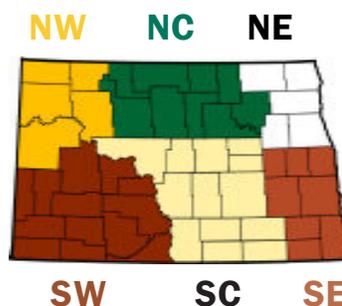
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

- 🐛 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Locations

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Tomato, Red Cherry

Varieties

'Braveheart'

60 days. Rich red, 1-ounce fruits are flavorful, firm and slow to split. Prolific yields on medium-sized plants. Indeterminate.

'Supersweet 100'

65 days. Very popular. Vigorous vines produce loads of sweet, 0.6-ounce fruits. Indeterminate.



Data

Gardeners at six sites submitted information.

Trait	Braveheart	Super. 100	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	20	40	40
Harvested earlier	0	100	0
Higher yields	40	40	20
More attractive fruits	60	20	20
Tasted better	20	60	20
Preference	40	60	
Recommend	60	80	
Mean score ¹	7.80	8.00	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Braveheart'

Braveheart ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Supersweet 100 ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Braveheart' was a workhorse on a sturdy plant which took minimal effort on my part. Its vines had long strings of perfectly uniform tomatoes in abundance.

'Supersweet 100' tasted sweeter while 'Braveheart' had a true tomato tang. I found the taste of both wonderful. I really loved the sweetness of 'Supersweet 100', but its vines weren't sturdy and snapped easily in the wind, rain/hail or when bumped while training and pruning. I would definitely look at a much sturdier support such as a tomato ladder for its vines.

Braveheart ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Supersweet 100 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Braveheart' tomatoes ripened later but had a better taste and larger size.

Prefer 'Supersweet 100'

Braveheart ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Supersweet 100 ★★★★★ 😊 NC

The sweet taste, color and skin texture of 'Supersweet 100' tomatoes were pleasing.

Braveheart ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Supersweet 100 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The fruits of 'Supersweet 100' are super for a lunch treat to pop in your mouth. They are very sweet and melt in your mouth; however, they crack easily if allowed to ripen totally. 'Braveheart' was a huge producer. It had large, strong clusters of fruits but was not quite as sweet. 'Braveheart' fruits were beautiful, shiny, firmer, and very good to use in salads.

Braveheart ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Supersweet 100 ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Supersweet 100' was good tasting and sweet! It produced higher yields.

Conclusions

'Supersweet 100' was preferred by most gardeners. It ripened earlier and had sweeter fruits. 'Braveheart' also received high scores and was recommended by most gardeners. Its fruits were larger, shiny, firmer, less subject to cracking and had a tangy, tomato taste.

'Supersweet 100' ripened earlier and had sweeter fruits.

Best red cherry tomato varieties

Top choice
Juliet

Strong performers
Braveheart
Supersweet 100

Tomato, Yellow Pear

Varieties

'Fargo Yellow Pear'

75 days. Fruits are sweet, low in acid and resist cracking. Developed at NDSU by crossing 'Bison' with 'Yellow Pear'. Vigorous determinate.

'Yellow Pear'

75 days. Tall, indeterminate vines produce abundantly. Mild, sweet, two-inch fruits with few seeds.



Data

Gardeners at eight sites submitted information.

Trait	Fargo	Yellow	Same
	Y. Pear	Pear	
Germinated best	25%	25%	50%
Healthier plants	25	13	63
Harvested earlier	63	13	25
Higher yields	63	0	38
More attractive fruits	63	0	38
Tasted better	38	13	50
Preference	100	0	
Recommend	88	50	
Mean score ¹	8.63	6.75	
Median score ¹	9.50	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Fargo Yellow Pear'

Fargo Yellow Pear
 Yellow Pear NC

'Fargo Yellow Pear' had nice, big fruits and tasted wonderful. Only one plant of 'Yellow Pear' survived.

Fargo Yellow Pear
 Yellow Pear SC

Neither variety had very flavorful or juicy fruits. 'Fargo Yellow Pear' was easier to grow. 'Yellow Pear' vines grew relatively better in the heat.

Fargo Yellow Pear
 Yellow Pear NW

'Fargo Yellow Pear' produced many more fruits, and its vines had less tendency to spread. I had to reseed 'Fargo Yellow Pear' after four weeks because its seedlings died. The tomatoes of both varieties were mealy, but 'Fargo Yellow Pear' tasted slightly sweeter.

Fargo Yellow Pear
 Yellow Pear SW

We sell at farmers market so having early maturing tomatoes is always a plus. 'Fargo Yellow Pear' was earlier. It produced a lot and had larger fruits so they filled a container nicely. 'Yellow Pear' also went well because they were a sweeter tasting tomato; it worked well to bring them a little later when there were more choices available and people were able to compare more. I would plant both again.

Fargo Yellow Pear
 Yellow Pear SD

'Fargo Yellow Pear' tomatoes were a bit larger and had better quality. 'Fargo Yellow Pear' produced earlier and had higher yields.

Fargo Yellow Pear
 Yellow Pear SD

I prefer the determinate vines of 'Fargo Yellow Pear'. Yields and fruit qualities of these varieties were similar. I grew eight varieties this year so I had tomatoes to give away. People asked for the "cute yellow ones."

Every gardener preferred 'Fargo Yellow Pear', a variety few people have heard about.

Best yellow tomato variety

Top choice
 Fargo Yellow Pear

Prefer ‘Fargo Yellow Pear’ (continued)

Fargo Yellow Pear ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Yellow Pear ★★★★★ 😊 MB

Here in Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba we had record-setting rains and did not get the hot weather we normally do. I fertilized with organic fish compost, yet I did not get nearly the produce as in prior years. These varieties were very similar but ‘Fargo Yellow Pear’ produced a bit more.

Fargo Yellow Pear ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Yellow Pear ★★★★★ 😊 MB

Both were abundant and tasted excellent. I enjoyed snacking on them as I gardened. ‘Fargo Yellow Pear’ fruits had better flavor and size.

Prefer ‘Yellow Pear’

No gardeners preferred ‘Yellow Pear’.

Conclusions

The results of this trial may have been the biggest surprise of our 2022 program. ‘Yellow Pear’ is a common variety sold at garden centers, but it was clearly inferior to its progeny, ‘Fargo Yellow Pear’, a variety few people have heard about. Every gardener preferred ‘Fargo Yellow Pear’. Its fruits were larger, more attractive and received better scores for taste qualities. ‘Fargo Yellow Pear’ matured earlier and produced higher yields than ‘Yellow Pear’. ‘Fargo Yellow Pear’ has a determinate vine, which does not require pruning and is generally easier to grow than indeterminate vines, which is the type ‘Yellow Pear’ has.

‘Fargo Yellow Pear’ fruits were larger, more attractive and received higher scores for taste qualities.

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

Location

NC

Comments

Locations

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- MT = Montana
- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska

Watermelon, Small

Varieties

'Blacktail Mountain'

75 days. Developed in northern Idaho. Reliable producer of round fruits. Sweet, crunchy flesh.

'Wilson's Sweet'

80 days. Sweet, crispy flesh is flavorful. Melons weigh five to eight pounds. Green splotches on rind.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blackt'l Mtn	Wilson's Sweet	Same
Germinated best	33%	42%	25%
Healthier plants	27	27	45
Matured earlier	80	20	0
Higher yields	30	20	50
More attractive fruits	33	33	33
Tasted better	29	29	43
Preference	60	40	
Recommend (😊)	82	64	
Mean score ¹	7.27	7.18	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Blacktail Mountain'

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Blacktail Mountain' produced the bigger and first melons. Both varieties were healthy and produced about the same.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

We like early watermelons so we preferred 'Blacktail Mountain'. Its melons had many small seeds that were scattered and impossible to remove when served. 'Wilson's Sweet' melons had fewer and larger seeds that were easy to remove because most are in a narrow strip.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★ 😞 NC
'Blacktail Mountain' ripened earlier and had more fruit. The flesh of 'Blacktail Mountain' was very sweet.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★ 😊 SW
All 'Blacktail Mountain' melons were ripe before the first 'Wilson's Sweet' melon was ripe.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★ 😞 SW
'Blacktail Mountain' fruits were a little bigger.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★ 😞 SD
Both varieties germinated well and produced great yields. My taste testers said 'Blacktail Mountain' was sweeter but had too many seeds. I really liked the taste of 'Wilson's Sweet' and its melons were bigger.

Prefer 'Wilson's Sweet'

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These varieties were grown in large, separate containers. Both varieties produced the same number of melons. One of the 'Blacktail Mountain' melons fell off the vine early. The 'Blacktail Mountain' melons had a darker rind but were not edible.

Most gardeners preferred 'Blacktail Mountain'. It matured earlier.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sweet Dakota
Rose

Strong performers
Sangria
Stargazer
Sugar Baby

Prefer 'Wilson's Sweet' (continued)

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Wilson's Sweet' produced higher yields and tasted slightly better. 'Blacktail Mountain' produced first. The melons of both varieties were very seedy.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

The melons of both varieties were very sweet and crunchy. 'Wilson's Sweet' melons were bigger and earlier to ripen.

Blacktail Mountain ★★★★★☆ 😞 🕒
 Wilson's Sweet ★★★★★★ 😊 MT

'Wilson's Sweet' melons were very red and juicy but not terribly flavorful. 'Blackmail Mountain' didn't produce any melons.

Conclusions

Both varieties were recommended by the majority of gardeners. Most gardeners preferred 'Blacktail Mountain'. It matured earlier. Yields of the two varieties were similar and unremarkable. Their flesh qualities were crisp and sweet but seedy.

