

A close-up photograph of a sunflower. The left side shows the dark brown, textured center of the flower, densely packed with small florets. The right side shows several bright yellow petals, some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background. The overall lighting is warm and bright, highlighting the natural colors of the flower.

North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

**RESULTS
2017**

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE

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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 2017

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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 93,000 households in North Dakota with vegetable gardens.

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

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

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

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

Compared to other crops, relatively little vegetable research is conducted at research stations in North Dakota. These plots provide some 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 healthier diets and save millions of dollars on food expenses.

The Bottom Line

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

Goals

This program has three major goals:

1. Gardeners will be introduced to new varieties. This will lead to more productive gardens and healthier diets.

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

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

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

2. Gardeners will identify superior varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers.
3. Youth will develop skills in science, eat a healthier diet, and enjoy increased levels of physical activity.

Selecting Varieties

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

Preparation of Seed Packets

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

Distribution of Seeds

This program is promoted by North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service faculty and staff across the state. Information is available at the website www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/. Interested households are allowed to participate in up to seven trials. The fees are \$1 per trial. A fee of \$4.00 is charged for handling and postage.

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

Besides seeds, growers receive row labels to mark rows, and a string to help them lay out the 10-foot-long plots. Gardeners receive simple, yet detailed instructions on laying out their plots (Appendix 1). We encourage a 10-foot

plot length to be minimal at getting quality data but container gardening is allowed.

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

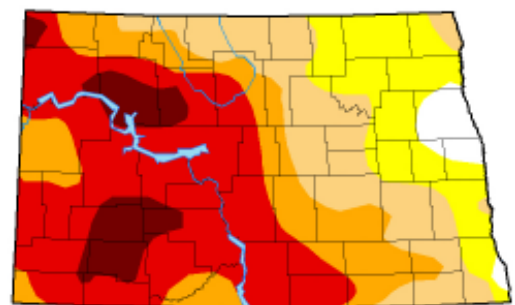
Weather in 2017: Drought!

A severe drought reduced germination, plant growth and yields in gardens across our state (Fig. 1). The drought was particularly severe in the western part of the state.

The span of March to August was the eighth driest 6-month span in the history of North Dakota going back to when records began in 1895. Our state is already semi-arid in “normal” years and this summer’s drought (the driest since 2006) was devastating.

Rains started in August (Fig. 2), but the damage to crops by that time was irreversible in most cases.

There were no widespread late frosts in spring. A hard frost in fall occurred for most gardeners during the second week of October, a week later than normal.



August 1, 2017

- Moderately dry (*crop growth slowed*); 97%.
- Moderate drought (*crop damage*); 82%.
- Severe drought (*crop losses likely*); 62%.
- Extreme drought (*major losses*); 44%.
- Exceptional drought (*widespread losses*); 8%.

Fig. 1. Drought severity and percentage of area in state affected. Source: Drought Monitor.

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

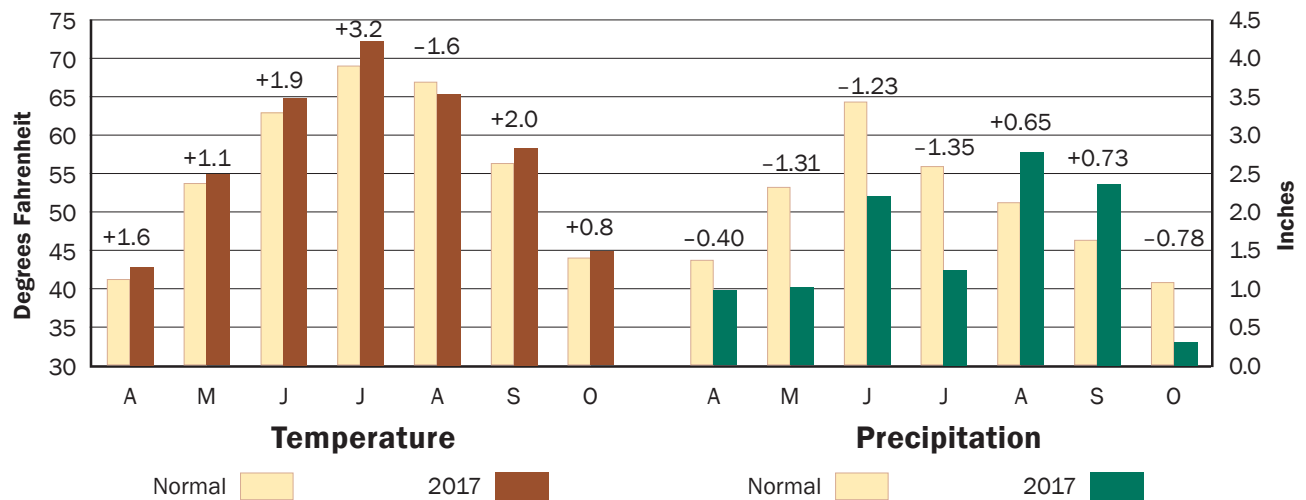


Fig. 2. Monthly air temperatures and precipitation amounts in 2017 and normal (1901–2000). Temperatures were warmer than normal, and crops suffered through a drought in spring and summer. Many rainfed gardens failed. Rains in autumn were scattered and too late to make much of a difference. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Quantity and Quality of Participation

In 2017, gardeners at 294 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from over 1,341 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 48 of the state’s 53 counties (Fig. 3).

A pleasant finding of this program is the quality of research conducted by home gardeners. These families demonstrate extraordinary enthusiasm in this project. Besides carefully filling out report forms, they often write letters on their trials.

Compiling Data

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

Comments of growers regarding their taste preferences of the vegetables are a noteworthy bonus of this grass-roots research approach.

Approximately 15% of reports this year were eliminated from our analysis and

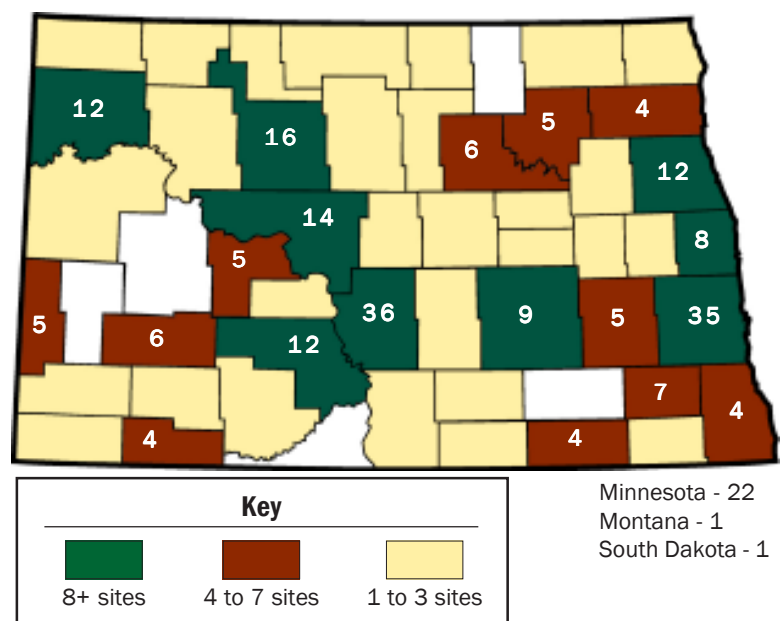


Fig. 3. Gardeners at 294 sites in 48 counties submitted results in 2017. Site numbers are shown above for each county with 4+ sites.

report. In most cases, these reports documented total crop failures of both varieties due to drought. There were a few instances of extensive damage caused by wildlife (deer and rabbits) and a few reports with inconsistent data that were eliminated.

Presentation of Results

This year we are presenting our results using a more informative format. You can read the ratings, recommendations and comments of each gardener along with the region the trial was conducted (Fig. 4).

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 **region** going from east to west (Fig. 5). 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 South Dakota and Montana. Regions were identified by considering landforms, soil types, length of growing season and rainfall patterns.

Then we provide the individual **ratings** of each variety. Gardeners rated each variety on a scale of 1 to 10. These ratings are shown using a 5-star format. Each rating point equals a half star; thus a rating of “8” by the gardener would show as “4 stars.”

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.

	Ratings (1 to 10)	Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)	Location
Variety A	★★★★☆	😊	NC
Variety B	★★★★☆	☹️	
Comments	‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.		

Fig. 4. Example of a report from an individual gardener.

We tried to include as many ratings and comments as possible. In some cases, we deleted a few of the least informative reports when space on a page was limited. These were typically reports which included ratings but no comments.

Sharing the Final Results

Participating gardeners are emailed the final report in December. Results are presented online and at workshops to over 1,000 gardeners every spring. Newspaper and online columns are written to report findings.

Reports of previous years are available online at www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/.

Impacts

An evaluation of the project is conducted every few years. A brief impact report is presented (page 141). Our evaluation shows that gardeners are introduced to new varieties and enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets. Youth in the project sharpen their skills in science. Youth enjoy healthier diets and increased levels of physical activity.

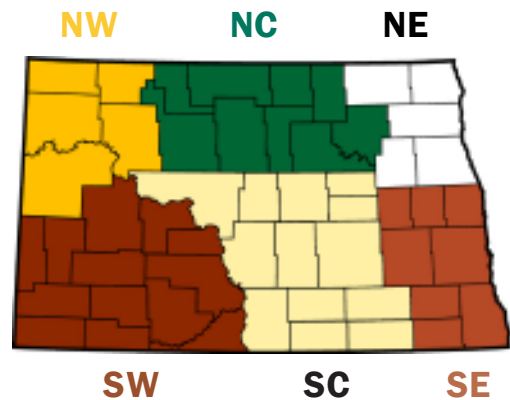


Fig. 5. Regional breakdown used in this report.

Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states evaluated promising vegetable, herb and cut flower varieties. In a year marked by severe drought, gardeners at 294 sites rated varieties for plant health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. Reports of 1,341 side-by-side comparisons were submitted.

In each trial 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 <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/>.



Bean, Green

Both varieties produced well. Most gardeners preferred 'Inspiration' for its long, straight pods. This heat-tolerant variety was earlier and did well across the state. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated better; its plants showed good vigor.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
B Blue Lake 274	43	68	7.59
Inspiration	57	68	7.55
			(28 sites)



Bean, Green Slim-Pod

Both varieties were exceptional. Their pods were straight and slender. Yields were tremendous and went long into the season. Gardeners raved over the glossy, dark green pods of 'Crockett'. Its yields were especially impressive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Crockett	58	80	8.40
Pike	42	70	8.03
			(37 sites)



Bean, Purple

Gardeners liked the colorful pods but were not impressed by the vigor of the plants. Most gardeners preferred 'Purple Queen Improved'. It germinated better and was more likely to produce a decent crop.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Purple Qn Imp	63	44	7.00
Royal Burgundy	38	44	6.11
			(12 sites)



Bean, Yellow

Gardeners judged these varieties to be very similar and found no clear advantage of one over the other. Most preferred 'Carson' for its slender pods and good yields. Others praised 'Gold Rush' for its long, straight pods.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Carson	53	71	7.32
Gold Rush	47	65	7.32
			(21 sites)



Bean, Green Pole

Neither variety was amazing; neither variety outshone the other. Their vines were healthy and their pods were tasty and attractive. 'Monte Cristo' germinated well; its vines were very vigorous and often produced higher yields.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Kentucky Blue	50	50	6.13
Monte Cristo	50	50	6.75
			(9 sites)



Bean, Vegetable Soybean

The proven reliability of 'Envy' was borne out in this summer's drought. It produced higher yields and was a very consistent performer. Its pods looked more attractive and matched 'Tohya' for taste. 'Tohya' was earlier.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Envy	78	89	7.44
Tohya	22	67	6.44
			(10 sites)



Beet, Gold

Gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on their preferences. ‘Boldor’ showed a slight edge in seedling vigor and yield. The root appearance and flavor of ‘Touchstone Gold’ and ‘Boldor’ were similar.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Boldor	50	75	7.62
Touchstone Gold	50	73	7.38
			(20 sites)



Beet, Red

‘Red Ace’ always does well in our trials but it was outdone by ‘Merlin’ this year. ‘Merlin’ germinated better and produced higher yields. Its roots were very sweet and flavorful. Gardeners liked the uniformity and taste of ‘Red Ace’ roots.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Merlin	70	73	8.07
Red Ace	30	57	7.10
			(34 sites)



Carrot, Chantenay

‘Hercules’ has been a strong performer in previous testing, and this year’s performance reinforced its superiority. It germinated better, was healthier, and produced more roots. Its roots were better looking and better tasting.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Hercules	70	50	6.90
Royal Chantenay	30	20	4.90
			(11 sites)



Carrot, Early Nantes

Gardeners liked both varieties but more gardeners recommended ‘Goldfinger’. Its roots were straight, long and smooth. Many gardeners felt ‘Mokum’ was sweeter and more flavorful. Yields were reduced by drought.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Goldfinger	50	65	6.52
Mokum	50	58	7.02
			(52 sites)



Carrot, Mainseason Nantes

These were the top two carrot varieties in 2017, a year of drought. Both varieties grew similarly and produced similar yields. The notable difference was in the eating quality of raw carrots, where ‘Kuroda’ excelled.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bolero	36	73	6.73
Kuroda	64	82	7.27
			(14 sites)



Carrot, Yellow

‘Chablis Yellow’ was the stronger performer. It produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and tasted better. Germination rates of both varieties were dramatically reduced due to the drought.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Chablis Yellow	60	58	6.30
Solar Yellow	40	42	5.60
			(20 sites)



Corn, Bicolor

‘Peaches & Cream’ seemed to tolerate the drought better. It was more productive and many more gardeners recommended it. ‘Ambrosia’ ripened earlier and produced large, full ears. Gardeners loved the flavor of both varieties.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Ambrosia	50	47	6.38
Peaches & Cream	50	71	6.56
			(21 sites)



Corn, Bicolor Super Sweet

Both varieties struggled in the drought but ‘Anthem XR’ was more adaptable. It matured earlier and produced more ears. Its ears were larger and more uniform. ‘Xtra-Tender 274A’ has been a strong performer in previous years.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Anthem XR	64	57	7.14
Xtra-Tender 274A	36	43	6.50
			(16 sites)



Corn, Yellow

‘Bodacious RM’ was the top performer in our 2017 sweet corn trials and the clear winner in this trial. Its stalks were vigorous and productive. It grew impressively across the state, including areas suffering extreme drought.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bodacious RM	90	91	8.40
Inferno	10	27	5.80
			(12 sites)



Corn, Early Ornamental

Gardeners split on their preferences. ‘Fiesta’ stalks were healthy, sturdy and more productive. Its ears were larger and looked like traditional ornamental corn. ‘Painted Mountain’ ears were skinnier but filled with an array of brilliant kernels.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Fiesta	50	83	6.83
Painted Mountain	50	67	6.00
			(8 sites)



Corn, Full-Season Ornamental

Every gardener was impressed with ‘Autumn Explosion’. Its tall, sturdy stalks produced lots of large, beautiful ears. ‘Glass Gem’ was less vigorous and its ears were smaller. Its glassy kernels were distinctive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Autumn Expl’n	100	100	9.50
Glass Gem	0	50	7.75
			(8 sites)



Corn, Strawberry

Drought was a problem and yields were low. ‘Cherry Berry’ was healthier and more productive. Its ears matured earlier. For decorations, it was the better choice. For popcorn, other varieties such as ‘Dakota Black’ may be superior.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cherry Berry	57	56	6.00
Strawberry	43	56	6.44
			(9 sites)



Cucumber, Burpless

Gardeners loved ‘Summer Dance’ for its slender and smooth-skinned fruits. Its yields were impressive and its performance was consistently strong across sites. ‘Sweet Slice’ germinated well and produced the first cucumbers.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Summer Dance	55	79	8.03
Sweet Slice	45	67	7.27
			(41 sites)



Cucumber, Pickling

‘Homemade Pickles’ germinated better, matured earlier and was more productive. Gardeners loved its crisp and blocky fruits—perfect for pickling. ‘Regal’ consistently produced good crops. Its cucumbers had a longer, more tapered shape.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Home. Pickles	64	73	7.23
Regal	36	65	7.42
			(29 sites)



Cucumber, Slicing

Both varieties produced good crops of quality cucumbers. ‘General Lee’ showed superior germination, healthier vines, higher yields and tastier cucumbers. Everyone recommended it. ‘Stonewall’ matched ‘General Lee’ for earliness.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
General Lee	83	100	8.67
Stonewall	17	83	7.33
			(7 sites)



Cucumber, Snack

Gardeners enjoyed these tasty, bitter-free cukes. ‘Mercury’ grew more vigorously. Its vines produced the first cukes and were more productive. ‘Muncher’ cukes were flavorful, thin skinned, small seeded, and uniform in shape.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Mercury	50	71	7.31
Muncher	50	58	6.97
			(40 sites)



Cucumber, White

The adventurous gardeners who grew these white cucumbers discovered they were mild in flavor. ‘Silver Slicer’ was more adaptable and more consistent in its performance. It germinated better and grew better at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Martini	50	75	6.00
Silver Slicer	50	75	8.67
			(6 sites)



