



# North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

SUMMARY  
2022

# 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) |          |         |        |

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