The flesh qualities of these varieties were crisp and sweet but seedy.

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

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Watermelon, Midsize

Varieties

'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped'

85 days. Heirloom with bright red, sweet flesh. Melons may grow 25 pounds. Thin, tough rinds.

'Sweet Dakota Rose'

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 15 pounds. Reliable.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Klondike Swt D.		
	B.R.S.	Rose	Same
Germinated best	35%	43%	22%
Healthier plants	10	30	60
Matured earlier	27	60	13
Higher yields	19	38	44
More attractive fruits	12	35	53
Tasted better	29	64	7
Preference	38	63	
Recommend (😊)	53	88	
Mean score ¹	6.38	7.13	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped'

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties were very good. I prefer 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' because of its larger fruits and better taste, but it had some faults. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' grew more vigorously early, but 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' ended with more plant growth. High winds in mid-June damaged several plants of both varieties. I harvested my first 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melon (16.8 pounds) on September 14. I didn't harvest a 'Klondike Blue Striped Ribbon' melon (16 pounds) until September 27. 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' melons were oblong while the fruits

of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' were round; both looked good. Most people preferred the taste of 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped', but some liked the taste of both varieties. It was easier to pick out the large seeds of 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' compared to 'Sweet Dakota Rose'.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' germinated better and ripened a week earlier. It was very delicious but had lots of seeds. Melons of both varieties were large and nice. 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' melons were oblong while 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons were round.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' produced the first ripe melons.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 SC

We harvested 261 pounds of Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' and 255 pounds of 'Sweet Dakota Rose'. The melons of both varieties were attractive and had very good flavor. The melons of 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' had an attractive rind and were longer. We had a slight preference for the taste of 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped'. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' ripened earlier.

'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' failed to win the blue ribbon in most gardens.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sweet Dakota Rose

Strong performers
Sangria
Stargazer
Sugar Baby

Prefer 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' (continued)

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NW

None of the 'Sweet Dakota Rose' seeds germinated in my original May 28 sowing, and I had to replant it on June 17. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had four nice-looking fruits but they did not ripen before frost.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🐛
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SD

'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' melons ripened earlier, were larger in size and had fewer seeds. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced more but smaller melons.

Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Rose'

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NE

'Sweet Dakota Rose' tasted better. Its flesh had a brighter red color.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SE

The trial was sown on June 21. 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' had no mature melons. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had two small melons; one was mature and tasty.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NC

Both varieties did very well. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had better production and was sweet tasting. I sowed the seeds directly in the garden. I used drip irrigation and watering was very important.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' had better production and its flavor is second to none. Its melons seem to have more seeds but that doesn't detract from its flavor or texture.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😞 🌱 SC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' germinated first and started vining faster. I picked both varieties on October 4 because it was going to freeze. Neither variety was fully ripe but the 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons were more ripe.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' sprouted rather quickly and grew rapidly. Its vines took up most space. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' set fruit first and those initial fruits grew well and produced a nice product. I preferred the melons of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' in taste and appearance. They tasted delicious. The melons of 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' were a cool surprise when they grew large; they were unique looking. The two varieties produced a similar number of melons.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NW

'Sweet Dakota Rose' had larger, firmer fruits. Its fruits looked more like a supermarket watermelon. The texture of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' flesh was crisp, whereas the texture of 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' flesh was occasionally mealy.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😞 🌱 NW

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced more melons per plant, but both varieties required a longer growing season. 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' had healthier plants and ripened earlier.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SW

'Sweet Dakota Rose' was a very sweet and delicious watermelon, many the size of melons found in a grocery store. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons were larger, had fewer seeds and were tastier than the melons of 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped'. Everyone who ate a 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melon loved its flavor. When cutting it open, it made the wonderful cracking sound of a ripe melon. I harvested them before the hard freeze, and they have kept well in the garage. I only have a couple melons left since they taste so good. 'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' melons had too many seeds.

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SD

Both varieties ripened late and failed to produce a large melon. I loved the flavor of 'Sweet Dakota Rose'.

'Sweet Dakota Rose' performed well in all categories. It particularly excelled in two key traits: earliness and taste.

Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Rose' (continued)

Klondike Blue R.S. ★★☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 NEB

'Sweet Dakota Rose' ripened first, produced a higher yield and tasted sweeter.

Conclusions

'Klondike Blue Ribbon Striped' failed to win the blue ribbon in most gardens. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' won the honors instead. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' performed well in all categories. It particularly excelled in two key traits: earliness and taste. Developed in North Dakota, 'Sweet Dakota Rose' showed it is an outstanding variety for our state.

Developed in North Dakota, 'Sweet Dakota Rose' showed it is an outstanding variety for our state.

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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Marigold, Gold Cutting

Varieties

'Coco Gold'

82 days. Sturdy, 40-inch plants produce an abundance of large, golden blooms for cutting. Bold colors are attractive in the garden.

'Oriental Gold'

70 days. Vibrant, golden, ball-shaped blooms. Blooms early and continuously all summer. Long stems for bouquets.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Coco Gold	Oriental Gold	Same
Germinated best	10%	30%	60%
Healthier plants	0	30	70
Bloomed earlier	13	50	38
More blooms	20	40	40
Prettier in garden	10	20	70
Better cut flower	0	0	100
Preference	25	75	
Recommend	64	82	
Mean score ¹	7.40	8.30	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Coco Gold'

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Coco Gold' had slightly more uniform color and slightly fuller plants. Both germinated well and were healthy.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😞 SC

These varieties were very similar in appearance and size. Both varieties grew tall and heavy and broke down at the stem and tilted or fell to the ground. It seems like they must need support. More seeds of 'Coco Gold' germinated, which led to more flowers.

Prefer 'Oriental Gold'

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊

'Oriental Gold' plants were healthier. 'Coco Gold' bloomed first. These were very poor as cut flowers. Their stems were very weak.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊

There is not a lot of difference between these two varieties. Both varieties looked quite beautiful in my garden. 'Oriental Gold' had an especially beautiful color.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NC
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊

Both were very pretty. 'Oriental Gold' had a few more flowers.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊

Both varieties grew taller than any marigolds I've ever planted before. The average height of 'Oriental Gold' was 48 inches; the average height of 'Coco Gold' was 46 inches. 'Oriental Gold' had slightly larger flowers and a few more flowers. Both varieties had very stout stems.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SC
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊

'Oriental Gold' plants looked healthier and were at least double the size of 'Coco Gold' plants. 'Coco Gold' seemed smaller and more delicate.

Gardeners were amazed at the massive size of these plants.

Best marigold series for cutting

Top choice
Oriental

Strong performers

Crackerjack
Giant
Jedi

Prefer 'Oriental Gold' (continued)

Coco Gold ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NW
 'Oriental Gold' plants were bushier, a little taller and had bigger blossoms. Both varieties were very close in all categories.

No Preference

Coco Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE

Both varieties germinated at the same time. They looked almost exactly alike. Both bloomed at the same time. Both had large blooms. Both had good stems on them. We were dry from August on. I did not water the garden, and both varieties at the end of September were very healthy with lots of blooms.

Coco Gold ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Oriental Gold ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞 SC

They were not as showy as I would have liked. Both were tall and would be great for a backdrop in a flower garden. Flowers were a little smaller than we would have liked.

Conclusions

Gardeners were amazed at the massive size of these plants. 'Oriental Gold' was healthier, bloomed earlier and had a few more flowers. Most gardeners recommended 'Coco Gold', but it did not excel in any traits.

'Oriental Gold' was healthier, bloomed earlier and had a few more flowers.

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
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Garden type →

NC

Location →

Comments →

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Marigold, Orange Cutting

Varieties

'Giant Orange'

80 days. Bushy plants produce an abundance of three-inch, orange blooms for cutting. Strong stems. Dramatic in the garden. Grows 40 inches.

'Xochi'

80 days. New variety reported to have a deeper orange color. Large blooms have strong stems. Uniform appearance.



Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Giant Orange	Xochi	Same
Germinated best	37%	21%	42%
Healthier plants	39	22	39
Bloomed earlier	44	33	22
More blooms	39	22	39
Prettier in garden	44	11	44
Better cut flower	45	18	36
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	79	74	
Mean score ¹	7.89	7.06	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Giant Orange'

Giant Orange ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Xochi ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Giant Orange' was beautiful. It was healthy, tall and very bright. I had many compliments.

Giant Orange ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Xochi ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I really enjoyed both varieties. They germinated at 90%. They suffered no health problems. Their plants had a very similar, bushy look. The color of 'Giant Orange' plants was a more uniform green. 'Xochi' seemed to have a few more flowers plus buds per plant.

Giant Orange ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Xochi ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Giant Orange' had a higher germination rate (100 vs. 90%) and was very vigorous from the start. Both varieties exhibited four-inch, vibrant blooms on four-foot-tall, bushy plants. It was difficult to see much difference in the varieties as they both performed extremely well in the garden.

Giant Orange ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Xochi ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Giant Orange' plants were bushier, much fuller, and had longer flower stems.

Giant Orange ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Xochi ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Giant Orange' took a long time to bloom but bloomed first. It was healthier and looked more attractive in the garden.

Giant Orange ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Xochi ★★★★★ 😊 NC

There was very little difference between these two varieties. Both were very healthy, produced many blossoms and looked lovely in the garden.

Giant Orange ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Xochi ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties had tall (four feet and higher) plants and beautiful, orange blossoms. 'Giant Orange' bloomed earlier.

'Giant Orange' received higher scores for all traits including health, earliness and beauty.