Greens, Mizuna

The lacy, serrated leaves of ‘Miz America’ added beauty and peppery flavor to salads. Most gardeners felt ‘Red Kingdom’ was milder. Its leaves were smoother and easier to clean. Flea beetles caused significant damage to both varieties.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Miz America	62	70	6.44
Red Kingdom	38	68	5.90
			(66 sites)



Greens, Tatsoi

‘Koji’ germinated better, grew faster and produced much higher yields. Its leaves were dark green and had a pleasing taste. The standard ‘Tatsoi’ showed relatively little vigor. Its leaves were bright green and had a mild flavor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Koji	76	68	7.23
Tatsoi	24	38	4.98
			(58 sites)



Lettuce, Butterhead

Both varieties showed remarkable resistance to bolting and produced fresh lettuce all summer. ‘Buttercrunch’ grew faster and fuller. Gardeners enjoyed its flavor and crunch. ‘Buttercrunch’ is a proven performer in North Dakota.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Adriana	28	72	6.28
Buttercrunch	72	83	6.94
			(25 sites)



Lettuce, Leaf

Gardeners enjoyed the deep green, full heads of both varieties. ‘Bergam’s Green’ was ready to harvest earlier and was more productive. Both varieties tolerated the extreme heat, but ‘Tropicana’ showed superior resistance to bolting.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bergam’s Green	56	67	7.89
Tropicana	44	67	7.67
			(10 sites)



Lettuce, Romaine

‘Coastal Star’ had the shape and flavor of a traditional romaine. It was reliable and tasted mild. ‘Fusion’, a cross between leaf and romaine lettuces, impressed gardeners with its wavy leaves, resistance to bolting, and productivity.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Coastal Star	37	63	7.44
Fusion	63	81	8.19
			(33 sites)



Lettuce, Summer Crisp

Both varieties resisted bolting and produced lots of lettuce. ‘Muir’ germinated better, grew faster and was more productive. Gardeners preferred its taste and its wavy leaves. Gardeners liked the reliability and crisp leaves of ‘Nevada’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Muir	67	100	8.44
Nevada	33	67	7.22
			(11 sites)



Melon, Cantaloupe

‘Aphrodite’ produced larger melons and higher yields. Its melons ripened earlier. Gardeners enjoyed the flavor of both varieties but gave ‘Aphrodite’ a slight edge in taste. ‘Athena’ has done better in previous years of testing.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Aphrodite	70	71	7.24
Athena	30	62	6.71
			(28 sites)



Melon, Large Cantaloupe

Neither variety did especially well. Recommendation percentages for both varieties were low. ‘Solstice’ was rated higher for its more attractive fruits. ‘El Gordo’ vines were very healthy and vigorous.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
El Gordo	50	25	4.50
Solstice	50	50	5.88
			(9 sites)



Melon, Galia

Neither of these varieties excelled or distinguished itself from the other. Gardeners enjoyed the sweet and juicy flavor of Galia melons, but yields were only fair and recommendations were lukewarm.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Arava	56	45	5.60
Diplomat	44	55	5.50
			(15 sites)



Red Okra

Plants of both varieties were healthy and beautiful. ‘Candle Fire’ grew taller and produced more pods. Its pods were bright red, ribless, tender and slow to become fibrous. Its prickly plants irritated skin when touched.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Candle Fire	77	53	6.67
Carmin Splendor	23	53	5.93
			(16 sites)



Pea, Shell

‘Lincoln’ had bigger pods, many more pods, and continued to produce even during a severe drought. ‘Sienna’ matured a week earlier and had a more concentrated harvest. The peas of both varieties were sweet and delicious.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lincoln	77	90	8.17
Sienna	23	58	6.87
			(38 sites)



Pea, Snap

The purple flowers and pods of ‘Sugar Magnolia’ were beautiful, but its pods were tough and tasteless. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ matured a little later and its harvest extended much longer. Its pods were much sweeter and juicier.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sugar Magnolia	16	32	6.28
Super Sugar Snap	84	76	7.64
			(31 sites)



Pumpkin, Small

The vines of both varieties were healthy and productive. ‘Neon’ has always done well in our trials and it was the winner this year. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners loved its precocious, bright orange color.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early Scream	31	77	6.57
Neon	69	92	7.79
			(16 sites)



Pumpkin, Medium

‘Howden’ is a popular variety in the USA, but our gardeners clearly preferred ‘Early King’. ‘Early King’ matured earlier and produced much higher yields. Its pumpkins were bigger at most sites and the fruits were judged to be more beautiful.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early King	86	86	7.93
Howden	14	64	6.71
			(15 sites)



Pumpkin, Large

‘Early Giant’ germinated better and produced higher yields. Its pumpkins were judged to be more attractive by most gardeners. ‘Howden Biggie’ produced big pumpkins but its performance was less consistent throughout our dry ND.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early Giant	62	92	7.46
Howden Biggie	38	69	6.69
			(17 sites)



Radish, Purple (Fall)

'Bacchus' germinated well, grew vigorously, produced higher yields and was ready to harvest earlier. Its roots were deep purple and consistent in color. 'Amethyst' was a redder, more brilliant shade of purple. Gardeners liked its mild flavor.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Amethyst	40	66	6.73
Bacchus	60	80	7.45
			(52 sites)



Radish, Red (Fall)

Both varieties produced bright red, crisp and tasty roots. 'Roxanne' had a little more vigor and often produced higher yields. Its roots were larger and milder. 'Rover' roots were uniform in shape and had a classic, peppery kick.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Rover	47	76	7.65
Roxanne	53	78	7.59
			(47 sites)



Spinach, Savoy Leaf (Fall)

Most gardeners preferred 'Emperor'. It germinated better, grew quicker and produced higher yields. 'Reflect' excelled in no traits. The plants of both varieties were healthy and delicious. Germination was a challenge due to the drought.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Emperor	58	69	6.78
Reflect	42	47	6.09
			(44 sites)



Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

'Space' showed remarkable resistance to bolting, leading to more harvests and higher yields. More gardeners preferred the looks and taste of its leaves. 'Olympia' germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier at many sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Olympia	38	63	6.75
Space	62	79	7.33
			(34 sites)



Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

'Red Kitten' generated a lot of excitement. The red veins and stems of its leaves added bright color to salads. 'Gazelle' produced higher yields and was ready to harvest sooner. Its leaves were dark green, large and flavorful.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Gazelle	45	81	6.96
Red Kitten	55	70	6.87
			(62 sites)



Squash, Straightneck

The varieties were similar in many respects and both produced an amazing amount of squash. Most gardeners preferred 'Fortune.' They hailed 'Fortune' for its superior taste and its thin, smooth skin.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Fortune	63	75	8.00
Multipik	38	63	7.38
			(10 sites)



Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

Most gardeners preferred 'Raven'. They reported it germinated better and matured faster. They liked its dark, glossy skin and the straightness of its fruits. 'Raven' can produce quickly, a valuable trait in our short growing season.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Dunja	29	57	6.57
Raven	71	71	7.57
			(9 sites)



Squash, Green Zucchini

'Payload' matured earlier and produced good yields. Its fruits were more attractive, uniformly shaped, delicious, and had a softer, more palatable skin. Gardeners liked the strong germination and vigor of 'Spineless Perfection'.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Payload	63	67	7.89
Spineless Perf'n	38	78	7.22
			(9 sites)



Swiss Chard, White

Gardeners strongly preferred ‘Silverado’. They liked its crinkly leaves, superior flavor and higher yields. ‘Barese’ leaves were thicker, smoother and easier to clean. It seemed that insect pests—and a few gardeners—resisted eating it.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Barese	11	67	6.56
Silverado	89	89	8.56
(11 sites)			



Watermelon, Red

Gardeners were especially impressed with the sweet and delicious, deep red flesh of ‘Sangria’. Its vines were more productive and its first melons ripened at the same time as those of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’, a proven performer in ND.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Sangria	71	63	6.60
Swt Dakota Rose	29	44	6.27
(22 sites)			



Watermelon, Red Icebox

Yields of both varieties were poor and gardeners were not happy. ‘Sugar Baby’ had better germination, healthier vines, higher yields and better quality fruits. The hybrid ‘Jade Star’ was a disappointment.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Jade Star	33	22	5.22
Sugar Baby	67	56	5.44
(15 sites)			



Watermelon, Yellow

‘Lemon Krush’ rated higher for most traits and its striped green rind was judged more attractive than the distinctive yellow rind of ‘Gold in Gold.’ Neither variety gained a high number of recommendations.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Gold in Gold	50	57	5.29
Lemon Krush	50	43	5.86
(10 sites)			



Basil, Italian

Both varieties grew well at most sites. Most gardeners preferred ‘Genovese’ and almost all recommended it. It germinated better. Its plants were larger, fuller and healthier. ‘Eleonora’ got off to a slow start but grew well later.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Eleonora	33	67	6.84
Genovese	67	95	7.95
(27 sites)			



Basil, Thai

Most gardeners preferred ‘Siam Queen’ for its milder flavor. ‘Cardinal’ germinated much better across sites. ‘Cardinal’ grew more vigorously, produced more leaves and was ready to harvest earlier in the season.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cardinal	40	80	7.60
Siam Queen	60	80	5.40
(8 sites)			



Cilantro

Both varieties were healthy and productive. Most gardeners preferred ‘Calypso’. It showed remarkable resistance to bolting. Its plants were full and bushy, and gardeners enjoyed its mild flavor. ‘Cruiser’ also resisted bolting and grew well.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Calypso	70	80	7.90
Cruiser	30	50	6.30
(13 sites)			



Cosmos, Novelty

Most gardeners preferred the double-petalled variety ‘Double Click’. It bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers. ‘Double Click’ consistently grew well. ‘Cupcakes’ had large, long-lasting blooms and tall, healthy plants.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cupcakes	35	78	7.35
Double Click	65	94	8.18
(27 sites)			



Sunflower, Gold Cutting

'ProCut Gold' had healthier stalks and seemed to tolerate the drought better. Its blooms were large, symmetrical and attractive. 'Vincent's Fresh' bloomed earlier. Its flowers were beautiful but not as symmetrical.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
ProCut Gold	57	76	7.86
Vincent's Fresh	43	71	7.48

(27 sites)



Zinnia, Scarlet

The plants were filled with huge blooms. 'Benary's Giant' flowers were slightly larger, all with double petals, and more uniform in color. 'Giant Dahlia' bloomed a few days earlier. Its flowers were less uniform but just as beautiful.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Benary's Giant	48	88	8.08
Giant Dahlia	52	84	8.20

(61 sites)

Bean, Green

Varieties

'Bush Blue Lake 274'

56 days. The standard for yield and quality. Dark green, stringless pods. Dependable.

'Inspiration'

56 days. New, award-winning bean. Dark green, straight, stringless pods. Good heat tolerance.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	B.B. Lake		
	274	Inspiration	Same
Germinated best	64%	18%	18%
Healthier plants	45	5	50
Harvested earlier	18	50	32
Higher yields	33	43	24
More attractive pods	23	59	18
Tasted better	19	38	43
Preference	43	57	
Recommend (☺)	68	68	
Mean score ¹	7.59	7.55	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Bush Blue Lake 274'

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
 Inspiration ★★★★★ ☺ MN

I prefer the length and color of the 'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
 Inspiration ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had larger pods; the size we were used to. It was more tender, looked better, and it was easier to tell when to pick because of their size. 'Inspiration' pods were slightly more in number but lower in overall yield. Its pods were thinner, took longer to cook to become tender, and sweeter. Both varieties had a second crop of beans.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
 Inspiration ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had over 90% germination and looked good. Its plants were taller, greener and upright. Produced twice as much per picking. Its pods were straighter, longer, greener and resisted rust much better. I appreciate the quality and quantity as well as the easiness of picking. Matured on July 20, 7 days later than 'Inspiration'.

'Inspiration' had less than 50% germination and its plants were weaker. Both varieties had excellent flavor and color.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
 Inspiration ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Bush Blue Lake 274' suffered less damage to cutworms. Produced higher yields (20 versus 9.25 quarts) and had more bean flavor. Matured on July 21, 4 days later than 'Inspiration'. 'Inspiration' pods had a grassy taste.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹
 Inspiration ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced a bit more throughout the summer. Some of its pods were flat. I did not like the shiny appearance of 'Inspiration' pods.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
 Inspiration ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods had a better shape and were more tender; excellent flavor. The dry, hot conditions didn't seem to affect either variety too much. Both varieties yielded well.

'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated better and its plants showed good vigor.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
 Bush Blue Lake 274

Strong performers
 Derby
 Espada
 Greencrop
 Inspiration
 Jade
 Pike
 Provider
 Strike

Prefer 'B. B. Lake 274' (continued)

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹️
Inspiration ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

Only half of the seeds of both varieties germinated. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated better.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊
Inspiration ★★★★★ ☹️ SW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced a better stand which led to higher yields. Hardier plants. Its pods could get large with huge seeds; taste is okay if you catch them early. 'Inspiration' matured 1 week earlier. Its plants had shallow roots and pulled out of the ground easily. Its pods were more tender and have better flavor. Both varieties did well despite the drought. Once it started raining in July they really took off and were still blooming in late August.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both did great. They both produced like crazy, which my friends were happy about! I liked the taste of both. I would plant both again. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' is a very reliable variety; great yields and tastes good.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊
Inspiration ★★★★★ ☹️ SD

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had significantly better germination. The pods of both varieties looked more like lima beans than green beans late in the season.

Prefer Inspiration

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹️
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Inspiration' had a much bushier plant with more beans. Both varieties had long, straight beans.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹️
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Inspiration' tasted better and had more attractive pods.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties had nearly 100% germination. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' plants seemed to grow more quickly than 'Inspiration'. Both varieties had great flavor and produced lovely beans through September, which is a month longer than usual. The compact plants and high yields of 'Inspiration' were ideal. Its pods were narrow.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Even when almost overripe, 'Inspiration' pods looked better and tasted better. It's my choice for next year. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated a few more plants and produced higher yields (18.2 versus 16.4 pounds). Some 'Bush Blue 274' pods were flatter.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹️
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 NE

The pods of 'Inspiration' were long, tender and attractive. My spouse loved 'Inspiration' for freezing, canning and fresh eating.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☹️
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Inspiration' produced first. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' had many flat beans and their vines were taller.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked how dark green and snappy 'Inspiration' pods were; not lumpy like 'Bush Blue Lake 274'. 'Inspiration' tasted better and stayed sweet longer. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' was more drought resistant and was good if picked before the pods got seedy. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' was occasionally stringy when snapped.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊
Inspiration ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Inspiration' had nice long, straight beans. Its vines were good producers.

'Inspiration' produced first. Its pods were long, straight and more attractive.

Prefer 'Inspiration' (continued)

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Inspiration ★★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' had a tendency to overgrow. It produced an abundance of foliage with a medium size yield. 'Inspiration' produced pods well past the time 'Blue Lake 274' was done producing. Less foliage also made it easier to harvest. We really liked 'Inspiration'. It's a great variety and I hope I can find some seeds in the future.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Inspiration ★★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Inspiration' had a smaller plant, but produced more beans and up to a week earlier. Its pods were more uniform. Both varieties tasted very good, and produced very well for a dry season.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★★ 😊
 Inspiration ★★★★★★ 😊 SC
 Very difficult to pick one over the other.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Inspiration ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
 The pods of 'Inspiration' were smooth—beautiful green color—easy to miss when picking.

Conclusions

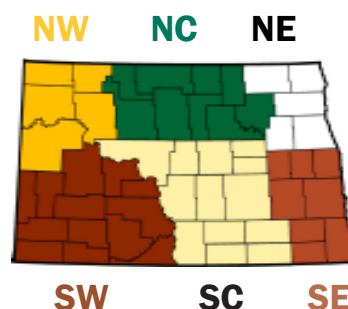
Both varieties produced well under dry conditions. Most gardeners preferred 'Inspiration' for its long, straight pods. This heat-tolerant variety was earlier and showed remarkable consistency across sites, even in a drought. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated better and its plants showed good vigor.

Both varieties produced well under dry conditions. Heat-tolerant 'Inspiration' showed remarkable consistency across sites.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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



MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Bean, Green Slim-Pod

Varieties

'Crockett'

60 days. Dark and slender filet pods. Yields are heavy and continuous. Proven performer in ND.

'Pike'

55 days. Dark green, straight, smooth pods. Excellent yields. Proven performer in ND.



Data

Gardeners at 37 sites submitted information.

Trait	Crockett	Pike	Same
Germinated best	36%	12%	52%
Healthier plants	35	13	52
Harvested earlier	40	37	23
Higher yields	45	16	39
More attractive pods	39	16	45
Tasted better	29	23	48
Preference	58	42	
Recommend (☺)	80	70	
Mean score ¹	8.40	8.03	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.50	

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

Gardeners loved the impressive yields and slender pods of both varieties.

Prefer 'Crockett'

Crockett ★★★★★ ☺
Pike ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Pike' beans were very consistent in size and yield—very tasty bean—nice shape and size. 'Crockett' were good too. I will never plant 'Blue Lake' beans again! These are so much better! We harvested these for two full months and they were consistently good. I want seed for these varieties next year!

Crockett ★★★★★ ☺
Pike ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Crockett' plants were healthier. Both varieties were excellent!

Crockett ★★★★★ ☺
Pike ★★★★★ ☹ MN

Both varieties performed pretty good. The production of 'Crockett' was very good.