Best marigold series for cutting

Top choice
Oriental

Strong performers
Crackerjack
Giant
Jedi

Prefer 'Giant Orange' (continued)

Giant Orange 😊 -
 Xochi 😊 NC

These marigolds were very bright and pretty! 'Giant Orange' had larger flowers and more flowers. 'Xochi' bloomed first.

Giant Orange 😊 🏠
 Xochi 😊 NC

Both varieties had huge flowers on them. 'Giant Orange' plants were a little more sturdy.

Giant Orange 😊 🐛
 Xochi 😞 SC

'Giant Orange' marigolds grew to over three feet tall and were able to withstand the summer winds and storms we had without staking. Grasshoppers devoured 'Xochi' (even the flower heads) and volunteer marigold plants, but 'Giant Orange' showed hardly any damage at all. Their brilliant orange flowers lasted a very long time, right up until the freeze. I enjoyed growing these and will try them again.

Giant Orange 😊 🐛
 Xochi 😞 SC

'Giant Orange' outperformed 'Xochi' in every category other than germination.

Giant Orange 😊 🏠 🕒
 Xochi 😞 SW

'Giant Orange' was terrific. Only a few seeds of 'Xochi' germinated. Grasshoppers damaged the trial.

Prefer 'Xochi'

Giant Orange 😊 🏠
 Xochi 😊 SE

'Xochi' started out a bit faster and bloomed first; otherwise, they were identical. Both varieties got very tall and withstood wind very well. I was very impressed with both.

Giant Orange 😞 🏠
 Xochi 😞 NC

Neither variety produced many flowers until close to September, and then the flowers were very small. Neither would make good cut flowers. 'Xochi' had more flowers. 'Giant Orange' grew fast and bloomed first.

Giant Orange 😞 🏠
 Xochi 😊 SC

'Xochi' was a shorter plant but had more flowers per plant.

Giant Orange 😊 🐛
 Xochi 😊 SC

The color and shape of the 'Xochi' flower heads looked prettier. You definitely have to stake the flowers.

Giant Orange 😞 🏠
 Xochi 😊 SW

'Giant Orange' only produced three plants and 'Xochi' produced ten plants. Both had good-size flowers. Both were a pretty shade of orange.

Giant Orange 😞 🐛
 Xochi 😊 SW

Both varieties had multiple flowers on each stalk. Beautiful!

Conclusions

Both varieties had beautiful flowers on tall stems. 'Giant Orange' was preferred by most gardeners. It received higher scores for all traits including health, earliness and beauty. Although it did not excel in any individual trait, 'Xochi' received solid overall ratings and was recommended by most gardeners. Grasshoppers were a troublesome pest at several sites.

Although it did not excel in any individual trait, 'Xochi' received solid overall ratings and was recommended by most gardeners.

Marigold, White

Varieties

'Kilimanjaro White'

80 days. The original white marigold; bred by a gardener in Iowa. Lovely, 2.5-inch, vanilla-white flowers. Grows 18 inches.

'Snowstorm'

75 days. Blooms have white outer tufts that turn golden cream towards the center. Stunning in bouquets. Grows 30 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

Trait	Kiliman. White	Snowstorm	Same
Germinated best	45%	18%	36%
Healthier plants	32	14	55
Bloomed earlier	45	25	30
More blooms	40	25	35
Prettier in garden	29	10	62
Better cut flower	33	17	50
Preference	68	32	
Recommend	55	41	
Mean score ¹	5.32	4.95	
Median score ¹	5.50	5.00	

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

Prefer 'Kilimanjaro White'

Kilimanjaro White ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Snowstorm ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Kilimanjaro White' plants were not as tall but were fuller, looked better and stayed green longer. Its flowers were fuller and held up better after cutting.

Kilimanjaro White ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Snowstorm ★★★★★ 😞 MN

I will not plant either of these again. Once they flowered, the plants fell over on the ground. They continued to grow and bloom but were messy looking. Their flower color and stem thickness were the same. Neither was very attractive. 'Kilimanjaro White' plants were taller and had darker green growth at first, but both varieties later looked like they suffered insect damage.

Kilimanjaro White ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Snowstorm ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Kilimanjaro White' germinated better (24 plants vs. 17 from 40 seeds each). They grew exactly the same as far as vigor, height and flower production, but neither bloomed until early September. Both varieties were very nice when they finally bloomed, but I would try to start indoors or plant as early as possible for an earlier bloom.

Kilimanjaro White ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Snowstorm ★★★★★ 😞 NC

Neither variety germinated well. In doing some research, I found many gardeners had commented on the poor germination. I would sow them indoors and go from there.

Kilimanjaro White ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Snowstorm ★★★★★ 😞 NC

Neither variety looked healthy for a marigold. Both were tall and lanky. 'Kilimanjaro White' produced more flowers, and its flowers looked better. I didn't really like these white marigolds much and will stick with traditional marigolds in the future.

Kilimanjaro White ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Snowstorm ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties had healthy plants. 'Kilimanjaro White' had a few more blooms. I expected the flowers to be whiter.

Kilimanjaro White ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Snowstorm ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Kilimanjaro White' had better germination and more flowers.

This was a popular trial with disappointing results.

Best white marigold variety

Top choice
 Kilimanjaro White

Prefer 'Kilimanjaro White' (continued)

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NW 

'Kilimanjaro White' was ahead of 'Snowstorm', just to the point of blooming, when the grasshoppers came and ate everything but the main stems.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NW 

Neither one germinated very well. I would not grow these again as white is not a very attractive color. 'Kilimanjaro White' had a better-looking flower.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NW 

'Kilimanjaro White' was bigger and bushier than 'Snowstorm'.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   SW 

'Kilimanjaro White' was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   SW 

'Kilimanjaro White' was quite showy in late summer. It seemed like a decent, tall marigold, but 'Snowstorm' underperformed in all aspects. I had planted with the expectation of white marigold flowers in a red, white and blue flower bed, but these varieties were a pale yellow, not white.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   SD 

I was not impressed with either.

Prefer 'Snowstorm'

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NE 

Both varieties had poor germination. Neither variety bloomed until mid-August. Directly sowing in the garden takes too long for blooms to come. 'Snowstorm' bloomed about a week earlier. The plants of both varieties were compact and didn't tip over from wind.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NE 

These varieties grew quite poorly for me. 'Snowstorm' grew slightly better, but I was not impressed with either variety. They bloomed much later and had much smaller plants than the other marigold trials.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NC 

These varieties had healthy plants but few flowers. 'Snowstorm' had about eight flowers; 'Kilimanjaro White' had two flowers.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NC 

'Snowstorm' was a brighter white for me.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   SC 

'Snowstorm' grew faster, bloomed first and continued to produce blooms until a hard frost. Both varieties sprouted well, and their plants were healthy.

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   SC 

Both varieties germinated nicely, were very pretty and produced an abundance of flowers. 'Kilimanjaro White' bloomed first.

No Preference

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   NE 

I could not tell any difference. They were beautiful and still blooming [October 4].

Kilimanjaro White   
Snowstorm   SC 

These varieties were similar. Neither variety germinated well. Both had very nice flowers.

Conclusions

This was a popular trial with disappointing results. Ratings of both varieties were low, and most gardeners did not recommend 'Snowstorm'. Gardeners expressed concerns over poor germination, late blooming, and the flowers not being white enough. 'Kilimanjaro White' germinated better, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Gardeners expressed concerns over poor germination, late blooming, and the flowers not being white enough.

Sunflower, Orange

Varieties

'Gold Rush'

62 days. Classic golden orange sunflower. Chocolate-colored disks. Blooms early and abundantly. Branching. Pollenless. 60 inches tall.

'Soraya'

90 days. Golden yellow petals with dark disks. Long branches for cutting. Award winner. Branching. Minimal pollen. 60 inches tall.



Data

Gardeners at 3 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold		
	Rush	Soraya	Same
Germinated best	100%	0%	0%
Healthier plants	67	0	33
Bloomed earlier	67	0	33
More blooms	67	33	0
Prettier in garden	67	0	33
Better cut flower	100	0	0
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	100	33	
Mean score ¹	9.00	6.67	
Median score ¹	9.00	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Gold Rush'

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Soraya ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠 NW

'Gold Rush' had much better blooming flowers.

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Soraya ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠 NW

'Gold Rush' excelled in all categories. We used 'Gold Rush' in flower arrangements for our church.

Prefer 'Soraya'

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Soraya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

These varieties were very similar. They did not lodge, and their heights were perfect. I preferred 'Soraya' because it still had several young buds waiting to open when frost came. It bloomed two weeks longer than 'Gold Rush'.

Conclusions

There was little interest in this trial, and our data are limited. 'Gold Rush' has done well in previous trials, and it did well again this year. It excelled in all categories including germination, health, earliness and beauty. Every gardener recommended it. 'Soraya' bloomed much later.

'Gold Rush' excelled in all categories including germination, health, earliness and beauty.

Best orange branching sunflower variety

Top choice
Gold Rush

Sunflower, Orange Cutting

Varieties

'ProCut Brilliance'

55 days. Dazzling blooms. Yellow petal tips become intensely orange toward the dark center. Single stem. Pollenless. 54 inches.

'ProCut Orange DMR'

55 days. Very popular, single-stem sunflower for cutting. Bright and vibrant petals. Single stem. Pollenless. Resists mildew. 54 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	ProCut Brill.	ProCut Orange	Same
Germinated best	25%	33%	42%
Healthier plants	17	8	75
Bloomed earlier	20	30	50
More blooms	17	8	75
Prettier in garden	25	25	50
Better cut flower	29	29	43
Preference	42	58	
Recommend	83	83	
Mean score ¹	7.33	7.33	
Median score ¹	7.50	8.00	

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

Prefer 'ProCut Brilliance'

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'ProCut Brilliance' germinated first; otherwise, they were similar.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😞 NC

Both varieties germinated at the same time. There were huge girths on the stalks. Plants bloomed from August 7 to September 15. I enjoyed the sunflowers in a vase for several weeks. 'ProCut' Brilliance' was strikingly beautiful.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'ProCut Brilliance' had more flowers and was more attractive in the garden. 'ProCut Orange' was a better cut flower.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'ProCut Orange' leaned over almost to the ground. It couldn't hold its weight. Both varieties got large heads—too large to cut.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'ProCut Brilliance' had better heads.

Prefer 'ProCut Orange'

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'ProCut Orange' had more flowers that opened and it seemed less likely to be eaten by pests. Both varieties were pollenless, which is great for cut flowers.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'ProCut Orange' was more attractive in the garden as it exhibited larger centers and darker yellow petals than 'ProCut Brilliance'. I was disappointed that both varieties only lasted until the third week of August and needed to be pulled.

These varieties were easy to grow, healthy and had pollenless blooms on single stems.

Best single-stem sunflower varieties

Top choice
ProCut Series

Strong performers
Sunrich Series
Vincent Series

Prefer 'ProCut Orange' (continued)

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I liked the oranger color of 'ProCut Orange'. 'ProCut Brilliance' seemed to be more yellow. Each plant of these varieties grew about four-feet-tall and produced one flower.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SE

These varieties were very similar. 'ProCut Orange' bloomed earlier and its petals seemed more uniform after bloom.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🕒
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These varieties were nearly identical except for flower color. Both varieties germinated well. Grasshoppers were a significant problem. I preferred the deep orange color of 'ProCut Orange'.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were very similar. 'ProCut Orange' had slightly more orange coloration.

ProCut Brilliance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 ProCut Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'ProCut Orange' bloomed a little earlier. Both varieties were excellent for cutting. The birds enjoyed the ones left in the garden.

Conclusions

These 'ProCut' varieties were similar in many respects, as expected. They were easy to grow, healthy, and had pollenless blooms on single stems. We were wondering if 'ProCut Brilliance', a new variety, would be more popular than 'ProCut Orange', the old standby. It wasn't. 'ProCut Orange' remains champion.

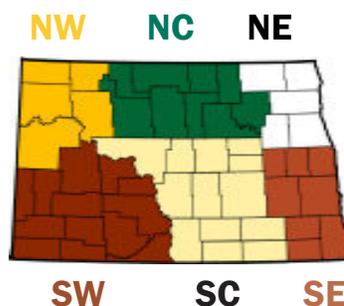
We were wondering if 'ProCut Brilliance', a new variety, would be more popular than 'ProCut Orange', the old standby. It wasn't.

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 → 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
 🐞 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified



Locations

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Sunflower, Orange Dwarf

Varieties

'Orange Hedge'

65 days. Branching sunflower with 30-inch stems make a colorful hedge. Flowers have orange petals with dark centers. Pollen for bees.

'Orange Hobbit'

55 days. Bushy plants filled with bright orange blooms with dark centers. Pollenless blooms are well-suited for small bouquets. Grows 24 inches tall.



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Orange Hedge	Orange Hobbit	Same
Germinated best	6%	28%	67%
Healthier plants	12	18	71
Bloomed earlier	38	13	50
More blooms	35	29	35
Prettier in garden	18	6	76
Better cut flower	0	0	100
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	94	82	
Mean score ¹	7.94	7.88	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Orange Hedge'

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Orange Hedge' plants didn't get as tall so they looked better. It had a pest problem; something ate its leaves. Even with the pest problem, they turned out to be a nicer-looking plant and had more flowers.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Orange Hedge' produced more flowers. Both varieties were fun to grow. These looked like yellow sunflowers; not orange.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Orange Hedge' had bigger flowers. 'Orange Hedge' bloomed first but took until September to bloom [sown June 1].

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Both varieties were very beautiful. 'Orange Hobbit' germinated earlier and bloomed six days earlier. 'Orange Hedge' produced more flowers, attracted a lot of pollinators, and was more attractive in the garden.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😞 SC

I really enjoyed these sunflowers in my garden! 'Orange Hedge' had slightly more blooms.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties added a lot of color to the garden, and the bees loved them. The birds have already eaten all of the seeds. 'Orange Hedge' had more flowers.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 MB

Both varieties germinated at an equal rate and grew well. Their plants grew to almost the same height of under three feet and had similar-sized flowers. Each variety was multibranched and very attractive. I preferred the color of 'Orange Hedge'.

Both varieties were very beautiful.

Best orange dwarf sunflower varieties

Top choice
Orange Hedge

Strong performer
Orange Hobbit

Prefer 'Orange Hobbit'

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Orange Hobbit' plants were slightly fuller and bushier. Both varieties bloomed early and were gorgeous! There were no real issues with diseases or pests, although it was a big year for leafhoppers.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Orange Hobbit' produced more flowers.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties took until late August to bloom. Both varieties bloomed nicely and were long-blooming in the garden. 'Orange Hobbit' produced more blooms.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Orange Hobbit' had almost 100% germination, but the germination of 'Orange Hedge' was also very good. 'Orange Hobbit' plants seemed a little bit healthier. 'Orange Hobbit' produced more flowers per plant and 'Orange Hedge' only had one flower on each of my plants. The 'Orange Hobbit' flowers also seemed to last longer on the plant.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Orange Hobbit' seemed to have a few more flowers, but both varieties were loaded with blooms and had similar blooming times. Both varieties were very healthy.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Orange Hobbit' had higher germination; otherwise both were equally beautiful! These were beautiful in the garden and bees were always around them. They looked happy until the blister beetles came in full force followed by the grasshoppers. After that, the silhouette reminded me of a forest fire because all that remained were the main stems.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Orange Hobbit' produced more flowers and its heads were better.

No Preference

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I planted them side-by-side. They both did well.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 NE

These varieties were very similar.

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were so close that there is no clear-cut winner for me. If I hadn't had a stake in the center telling me which was which, I would have thought it was all the same variety. Both varieties germinated very quickly, and they bloomed at the same time.

Conclusions

Both varieties were very beautiful. Gardeners were evenly split on the variety they preferred. Neither variety had a clear-cut advantage over the other for any trait. 'Orange Hedge' flowers had pollen for the bees. 'Orange Hobbit' flowers were pollenless and well-suited for bouquets.

'Orange Hedge' flowers had pollen for the bees. 'Orange Hobbit' flowers were pollenless and well-suited for bouquets.

Sunflower, Yellow

Varieties

'Moonshine'

80 days. Pale yellow petals contrast beautifully with the dark disks. Large blooms on 66-inch plants. Branching. Attracts bees.

'Valentine'

75 days. Primrose yellow petals with round tips and dark centers. Blooms are four inches wide. Branching. Attracts bees. Grows 66 inches.



Data

Gardeners at nine sites submitted information.

Trait	Moonshine	Valentine	Same
Germinated best	38%	25%	38%
Healthier plants	63	13	25
Bloomed earlier	50	38	13
More blooms	50	50	0
Prettier in garden	38	50	13
Better cut flower	33	67	0
Preference	38	63	
Recommend	50	63	
Mean score ¹	6.75	7.00	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Moonshine'

Moonshine Valentine SE

'Moonshine' plants were seven to eight feet tall and had several flowers per plant.

'Valentine' plants were four to five feet tall and had fewer flowers.

Moonshine Valentine SC

'Valentine' fell victim to downy mildew and most of its plants died. I had only three 'Valentine' plants left by the end of September. Both varieties germinated at near 100% and had robust-looking seedlings. 'Moonshine' suffered much less from downy mildew. Its plants tended to get a bit top-heavy with flowers.

Moonshine Valentine SC

I liked 'Moonshine' because of its big, attractive flowers. Its plants were tall with many flowers. Some of the 'Moonshine' flowers were bright yellow and others were dull. 'Valentine' plants were short and its flowers were too small.

Prefer 'Valentine'

Moonshine Valentine NE

'Valentine' had a better yellow color, and I liked its shorter height to see flowers easier.

'Moonshine' was a few feet taller and bloomed two to three weeks later.

'Moonshine' had some yellow flowers but most were a traditional golden color. I didn't notice any issues with pests or diseases.

Moonshine Valentine SE

'Valentine' germinated better. It appeared pollinators were not terribly attracted to these varieties. They preferred other flowers around the sunflowers.

Moonshine Valentine NC

'Moonshine' was too tall. Its flowers were very small considering the height of the plant. They would have been difficult to cut. 'Valentine' stalks were a good size and had many flowers per stem.

'Moonshine' stalks were tall and healthy with many flowers.

Best yellow branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Buttercream

Strong performer
Valentine

Prefer 'Valentine' (continued)

Moonshine ★★★★★☹️ 🐛
 Valentine ★★★★★😊 🌱 NW

'Valentine' was a pretty, light yellow color and made a nicer cut flower. The plant was shorter and easier to get to the flowers to cut them. 'Moonshine' was very tall compared to 'Valentine'. Its flowers were more clustered together and were harder to use for cut flowers.

Moonshine ★★★★★☹️ 🐛
 Valentine ★★★★★😊 🌱 SD

While its germination wasn't great, the profuse blooms and pretty, lemon yellow flowers of 'Valentine' really put on a show! 'Valentine' started blooming on July 23; 'Moonshine' started blooming on August 5. 'Moonshine' plants were eight to ten inches taller with more leaves and thicker stems. 'Valentine' plants were filled with saucer-sized flowers. I only cut the 'Valentine' flowers, which did well as cut flowers. They brought sunshine into the house with their beautiful color!