Crockett ★★★★★ ☺
Pike ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both varieties succumbed to foliar disease in August, though continued to produce. 'Pike' pods were thicker. I preferred the slim pods of 'Crockett'. 'Crockett' produced more pods. Both were quite good about not overgrowing if picking was delayed for some reason. Regarding taste, my husband preferred 'Pike' stating 'Crockett' tasted "green." Others could tell no taste difference, thinking both were very good when prepared fresh. More disease resistance would make them ideal. For years I planted 'Slenderette', saving seed from year to year. This year, I couldn't find my seed. That's why I was interested in trying these new varieties. In the future, I won't be concerned about having lost my 'Slenderette' seed.

Crockett ★★★★★ ☺
Pike ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both were excellent. 'Pike' had a few diseased plants very late in the season after it was really wet (September).

Crockett ★★★★★ ☺
Pike ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Crockett' has more flavor! 'Pike' pods were longer and glossier.

Crockett ★★★★★ ☺
Pike ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Crockett' had no fuzz on pods. They were beautiful, dark green and straight. Stayed dark green when cooked.

Best green filet bean varieties

Top choice
Crockett

Strong performers
Maxibel
Serengeti

Prefer 'Crockett' (continued)

Crockett  😊
Pike  😞 SE

'Crockett' produced higher yields (12.75 versus 10.5 quarts for 'Pike').

Crockett  😊
Pike  😊 SE

Both varieties did well. You had to be careful when taking beans from the vine as they broke off at ground level, but they both did that. I think it was just the year.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😞 NC

'Crockett' plants were fuller and taller. These awesome plants produced a lot of nice beans. So many! The pods were pretty, green and waxy; they tasted sweet with no aftertaste. 'Pike' did not germinate or grow as well. Its pods left a bitter aftertaste.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😞 NC

'Crockett' was ready to harvest a day or two earlier. I just love the dark green color of its pods plus the smooth feel and shiny look. Beautiful! My taste testers and I thought 'Crockett' had a fresher taste. The plants of both varieties were nice and bushy. They both produced loads of nice green beans!

Crockett  😞
Pike  😞 NC

'Crockett' had better plants and higher yield, but this was not a good year for my garden.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😊 SC

I loved the slim beans from both varieties, but 'Crockett' had a better taste and texture.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😊 SC

Both varieties germinated well and their plants were very similar. I loved the slim beans from both varieties, but 'Crockett' pods were more uniform and straight. 'Pike' had a slightly better taste, but once cooked both were very good. Both varieties work really well for a small garden, but I prefer the dark green, slim pods of 'Crockett'.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😞 SC

'Crockett' was a better bean all around. Better yield and taste.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😞 NW

'Crockett' had nice looking pods and great flavor. I had never grown slender green beans before. Both varieties had great flavor and produced well. I will grow a slender variety again next year as I have usually grown bush beans that yield the larger pods in the past.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😊 NW

'Crockett' beans are really tasty, even raw. It gave us a little better yield than 'Pike'.

Prefer 'Pike'

Crockett  😊
Pike  😊 MN

These slim-pod beans are my new favorite! Goodbye 'Blue Lake'. We loved both of these varieties. They were very productive all summer and well into October. Nice, long, dark green beans on beautiful bushy plants. The pods stayed slim and never got big and seedy. Both tasted excellent. 'Pike' had the most flowers and its pods had more of a buttery flavor.

Crockett  😊
Pike  😊 SE

Excellent germination for both varieties. Both were very healthy throughout the season. 'Crockett' produced very well but 'Pike' had more beans per plant (an average of 25 beans per plant!). Both had great looking, delicious dark green beans! I loved that both varieties were still producing delicious beans up to the first killing frost (into October!). Amazing and delicious! Both kept well and tasted "just-picked" even after a week in the refrigerator. I usually grow pole beans, never having much success with bush beans ... until now! I will be growing these two if I can find them in seed catalogs.

The pods of 'Crockett' were glossy, dark green and delicious. Its vines were very productive.

The pods of 'Pike' were long, straight and deep green.

Prefer 'Pike' (continued)

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

I had to replant 'Pike' three times. I don't know if rabbits were eating it or what, but once it came up it was much better than 'Crockett'. 'Pike' beans were really nice. Bigger, nicer pods and good taste. Neither variety was over the top but 'Pike' was better to eat and produced more.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

Filet beans always have a nice uniform size. They are not only great from garden to table, but because of their thin size they make a very attractive pickled bean. Great yields on both beans all summer and in to fall. This trial came as surprise to me. Having had experience with 'Crockett' from a past trial I thought it would be top performer, but 'Pike' won me over. It was a tenderer bean with almost no string. Both varieties showed great resiliency to the tough growing conditions that we felt this summer and I would plant either again.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties had near 100% germination, grew healthy, had attractive pods and produced similar yields. 'Pike' tasted best.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Pike' showed greater vigor early in the season, but the plants of both varieties lodged on July 21. 'Pike' bloomed and set pods a few days earlier. Both varieties had tremendous yields and 'Crockett' kept blooming into October. 'Pike' tasted better.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Pike' plants were healthy, dark green, and easy to pick. They produced first and produced longer. Its pods were long, slender, tender, crisp, dark green and delicious. Both varieties had great taste and were wonderful cooked. Both were tender, crisp and great color.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I prefer 'Pike' for its earlier yield. 'Crockett' germinated better and produced sustained yields. Both varieties continued to produce into September. Every picking was worth going through every plant because there was always a nice bowl full. The pods of both varieties were smooth and easy to clean.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties did well. 'Pike' produced edible pods 4–5 days earlier. I liked the smooth, mild flavor of both varieties.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were very good. We preferred 'Pike' as it had slightly better germination and was available just a little earlier to eat.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Pike' pods were longer and easy to clean. 'Crockett' pods were slow to get seedy.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

The pod of 'Pike' was just as its name implied—a "pike"—long and straight—like a pencil. Very uniform and beautiful, deep dark green.

Crockett ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Pike ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Really impressed with both varieties but I liked 'Pike' the best. 'Pike' performed just a little better than 'Crockett' in all areas and it did not go to seed as quickly. Both varieties are great and I will not plant standard beans like 'Top Crop' again.

Conclusions

Both varieties were exceptional. Their pods were straight and slender. Yields were tremendous and went long into the season. Gardeners raved over the glossy, smooth, dark green, filet pods of 'Crockett'. Its yields were especially impressive. 'Pike' pods were long, straight and tender.

Bean, Purple

Varieties

‘Purple Queen Improved’

55 days. Dark purple blooms with colorful red stems. Delicious pods turn green when cooked.

‘Royal Burgundy’

55 days. Pods are 5 inches long, stringless and tender. Dark purple pods turn green when cooked.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	P. Queen Imp.	Royal Burgundy	Same
Germinated best	40%	20%	40%
Healthier plants	30	10	60
Harvested earlier	25	25	50
Higher yields	33	11	56
More attractive pods	13	25	63
Tasted better	13	25	63
Preference	63	38	
Recommend (☺)	44	44	
Mean score ¹	7.00	6.11	
Median score ¹	7.00	6.00	

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

Prefer ‘Purple Queen Improved’

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★☺
 Royal Burgundy ★★★★★☺ SC

‘Purple Queen Improved’ pods were more tender for eating and had a sweeter flavor. ‘Royal Burgundy’ plants were a bit taller, but the pods tasted plain and were a bit stringier.

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★☺
 Royal Burgundy ★★★★★☺ NW
 No comments.

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★☹
 Royal Burgundy ★★★★★☹ NW

‘Purple Queen Improved’ showed better germination and early growth. No yield from either variety.

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★☺
 Royal Burgundy ★★★★★☹ SW

Both varieties produced a second crop in the late summer, but ‘Purple Queen Improved’ continued producing longer and gave heavier yields again. ‘Purple Queen Improved’ produced earliest, gave the heaviest yields, and had the straightest pods. Its taste was excellent. ‘Royal Burgundy’, which I have grown for many years, is not a bad second choice.

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★☺
 Royal Burgundy ★★★★★☹ MT

‘Purple Queen Improved’ performed better under our drought conditions.

Prefer ‘Royal Burgundy’

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★☹
 Royal Burgundy ★★★★★☹ NE

Both varieties had poor germination and their plants were fairly low in vigor. ‘Royal Burgundy’ had better germination and more vigor. It produced a small yield for a long time. The pods of both varieties were pretty and had a nice fresh taste.

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★☹
 Royal Burgundy ★★★★★☺ SC

‘Royal Burgundy’ may not have had as many pods but they were more attractive and tasted much better; sweeter.

‘Purple Queen Improved’ was more likely to produce a decent crop.

Best purple bush bean varieties

Top choice
 Purple Queen Improved

Strong performer
 Royal Burgundy

Gardeners enjoyed the colorful pods but were disappointed with the lack of vigor of both varieties.

Prefer 'R. Burgundy' (continued)

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★ ☹️
Royal Burgundy ★★★★★ 😊 SC
'Royal Burgundy' was far better. It had healthier plants with big pods. I don't know what was "improved" in the 'Purple Queen Improved'. The plants were smaller and the stems were easier to damage/break. The pods of both varieties were fun to use in salads because of the color.

Other

Purple Queen Imp. ★★★★★ ☹️
Royal Burgundy ★★★★★ ☹️ MN
Both tasted really good but were about half as productive as our green beans.

Conclusions

Both varieties struggled under the dry conditions. Gardeners liked the colorful pods, but they were not impressed by the vigor or yields of the plants. The majority of gardeners preferred 'Purple Queen Improved'. It germinated better and was more likely to produce a decent crop.

Bean, Yellow

Varieties

'Carson'

52 days. Slender, very attractive pods. Productive plants. Flavorful. Proven performer in ND.

'Gold Rush'

53 days. Standard, popular variety. Long, straight pods hang in clusters and are easy to pick. Good yields.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Carson	Gold Rush	Same
Germinated best	12%	24%	65%
Healthier plants	24	24	53
Harvested earlier	24	18	59
Higher yields	35	18	47
More attractive pods	35	12	53
Tasted better	13	13	75
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (☺)	71	65	
Mean score ¹	7.32	7.32	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Carson

Carson ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Carson' was a bigger producer. Its first yield was 4 quarts compared to 1 quart for 'Gold Rush'. Overall, it produced 18 quarts compared to 16.5 quarts for 'Gold Rush'. I liked its more slender pods. 'Gold Rush' produced into the fall.

Carson ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ NC

I think all seeds germinated. Both varieties showed resistance to drought. They seemed to bloom and bear at the same time. 'Carson' pods were tastier and "snapped" better. Its pods stayed smooth as they matured and were slightly sweeter.

Carson ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ NC
I liked both; good flavor. 'Carson' yielded a longer harvest time. I froze several packages.

Carson ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SC
'Carson' tasted a little better.

Carson ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SC
There were no notable differences between varieties. Both did great and produced well. 'Carson' had a slightly longer bean.

Carson ★★★★★ ☆ ☹
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SW
'Carson' germinated a little better, but I did not have good yields of either variety. I had other people say they did not have a good bean crop this year.

Carson ★★★★★ ☆ ☹
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SW
'Carson' had more pods and bigger pods. Not a good bean year—so dry. Both varieties got rust fairly badly when we did finally get rain in August.

Carson ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SW
'Carson' was more productive. It had a longer fruiting season.

Gardeners judged these varieties to be very similar. They liked 'Carson' for its slender pods and good yields.

Best yellow bush bean varieties

Top choice
Carson

Strong performer
Gold Rush



**Gardeners
praised ‘Gold
Rush’ for its
long, straight
pods.**



Prefer Gold Rush



Carson 
 Gold Rush  MN
 ‘Gold Rush’ had healthier plants and higher yields. Its pods were longer and straighter.

Carson 
 Gold Rush  NE
 Both are okay for a yellow bean. It’s good to mix colors but they are not as good as green beans.

Carson 
 Gold Rush  SE
 Pretty close, but ‘Gold Rush’ pods were easier to slice and have less of a string. Both tasted good, produced well, had straight pods and froze well. ‘Gold Rush’ rebloomed better after the first crop.

Carson 
 Gold Rush  SE
 ‘Gold Rush’ had higher production and fewer small, twisted beans. Plants of both varieties were healthy; produced okay but not stellar. Neither are as good as some varieties of green beans but combining with my green beans made for some awesome “bison beans.”



Carson 
 Gold Rush  SE
 ‘Gold Rush’ produced later into the season and higher yields overall. Both varieties produced short, curled pods during the hottest weather, but as the weather cooled, both produced long, straight beans again.

Carson 
 Gold Rush  NC
 Both varieties were enjoyed well into the fall. I did water a lot due to a bad drought here but they produced enough for us and some of the neighbors. They both had wonderful taste and were slow to get seedy even when I missed them when picking. Didn’t really have a preference but ‘Gold Rush’ did have a few more beans produced.

Carson 
 Gold Rush  NC

Both were a little slow to germinate due to dry soil. After getting established and watered regularly, they bushed up nicely. Both varieties produced well. Lots of beans on ‘Carson’. Beans of ‘Gold Rush’ were longer, straighter and had a mellow flavor.

Other

Carson - 
 Gold Rush -  NC

‘Carson’ had 100% germination; ‘Gold Rush’ had 82%. I could not tell any difference in yield, taste, health or producing first.

Carson 
 Gold Rush  NW

Both were the same; no preference. Neither seemed to produce as many beans as in previous years but it was a hard growing season with hot weather and no rain in July. It would be best to try again with better weather. The heat was really hard on the plants.

Conclusions

Gardeners judged these two varieties to be very similar. There was no consistent and clear advantage of one over the other. The majority of gardeners chose ‘Carson’. They liked its slender pods and good yields. Other gardeners praised ‘Gold Rush’ for its long, straight pods.

Bean, Green Pole

Varieties

'Kentucky Blue'

63 days. High quality bean. A cross between 'Kentucky Wonder' and 'Blue Lake'. Early. Vigorous vines.

'Monte Cristo'

71 days. From a new series of pole beans known for long, straight and tender pods. Bright green pods.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Ky. Blue	Monte Cristo	Same
Germinated best	13%	50%	38%
Healthier plants	43	43	14
Harvested earlier	43	43	14
Higher yields	38	50	13
More attractive pods	50	50	0
Tasted better	29	29	43
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	50	50	
Mean score ¹	6.13	6.75	
Median score ¹	6.50	6.00	

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

Prefer Kentucky Blue

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☺
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Kentucky Blue' had a larger yield. It was easier to pick since its pods were spread more along the vine. 'Monte Cristo' had bushier and longer vines. Its pods were mostly near the top, so you need a taller pole/fencing. Made it difficult to find and pick beans.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☹
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Kentucky Blue' bloomed earlier.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☺
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Monte Cristo' had bigger plants but lower yields. 'Kentucky Blue' was very good tasting and had a lot of beans.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☺
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Kentucky Blue' produced a few days earlier, and 'Monte Cristo' had a lot of brown spots on its pods. 'Monte Cristo' had more pods, but in appearance and taste 'Kentucky Blue' was better. Our garden was very dry all year.

Prefer Monte Cristo

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☺
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Monte Cristo' had twice the amount of beans on the plants. They were longer and seemed easier to pick.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☹
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☺ SC

All beans were planted the same day but 'Monte Cristo' popped out first. They were very vigorous climbers, produced lots of blossoms, and lots and lots of beans. 'Monte Cristo' vines grew to over 8 feet tall! I made an arch from one raised bed to the other with a livestock panel and they made it to the center of it! They were also more frost/cold resistant than the 'Kentucky Blue' vines. I was able to cover all of them but 'Monte Cristo' continued to even put on blossoms!

'Kentucky Blue' and 'Monte Cristo' grew well, but neither variety was outstanding or clearly superior to the other.

Best green pole bean varieties

Top choice
 Fortex

Strong performers

- Kentucky Blue
- Monte Cristo
- Orient
- Wonder
- Stringless Blue
- Lake S-7

The vines of 'Monte Cristo' were vigorous and often produced higher yields.

Prefer 'Monte Cristo' (continued)

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☹️
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Monte Cristo' won in taste and yield. We will be saving seeds from both varieties.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☹️
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Kentucky Blue' did not germinate.

Conclusions

Neither variety was amazing and neither variety outshone the other. Their vines were healthy and their pods were tasty and attractive. 'Monte Cristo' germinated well; its vines were very vigorous and often produced higher yields.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

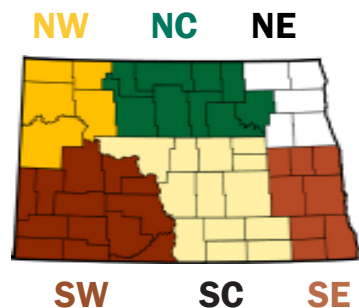
Ratings (1 to 10) → ★★★★★

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) ↓ 😊 ☹️

Location ← NC

Comments ↙

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.



- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
- NC = North Central
- SC = South Central
- NW = Northwest
- SW = Southwest
- SD = South Dakota
- MT = Montana

Bean, Vegetable Soybean

Varieties

'Envy'

75 days. Reliable variety for the north. Upright 2-foot plants bear bright green seeds for edamame.

'Tohya'

55 days. Compact plants produce a concentrated set of pale green pods. Delicious, buttery flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Envy	Tohya	Same
Germinated best	33%	0%	60%
Healthier plants	38	13	50
Harvested earlier	13	63	25
Higher yields	56	11	33
More attractive pods	50	13	38
Tasted better	0	14	86
Preference	78	22	
Recommend (☺)	89	67	
Mean score ¹	7.44	6.44	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Envy

Envy ★★★★★☺
Tohya ★★★★★☹ SE
'Envy' produced longer and had longer pods. Both had many 2-seed pods.

Envy ★★★★★☺
Tohya ★★★★★☺ SE

Considering the dry conditions, both varieties were healthy. We had not previously raised vegetable soybeans. We had dry conditions and did not water often. We enjoyed the taste of both of these soybeans in salads and vegetable dishes. These were planted in partial shade and still yielded well. 'Envy' produced more pods per plant, but the pods of 'Tohya' were larger.

Envy ★★★★★☺
Tohya ★★★★★☺ SC

'Envy' had taller, fuller plants with more pods per plant. The pods were also a bit larger and greener than 'Tohya'.

Envy ★★★★★☺
Tohya ★★★★★☺ SC

This is a toss up; however, 'Envy' was slightly fuller with pods than 'Tohya'.

Envy ★★★★★☺
Tohya ★★★★★☹ NW

More seeds in the pods.

Envy ★★★★★☺
Tohya ★★★★★☺ NW

The first planting of these was on June 3 but the pheasants at 85% of them so I replanted on June 17 with chicken wire around them.

Both came up and produced the same. I had no preference really, as they were both really good. They were nice to snack on. After they had been boiled, we froze in baggies and warmed up in microwave for snacks.

Envy ★★★★★☺
Tohya ★★★★★☹ SW

'Envy' germinated better.

The proven reliability of 'Envy' was on display this summer. It produced higher yields and good pod quality under dry conditions.

Best vegetable soybean varieties

Top choice
Tohya

Strong performer
Envy

‘Tohya’ was earlier. Its ability to produce high yields was stifled by the devastating drought.

Prefer Tohya

Envy  😊
Tohya  😊 SE

‘Tohya’ resisted the aphid infestation a little better (this might be a coincidence). Tasted similar.

Envy  😞
Tohya  😊 SC

Near 100% germination. ‘Tohya’ matured earlier although ‘Envy’ leaves started changing color first. I picked three different times at 3- to 4-day intervals, pulling out plants at the last picking. ‘Envy’ produced more of the larger pods. ‘Tohya’ tasted sweeter and was more tender. I have never planted soybeans before. Now I’m hooked. Love them.

Conclusions

The proven reliability of ‘Envy’ was borne out in this summer’s drought. It produced higher yields than ‘Tohya’ and was a more consistent performer. Its pods looked more attractive and matched ‘Tohya’ for taste. ‘Tohya’ was earlier. Its ability to produce high yields of large pods never materialized due to the drought.

Beet, Gold

Varieties

'Boldor'

55 days. Dark golden beets. Bright yellow flesh keeps its color when cooked. Sweet flavor.

'Touchstone Gold'

55 days. The standard for quality. Smooth golden roots with vibrant yellow flesh. Retains its color when cooked. Sweet, mellow flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Touchstone		
	Boldor	Gold	Same
Germinated best	38%	23%	38%
Healthier plants	31	31	38
Harvested earlier	33	33	33
Higher yields	50	36	14
More attractive roots	21	29	50
Tasted better	23	15	62
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	75	73	
Mean score ¹	7.62	7.38	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Boldor

Boldor ★★★★★😊
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊 NE

'Boldor' showed slightly better vigor under very dry conditions. Compared to red beets, these gold roots threw me off guard, even though the taste was the same.

Boldor ★★★★★😊
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊 SE

'Boldor' had higher germination, higher yield and slightly sweeter taste.

Boldor ★★★★★😊
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊 SE

'Boldor' had a higher yield and bigger beets. Its roots had a bolder, darker orange color. Both varieties had good flavor.

Boldor ★★★★★😊
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊 NC

Both varieties were very good. They produced tasty, nice sized beets. 'Boldor' produced higher yields.

Boldor ★★★★★😊
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊 SC

'Boldor' excelled in all categories. I will grow 'Boldor' again.

Boldor ★★★★★😊
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊 SC

'Boldor' had taller, fuller looking greens and tasted a bit better than "Touchstone Gold". Both varieties produced smaller beets than I am used to. This may be due to the extreme dry conditions, but I did try to water regularly.

Boldor ★★★★★😊
Touchstone Gold ★★★★★😊 SE

'Boldor' featured a more "golden" color. Both were pretty tasty and unique. We liked gold beets.

These varieties were very similar, and gardeners liked both equally.

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
Boldor

Strong performer
Touchstone Gold

Prefer 'Touchstone Gold'

Boldor ★★★★★☆ 😊

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

The roots of 'Touchstone Gold' were bigger and tastier.

Boldor ★★★★★☆ 😞

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Touchstone Gold' had higher yield.

Boldor ★★★★★☆ 😊

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Touchstone Gold' had superior flavor and color.

Boldor - 😞

Touchstone Gold - 😊 SE

'Boldor' did not come up. I recommend 'Touchstone Gold'.

Boldor ★★★★★★ 😊

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

These are the best beets I've ever eaten—both were delicious. The roots of 'Touchstone Gold' grew larger and faster.

Boldor ★★★★★☆ 😞

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Boldor' had very small beets; very little germination.

Boldor ★★★★★☆ 😊

Touchstone Gold ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

No comment.

Other

Boldor - 😊

Touchstone Gold - 😊 MN

Both varieties grew well. Their roots were very similar in size and look. I roasted them and thought they both had equally good flavor.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on their preferences. 'Boldor' showed a slight edge in seedling vigor and yield. The root appearance and flavor of 'Touchstone Gold' and 'Boldor' were similar.

Both varieties grew well and had equally good flavor.

Beet, Red

Varieties

‘Merlin’

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

‘Red Ace’

50 days. Smooth, globular, deep red roots. Sweet and tender. Bright green tops. Uniform and vigorous. Proven performer.



Data

Gardeners at 34 sites submitted information.

Trait	Merlin	Red Ace	Same
Germinated best	41%	16%	44%
Healthier plants	36	11	54
Harvested earlier	37	15	48
Higher yields	43	13	43
More attractive roots	30	17	53
Tasted better	37	17	47
Preference	70	30	
Recommend (☺)	73	57	
Mean score ¹	8.07	7.10	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer ‘Merlin’

Merlin ★★★★★☺
 Red Ace ★★★★★☹ MN
 ‘Red Ace’ did not germinate very well.

Merlin ★★★★★☺
 Red Ace ★★★★★☺ NE
 ‘Merlin’ matured first, but both were fast growing, had deep roots, and handled our lack of moisture very well. I made beet pickles from both varieties and could not tell them apart.

Merlin ★★★★★☺
 Red Ace ★★★★★☹ NE
 ‘Merlin’ produced more beets, but yields of both varieties were low.

Merlin ★★★★★☺
 Red Ace ★★★★★☹ NE

‘Merlin’ produced bigger and more roots, outyielding ‘Red Ace’ by about 25% Both varieties took about 14 days to germinate; ‘Merlin’ germinated a bit better. The roots of both varieties were very tasty!

Merlin ★★★★★☺
 Red Ace ★★★★★☹ SE
 ‘Merlin’ grew more vigorously and was taller.

Merlin ★★★★★☺
 Red Ace ★★★★★☺ SE
 Had more plants.

Merlin ★★★★★☹
 Red Ace ★★★★★☹ SE

I grew other beet varieties (‘Bull’s Blood’, ‘Chioggia’, and ‘Detroit Dark Red’) alongside the rows of ‘Merlin’ and ‘Red Ace’. They were all planted at the same time and grew under the same conditions. I was disappointed in both ‘Red Ace’ and ‘Merlin’. They never got very big. The largest ones only grew to about the size of golf balls. Yet my other beets grew to be almost baseball size. ‘Merlin’ and ‘Red Ace’ tasted good and may have grew larger if I had grown them during cooler temps. We preferred the taste of ‘Merlin’ just slightly over ‘Red Ace.’ The size and taste were good for roasting.

**‘Merlin’
 matched or
 outperformed
 ‘Red Ace’ in all
 measured
 traits,
 including yield
 and root
 quality.**



Best red beet varieties

Top choice
 Red Ace

Strong performers

- Bull’s Blood
- Detroit Dark Red
- Early Wonder
- Tall Top
- Merlin



Prefer 'Merlin' (continued)



Merlin 
 Red Ace  SE
 'Merlin' roots have a nice, round shape and dark red color. Very sweet taste. 'Red Ace' had poor germination.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  SE
 Merlin was a more flavorful beet and produced 5.3 pounds in our 6-foot rows. 'Red Ace' had a milder flavor and produced 4 pounds. Both had dark purple color.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  SE
 The beet roots of 'Merlin' were more uniform in size. For multiple uses, 'Merlin' was a better beet. It was sweeter than 'Red Ace' for table beets while also being a good choice for pickling. I try to keep some beets in the ground as late in the season as possible. For the fall picked beets, 'Merlin' is a better variety.



Merlin 
 Red Ace  SE
 'Merlin' showed better germination and more production.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  NC
 Both varieties had great germination and it appeared Merlin was close to 100%. Both had nice green healthy leaves; there were no diseases or pest problems. We planted half of each variety 2 weeks later. Both yielded a large amount of beets and early and late plants were excellent. Both varieties yield dark red beets that grew rapidly. We both preferred the taste of 'Merlin' over 'Red Ace'. Not only did 'Merlin' have a sweeter taste, but the texture was so much better. We like to grill beets in the summer and 'Merlin' isn't at all mealy. 'Merlin' is an excellent variety that we will plant again!



Merlin 
 Red Ace  NC
 All seeds germinated and plants were healthy. Both varieties were ready to harvest at the same time and are both producing well into October. 'Merlin' had sweeter taste and smoother skin.



Merlin 
 Red Ace  NC
 Both varieties were very sweet. I just cooked, diced and served with only butter! I preferred to harvest both varieties in the fall as I cooked, diced and froze most of them. I do not harvest smaller size for pickles or other uses. The hot and dry conditions did have some minimal effect.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  NC
 Very dry year. First planting of beets was very poor; spotty growth. I was gone away from my garden part time and should have been watering.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  SC
 'Merlin' produced earlier and looked healthier. The plants of both varieties were slow to start but then produced beautifully.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  SC
 'Merlin' was the better performer and tasted amazing.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  SC
 Very hard to tell any difference in looks or taste, but 'Merlin' grew faster and more uniformly. The roots of 'Red Ace' tended to stay smaller than 1 inch for a long time.

Merlin 
 Red Ace  SW
 Neither of these varieties produced any beets. They germinated and had nice leaves but there were no beets. Not sure why. I don't know if it was a combination of where the beets were planted; they definitely got watered; they just didn't produce. 'Merlin' had nicer green tops.

'Merlin' germinated better and produced higher yields. Its roots were very sweet and flavorful.

Prefer 'Merlin' (continued)

Merlin
 Red Ace SW

'Red Ace' roots had a "flowery" taste that I did not enjoy.

Merlin
 Red Ace SW

'Merlin' had a better germination rate. They tasted the same and both made good pickled beets.

Prefer 'Red Ace'

Merlin
 Red Ace MN

Both varieties were very good. 'Red Ace' won out with its superior flavor.

Merlin
 Red Ace MN

'Merlin' plants were taller at the beginning but as summer progressed the plants of both varieties looked more similar. 'Merlin' had larger beets early in the season. 'Red Ace' beets were more uniform in size and they tasted the best.

Merlin
 Red Ace MN

'Red Ace' had a more uniform, round beet.

Merlin
 Red Ace SE

'Red Ace' had healthier plants and its roots were more uniform.

Merlin
 Red Ace NC

'Merlin' roots looked better but 'Red Ace' roots tasted better.

Merlin -
 Red Ace - SC

'Merlin' did not germinate. We suffered from drought and our garden soil is sandy. I was surprised 'Red Ace' did so well. Its beets were red throughout and very tasty. The foliage seemed to resist bugs.

Merlin
 Red Ace NW

These two varieties were very similar in my trial. They both germinated really well. They both produced really nice sized, good tasting beets. They canned up very well. The voles really liked them too! I set traps for them, I sprinkled repellent on the ground but I still lost quite a bit to them. Both varieties were very good. I would plant either one of them again.

Merlin
 Red Ace NW

'Red Ace' produced higher yields. Its plants had more leaves that were larger and bushier.

Merlin
 Red Ace NW

Liked the dark red beets.

Other

Merlin -
 Red Ace - NW

We were unable to get either variety to germinate. We planted another variety in the same area that performed very well.

Conclusions

'Red Ace' has always done well in our trials, but it's performance was matched or surpassed by 'Merlin' in all traits. 'Merlin' germinated better and produced higher yields. The roots of 'Merlin' were very sweet and flavorful. Gardeners also liked the uniformity and taste of 'Red Ace' roots.

Gardeners liked the uniformity and taste of 'Red Ace' roots.

Carrot, Chantenay

Varieties

'Hercules'

65 days. Strong tops with cone-shaped roots. Stores well. Especially good in heavy or rocky soils. Proven performer.

'Royal Chantenay'

65 days. Standard carrot for heavy soils. Broad, blocky shape. Red-orange flesh is flavorful.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Royal		
	Hercules	Chant.	Same
Germinated best	60%	0%	40%
Healthier plants	67	11	22
Harvested earlier	44	44	11
Higher yields	70	20	10
More attractive roots	67	22	11
Tasted better raw	56	11	33
Tasted better cooked	50	13	38
Preference	70	30	
Recommend (☺)	50	20	
Mean score ¹	6.90	4.90	
Median score ¹	8.00	3.50	

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

Prefer 'Hercules'

Hercules ★★★★★ ☺
 Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Hercules' is an all-around better carrot: healthier plants, higher yields, better looking and better tasting.

Hercules ★★★★★ ☹
 Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Hercules' tasted somewhat better, was more attractive and had much higher yields.

Hercules ★★★★★ ☺
 Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Royal Chantenay' had very poor germination.

Hercules ★★★★★ ☹
 Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☹ SC

I prefer long, slender carrots. These were short and fat. 'Hercules' and looked more attractive. 'Royal Chantenay' had to be reseeded and still did poorly.

Hercules ★★★★★ ☺
 Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☹ SW

'Royal Chantenay' had only 40% germination. Lower germination led to lower yields. Its roots were bigger, possibly because they have more space, and they do not taste as good. 'Hercules' roots were smaller and sweeter.

Hercules ★★★★★ ☺
 Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Hercules' had a better stand of carrots.

Hercules ★★★★★ ☹
 Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☹ SW

The carrots only grew at the end of September, middle of October. What grew was not sufficient enough to eat. Both varieties germinated, but 'Hercules' was the only the only variety that grew.

'Hercules' had healthier plants and higher yields. Its roots were better looking and better tasting.

Best Chantenay carrot varieties

Top choice
 Hercules

Strong performers
 Caracas
 New Kuroda

Prefer ‘Royal Chantenay’

Hercules ★★★★★ 😊
Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Fair germination for both varieties.

‘Hercules’ roots got very big. Both varieties were delicious when cooked. We preferred ‘Royal Chantenay’. Its roots had sweet taste with good shape and size.

Hercules ★★★★★ 😞
Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 SE

I liked the appearance of ‘Royal Chantenay’. Both varieties tasted bitter.

Hercules ★★★★★ 😞
Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties had a hard time germinating. ‘Royal Chantenay’ had nice green tops and nice roots—sweet to taste.

Conclusions

‘Hercules’ has been a strong performer in previous testing, and this year’s performance reinforced its superiority. It was the better overall variety. It germinated better, was healthier, and produced more roots. Its roots were better looking and better tasting. ‘Royal Chantenay’ struggled and only a few gardeners recommended it. Both varieties had a hard time germinating in the dry soil.

‘Royal Chantenay’ struggled from the start. Only a few gardeners recommended it.

Carrot, Early Nantes

Varieties

'Goldfinger'

69 days. Dark orange roots with strong tops. Roots are uniform, smooth, straight and sweet. Popular carrot in North Dakota.

'Mokum'

54 days. Slender, deep orange roots known for their rich flavor and crisp texture. Popular baby carrot.



Data

Gardeners at 52 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold-finger	Mokum	Same
Germinated best	24%	28%	48%
Healthier plants	31	29	40
Harvested earlier	23	40	37
Higher yields	37	39	24
More attractive roots	38	28	35
Tasted better raw	30	33	38
Tasted better cooked	21	30	48
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	65	58	
Mean score ¹	6.52	7.02	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Goldfinger'

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ MN

'Goldfinger' carrots tasted better.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ MN

'Goldfinger' roots have a nice, uniform shape. 'Mokum' had many odd-shaped roots.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ MN

'Goldfinger' had higher yields. Both varieties had poor germination.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ NE

Good overall seed emergence. Both performed well. 'Goldfinger' had a nicer looking carrot; deep orange.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ NE

'Goldfinger' roots had a nice shape while those of 'Mokum' had multiple root shoots. Both varieties produced very low yields.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Goldfinger' was better looking and tasting.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SE

The yield of 'Goldfinger' was slightly higher. Its roots were less subject to splitting. 'Mokum' had more robust carrot flavor; 'Goldfinger' was dull and almost tasteless.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

No comments.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Mokum ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ NC

They did pretty well despite the lack of water. Several carrots grew 12 inches long. 'Goldfinger' was really nice.