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Valentine'. It had light yellow flowers that were beautiful in gardens and bouquets. Its shorter stalk height and its sturdy stems facilitated its use for cutting. 'Moonshine' stalks were taller, very healthy and had lots of flowers borne in clusters. It would make a good background flower in a garden.

'Valentine' had light yellow flowers that were beautiful in gardens and bouquets.

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

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Garden type →

🐛

Location →

NC

Comments →

Sunflower, Yellow Dwarf

Varieties

'Lemon Pixie'

60 days. New variety. Lemon yellow petals and green disks. Branching plants grow 18–24 inches. For pots and flower borders. Pollenless.

'Munchkin'

55 days. Bright yellow blooms and green centers. Branching plants extend bloom period. Plants grow up to 24 inches. Pollenless.



Data

Gardeners at six sites submitted information.

Trait	Lemon		
	Pixie	Munchkin	Same
Germinated best	67%	33%	0%
Healthier plants	33	33	33
Bloomed earlier	67	33	0
More blooms	33	33	33
Prettier in garden	33	67	0
Better cut flower	0	100	0
Preference	33	67	
Recommend	33	67	
Mean score ¹	7.33	6.67	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Lemon Pixie'

Lemon Pixie ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Munchkin ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NE

'Lemon Pixie' germinated at near 100% compared to 50% for 'Munchkin'. 'Lemon Pixie' plants were two times the size of 'Munchkin' plants.

Prefer 'Munchkin'

Lemon Pixie ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SE
Munchkin ★★★★★ 😊 🏠

'Munchkin' was better in all categories!

Lemon Pixie ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Munchkin ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Munchkin' flowered later but had bigger, prettier, longer lasting flowers.

Lemon Pixie ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Munchkin ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 IA

'Munchkin' had bigger, more colorful blooms and sturdier plants. I enjoyed the beauty of these plants in my garden and had lots of compliments.

Conclusions

This trial was not popular, and there are very little data available. Most gardeners preferred and recommended 'Munchkin'. It had bigger flowers that made it prettier in the garden and as a cut flower. 'Lemon Pixie' germinated well and bloomed early.

'Munchkin' had bigger flowers that made it prettier in the garden and as a cut flower.

Best yellow dwarf branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Munchkin

Strong performer
Junior

Sunflower, Double

Varieties

'Golden Cheer'

70 days. Fluffy, mum-like, double flowers with light centers. Long stems for cut flowers. Grows 60 inches tall. Pollen for bees.

'Goldy Double'

90 days. Bright gold, fully double blooms with green-to-yellow centers. Branching. Grows 66 inches tall. Nearly pollenless.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Golden Cheer	Goldy Double	Same
Germinated best	30%	10%	60%
Healthier plants	56	11	33
Bloomed earlier	44	33	22
More blooms	56	22	22
Prettier in garden	44	44	11
Better cut flower	71	14	14
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	89	67	
Mean score ¹	7.44	6.89	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Golden Cheer'

Golden Cheer ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Golden Cheer' blooms were smaller and better for cutting. Both varieties were late to bloom.

Golden Cheer ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Golden Cheer' was great as a cut flower. Its plants were a little taller. I loved the 'Teddy Bear' look.

Golden Cheer ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Golden Cheer' had 100% germination while 'Goldy Double' had about 75% germination. 'Golden Cheer' plants grew taller and had

nicer, more uniform flowers. Its flowers were bright yellow with beautiful, fluffy centers. About 60% of my 'Goldy Double' plants had buds but had not bloomed by October 1. The ones that did bloom had small blossoms with some rusty colored spots on them, and some petals varied in size. This trial was provided minimal irrigation and weeding.

Golden Cheer ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both were very good varieties. 'Golden Cheer' was taller, had more flowers, and looked more attractive.

Golden Cheer ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Goldy Double' got downy mildew. I used copper fungicide on them, but the growth seemed to be stunted and didn't bloom very well. 'Golden Cheer' was a big, beautiful flower and a high producer. It reminded me of a teddy bear. I had so many compliments on its beauty from customers at the farmers market. It was an awesome cut flower. I would definitely plant 'Golden Cheer' again.

Golden Cheer ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★ 😊 NW

I was super excited to grow these. They performed the same in many things. 'Golden Cheer' had just slightly bigger blossoms. Both varieties grew about four feet tall. Sadly, we got frost before some blossoms could open. I would love to try again and hopefully get a longer growing season in.

'Golden Cheer' was healthier, produced more blooms and was a great cut flower.

Best double sunflower varieties

Top choice
Greenburst

Strong performers
Golden Cheer
Goldy Double

Prefer ‘Goldy Double’

Golden Cheer ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Goldy Double ★★★★★★ 😊 NE
 ‘Goldy Double’ was more attractive and a unique flower.

Golden Cheer ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★★ 😊 NE
 Both varieties were very healthy, very tall and beautiful. ‘Goldy Double’ was very different. I had many compliments.

Golden Cheer ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Goldy Double ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
 ‘Goldy Double’ bloomed significantly sooner and all of its flowers were fully double.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred ‘Golden Cheer’. It was healthier, produced more blooms and was a great cut flower. Gardeners who preferred ‘Goldy Double’ especially liked its fully double blooms.

Gardeners who preferred ‘Goldy Double’ especially liked its fully double blooms.

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.

Garden types

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Zinnia, Orange Dahlia

Varieties

'Benary's Giant Orange'

75 days. Large, double flowers with long, thick and sturdy stems. Great in the garden and for cutting. Resists mildew. Grows 45 inches.

'Queeny Pure Orange'

80 days. New variety. Outstanding cut flower. Double and semi-double blooms. Petals are layered thickly with beautiful crowns. 40 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Ben. Orange	G. Orange	Q. P. Orange	Same
Germinated best	43%	21%	36%	
Healthier plants	36	29	36	
Bloomed earlier	50	36	14	
More blooms	36	29	36	
Prettier in garden	62	8	31	
Better cut flower	89	11	0	
Preference	64	36		
Recommend	86	50		
Mean score ¹	8.07	7.21		
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00		

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

Prefer 'Benary's Giant Orange'

Benary's Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Benary's Giant Orange' bloomed first. Its plants were slightly taller and had more branching by the end of summer. Both varieties produced lots of flowers. 'Benary's Giant Orange' flowers were huge and bright orange with thick, strong stems—a perfect flower for bouquets. The flowers of 'Queeny Pure Orange' were smaller and in different shades of orange—pretty.

Benary's Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😞 SE

These varieties had beautiful, full, really striking orange colors. 'Benary's Giant Orange' was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Benary's Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Benary's Giant Orange' produced more flowers and its flowers were larger.

Benary's Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Benary's Giant Orange' blossoms were brighter and 25% bigger. I loved its dark orange color.

Benary's Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Benary's Giant Orange' was superior in all traits. I loved the color and size of its flowers.

Benary's Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 NC

The flowers of 'Benary's Giant Orange' had some prettier shapes that I liked. Its plants stayed green and free of disease.

Benary's Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I love, love, love these varieties. They were both very showy. Wonderful! Low maintenance and outstanding! 'Benary's Giant Orange' produced more flowers and was more attractive in my garden.

The flowers of Benary's Giant Orange' were bigger and brighter with thick, strong stems for cutting.

Best orange dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice

Benary's Giant

Strong performers

Giant Dahlia
 Oklahoma
 Orange King

Prefer ‘Benary’s Giant Orange’ (continued)

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 NW

These zinnias were easy to grow and lasted for a very long time. Hummingbirds and bees loved them. ‘Benary’s Giant Orange’ had bright and rich orange color. It had taller plants, fuller flowers and more uniform blossoms. ‘Queeny Pure Orange’ had single-petal and double-petal blossoms.

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 SD

‘Benary’s Giant Orange’ was better in all categories. It had huge flowers and lots of them!

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NEB

I liked ‘Benary’s Giant Orange’ best because of the size of its flowers. It looked more attractive in the garden and was a better cut flower. ‘Queeny Pure Orange’ bloomed first. I would plant both varieties again.

Prefer ‘Queeny Pure Orange’

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE

‘Queeny Pure Orange’ had fuller plants and more uniformity in its flowers. ‘Benary’s Giant Orange’ would be a better cut flower due to its longer peduncles and bigger blooms.

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

‘Queeny Pure Orange’ had a deeper orange color that I preferred.

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

I loved the vibrant color of ‘Queeny Pure Orange’.

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NW

I liked the size of the ‘Queeny Pure Orange’ flowers for arrangements.

Benary’s Giant O. ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Queeny Pure O. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SW

I liked the way ‘Queeny Pure Orange’ bloomed more prolifically. It bloomed about seven days earlier. Germination was spotty with ‘Benary’s Giant Orange’, and its stems turned gray in August. The hummingbirds loved both varieties.

‘Queeny Pure Orange’ was good but did not stand out to most gardeners.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred ‘Benary’s Giant Orange’. Its plants were healthy and bloomed earlier. Its flowers were bigger and brighter with thick, strong stems for cutting. It was prettier in the garden and was a superior cut flower. ‘Queeny Pure Orange’ was good but did not stand out to most gardeners.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

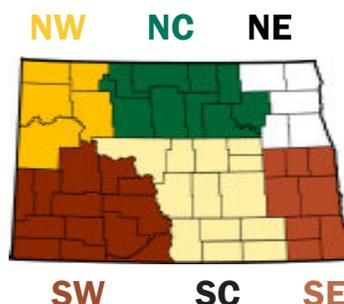
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

Zinnia, Scarlet Dahlia

Varieties

‘Scarlet Flame’

80 days. Brilliant, large, double and semi-double flowers. Stunning red color. Good for cut flowers. Grows 36 inches.