Drought noticeably affected the germination and yield of both varieties.

Best early Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers
Laguna
Mokum
Nelson
Yaya

Prefer 'Goldfinger' (continued)

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties tasted great—never had a chance to cook them because the kids ate them too fast.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Goldfinger' tasted better both raw and cooked, but 'Mokum' was also sweet. The hot, dry summer did affect the yield and growth of my carrot crop, even though I watered the garden. Several packages of carrots are in the refrigerator.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I preferred the flavor of 'Goldfinger' as a mature carrot.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties are very good. It is so satisfying to harvest such an attractive crop, and they seem to keep most of the winter. 'Goldfinger' is a better producer.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 NW

They were both high producers. This was my first year in a raised bed, and these varieties did very well. Both were delicious raw and cooked.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties were good; only a couple weird roots. These varieties had great flavor. 'Goldfinger' looked more attractive.

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
 Mokum ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SW

'Goldfinger' was first to germinate, but both had poor germination. I replanted twice and now I have large and small carrots.

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ 😊
 Mokum ★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Very poor germination from both varieties; to the point that I could not compare yields.

Prefer 'Mokum'

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I got far more carrots from 'Mokum' due to better seed germination. Carrots from both varieties were consistent in appearance; they had delicious flavor and great texture.

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Mokum' had much better germination and production.

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Mokum' tasted better.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Neither variety germinated very well. 'Mokum' roots were smaller but its yields were higher. Both varieties tasted good but 'Mokum' was sweeter.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Mokum' tasted sweeter. 'Goldfinger' had a better plant stand. It seemed to have a moldy taste and appearance at the very top of the root.

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
 Mokum ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

Both varieties were very slow to germinate. The taste of 'Mokum' was okay—not great.

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
 Mokum ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both germinated very well and grew beautiful tops. 'Mokum' roots were straighter and more uniform. When eaten raw, its carrots tasted slightly better. When cooked, its carrots were sweeter and had more "carrot" taste.

Goldfinger ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
 Mokum ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Neither grew well this year for me. I have had 'Goldfinger' before and it did better. 'Mokum' had larger roots.

'Goldfinger' roots were more attractive. They were long, smooth and straight.

Many gardeners felt 'Mokum' roots were sweeter and more flavorful.

Prefer 'Mokum' (continued)

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC
 'Goldfinger' germinated better and produced more. Its carrots were nice and straight although it had many inches of a green core at top. 'Mokum' seemed more mature after 2 months. Some of its roots were forked. 'Mokum' won us over with its sweeter, yummy flavor.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC
 Very dry conditions contributed to poor (<20%) germination. 'Mokum' tasted better.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC
 I can't recommend these varieties because of their poor germination (less than 50%). 'Mokum' germinated better. We planted a third variety at the same time and they germinated just fine. 'Goldfinger' had taller, greener plants and produced larger carrots. They weren't longer, just wider. We thought 'Mokum' was much juicier and had more flavor. Both varieties were free of disease.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 Neither variety came up until mid-June in spite of watering. 'Mokum' had 5 times better germination.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 Both varieties were good but 'Mokum' performed better for me.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 Both germinated slowly. 'Mokum' grew bigger and faster. 'Goldfinger' was slower to germinate and mature, but the roots stayed at finger size. I preferred 'Mokum' because I could pick carrots as fingerlings or at 6 inches and still have deliciously sweet flavor.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😞 SC
 'Mokum' germinated poorly but tasted very good. 'Goldfinger' did not germinate.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 'Mokum' was a better producer. We loved 'Goldfinger' last year so we assume weather was a factor. Germination rates were down for both varieties and hardly any 'Goldfinger' germinated.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 'Goldfinger' did not germinate well.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW
 'Mokum' tasted good, yielded plenty. The carrots of both varieties became soft if I didn't eat them right away.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW
 Nice carrots, but I have really nice soil so I usually get beautiful carrots as the soil is loose enough that the roots grow nicely. 'Mokum' roots had a little better flavor raw.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW
 'Mokum' roots were a little sweeter but they had a tendency to split as they got bigger. Both varieties did well.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😞 SW
 Neither variety germinated well. 'Mokum' roots had a better shape and flavor.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Mokum ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW
 Excellent germination. Crazy roots for both. High yield for both. At least 100 pounds of carrots off this study. I have grown carrots for over 40 years and have never seen such crazy roots.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties but more of them recommended 'Goldfinger'. Its roots were straight, long and smooth. Many gardeners felt 'Mokum' roots were sweeter and more flavorful. The germination rates and yields of both varieties were noticeably reduced by the drought.

Carrot, Mainseason

Varieties

'Bolero'

75 days. Famous for its storage ability. Heavy yields of sweet, bright orange, tapered roots. Heavy, tall tops.

'Kuroda'

73 days. Heavy yields of deep orange, conical roots. Sweet and flavorful. High juice content.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bolero	Kuroda	Same
Germinated best	42%	25%	33%
Healthier plants	9	9	82
Harvested earlier	9	9	82
Higher yields	20	30	50
More attractive roots	18	36	45
Tasted better raw	18	45	36
Tasted better cooked	22	22	56
Preference	36	64	
Recommend (☺)	73	82	
Mean score ¹	6.73	7.27	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Bolero'

Bolero ★★★★★ ☺
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Bolero' was maybe a bit more consistent in size. It tasted better.

Bolero ★★★★★ ☺
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☹ NC

I thought 'Bolero' was a bit sweeter.

Bolero ★★★★★ ☺
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Bolero' seemed to produce better and had bigger and straighter roots. Both varieties had their share of odd looking roots. Both varieties were very good tasting; enjoyed both evenly. We froze a bunch of the carrots and they are very tasty.

Bolero ★★★★★ ☺
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Bolero' had longer roots. All of my root crops came up very spotty this year. This was not the best year for this test.

Prefer 'Kuroda'

Bolero ★★★★★ ☹
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Kuroda' roots had a better shape (no side shoots). 'Kuroda' had a better yield but yields were low for both varieties.

Bolero ★★★★★ ☺
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Kuroda' roots were better looking, sweeter, and less harsh on the crunch. Both varieties tasted excellent as a fresh garden carrot.

Bolero ★★★★★ ☺
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Kuroda' carrots had better flavor.

Bolero ★★★★★ ☺
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Fun to grow.

Bolero ★★★★★ ☹
Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ NW

'Kuroda' was very tasty.

Gardeners liked both varieties. The drought led to spotty germination and low yields in some gardens.

Best mainseason carrot varieties

Top choice
New Kuroda

Strong performer
Bolero
Romance
Scarlet Nantes

Gardeners who eat raw carrots preferred the taste of 'Kuroda'.

Prefer 'Kuroda' (continued)

Bolero ★★★★★ ☹️
 Kuroda ★★★★★ ☹️ NE

'Kuroda' produced better but its carrots were stubby. I don't think I would order either variety again. They were not good producers like other varieties in the past.

Bolero ★★★★★ 😊
 Kuroda ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Kuroda' tasted better, both raw and cooked. Both varieties had extremely poor germination, to the point that I could not evaluate yield.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties but the drought led to spotty germination and low yields in some gardens. Both varieties grew similarly and produced similar yields. The notable difference was in the eating quality of raw carrots, where 'Kuroda' excelled. 'Kuroda' is widely available, but an improved strain, called 'New (Shin) Kuroda', can be found and has performed well in trials in North Dakota.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

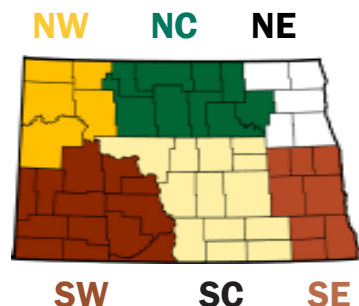
Ratings (1 to 10) → ★★★★★

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) ↓ ☹️

Location ← NC

Comments ↙

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.



- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
- NC = North Central
- SC = South Central
- NW = Northwest
- SW = Southwest
- SD = South Dakota
- MT = Montana

Carrot, Yellow

Varieties

'Chablis Yellow'

73 days. Long roots with large tops. Mild flavor. Danvers type is yellow to the core. Proven performer in ND.

'Solar Yellow'

63 days. Danvers type with broad base and distinct taper. Sweet flavor. The sunny yellow roots grow 7 inches long.



Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Chablis Yellow	Solar Yellow	Same
Germinated best	30%	10%	60%
Healthier plants	33	11	56
Harvested earlier	38	13	50
Higher yields	50	20	30
More attractive roots	44	11	44
Tasted better raw	40	30	30
Tasted better cooked	50	25	25
Preference	60	40	
Recommend (😊)	58	42	
Mean score ¹	6.30	5.60	
Median score ¹	6.00	5.00	

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

Prefer 'Chablis Yellow'

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😊
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Overall, 'Chablis Yellow' was better performing. Its roots looked and tasted better.

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😊
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Both varieties have a light carrot flavor. 'Solar Yellow' germinated better.

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😊
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Chablis Yellow' grew better; tasted "way" better. 'Solar Yellow' had a noticeable bolting problem.

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😊
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Chablis Yellow' did better in overall performance.

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😊
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😞 MT

I liked the taste of 'Chablis Yellow'.

Prefer 'Solar Yellow'

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😞
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Several of these grew 10 to 12 inches long. 'Solar Yellow' roots grew long and straight—no offshoots. I will grow yellow carrots again. They seem sweeter than the orange ones.

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😊
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Solar Yellow' was very tasty raw and cooked.

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😞
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Solar Yellow' had more tasty carrots. Both varieties had some tasty carrots and some blah carrots.

Chablis Yellow ★★★★★ 😊
Solar Yellow ★★★★★ 😞 SW

No comments.

'Chablis Yellow' was better overall. It had higher yields and superior taste.

Best yellow carrot variety

Top choice
Chablis Yellow

Germination of both varieties was greatly hampered by drought.

Prefer 'Solar Yellow' (continued)

Chablis Yellow  ☹️
Solar Yellow  ☹️ SW

Neither did well at all. 'Chablis Yellow' had a few straggly plants that never matured. 'Solar Yellow' had a total of four carrots that grew to an edible size. I have never had luck like this with carrots before.

Other

Chablis Yellow  ☹️
Solar Yellow  ☹️ SE

I did not think either variety tasted very good.

Conclusions

The germination rates in all of our carrot trials were reduced by drought. This was especially true for this trial, the only trial we used raw (not pelleted) seed. 'Chablis Yellow' was the stronger performer. It produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and tasted better. The seed of 'Chablis Yellow' is difficult to find, but the variety has won our yellow carrot trials every year.

Corn, Bicolor

Varieties

'Ambrosia' (se)

75 days. Popular for its delicious flavor, early vigor, and resistance to diseases. Large ears. Sturdy stalks.

'Peaches & Cream' (se)

83 days. Two different flavors in each bite. Small, deep kernels are bursting with sweetness.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Peaches & Cream		
	Ambrosia	Cream	Same
Germinated best	32%	47%	21%
Healthier plants	26	47	26
Harvested earlier	59	35	6
Higher yields	31	56	13
More attractive ears	29	41	29
Tasted better	24	41	35
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	47	71	
Mean score ¹	6.38	6.56	
Median score ¹	6.50	6.50	

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

Prefer 'Ambrosia'

Ambrosia ★★★★★ ☺
Peaches & Cream ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Ambrosia' tasted better and looked better to eat. Both varieties germinated well, but 'Peaches & Cream' germinated faster and better.

Ambrosia ★★★★★ ☺
Peaches & Cream ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Ambrosia' had the better ears—larger and filled out more consistently. Several 'Peaches & Cream' ears did not fill out all the way.

Ambrosia ★★★★★ ☺
Peaches & Cream ★★★★★ ☺ NE
'Ambrosia' ears snapped off the stalk more easily. Because of vacation, and then underestimating the ripeness of Peaches & Cream' (its cobs were so thin I did not think they were ripe), most of the corn was picked too ripe; thus, it was hard to compare taste. 'Peaches & Cream' had nicer secondary cobs.

Ambrosia ★★★★★ ☹
Peaches & Cream ★★★★★ ☹ NE
'Ambrosia' was more consistent in germination. 'Peaches & Cream' had smut on 5% of stalks; 'Ambrosia' had little to none of this. Both varieties produced small ears. Maybe my absence for 10 days (no watering) made the difference, but neither variety was the best I've raised.

Ambrosia ★★★★★ ☺
Peaches & Cream ★★★★★ ☹ SE
Ambrosia wins. Zero competition. You can eat both of these types of corn without cooking them. 'Peaches and Cream' cobs were skinny and green. 'Ambrosia' cobs were huge. So good; so fat; a bicolor wonder. 'Ambrosia' is the best corn in the world or at least in my yard. I planted 12 feet of row and got 5 gallon bags worth of corn. Even the secondary ears were good half the time.

'Ambrosia'
ripened first
and produced
large, full ears.

Best bicolor se and syn corn varieties

Top choice
Peaches &
Cream

Strong performers
Allure
Ambrosia
Cuppa Joe
Delectable
Luscious
Temptation

‘Peaches & Cream’ seemed to tolerate the drought better. It germinated better and produced more.

Prefer ‘Ambrosia’ (continued)

Ambrosia ☺
 Peaches & Cream ☺ SE

Both varieties did well regardless of the dry spell earlier in the summer. ‘Ambrosia’ ripened earlier and yet was harvestable for a longer period. It seems that ‘Peaches & Cream’ ripened much later and then was done pretty quickly—although much of that might have been due to the dry spell and then the rains we received later in the season. ‘Peaches & Cream’ was still very flavorful—and both varieties had good yield. Yum—always love sweet corn.

Ambrosia -
 Peaches & Cream - SE

‘Ambrosia’ grew more vigorously. Its stalks were waist high while the stalks of ‘Peaches & Cream’ were knee high on July 3—before being destroyed by the deer.

Ambrosia ☺
 Peaches & Cream ☹ SC

‘Ambrosia’ was very tasty and held up. ‘Peaches & Cream’ seemed to get tough faster.

Ambrosia ☺
 Peaches & Cream ☹ SW

Neither had excellent germination; and they did not perform well due to dry conditions. ‘Ambrosia’ performed slightly better and I was completely finished harvesting it before I picked the first ear from ‘Peaches & Cream’.

Ambrosia -
 Peaches & Cream - SW

Deer and cows got in the patch and ate most every plant. We reseeded on July 1 and did get a few cobs. We preferred ‘Ambrosia’.

Prefer ‘Peaches & Cream’

Ambrosia ☹
 Peaches & Cream ☺ NC

‘Peaches & Cream’ was sweeter, crunchier and juicier. Taste alone made it the winner.

Ambrosia ☹
 Peaches & Cream ☺ NC
 ‘Peaches & Cream’ did better in drought conditions.

Ambrosia ☹
 Peaches & Cream ☺ NC
 ‘Peaches & Cream’ ripened first and had great flavor.

Ambrosia ☹
 Peaches & Cream ☺ NC
 ‘Peaches & Cream’ performed better in spite of the drought. The trial was irrigated.

Ambrosia ☹
 Peaches & Cream ☺ NC
 ‘Peaches & Cream’ grew better.

Ambrosia ☹
 Peaches & Cream ☺ SC
 The stalks of ‘Peaches & Cream’ were more uniform, healthier and taller. ‘Peaches & Cream’ ripened first. Both had great taste.

Ambrosia ☺
 Peaches & Cream ☺ SC
 The ears of ‘Peaches & Cream’ were beautiful, long, very uniform and full. Both varieties had some lodging issues.

Ambrosia ☹
 Peaches & Cream ☺ NW
 The cobs of ‘Peaches & Cream’ were bigger. The cobs of ‘Ambrosia’ were very small—this might have been due to dry conditions. They both tasted good.

Conclusions

Gardeners split on their preference among the two varieties, but many more gardeners recommended ‘Peaches & Cream’. It seemed to tolerate the drought better. Several gardeners in the north central region (hard hit by the drought) recommended it but would not ‘Ambrosia’. ‘Ambrosia’ ripened earlier and produced large, full ears. Its ears held up well in the field. Gardeners loved the flavor of both varieties.

Corn, Bicolor Super Sweet

Varieties

'Anthem XR' (shA)

73 days. Large ears filled with tender, sweet kernels. Easy to harvest. Requires isolation.

'Xtra-Tender 274A' (shA)

74 days. Outstanding eating quality. Kernels contrast beautifully. Sturdy stalks. Requires isolation.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Xtra-Tender		
	Anthem	274A	Same
Germinated best	27%	7%	67%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Harvested earlier	47	27	27
Higher yields	47	20	33
More attractive ears	57	7	36
Tasted better	36	29	36
Preference	64	36	
Recommend (☺)	57	43	
Mean score ¹	7.14	6.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.50	

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

Prefer 'Anthem XR'

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺
 Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ ☹ MN
 'Anthem XR' had bigger ears and tasted better.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☹
 Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 Neither variety produced much corn or grew very tall. I feel this may be due to the extreme dry summer that we had. I watered my garden regularly, but maybe not enough moisture got to the corn plants. I am not real pleased with either variety, but 'Anthem XR' tasted better.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺
 Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Anthem XR' ripened earlier and produced more. Both varieties suffered damage from wind. The ears of both varieties were very sweet and tasted great.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺
 Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ ☺ NC
 Both had near 100% germination. Both performed well in drought conditions with little supplemental watering. Stalks were sturdy. Both produced good yields of tasty cobs. 'Anthem XR' was sweeter, more tender and had more uniform cobs.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺
 Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 'Anthem XR' was sweeter with a longer milk stage to eat it without tasting overripe. Both varieties were very good considering the dry season this year.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺
 Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Anthem XR' had good, nice, healthy ears.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☹
 Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 I kept both varieties in two different gardens, two weeks apart. The plants in both locations seemed stunted compared to other varieties. Both varieties were barely 4 to 5 feet tall and 'Xtra-Tender 274A' was smutty.

'Anthem XR' was more adaptable to the drought. It matured earlier and produced higher yields.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
 Xtra-Tender 277A

Strong performers
 Anthem XR SS2742
 XTH20173
 Xtra-Tender 274A

Prefer 'Anthem XR' (continued)

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊
Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Anthem XR' performed better all around. It germinated a few days earlier and was ready to harvest a few days earlier. It produced a dozen or so more ears. The ears of both varieties tasted very good!

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊
Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Anthem XR' produced slightly more two-ear stalks. It matured a week or so earlier. The ears of 'Xtra-Tender 274A' were slightly sweeter.

Prefer 'Xtra-Tender 274A'

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊
Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Xtra-Tender 274A' ears filled out completely to the end of the cob. It tasted better though both varieties were good.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞
Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I planted late (June 12). Both varieties grew short and did not produce many large cobs due to low rainfall. 'Xtra-Tender 274A' germinated better and was healthier.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞
Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Both tasted good but we were extremely disappointed with their very small ears. Neither variety did well even though we watered regularly.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞
Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Xtra-Tender 274A' was more tender—melt in your mouth good. 'Anthem XR' had taller stalks, produced more ears, and its husks were firm. 'Anthem XR' may be better for canning or freezing, but we like to eat our sweet corn fresh.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞
Xtra-Tender 274A ★★★★★ 😞 SW

Both varieties started out well and had good germination and healthy plants when they were knee high. But the drought hit my corn pretty bad. Both varieties suffered and had stunted and inconsistent ears. 'Anthem XR' only grew to 5 feet tall and 'Xtra-Tender 274A' grew 7 feet. Neither variety could tolerate heat or drought.

Conclusions

Both varieties struggled in the drought but 'Anthem XR' was more adaptable. It matured earlier and produced more ears. Its ears were larger and more uniform. 'Xtra-Tender 274A' has been a strong performer in previous years. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties.

The ears of both varieties were very sweet and tasted great.

Corn, Yellow

Varieties

'Bodacious RM' (se)

75 days. Long, 8-inch ears filled with flavorful, tender kernels. Good freezer. Very popular.

'Inferno' (syn)

73 days. Popular for its sweet, tender kernels. Dark green husks and flags protect cobs.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bodacious		
	RM	Inferno	Same
Germinated best	55%	0%	45%
Healthier plants	82	0	18
Harvested earlier	70	10	20
Higher yields	80	0	20
More attractive ears	90	10	0
Tasted better	50	10	40
Preference	90	10	
Recommend (☺)	91	27	
Mean score ¹	8.40	5.80	
Median score ¹	8.50	5.50	

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

Preferred 'Bodacious RM'

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Bodacious RM' outperformed 'Inferno' on all traits. Its stalks showed more vigor, grew taller, and were sturdier. 'Bodacious RM' matured on Labor Day and was much more productive.

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Bodacious RM' was sweeter.

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 'Bodacious RM' had the best plants and produced the most.

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☹ NC
 'Bodacious RM' tasted better.

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Bodacious RM' yielded better. 'Inferno' had shorter cobs, shorter stalks and matured later.

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Bodacious RM' plants were much taller and the stand was more even. Its ears were larger and much sweeter. 'Inferno' tended to have two to five cobs coming out of the same place, of which only one would grow—curious to know what would cause that?

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 Both had good germination and healthy plants. Both varieties only produced one cob per plant and tasted very good. The stalks of 'Bodacious RM' were much taller. Its cobs were larger and the kernels were more uniform.

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ ☺
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☹ SW
 'Bodacious RM' germinated better and produced more ears.

'Bodacious RM' was the clear winner. It showed more vigor and produced more ears.

Best yellow se corn variety

Top choice
 Bodacious RM

Strong performer
 Sugar Buns

‘Inferno’ was inferior in all respects. It produced shorter cobs and lower yields.

Prefer ‘Bodacious RM’ (continued)

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ 😊
 Inferno ★★★★★ ☹️ SW

Both varieties had great germination; however, ‘Bodacious RM’ had taller, healthier looking plants, many having two cobs. ‘Inferno’ had a few plants that did not make a cob, and a couple with smut. Both varieties had tasty cobs, but the quantity harvested was double on ‘Bodacious RM’ compared to ‘Inferno’.

Preferred ‘Inferno’

Bodacious RM ★★★★★ 😊
 Inferno ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Bodacious RM’ grew better and had bigger ears, but we preferred the taste of ‘Inferno’.

Conclusions

‘Bodacious RM’ was the top performer in our 2017 sweet corn trials and the clear winner in this trial. Its stalks showed strong vigor and were very productive. It grew impressively across the state, including areas suffering extreme drought. ‘Inferno’ had shorter stalks, shorter cobs and matured later.

Key to Site Reports

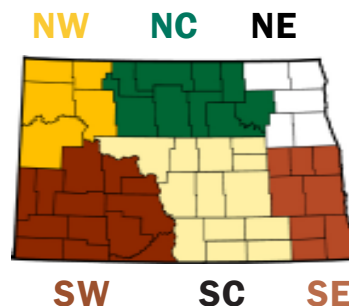
(reports are presented from east to west)

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

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) ↓
 ☹️

Location ← NC

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



MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Corn, Early Ornamental

Varieties

'Fiesta'

100 days. The standard for quality among early varieties. Colorful ears, many with purple husks.

'Painted Mountain'

85 days. Vibrant kernels can be ground into flour. Ultra-early. Short stalks. From Montana.



Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Painted		
	Fiesta	Mountain	Same
Germinated best	43%	14%	43%
Healthier plants	75	13	13
Harvested earlier	17	67	17
Higher yields	67	33	0
More attractive ears	50	33	17
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	83	67	
Mean score ¹	6.83	6.00	
Median score ¹	6.50	6.50	

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

Prefer 'Fiesta'

Fiesta ★★★★★ ☺
 Painted Mountain ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Fiesta' had better germination and yield.

Fiesta ★★★★★ ☺
 Painted Mountain ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Fiesta' stalks were sturdy. Its ears were large and full—beautiful! I loved its purple husks. 'Painted Mountain' kernels are bright, but its ears are too skinny for me.

Fiesta ★★★★★ ☺
 Painted Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ SW
 'Fiesta' cobs were "normal" in shape while those of 'Painted Mountain' were very long and skinny (not nearly as attractive). 'Fiesta' produced a dozen or so more ears.

Prefer 'Painted Mountain'

Fiesta ★★★★★ ☹
 Painted Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 'Painted Mountain' stalks were fuller and a better plant overall for production. The ears of both varieties were beautiful.

Fiesta ★★★★★ ☺
 Painted Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 The ears of 'Painted Mountain' were more usable and pretty. They had a greater variety of colors. 'Painted Mountain' ears were long and narrow while 'Fiesta' ears were short and fat.

Fiesta ★★★★★ ☺
 Painted Mountain ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 'Painted Mountain' looks so cool, like an ancient throwback variety. The boldness and variety of colors in its ears wins hands down. Its 8-row ears can grow to 11 inches long. Although its stalks were not as hardy and susceptible to lodging, it is worth the effort to grow. 'Fiesta' looks to be a reliable, good standing, and high yielding variety. Its colors are more pastel compared to 'Painted Mountain', but it produces nice, 12-row x 24-kernel-long ears. Both germinated well.

Conclusions

Gardeners split on their preferences. 'Fiesta' stalks were healthy, sturdy and more productive. Its ears were larger and looked like traditional ornamental corn. 'Painted Mountain' ears were skinnier but filled with a wide array of brilliant kernels.

Gardeners split on their preferences. 'Fiesta' produced more and larger ears. 'Painted Mountain' ears were brilliant but skinny.

Best ornamental corn varieties

Top choice
Fiesta

Strong performers
Autumn
Explosion
Cherry Berry
Painted Mountain

Corn, Full-Season Ornamental

Varieties

'Autumn Explosion'

105 days. High yields of long ears. Kernels come in a rainbow of colors, including variegated kernels.

'Glass Gem'

120 days. Unique, translucent kernels (shown at right). Can be popped. Ten-foot-tall, sturdy stalks.



Every gardener was impressed with the sturdy stalks and large, beautiful ears of 'Autumn Explosion'.

Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Autumn Explosion	Glass Gem	Same
Germinated best	50%	0%	50%
Healthier plants	75	0	25
Harvested earlier	50	0	50
Higher yields	75	0	25
More attractive ears	75	0	25
Preference	100	0	
Recommend (☺)	100	50	
Mean score ¹	9.50	7.75	
Median score ¹	9.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Autumn Explosion'

Autumn Explosion ★★★★★ ☺
Glass Gem ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Glass Gem' is a beautiful corn, but for sheer size and variety of colors 'Autumn Explosion' fills up the baskets and provides for a nice fall display. I've grown 'Glass Gem' previously and it is quite stunning.

Autumn Explosion ★★★★★ ☺
Glass Gem ★★★★★ ☹ SE

The stalks of 'Autumn Explosion' were thick and strong (withstood 60–100 mph winds during a tornado). They grew to be huge (around 10–12 feet tall) and the ears were large.

Autumn Explosion ★★★★★ ☺
Glass Gem ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Autumn Explosion' performed better overall. Its ears were longer and fuller. The stalks were extremely tall, probably close to 9 feet tall or more! 'Glass Gem' stalks were shorter and their ears were smaller.

Autumn Explosion ★★★★★ ☺
Glass Gem ★★★★★ ☺ NW

'Autumn Explosion' had much brighter coloring. 'Glass Gem' really did look like glass and was more muted on the coloring. Both varieties were excellent.

Prefer 'Glass Gem'

None.

Conclusions

Every gardener was impressed with 'Autumn Explosion'. Its tall, sturdy stalks produced lots of large, beautiful ears. Its kernels were bright and came in a wide variety of colors. 'Glass Gem' was less vigorous and its ears were smaller. Its glassy kernels were distinctive.

Best ornamental corn varieties

Top choice
Fiesta

Strong performers
Autumn Explosion
Cherry Berry
Painted
Mountain

Corn, Strawberry

Varieties

'Cherry Berry'

98 days. New variety with larger ears than standard strawberry type. Can be popped.

'Strawberry'

105 days. Long-time favorite. Short ears. Red kernels. For decorations or for popping.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cherry Berry	Strawberry	Same
Germinated best	11%	22%	67%
Healthier plants	50	13	38
Harvested earlier	57	0	43
Higher yields	44	11	44
More attractive ears	38	13	50
Tasted better	0	100	0
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (☺)	56	56	
Mean score ¹	6.00	6.44	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Cherry Berry'

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☹️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

Both varieties had short ears only 2–3 inches long. Although both had very poor yields, 'Cherry Berry' was slightly better. 'Dakota Black' popcorn grew fine under the same conditions.

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☺️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Strawberry' germinated 2 times better but 'Cherry Berry' developed ears weeks earlier.

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☺️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Cherry Berry' had nice, longer ears and a higher yield. Both had similar number of ears per stalk. Both had lots of tillering. 'Strawberry' showed susceptibility to smut.

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☺️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☺️ SW

I preferred the dried color of 'Cherry Berry' to that of 'Strawberry' (used for ornamental purposes and not for popping).

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☺️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☺️ MT

'Cherry Berry' looked better. Drought was a problem.

Prefer 'Strawberry'

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☹️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☺️ MN

'Strawberry' had taller plants; tasted better.

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☹️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☺️ NW

'Cherry Berry' did not germinate.

Cherry Berry ★★★★★ ☺️
 Strawberry ★★★★★ ☺️ SD

'Strawberry' looked more like a regular ear of corn. 'Cherry Berry' was fatter and shaped a little like a pine cone.

Conclusions

Drought was a problem for both varieties. Yields were low. 'Cherry Berry' was healthier and more productive. Its ears matured earlier. Gardeners who used these cobs for ornamental purposes were more likely to prefer it over 'Strawberry'. For popcorn, it appears other varieties such as 'Dakota Black' may be superior.

Both varieties struggled in the drought. 'Cherry Berry' was healthier and its ears matured earlier.

Best ornamental corn varieties

Top choice
Fiesta

Strong performers

Autumn
 Explosion
 Cherry Berry
 Painted
 Mountain

Cucumber, Burpless

Varieties

'Summer Dance'

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

'Sweet Slice'

63 days. Looks like a common slicer but is burpless. Gourmet quality. Good yields on vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 41 sites submitted information.

Trait	Summer Dance	Sweet Slice	Same
Germinated best	24%	38%	38%
Healthier plants	34	22	44
Harvested earlier	27	58	15
Higher yields	42	39	18
More attractive cukes	45	15	39
Tasted better	27	24	48
Preference	55	45	
Recommend (☺)	79	67	
Mean score ¹	8.03	7.27	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Summer Dance'

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Summer Dance' outperformed in the long run. I recommend this variety for small gardens because you get a lot of nice, long and straight cucumbers from each plant. Its vines produced well into October. 'Sweet Slice' produced the first blossoms and fruits. Their cucumbers had a very similar taste.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both were good slicers. When picked young and tender, they were decent for snacking. I love all cucumbers when they are young and tender.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Summer Dance' was consistent, high yielding and attractive. It produced one week earlier.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ NE

'Sweet Slice' leaves developed spots—cause unknown. Very few cucumbers from it.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Summer Dance' had good production, nice clean skin, and stayed thin even when they got long. 'Sweet Slice' got fat quickly.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★★★★★ ☺ SE

I loved both varieties and will plant both in our home garden next year. We have a neighborhood garden as we encourage our neighbors to come and pick any time. These two varieties were the most popular of all the cucumbers in the garden. 'Summer Dance' produced more. Next year we will be planting only these two varieties.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

'Sweet Slice' didn't produce. 'Summer Dance' produced a lot. I didn't like the curled fruits it often produced, but the cucumbers tasted great.

Both varieties produced long, straight and delicious cucumbers.

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice
Summer Dance

Strong performers

Orient
Express II
Sweet Slice
Sweet Success
Tasty Green

Prefer 'Summer Dance' (continued)

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Summer Dance' was producing good quality cucumbers through October 3 and 'Sweet Slice' was done prior to September 25. The cucumbers of 'Summer Dance' were fairly straight, slim and smooth while those of 'Sweet Slice' were curled and spiny.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😞 NC

The cucumbers of 'Summer Dance' were nice and straight, dark green and beautiful. Each cucumber produced many slices. My taste testers liked the flavor of both varieties but nearly all preferred 'Summer Dance'. Its cucumbers were delicious, crisp and sweet. 'Sweet Slice' produced the first cucumber. Both varieties produced good yields, but 'Sweet Slice' produced more per plant—lots of cucumbers!

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Every 'Sweet Slice' seed came up; however, only about half of 'Summer Dance' seeds emerged. We did have a cold spring in the 50's and 60's which is not ideal for cucumber germination. We replanted some 'Summer Dance' seed later which did better. 'Summer Dance' was about 2 weeks behind 'Sweet Slice' in yielding cucumbers; however, once they got started, 'Summer Dance' yielded so many more cukes! Perhaps 8:1 plant for plant. 'Summer Dance' cukes were straighter and thinner. I took samples to garden club to sample and almost 100% preferred the taste of 'Summer Dance'. I liked the fact that 'Summer Dance' had less seeds than 'Sweet Slice' too.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Summer Dance' was hands down better. Its cucumbers needed to be picked small before the seeds got too large. 'Sweet Slice' was terrible.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😞 SC

The cucumbers of 'Summer Dance' were straight, long and tasty. Both varieties did very well in spite of the drought.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sweet Slice' came up earlier and more uniformly, but 'Summer Dance' grew much better once they got established, and produced much longer cucumbers. 'Summer Dance' had healthier vines. Both were very sweet and juicy. I lost some plants to cutworms.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Dance' reminds me of an English cucumber: nice and long, smooth and spineless. It produced a few days earlier and really outdid itself in yields. At the end of the season its cucumbers grew curved. 'Sweet Slice' seedlings had difficulty emerging—damping off problem.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Summer Dance' was a crunchier cucumber. I had a good crop of both varieties and I shared with Elder Care.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both had 100% germination. They started producing around July 21. I liked 'Summer Dance' because its cucumbers were crisper and smoother. Its seeds stayed small as the cucumbers grew larger.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Summer Dance' had long, cigar-shaped cucumbers. Good climbers. Tasted as good as 'Sweet Slice'.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊
 Sweet Slice ★★★★★ 😊 SW

The vines of 'Sweet Slice' dried up faster in the heat.

Gardeners loved 'Summer Dance' for its slender, smooth-skinned fruits. It produced well throughout the summer.