Note

This trial intended to compare ‘Scarlet Flame’ with ‘Super Yoga Scarlet’. Once the plants started to bloom, it was clear the ‘Super Yoga Scarlet’ was full of impurities as it bloomed in a wide mix of colors. The following report will describe the performance of ‘Scarlet Flame’ alone.

Data

Gardeners at 36 sites submitted information.

Trait	Scarlet Flame
Recommend	79%
Mean score ¹	7.88
Median score ¹	8.00

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

Recommend ‘Scarlet Flame’

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🏠 MN
‘Scarlet Flame’ produced many flowers.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 MN
‘Scarlet Flame’ is perfect if you want many large, red blossoms with thick stems for cutting. The plants were healthy.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 SE
‘Scarlet Flame’ flowers had great color.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 SE
‘Scarlet Flame’ germinated faster, was vigorous and had lovely blooms.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 SE
‘Scarlet Flame’ was hardy.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 SE
‘Scarlet Flame’ produced many flowers and was beautiful.



Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🏠 SC
I’ve been taking pails of these flowers to our local florist, and she loves them. ‘Scarlet Flame’ bloomed early and produced many flowers. Its stems were very sturdy for arrangements.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 SC
‘Scarlet Flame’ bloomed early and was a good cut flower.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 NW
‘Scarlet Flame’ had beautiful, large, four-inch blossoms until the middle of October. I have saved and shared many seeds for next year.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🏠 🕒 NW
‘Scarlet Flame’ had big flowers and was a higher producer. ‘Scarlet Flame’ flowers were beautiful and lasted long as cut flowers.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 NW
‘Scarlet Flame’ flowers had uniform color.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 SW
‘Scarlet Flame’ had full blooms.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🐛 SW
‘Scarlet Flame’ bloomed all summer with beautiful flowers!

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🏠 SW
‘Scarlet Flame’ produced wonderfully. It bloomed early and had a strong, bold pop of red.

The stems of ‘Scarlet Flame’ were long and sturdy for cut flower arrangements.

Best scarlet dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
Benary’s Giant

Strong performers
Giant Dahlia
Oklahoma
Scarlet Flame

Recommend ‘Scarlet Flame’ (continued)

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🌱 SD
 ‘Scarlet Flame’ was healthy and bloomed early. Its blooms were large, red and double. ‘Scarlet Flame’ had long stems for cutting and was long lasting as a cut flower.

Do Not Recommend ‘Scarlet Flame’

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🌱 MN
 Other zinnia varieties have fuller, brighter petals.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🌱 MN
 ‘Scarlet Flame’ had many flowers, but it was not especially pretty.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🌱 NC
 ‘Scarlet Flame’ did not excel in any category.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ - NC
 I didn’t like it. It had tall, spindly plants without much size to their blossoms. I would not plant it again.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 🏠 SW
 ‘Scarlet Flame’ just didn’t do much, and its germination was spotty.

Conclusions

This trial intended to compare ‘Scarlet Flame’ with ‘Super Yoga Scarlet’. Once the plants started to bloom, it was clear the seed of ‘Super Yoga Scarlet’ was full of impurities as it bloomed in a wide mix of colors. Our assessment of ‘Scarlet Flame’ is that it bloomed early and produced many flowers. Its stems were long and sturdy for cut flower arrangements. The plants of ‘Scarlet Flame’ were healthy. Its blooms were large and bursting with radiant red color.

‘Scarlet Flame’ blooms were large and bursting with radiant red color.

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

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MB = Manitoba

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MT = Montana

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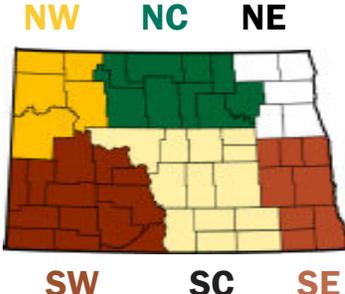
IA = Iowa

NEB = Nebraska

Garden type →

Location →

Comments →



Zinnia, White Dahlia

Varieties

'Benary's Giant White'

75 days. Fully double, large flowers with long, thick and sturdy stems. Great in the garden and for cutting. Resists mildew. Grows 45 inches.

'Polar Bear'

82 days. Large, cool white blooms contrast beautifully with the bright green foliage. A classic flower that blends well with others. 40 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Ben. G. White	Polar Bear	Same
Germinated best	18%	29%	53%
Healthier plants	13	31	56
Bloomed earlier	29	43	29
More blooms	13	20	67
Prettier in garden	47	40	13
Better cut flower	33	33	33
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	75	75	
Mean score ¹	8.13	7.56	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Benary's Giant White'

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SE

These two varieties grew very similarly in my raised bed. They both did very well and grew with no issues producing beautiful blooms. The flower heads of 'Benary's Giant White' were just a little more attractive than those of 'Polar Bear'.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The blooms of 'Benary's Giant White' were unusually bright in color.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Benary's Giant White' had nicer blooms. Both varieties needed more water and maybe would have had larger blooms if watered.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Benary's Giant White' had fuller blooms and I liked its shape better. The plants of both varieties were sturdy and at least 36 inches high. Bees loved both varieties, but 'Polar Bear' flowers were more open and accessible for pollen. The flowers of both varieties lasted well in a vase.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Benary's Giant White' had larger flowers.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The appearance of 'Benary's Giant White' was more compact, and I liked it more.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Benary's Giant White' had almost a lime green tint to the flower and was beautiful. I took a mixture of these seeds and planted them around a statue in a flower garden at church. They were the most beautiful addition to the flower garden.

Gardeners were pleased. Both varieties grew well and produced beautiful, white blooms.

Best white dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice

Benary's Giant

Strong performers

Giant Dahlia
Oklahoma
Polar Bear

Prefer 'Benary's Giant White' (continued)

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SW

Both varieties were amazing! 'Benary's Giant White' had slightly bigger flowers, but both were super producers. They were great in bouquets and beautiful dried. I saved seeds from both varieties.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SD

The flowers of 'Benary's Giant White' bloomed two days earlier, were larger and lasted longer as a cut flower. The plants of both varieties grew tall and had many blooms.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SD

'Benary's Giant White' had a fuller blossom.

Prefer 'Polar Bear'

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN

'Polar Bear' had fuller, larger flowers and nicer stems for cutting.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE

'Polar Bear' seemed more hardy. The plants bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Polar Bear' was a nicer, fuller flower and did well as a cut flower in vases.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Polar Bear' performed so much better in my garden in terms of looking good all summer. Its flowers were nice and clear white. 'Benary's Giant White' took longer to germinate.

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SD

'Polar Bear' was more bunny resistant and had nicer blooms. I have grown other varieties that lasted longer as cut flowers compared to these two.

No Preference

Benary's Giant W. ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SW

'Benary's Giant White' was healthier. 'Polar Bear' looked more attractive.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased. Both varieties grew well and produced beautiful, white blooms. Most gardeners preferred 'Benary's Giant White'. In most cases, these gardeners reported its flowers were larger and fuller. 'Polar Bear' performed well and was recommended by an equal number of gardeners.

Most gardeners preferred 'Benary's Giant White'. These gardeners reported its flowers were larger and fuller.

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 →
🐞
🏠
🚫
-

Location →
NC

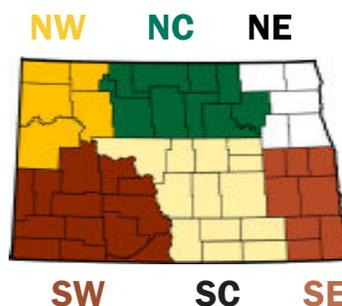
Comments →
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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Zinnia, Orange Cactus

Varieties

'Inca'

80 days. Large, double-petal flowers with glowing orange petals that twist. Blooms profusely. Long stems for cutting. 36 inches.

'Senorita Aztec'

80 days. Enormous, mostly double-petal flowers. Petals are blazing orange with curled and spiked tips. Sturdy stems. 30 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Senorita		
	Inca	Aztec	Same
Germinated best	14%	43%	43%
Healthier plants	7	7	87
Bloomed earlier	27	27	47
More blooms	14	29	57
Prettier in garden	13	13	73
Better cut flower	11	22	67
Preference	40	60	
Recommend	80	100	
Mean score ¹	7.33	7.93	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Inca'

Inca MN
 Senorita Aztec

I liked the twist in the 'Inca' flowers, and I liked its long stems.

Inca SE
 Senorita Aztec

'Inca' produced slightly more flowers and its flowers were bigger. Both varieties had healthy plants that produced beautiful, full flowers. These flowers were beautiful for cutting.

Inca SE
 Senorita Aztec

'Inca' flowers were more elegant and graceful looking. The bees liked both varieties equally.

Inca NC
 Senorita Aztec

Both varieties had very bushy, hardy plants with pretty blossoms. I enjoyed the orange color and variety of blossom shapes. 'Inca' had slightly bushier plants and more blossoms.

Inca SC
 Senorita Aztec

These varieties were similar. Both were great.

Inca SC
 Senorita Aztec

'Inca' had a little nicer flower.

Prefer 'Senorita Aztec'

Inca SE
 Senorita Aztec

'Senorita Aztec' had better seedling emergence.

Inca SE
 Senorita Aztec

Neither germinated real well (12 plants from 30 seeds). Both grew about the same and produced about the same amount of flowers. I preferred the more spiky look and very vibrant orange color of the 'Senorita Aztec' flowers.

Gardeners liked both varieties. Their spiky flowers were beautiful and elegant.

Best orange cactus zinnia variety

Top choice
Senorita Aztec

Prefer 'Senorita Aztec' (continued)

Inca ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Senorita Aztec ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Seedlings of both varieties germinated well in spite of the hard soil. Plants were healthy. 'Senorita Aztec' plants were a bit taller and had longer stems for cutting.

Inca ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Senorita Aztec ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked the light and airy flowers of 'Senorita Aztec' better. The 'Senorita Aztec' plants grew bigger over time, and the blossoms were fuller and larger. Every 'Senorita Aztec' plant bloomed vigorously. Many 'Inca' seeds did not germinate, but their plants bloomed first. 'Inca' was very pretty and hardy. Plants of both varieties were healthy.

Inca ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Senorita Aztec ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Three times as many seeds of 'Senorita Aztec' germinated. This led to more flowers.

Inca ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Senorita Aztec ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties had awesome plants. There was not much difference overall, but 'Senorita Aztec' bloomed first.

Inca ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Senorita Aztec ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Senorita Aztec' germinated better.

Inca ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Senorita Aztec ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were similar.

Inca ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Senorita Aztec ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Senorita Aztec' bloomed earlier and did better all around.

These varieties received remarkably similar scores.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. Their plants were healthy, and their flowers were beautiful and elegant. 'Inca' and 'Senorita Aztec' received remarkably similar scores. The only noticeable difference was the superior germination of 'Senorita Aztec'.

Key to Site Reports

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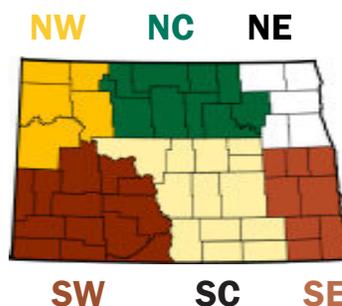
Ratings (1 to 10) → ★★★★★
Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) → 😊
Garden type → 🐞
Location → NC
Comments → 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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Zinnia, Pink Cactus

Varieties

'Senora'

80 days. Unique shades of salmon from pale to vibrant. Mostly double flowers have shaggy, twisted petals. Grows 36 inches.

'Senorita'

80 days. Large, mostly double-petal flowers. Eye-catching, coral pink petals have curled and spiked tips. Sturdy stems. 30 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 24 sites submitted information.

Trait	Senora	Senorita	Same
Germinated best	45%	9%	45%
Healthier plants	50	5	45
Bloomed earlier	45	50	5
More blooms	48	19	33
Prettier in garden	45	14	41
Better cut flower	29	14	57
Preference	73	27	
Recommend	77	68	
Mean score ¹	7.32	6.64	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.50	

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

Prefer 'Senora'

Senora NE
 Senorita

Both were beautiful and attracted many bees and monarchs! 'Senora' flowers were prettier.

Senora SE
 Senorita

Both varieties were attractive to me and butterflies. 'Senora' had more flowers and earlier blooms.

Senora SE
 Senorita

'Senora' did much better overall. 'Senora' germinated better and handled the cooler fall temperatures better. We saw many late monarchs, hummingbird moths and hummingbirds enjoying the 'Senora' flowers.

Senora
 Senorita SE

'Senora' germinated significantly better, 44 plants vs. 26 plants, each from 50 seeds. 'Senora' grew really great and produced many more flowers. 'Senora' had lots of pretty pink and salmon blooms. I preferred the more spiky flower shape on a lot of the 'Senorita' blooms, and some of them had a unique, light purple color that was very pretty.

Senora
 Senorita SE

Both varieties were beautiful! 'Senora' had more flowers.

Senora NE
 Senorita NC

Most seeds germinated. The plants looked good and grew fast. 'Senora' was slower to bloom but produced more flowers. The rich, darker colors of 'Senora' were outstanding. 'Senorita' flowers were much larger, and I loved its pale colors.

Senora NC
 Senorita

'Senorita' did not grow well for me. I only had three plants come up. Though they bloomed, their flowers were not nearly as attractive as those of 'Senora'.

Senora NC
 Senorita

These zinnias were very tall. They had pretty flowers that attracted monarchs. 'Senora' had more flowers.

'Senora' produced more flowers. Gardeners loved its vivid pink and salmon blooms.

Best pink cactus zinnia variety

Top choice
Senora

Prefer 'Senora' (continued)

Senora   
Senorita   SC

Both varieties had strong, tall plants and lots of flowers in similar shades of pink. 'Senora' flowers were prettier. Their petals had smooth edges; not one had a ragged edge. 'Senorita' petals had ragged edges making the flowers look a little "junky."

Senora   
Senorita   SC

Both varieties were planted in an elevated bed and were leggy—not real attractive plants.

Senora   
Senorita   SC

'Senora' had a fuller head of petals, while 'Senorita' had a less dense head. 'Senora' was healthier overall. Both varieties were pretty, and I loved seeing them in my gardens.

Senora   
Senorita   SC

I liked the colors and height of 'Senora'.

Senora   
Senorita   SC

'Senora' had more blooms.

Senora   
Senorita   NW

'Senorita' had light pink and spiky petals. 'Senora' flowers had light red to pink petals and were a more uniform shape.

Senora   
Senorita   SW

They both germinated at close to 100%. The colors of 'Senora' were more vivid than those of 'Senorita'. The blooms were slow to emerge on both. I loved both varieties and they added lovely color to my flower garden.

Senora   
Senorita   SW

I planted both varieties in a large pot. They both tended to be spindly and leggy in comparison to other varieties that I planted directly in the flower bed. 'Senora' had strong plants with healthier blossoms.

Prefer 'Senorita'

Senora   
Senorita   NE

These zinnia plants looked terrific. They germinated right away and every seed grew. However, there were only three plants that bloomed. They were all 'Senorita' plants.

Senora   
Senorita   SE

'Senorita' had more variety of colors.

Senora   
Senorita   SC

I preferred the shape of 'Senorita' flowers. Its petals had pointed rather than rounded tips. I preferred the color of 'Senora'.

Senora   
Senorita   NW

I don't like either. They both produced very short, thin plants. 'Senora' did not bloom before the frost came. 'Senorita' had only one very small flower on one of the plants.

Senora   
Senorita   SW

'Senorita' had 33% better germination and produced 20 times more flowers. I liked the 'Senorita' flowers better even though they had similar colors as 'Senora'. The plants of both varieties were healthy.

Senora   
Senorita   SW

'Senorita' flowers were salmon pink as opposed to the brighter pink of 'Senora'.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Senora'. It germinated better and was healthier. It produced more flowers and was prettier in the garden. Gardeners loved the vivid pink and salmon blooms of 'Senora'. Gardeners who expressed a preference for 'Senorita' liked the sharper points of its petals.

Gardeners who expressed a preference for 'Senorita' liked the sharper points of its petals.

Zinnia, Mexican

Varieties

'Old Mexico'

80 days. Bicolor blooms are burgundy with yellow or gold petal tips. Compact, 15-inch spreading plants. Award winner.

'Sombrero'

80 days. Heirloom with bold, bicolor petals. Good for pollinators and cutting. 24 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Old Mexico	Sombrero	Same
Germinated best	21%	33%	46%
Healthier plants	17	30	52
Bloomed earlier	26	57	17
More blooms	57	43	0
Prettier in garden	27	45	27
Better cut flower	0	69	31
Preference	41	59	
Recommend	67	92	
Mean score ¹	6.57	7.87	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Old Mexico'

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 NE

The bicolor pattern in 'Old Mexico' was more pronounced and consistent.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 NE

They were both beautiful, and I had many compliments. 'Old Mexico' had large, bright flowers.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I liked them both but 'Old Mexico' was more showy. 'Old Mexico' had taller, sturdier stems and bloomed about two weeks earlier. 'Sombrero' bloomed continually all season. Both varieties had sturdy stems for cutting.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The fuller canopy and pointy petals of 'Old Mexico' were nice and had a fuller display. Both varieties were quite attractive and made a nice addition to our garden. I had not grown this type of zinnia before.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I preferred the look of 'Old Mexico' flowers. 'Sombrero' flowers were not very uniform with some being all one color (even got some red) and other flowers had the bicolor look. 'Old Mexico' seemed to wilt faster on dry, hot days but bounced back quickly with watering. 'Old Mexico' produced more flowers but its flowers were smaller. 'Sombrero' stems were longer making them better for vases. 'Sombrero' flowers seemed to last longer as cut flowers but both held up well in vases. I liked both varieties and would plant them again.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Old Mexico' showed more vigor and produced more flowers. Both varieties had great germination, healthy plants and looked beautiful in the garden.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The plants of both varieties had great foliage and flowers. The flowers of 'Old Mexico' had more petals and looked more attractive. 'Old Mexico' produced more flowers.

'Old Mexico' produced more flowers, and its color pattern was more consistent.

Best Mexican zinnia varieties

Top choice
Sombrero

Strong performers

Jazzy Mix
Old Mexico
Persian Carpet

Prefer 'Old Mexico' (continued)

Old Mexico SC
Sombrero SC

Wow! These are beautiful zinnias that hopefully will continue to seed in my flower bed. Both varieties had healthy, hardy plants that I did not have to tend to or worry about all summer. 'Old Mexico' had larger blooms and a stronger, taller plant that did not tip over.

Old Mexico NW
Sombrero NW

These varieties did not germinate well. I ended up with two plants of each. I liked the flower designs of 'Old Mexico'. Its dark maroon and dark yellow patterns were very pretty.