**‘Sweet Slice’
germinated
well and
produced the
first
cucumbers.**

Prefer ‘Sweet Slice’

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 MN

‘Sweet Slice’ tasted sweeter. Both varieties were growing well in the beginning, but then ‘Summer Dance’ started to grow better. It produced more cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE

‘Sweet Slice’ showed good germination. Its cucumbers had great taste—never bitter—and did not get large too fast. Both varieties kept producing in drought conditions—best tasting cucumbers ever—will plant these again.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😞
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE

‘Sweet Slice’ germinated much better and outproduced ‘Summer Dance’ 2 to 1.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both were very good but ‘Sweet Slice’ was more productive.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😞
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties had near 100% germination. ‘Sweet Slice’ produced the first cucumbers and was constantly producing faster than ‘Summer Dance’. The cucumbers of ‘Summer Dance’ looked nicer; they were slender and not seedy. ‘Sweet Slice’ was the tastier of the two.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😞
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

No comments.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😞
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

‘Sweet Slice’ had a much higher germination rate and produced lots of cucumbers. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted much better than anything you could buy in a store; although they had pretty good prickles on them. We ate the cucumbers as fast as we could. We grew them on a trellis. The dry summer took a toll on the planting.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC
They were both good.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😞
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
‘Sweet Slice’ was a much better plant and was very productive. ‘Summer Dance’ plants grew weak midway through summer.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
We enjoyed both varieties but ‘Sweet Slice’ produced for a longer time.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
‘Sweet Slice’ had a flavor that I preferred.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW
No comments.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😞
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW
None of the cucumbers produced a good crop. ‘Summer Dance’ was a poor producer.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW
They are both excellent varieties. We enjoyed harvesting them. We put up a 6-foot fence for the cucumbers to climb on, and it was so easy to harvest them. You could see where the cucumbers were, and also the size of them. They tended to be straighter when grown on the fence.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😞
Sweet Slice ★★★★★☆ 😞 SW
‘Summer Dance’ did not produce any fruit.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced loads of delicious cucumbers. Gardeners loved ‘Summer Dance’ for its slender and smooth-skinned fruits. Its yields were impressive and its performance was consistently strong across sites. ‘Sweet Slice’ germinated well and produced the first cucumbers.

Cucumber, Pickling

Varieties

'Homemade Pickles'

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

'Regal'

52 days. Dark green pickle with longer, slimmer, slightly tapered shape. Early and high yields.



Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

Trait	Home. Pickles	Regal	Same
Germinated best	43%	21%	36%
Healthier plants	35	23	42
Harvested earlier	52	38	10
Higher yields	48	24	28
More attractive cukes	46	21	33
Tasted better	13	13	74
Preference	64	36	
Recommend (☺)	73	65	
Mean score ¹	7.23	7.42	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Homemade Pickles'

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Homemade Pickles' was hardy and a good early producer. Its cukes were yummy—we ate them fresh. Good pickles and very good production. 'Regal' picked up yield later in summer.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties were great producers and equal in flavor. These were used primarily for pickling so I appreciated the traditional characteristics of 'Homemade Pickles'. We irrigated early in the season when it was dry. Once it started raining again, both varieties rebounded and had good yield.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Both germinated well. 'Homemade Pickles' produced first and better. Production was not great due to very dry conditions.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☺ SE
I don't think I ever grew any better producers than these varieties. 'Homemade Pickles' was earlier.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☹ NC
'Homemade Pickles' had better germination, near 100%. I liked its vine vigor plus they set the first fruit. Produced five grocery bags full. 'Regal' vines dried up in late August/early September while 'Homemade Pickles' kept producing.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☹ NC
'Homemade Pickles' was more uniform and higher yielding. 'Regal' cukes got large faster.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☺ NC
The vines of 'Homemade Pickles' looked healthier and needed less help to trellis. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted similar.

Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ ☺
Regal ★★★★★ ☺ SC
'Homemade Pickles' cukes were straighter. Its first cukes came a day after 'Regal'.

'Homemade Pickles' germinated better, matured earlier and was more productive. Gardeners liked its blocky fruit shape.

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
Homemade Pickles

Strong performers

Alibi
Calypso
Eureka
H-19 Little Leaf

Prefer 'Home. Pickles' (continued)

Homemade Pickles
Regal SC

We planted a few different varieties of cucumbers. 'Homemade Pickles' produced consistent yields, even in dry conditions. I liked the size of these cucumbers for pickling, especially if you're trying to harvest the size to make sweet gherkins. I would plant these again.

Homemade Pickles
Regal NW

Both these varieties make excellent eating. They also are very good in dill pickles or sweet hamburger dills.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SW
'Homemade Pickles' produced more fruits.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SW
My plants did not thrive on watering like they would have from rain.

Prefer 'Regal'

Homemade Pickles
Regal MN

'Regal' had strong, prolific plants. Very easy to grow. My neighbors were jealous. 'Homemade Pickles' cukes became bloated whereas 'Regal' cukes maintained a nice shape and proportional size.

Homemade Pickles
Regal MN
'Regal' had better germination. Both varieties produced so many cucumbers.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SE
'Regal' showed more vigor. It seemed to outproduce and outshine 'Homemade Pickles.' I had plenty of cucumbers to share.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SE
'Homemade Pickles' did not germinate. 'Regal' cukes were fat and short, misshaped.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SC
Yields were good. 'Homemade Pickles' cukes were straighter but got a bit bitter.

Homemade Pickles
Regal NW
'Homemade Pickles' was a poor producer. It was a hot, dry summer. Very few cukes; canned only 6 quarts from both varieties.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SW
Both varieties had excellent germination and great yields. I preferred 'Regal' because it had the first cukes. I canned lots of pickles from both varieties and saw no difference in the results. Both varieties were great.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SW
'Regal' had better germination; prolific blossoms and fruit; and held up under hot, dry conditions (with watering, of course). Its vines were dense, healthy and compact. 'Homemade Pickles' was a slow starter and slow in setting fruit. The hills that finally produced fruit had cukes that were less deformed (curled) compared to 'Regal' which had many curled fruit (thick on one end and curved to a narrow end). The shape did not affect taste or pickling.

Homemade Pickles
Regal SW
More of 'Regal' germinated. Its vines were stronger, produced a week earlier, and produced way more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were smoother, easier to prep for pickling, and tastier. We made dill pickles and ate the cucumbers in salads.

Conclusions

'Homemade Pickles' always wins our pickling cucumber trials. This year it germinated better, matured earlier and was more productive than its competitor. Gardeners loved its crisp and blocky fruits—perfect for pickling. 'Regal' had vigorous vines and produced good crops consistently across the state. Its cucumbers had a longer, more tapered shape.

'Regal' had vigorous vines and consistently produced good crops.

Cucumber, Slicing

Varieties

'General Lee'

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

'Stonewall'

53 days. Early. Fancy, 8-inch fruits are dark green and very straight. Disease-resistant vines.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	General Lee	Stonewall	Same
Germinated best	57%	14%	29%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Harvested earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	67	17	17
More attractive cukes	17	17	67
Tasted better	50	17	33
Preference	83	17	
Recommend (😊)	100	83	
Mean score ¹	8.67	7.33	
Median score ¹	8.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'General Lee'

General Lee ★★★★★ 😊
Stonewall ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 NC

Both produced well for me, but I preferred the taste of 'General Lee'. Plants were vigorous for both varieties. Both were good producers with good color and taste.

General Lee ★★★★★ ☆ 😊
Stonewall ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 NC

The vines of 'General Lee' stayed green longer and produced larger yields.

General Lee ★★★★★ ☆ 😊
Stonewall ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 SC

'General Lee' grew and produced faster. Both varieties did well considering the drought. Both were tasty.

General Lee ★★★★★ 😊
Stonewall ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both were very good! We chose 'General Lee' over 'Stonewall' only because it had slightly higher yields.

General Lee ★★★★★ 😊
Stonewall ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 SW

'General Lee' had really good germination while 'Stonewall' was closer to 50%. 'General Lee' produced good yields and had nice, straight cukes with very good taste. 'Stonewall' cucumbers had a stronger taste, which I prefer.

Prefer 'Stonewall'

General Lee ★★★★★ ☆ 😊
Stonewall ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 NC

No comments.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced good crops of quality cucumbers. 'General Lee' showed again why it is an outstanding variety for North Dakota. It showed superior germination, healthier vines, higher yields and tastier cucumbers. It was recommended by every gardener. 'Stonewall' grew very well at all sites. It matched 'General Lee' for earliness but was inferior overall.

Both varieties produced good crops of quality cucumbers. 'General Lee' was recommended by every gardener.

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice
General Lee

Strong performers
Dasher II
Raider
Stonewall
Straight Eight

Cucumber, Snack

Gardeners enjoyed snacking on these tasty, bitter-free cucumbers.

Varieties

'Mercury'

55 Days. Crunchy and tasty. Slender cukes with thin skins and small seeds.

'Muncher'

62 days. Perfect for fresh eating. Mild and tender. Burpless. Good for pickling too. Reliable.

Data

Gardeners at 40 sites submitted information.

Trait	Mercury	Muncher	Same
Germinated best	39%	21%	39%
Healthier plants	29	24	47
Harvested earlier	68	23	10
Higher yields	39	29	32
More attractive cukes	39	35	26
Tasted better	31	28	41
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	71	58	
Mean score ¹	7.31	6.97	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Mercury'

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ NE

'Mercury produced first but there is nothing wrong with 'Muncher'. Both were excellent for eating fresh. All eight grandkids just loved picking and eating cucumbers of both these varieties right out of the garden. I have never seen kids love cucumbers like these. I will eat dozens a day. I use a soaker hose that maintains the best eating cucumbers and never have to worry about bitter cukes. What a great feeling to see kids eat healthy foods! Our 3-year-old Kate will leave her DQ treat to eat a cucumber!

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Mercury' grew much better.



Mercury ★★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE
'Mercury' was an overall better plant. More produce. Tasted better.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Muncher ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE
'Mercury' had 100% germination, but we needed to resow 'Muncher'. 'Mercury' plants were better but they wilted under the drought conditions. 'Muncher' vines stayed very small and compact.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ NC
'Mercury' handled the drought better. It had twice as many plants come up compared to 'Muncher'. Their seedlings looked similar until they reached 2 inches and then 'Mercury' took off and 'Muncher' did not. The first harvest of 'Mercury' was about a week earlier and 'Mercury' produced twice as many cucumbers than 'Muncher'. 'Mercury' cucumbers remained straight as they got larger; 'Muncher' cucumbers tended to form balls if they got a little larger. 'Mercury' had a mild and sweet cucumber flavor with a very tender skin. 'Muncher' was good but did not have the sweet cucumber flavor like 'Mercury'. The cucumbers of both varieties were great eating but did not store well, so they are best if eaten within a couple days. My husband avoids cucumbers since they don't agree with him, but he could eat these with no problem. I will definitely grow these again!

Best snack cucumber varieties

Top choice
Muncher

Strong performer
Diva
Mercury

Prefer 'Mercury' (continued)

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☹ SC
 'Mercury' produced many cucumbers quickly. Taste was crisp and great. These cucumbers are the best I've ever eaten even if it was a dry, hot year. I enjoy these trials.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☺ SC
 I have tried snack varieties before and they did not perform well, but this year they did fine. I didn't get a ton of yield but it was enough. Both varieties performed about the same; we preferred the taste of 'Mercury'.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☹ SC
 These were a nice size for slicers. Good yield in dry conditions.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☹ SC
 'Mercury' germinated better and had more fruits on each picking. These snack cucumbers have a fun shape and similar taste. I loved eating both of them.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☹ SC
 'Mercury' was first to germinate. Its vines had more leaves and bigger leaves. By far the highest yields. 'Muncher' cucumbers had thinner skin and were not as bitter.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☹ SC
 'Mercury' produced a lot of cucumbers.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☺ SC
 'Mercury' produced more. Good production in August and September.

Mercury -
 Muncher - SC
 Neither variety did well. They both germinated poorly and didn't produce much at all. I suspect they would have produced higher yields in a wetter year. The cukes of both varieties tasted good.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☺ NW
 'Mercury' was ahead in all aspects. The germination and health of the plants was superior. The taste was a wonderful surprise, because I liked 'Muncher' so much last year. My family and neighbors were all eating 'Mercury' right off the vines, and the cucumbers lasted well into September. The cucumbers of both varieties were great for snacking on and in salads.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☹ NW
 'Mercury' produced the first cucumbers. We enjoyed the flavor of 'Mercury' and used it in pickles.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☺ SW
 Both had excellent germination. Both were very healthy plants. 'Mercury' was always crisp and juicy. 'Muncher' was not as crisp, not juicy. Both varieties had great germination and great yields.

Prefer 'Muncher'

Mercury ☹
 Muncher ☺ NE
 The cucumbers of both varieties had spots that required peeling before eating. Yields were very low. 'Muncher' cucumbers had fewer spots and had a better yield.

Mercury ☹
 Muncher ☺ NE
 'Mercury' germinated poorly and I had to replant. Then I had a problem getting 'Mercury' to grow.

Mercury ☹
 Muncher ☺ SE
 'Muncher' cucumbers were more uniform in shape and tasted better. 'Mercury' germinated poorly.

Mercury ☺
 Muncher ☺ SE
 'Muncher' tasted better. Germination was poor for both varieties (only three plants each) and plants were small.

'Mercury' grew vigorously. It produced the first cucumbers and was productive.

Many gardeners thought 'Muncher' was perfect for snacking. Its cucumbers were flavorful, thin skinned, small seeded, and uniform in shape.

Prefer 'Muncher' (continued)

Mercury ★★★★★ ☹️
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Muncher' produced a few more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were straighter and more uniform. 'Mercury' cucumbers were fat on one end and skinner on the other end; they curled as well.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☹️
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Muncher' is crispier and with more cucumber flavor. 'Mercury' cucumbers grew into the shape of a gourd every once in a while (with wider, pinched ends); whereas 'Muncher' cucumbers had a rougher surface.

Mercury ★★★★★ 😊
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Muncher' has good flavor.

Mercury ★★★★★ 😊
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Mercury' matured a few days earlier and I liked its skin color better. Its cucumbers were crunchier. Many of my taste testers said both tasted good, but 'Muncher' was maybe better tasting and juicier. Both varieties were grown on an upright fence to save garden space. It was so easy to see the cucumbers and they grew straighter.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☹️
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Muncher' was a great name for this cuke. When I picked cukes, I ate many and they tasted great. Even though we had drought conditions so I had to water a lot, both varieties never got bitter tasting. We tried to pickle some of the smaller ones into dills, but it didn't work because they became too soft. I really liked that I didn't have to peel them ever. 'Muncher' cucumbers had a straighter shape later in the season; 'Mercury' got a larger end with a short neck. We never had this type of cuke before and enjoyed them for their taste and no peeling.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☹️
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Muncher' vines handled the drought better. Its cukes were straighter. The cukes of both varieties were delicious and not bitter!

Mercury ★★★★★ 😊
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Muncher' cucumbers had good flavor and nice color; slender with small seeds. Excellent for snacking. The cucumbers of both varieties had good quality taste and color. They were hardy even in the heat.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☹️
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Muncher' cucumbers looked and tasted better. 'Mercury' cucumbers were softer and it didn't tolerate the drought well.

Mercury ★★★★★ 😊
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Although 'Mercury' was a bit earlier, I preferred 'Muncher' for its flavor.

Mercury ★★★★★ 😊
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties had poor germination (30%) and their cucumbers tasted excellent. Both varieties had low yields overall, but decent yields considering the size and number of plants. 'Muncher' had slightly higher yields.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☹️
 Muncher ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

'Mercury' was tasteless. 'Muncher' was almost tasteless.

Mercury ★★★★★ 😊
 Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 NW

No comments.

Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed snacking on these tasty, bitter-free cucumbers. Gardeners were evenly split on their preferences. 'Mercury' grew more vigorously. Its vines produced the first cucumbers and were productive. Many gardeners thought 'Muncher' was perfect for snacking: flavorful, thin skinned, small seeded, and uniform in shape.

Cucumber, White

Varieties

'Martini'

55 days. New variety. Bright white cukes are smooth and free of bitterness. Flesh is sweet and crunchy with small seeds. Harvest at 6 inches. Vines are productive.

'Silver Slicer'

62 days. Creamy white, straight cukes are 7-inches long, crisp and flavorful. Vines resist disease and produce high yields.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Silver		
	Martini	Slicer	Same
Germinated best	0%	50%	50%
Healthier plants	0	50	50
Harvested earlier	33	67	0
Higher yields	0	33	67
More attractive cukes	25	25	50
Tasted better	25	25	50
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	75	75	
Mean score ¹	6.00	8.67	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Martini'

Martini ★★★★★ 😊
Silver Slicer ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Martini' was earlier and I preferred its flavor as well.

Martini - 😊
Silver Slicer - 😞 SC

'Martini' seemed overall to be the better and earlier producer. Its cucumbers were just a bit larger in size. We could not tell the difference between these varieties in taste. Both were incredibly good, not at all bitter in the dry heat of summer. I love these white cucumbers and will definitely be adding them to our regular garden next summer!

Prefer 'Silver Slicer'

Martini ★★★★★ 😞
Silver Slicer ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Silver Slicer' totally rocks all of the way around! Dry conditions resulted in poor overall production but 'Silver Slicer' was still by far the best variety. Good as a slicing cucumber as well as for pickling.