Prefer 'Sombrero'

Old Mexico NE
Sombrero NE

I preferred the wider, more oval shape of 'Sombrero' leaves compared to the narrow leaves of 'Old Mexico'. The colors of 'Sombrero' flowers were more uniform. 'Old Mexico' flowers had a lot of variety in color—more red/all red while other flowers were mostly yellow. 'Sombrero' bloomed about three days earlier. It had holes in its leaves from insects.

Old Mexico SE
Sombrero SE

'Sombrero' germinated first, bloomed first, had taller stems and larger flowers.

Old Mexico SE
Sombrero SE

I was not impressed with 'Old Mexico', because it was short, squatty and just looked blah. 'Sombrero' was about 2 to 3 feet more in height and had brighter colors. It caught your attention.

Old Mexico SE
Sombrero SE

'Old Mexico' had few flowers and all were small. 'Sombrero' was excellent—many big blooms that lasted for ages.

Old Mexico SE
Sombrero SE

I felt both of these Mexican zinnias were small and had insignificant blooms. 'Sombrero' had larger, taller and more beautiful flowers. 'Old Mexico' was disappointing in size and quality of blooms. Overall, 'Old Mexico' was underwhelming in my garden.

Old Mexico NC
Sombrero NC

I liked 'Sombrero' for its larger flowers. 'Old Mexico' had more flowers and they were more uniform in color. The plants of both varieties were very healthy. The cut flowers of both varieties lasted about five to seven days.

Old Mexico SC
Sombrero SC

'Sombrero' plants were taller and more robust. 'Old Mexico' did not like the heat. 'Sombrero' bloomed first (July 21). Its flowers were more attractive, more varied in color and a little bigger. 'Old Mexico' flowers were quite small, but they were pretty and lasted longer. The flowers of both varieties were great for cutting.

Old Mexico NC
Sombrero NC

These varieties stood up so well even after a frost. 'Sombrero' was taller, produced more flowers and lasted a long time.

Old Mexico SC
Sombrero SC

'Old Mexico' had more flowers, but the flowers of 'Sombrero' were bigger and more attractive.

Old Mexico SC
Sombrero SC

'Sombrero' produced more flowers. Its stems were stronger and good for cutting.

Old Mexico SC
Sombrero SC

'Sombrero' was healthier, bloomed earlier and had more blooms. It looked more attractive in my garden.

'Sombrero' blooms were larger and more varied in their colors and patterns.

Prefer 'Sombrero' (continued)

Old Mexico ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Sombrero ★★★★★ ☹️ SD

'Sombrero' was better in all traits, but I do not recommend either variety.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Sombrero ★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Sombrero' germinated well, grew faster and was blooming well by July 25. 'Old Mexico' had lots of delayed germination, grew slower, and started blooming August 3. 'Sombrero' plants were stronger and covered with a profusion of flowers. The flowers were colored from solid, bright yellow to a shading of yellows, reds and burgundies. They were a delight to look at in the garden! 'Old Mexico' had only bright yellow blossoms which were somewhat smaller and sparse. It just did not have the "bang" that 'Sombrero' had.

Conclusions

'Sombrero' performed especially well and was preferred by most gardeners. It bloomed first. Its flowers were larger and more varied in colors and patterns. All this made for an attractive display in a garden. 'Sombrero' had taller stems that were useful for cutting. 'Old Mexico' produced more flowers, and its color pattern was more consistent.

'Sombrero' bloomed first. It had taller stems that were useful for cutting.

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

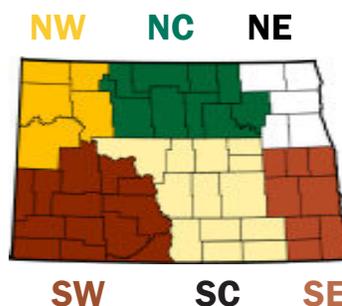
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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
- CO = Colorado
- IA = Iowa
- NEB = Nebraska



Appendix 1

Welcome Letter

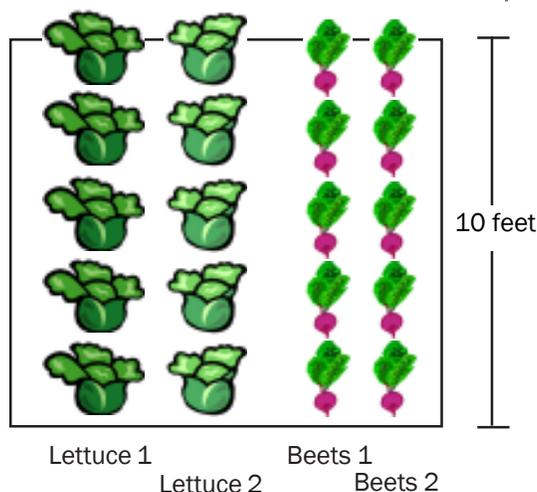
NDSU

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

<p>2022 Trial #00</p> <p>Cantaloupe</p>

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: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> Apollo Zeus Both Neither </div>

Appendix 3

Acknowledgements

Researchers

North Dakota State University Extension is very thankful to the following gardeners who provided results from their research plots:

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Gerry Andersen	Kelly Collins	Erin Grams
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Trudy Cashmore	Kristine Gifford	Joyce James
Debra Chaki	Ruth Glen	Kathy Jangula
Debra Chambers	Reggi Glueckert	Nancy Jensen and Plant Materials Center
Sara Clemens	Taylor, Lydia and Sutton Godsey	Gaylen Jensen
	Emily Goodoien	Sam Johnson

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Darcy Lackman
Vanessa Lambert
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Rae Ann Lynne
Lorraine Manz
Margaret Marcusen
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Janell Martin
Megan and Rhett Martin
Theresa Martin-Johnson
Judy Martinson
Becky McCleary
Kerry McCone
Jennifer McCurry
Cindy McLean
Eden McLeod
Peter Meberg
Laura Miller
Jeffrey, Ivy and Naomi Miller with
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Sara Mittelsteadt
Sheri Monroe
Donna Moos
Diane Moran
Stacie Morowski and Carolyn
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Amanda Neaveill
Barb Nelson
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Dorothea Nelson
Gabriele Nelson
Susan Nelson
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Pam Paulson
Heidi Peltz
Leah Petersen
Sarah Petersen
Courtney Peterson
Jodi Peterson
Zach Peterson
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Jean Pfaff
Shelley Porter
Melissa Raisl
Diane and Wayne Randle
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Erin Reiner with Malikai and Elijah
Bjorgaard
Tara Reisenauer
Sherri Repnow
Gail Rogne with Juneve Givers
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Cathy Ruebel
Rena Rustad
Jennifer Sabo
Kristi Sage
Laurie Sandness-Boeshans
Mercedes Saylor
Jodie Schaap
Linda Scheet
Bruce Schmidt
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Blaine Schumacher
Jamie Schwan
Stacy Schwarz
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Angela Seligman
Becky and Kiana Serr
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Nancy Skjei
Tom Smesrud
Andrew Smith
Laurie Smith
Courtney and Esther Sprenger
Jeffrey Stachler
Stefanie Stalheim
Caitlin Stegmiller
Lisa Steinolfson
Jackie Stenvik
Bette Stieglitz
Jon Stika
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Teri Stone
Nicole Strafelda
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48741610258/. **KALE:** Conall,

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2974054622/; jjjj56cp, .../

25171569@N02/10054547606/;

Emily, .../ebarney/8149665761/;

Mizzou CAFNR, .../ cafnr/

15441560606/; Adam Lederer, ...

/elmada/1729503637/; Mabel

Amber from Pixabay. **SUMMER**

SQUASH: Katie Harbath, .../

katieharbath/4817646745/;

quisnovus, .../quisnovus/

36671268320/; Mike Licht, .../

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WINTER SQUASH: Nick

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CHARD: stux from Pixabay;

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4866974729/. Simon Q,

...simononly/5056890126/.

cygnus921, ...cygnus921/

2776442204/.

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4891304037/; pasja1000from

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ldallara/1285558663/. **ZINNIA:**

jenn2d2, .../ jenn2d2/

20477062116/; Lotus Johnson,

.../ngawangchodron/

29736237652/; John, .../

puzzler4879/9739285975/; Faith

Unlimited, .../faithunlimited/

3602858144/; Swallowtail Garden

Seeds, .../

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43268189560/; Al_HikesAZ, .../

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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 information in 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

2023

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, Lewis, 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, Early Wonder Tall Top, 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, Icon, 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: Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf, Max Pack. **Slicing:** Bristol, Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Green Light, Mercury, Muncher, Nokya, Orient Express II, Raceway, Raider, Salad Bush, Silver Slicer, Straight Eight, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green.

EGGPLANT. Classic, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express, Traviata.

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, Russian Frills, Vates, 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, Dragonfly, Early Sunstation, King of the North, Lunchbox Mix, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze, Red Knight. **Frying/Roasting:** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. **Hot:** Cheyenne, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, PS11435807, Tiburon.

POTATO. Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

PUMPKIN. Jack-o'-lantern: Autumn Gold, Bellatrix, Cargo, Cronus, Early Dakota Howden, Early Giant, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Large Marge, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie, Warty Goblin. **Giant:** Big Moose, Dill's Atlantic Giant, Polar Bear. **Ornamental:** Blaze, Casperita, Jack Be Little, Jarrahdale, Porcelain Doll.

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, Dunja, 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. **Other:** Blue Magic, Delica, Red Kuri, Sunshine, Sweet Mama.

SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.

SWISS CHARD. Bali, Bright Lights, Charbell, Improved Rainbow, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Ruby Red.

TOMATO. Small: Juliet, Sungold, SunSugar, Supersweet 100, Fargo Yellow Pear. **Fresh market:** Big Beef Plus, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity Plus, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus, Mountain Merit, Red Deuce. **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.
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 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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