Martini ★★★★★ 😊
Silver Slicer ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Silver Slicer' was better producing and faster growing. I love white cucumbers—so mild in flavor. It's almost impossible to raise a bitter one.

Other

Martini -
Silver Slicer - NC

Every cuke was great. The skins were thin and they were perfect for salads. I planted 3 feet of each of them and ended up with 20 or 30 cukes—some insane amount. They are still going into October. I will plant these next year. They are a winner! The thin skin does not need to be peeled and the spines could be scrubbed off.

Conclusions

The adventurous gardeners who grew these white cucumbers discovered they were mild in flavor. Our data are limited, but 'Silver Slicer' was more adaptable and more consistent in its performance. It germinated better and grew better at more sites.

Gardeners who were willing to grow white cucumbers fell in love with their mild flavor.

Best white cucumber variety

Top choice
Silver Slicer

Greens, Mizuna (Fall)

Varieties

'Miz America'

21 days baby, 40 days full size. New variety. Dark red, toothed leaves add striking color to salads. Mild flavor.

'Red Kingdom'

21 days baby, 40 days full size. New, award-winning variety. Very deep color and very mild taste.



Most gardeners had never grown an Asian mustard before. They enjoyed growing it and using the greens to add color and zest to salads.

Data

Gardeners at 66 sites submitted information.

Trait	Miz America	Red King.	Same
Germinated best	18%	37%	45%
Healthier plants	30	30	39
Harvested earlier	29	33	38
Higher yields	31	31	38
More attractive	57	20	24
Tasted better	28	33	39
Preference	62	38	
Recommend (☺)	70	68	
Mean score ¹	6.44	5.90	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Miz America'

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Germinated in 3 days. I loved the burgundy color of both but the feathery leaves of 'Miz America' really looked nice in a salad. I loved its "horseradish" flavor mixed with other greens in a salad or added to a meat sandwich. The flavor of 'Red Kingdom' was just OK; kind of blah by itself.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Miz America' had less insect damage and milder flavor.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☹
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Red Kingdom' was eaten out by insects. Both tasted bad.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Red Kingdom' struggled due to high temps and lack of water. 'Miz America' produced well and flourished as temps turned colder. We enjoyed a nice salad with the greens, and they added a bit of spice to an otherwise basic lettuce mix. Thank you!

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Red Kingdom' took a considerably longer time to germinate, around 7 days more so than 'Miz America'. 'Miz America' was earlier and had much higher germination rates. It is an attractive plant, although in fairness, 'Red Kingdom' is also nice looking.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Red Kingdom' had small holes in its leaves. I prefer 'Miz America' for its flavor and quality leaves.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Miz America' germinated better. It added striking dark red color and mild flavor to salads. It's been fun to enjoy and discover these greens.

Best mizuna varieties

Top choice
Miz America

Strong performers
Mizuna
(green)
Red Kingdom

Prefer 'Miz America' (continued)

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties tasted good. The distinction between the two is that 'Miz America' has a spicier taste. The spicier flavor adds a nice accent to a salad. This was a great fall trial.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😞 SE
 'Miz America' was fast growing; excellent yield.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated well and at the same time. Plants looked very healthy and produced very well. Nice purple color. Both tasted very good. I prefer the leaf shape of 'Miz America.'

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SE

They germinated in 4 days but many 'Miz America' died off after germination. I liked the leaf shape of 'Miz America' but 'Red Kingdom' looked bushier. I prefer the flavor of 'Miz America'; it was spicier.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😞
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Both were disgusting in flavor! Too bitter! Yuck! I liked the leaf shape of 'Miz America'. Both had heavy insect damage early on, especially 'Red Kingdom'. I did not want to "dust" them since I was going to eat the leaves.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Miz America' was a better grower, leafier and prettier. Both varieties tasted bitter.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both were great, but so different in taste. 'Miz America' is very peppery while 'Red Kingdom' was mild. I prefer the spicy taste of 'Miz America'. It's a great mix to throw in salads.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Both varieties had spotty germination but 3–4 times as many 'Miz America' seedlings came up. 'Miz America' had 2–3 times the yield. Both are attractive; 'Miz America' is a very deep color with cut leaves and 'Red Kingdom' is a deep color with rounded leaves. We liked the taste of 'Miz America' better. It has a strong horseradish like flavor that complements sweeter greens in a salad and we can't wait to try it on a beef sandwich! 'Red Kingdom' is milder but had a slight bitter aftertaste. The deer preferred 'Red Kingdom' so it appears that 'Miz America' may be deer tolerant.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Miz America' was an overall better producer.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Plants were healthy and yields were good. I had more than I could give away. 'Red Kingdom' showed more insect damage. The dark red, feathery leaves of 'Miz America' were beautiful. Asian greens are new to me. 'Miz America' tastes okay—milder than 'Red Kingdom—but I used more 'Miz America' leaves in flower arrangements.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I like the look of 'Miz America'. Prettier in salads. Both have a strong flavor so need to use with mild greens, but I like the mild bite in a salad. I'm still using them (October 18). I have given much away.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Red Kingdom' felt leathery on my tongue. It was stronger in taste, like a turnip or radish. Both varieties are fine with a mix of greens but neither one alone. Both were beautiful in color in a salad and in the garden. I loved the leaf shape of 'Miz America'. I had not done fall planting before and was amazed at the results. Thank you for that.

The lacy, serrated leaves of 'Miz America' were more beautiful. Its flavor was peppery.

Most gardeners felt 'Red Kingdom' was milder in flavor. Its leaves were burgundy red, smooth and easy to clean.

Prefer 'Miz America' (continued)

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both germinated and grew very well in pots. They tasted great. Both had a pretty purple color, but 'Miz America' had toothy edges and was more attractive. I had not tasted either before and recommend both of them. Thank you for the ability to do the trial. It was a great way to try different varieties and now I might consider planting more crops in the fall.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I liked the serrated leaves of 'Miz America'.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😞
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😞 NW

Both were very pretty, but 'Miz America' was better looking mixed with other greens because it was lacy looking. These are too bitter to eat by themselves. They would only be good if mixed with other fresh greens/lettuce/spinach.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties germinated quickly. The plants were very healthy and productive. Insects were slightly more interested in 'Red Kingdom'. I think the darker purple and pointed leaves of 'Miz America' were more attractive. I liked the flavor of both varieties but found 'Miz America' to be more bitter, not to everyone's liking. Neither variety was really attacked by flea beetles or cabbage butterflies.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Miz America' had a good flavor—stronger than 'Red Kingdom'.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Red Kingdom' germinated in 2 days and 'Miz America' germinated 12 hours later. Both were drip irrigated; both grew at the same rate. 'Red Kingdom' was slightly better tasting, but I prefer 'Miz America' because I'm a sucker for pretty leaves. I love them!

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Miz America' had a hint of mustard flavor and could be used as an accent in salad. It was most attractive and produced the best yield although both did not yield well. 'Red Kingdom' germinated quickly, lacked vigor and tasted bitter.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both did very well. 'Miz America' had a fancier leaf. We didn't like the taste of either, but it was still a good opportunity to try something new.

Prefer 'Red Kingdom'

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 MN

We did not like the flavor of either variety raw. My husband liked them both if they were part of stir-fry vegetables, but I did not like them no matter how we prepared them. 'Red Kingdom' is more productive.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😞
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Miz America' just fried from the heat and was really bug eaten.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties germinated well. Both suffered damage from insects. We prefer 'Red Kingdom' because of its taste (like cabbage and radish), unique appearance for fancy salads, satisfactory yield, and better resistance to bugs. 'Miz America' produced higher yields but was more susceptible to bugs. It had a funky taste.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😞
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Red Kingdom' was more productive and was ready to harvest earlier. Both varieties were attractive and had similar flavor.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Red Kingdom' tasted better.

Prefer 'Red Kingdom' (continued)

Miz America ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Both varieties were attacked by an insect and had tiny holes in the leaves. They were both very colorful and attractive and looked great in a salad. I enjoyed doing this trial.

Miz America ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Neither variety grew very big. 'Red Kingdom' tasted better.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☹️
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

They both were pretty to have growing in the front yard, but 'Miz America' was prettier. 'Red Kingdom' had healthier plants and milder taste.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☹️
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Red Kingdom' produced larger leaves and higher yields. Its flavor was milder. I preferred the "green bite" flavor of 'Miz America'. Both varieties were attacked by cabbage moths and 'Red Kingdom' recovered better.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☹️
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Miz America' was more bitter; 'Red Kingdom' had a more pleasant flavor. Both varieties were gorgeous!

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

This was my first experience in growing Asian greens and I enjoyed watching them grow and using them in salads. I prefer the taste of 'Red Kingdom'.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both germinated very quickly. These varieties produced very well and had good flavor. 'Red Kingdom' had better flavor. Salad lovers rejoice! These are easy to grow and tasty.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Red Kingdom' was healthy and grew a little faster.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Red Kingdom' leaves were bigger and easier to clean. 'Miz America' had a peppery flavor and a stronger aftertaste.

Miz America ★★★★★ 😊
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SW

I did not sauté either variety and probably should have. 'Miz America' had a stronger arugula taste than 'Red Kingdom' and I didn't like it as well in salads. A small amount as part of a mixed salad goes a long way. Both varieties were beautiful burgundy/red. They could be part of a flower container garden. 'Red Kingdom' had a milder taste and better yield, but it took a bit longer to germinate. I suspect if I had planted a bit later (sowed August 17), after the summer heat, I might have had even higher yield. 'Red Kingdom' is still producing this week (October 5).

Miz America ★★★★★ ☹️
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Red Kingdom' was tastier.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☹️
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Red Kingdom' grew taller and I liked the smooth leaf on the outside. It suffered less damage from insects.

Conclusions

Most gardeners had never grown mizuna before. They enjoyed growing it and using the colorful greens in salads. The lacy, serrated leaves of 'Miz America' were most attractive. These leaves added beauty and peppery flavor to salads. Most gardeners felt 'Red Kingdom' was milder. Its leaves were smoother and easier to clean. Flea beetles and cabbage moths caused significant damage to both varieties in many gardens. About 20% of gardeners reported failure caused by either insect pests or a lack of germination related to the drought.

Flea beetles caused significant damage to both varieties at many sites.

Greens, Tatsoi (Fall)

Varieties

'Koji'

21 days baby, 43 days full size. Dark green, crinkled leaves for salads or stir fries. Hybrid vigor. Mild.

'Tatsoi'

21 days baby, 45 days full size. Standard type. Easy to grow. Compact rosettes. Mild and crisp.



'Koji' was clearly superior. It germinated better, grew faster and produced much higher yields.

Data

Gardeners at 58 sites submitted information.

Trait	Koji	Tatsoi	Same
Germinated best	63%	8%	29%
Healthier plants	67	12	21
Harvested earlier	76	12	12
Higher yields	67	14	19
More attractive	56	12	32
Tasted better	39	22	39
Preference	76	24	
Recommend (☺)	68	38	
Mean score ¹	7.23	4.98	
Median score ¹	8.00	5.00	

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

Prefer 'Koji'

Koji ★★★★★ ☺
Tatsoi ★★★★★ ☹ MN

Koji germinated more quickly and its plants were larger, which made it more desirable for fall being the growing season is short.

Koji ★★★★★ ☺
Tatsoi ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Koji' grew quicker and had higher yields.

Koji ★★★★★ ☺
Tatsoi ★★★★★ ☹ MN

Not one seed of 'Tatsoi' germinated.

Koji ★★★★★ ☺
Tatsoi ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Koji' performed better overall. Both varieties took a beating because of an infestation of cabbage looper and flea beetle. 'Koji' seemed more robust and despite getting ravaged by pests, was able to recover and give me some nice leaves. Both were treated by picking off loopers by hand and drowning beetles with neem. I enjoyed participating and I learned quite a bit. Thank you for inviting me!

Koji ★★★★★ ☺
Tatsoi ★★★★★ ☹ SE

Germination was equal but some 'Tatsoi' seedlings died off. 'Koji' grew faster. We got two cuttings from it and only one from 'Tatsoi'. There were more 'Koji' plants, which were bushier and had deeper color. 'Tatsoi' tasted more like cabbage; 'Koji' tasted more like kale.

Koji ★★★★★ ☺
Tatsoi ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Koji' had superior germination and much larger plants, although both varieties were vigorous. 'Koji' had a very pleasant and mild taste. 'Tatsoi' was a little bit bitter. It is great to be introduced to new greens such as these Asian greens through these trials. Not the same old, same old.

Koji ★★★★★ ☺
Tatsoi ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties grew great but 'Koji' was a little nicer. I was very happy with 'Koji'.

Best tatsoi varieties

Top choice
Koji

Strong performer
Tatsoi

Prefer 'Koji' (continued)

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SE

'Koji' was delicious flash-sautéed in olive oil with garlic. Very few of 'Tatsoi' plants germinated; there was hardly enough 'Tatsoi' to taste. 'Tatsoi' seemed to wilt more quickly after harvest than 'Koji' did. 'Koji' did suffer a fair bit of insect damage.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SE

'Koji' germinated in 7 days. 'Tatsoi' had sparse germination. 'Koji' had healthy attractive leaves—excellent addition to salads. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about Asian greens.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SE

'Koji' had more robust plants. They germinated a little earlier, grew into larger plants, and were ready to harvest sooner. Both varieties had similar yields; both looked nice and they tasted similar.

Koji  😞
 Tatsoi  😞 SE

'Koji' germinated well, within 3 days. Only one-third as many 'Tatsoi' seedlings germinated. Both varieties suffered from insect damage early on. I did not like the taste of either—too bitter!

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SE

Although slow to germinate, 'Koji' took off much better than 'Tatsoi'. Very few 'Tatsoi' plants came up. Plants of both varieties were full, deep green, with very few bugs. Once germinated, 'Koji' took off like wild, producing multiple cuttings. 'Tatsoi' grew very slowly. The taste of 'Tatsoi' was more bitter and "woody."

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SE

'Koji' tasted better.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SE

'Koji' thrived in spite of my neglect.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SE

'Koji' germinated faster; had better plants.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SE

'Tatsoi' germinated 2 days earlier, but 'Koji' plants looked sturdier from the beginning. 'Koji' grew steadily and its stalk was denser and its leaves more beautiful. It showed great growth and much higher yields. 'Koji' tasted better by far—we all agreed. Only two 'Tatsoi' plants grew.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SC

'Koji' germinated in 3 days, 2 days quicker than 'Tatsoi'. 'Koji' grew to be larger, healthier plants. Good yields. It was better all around. Both varieties were susceptible to bug damage. I have never heard of tatsoi prior to this. Thank you for the introduction to something new that might have to become a yearly planting. I have used tatsoi in recipes, in salads and to make pest and all have been good. I researched tatsoi after I planted and if the articles are correct I will be interested to see how late in the year I will be able to pick and eat it.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SC

Absolutely gorgeous plant and very nice hardy texture that was great cooked or raw.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SC

'Koji' won most categories but 'Tatsoi' won taste. The leaves of both varieties were damaged by flea beetles.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SC

Both had bugs eating on them. 'Koji' had beautiful, dark green leaves. I liked the "nutty" flavor of 'Tatsoi'.



Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SC


'Koji' was a vigorous plant. 'Tatsoi' just didn't grow as well. It had tiny plants with little vigor.


The leaves of 'Koji' were dark green, attractive and had a pleasing flavor.



The robust growth of 'Koji' allowed it to recover after attacks from insect pests.

Prefer 'Koji' (continued)



Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SC
 'Koji' had significantly better germination, reached maturity faster, had healthier plants and better yields than 'Tatsoi'.



Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SC
 The flea beetles were so bad on them that I didn't get to test them until much later. I dusted with Sevin several times. I like both varieties, but 'Koji' is a stronger plant and is richer tasting.


Koji  😞
 Tatsoi  😞 NW
 'Tatsoi' did not sprout well. 'Koji' grew thickly but was eaten by insects. The pests could not be dissuaded from eating it full of holes—no matter how much insecticidal soap was used. It might be better to plant in early spring.



Koji  😞
 Tatsoi  😞 NW
 'Koji' germinated quickly and produced more yields. The plants of both varieties were nearly destroyed by flea beetles. 'Koji' withstood the attack better. I liked the taste of 'Tatsoi' better.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SW
 'Koji' had a more pleasant taste. I am still picking both and have made two cuttings so far. Good fall crop.


Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SW
 'Koji' germinated first. 'Tatsoi' germinated 3 days later and died a week after that. 'Koji' kept growing to harvest.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SW
 'Koji' produced higher yields. Its leaves were bigger and easier to wash. 'Tatsoi' tasted better.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SW
 'Koji' produced bigger plants with healthier foliage. 'Koji' was also more attractive to the rabbits. They came in the night and ate nearly every plant!

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SW
 'Koji' emerged two days earlier and had mild flavor.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SW
 I liked the look of these leaves.

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😞 SW
 Almost no 'Tatsoi' germinated, and the couple seedlings that did germinate didn't survive.

Prefer 'Tatsoi'

Koji  😊
 Tatsoi  😊 SE
 Both were fantastic! They were almost identical except 'Tatsoi' was slightly larger and 'Koji' was slightly sweeter. 'Tatsoi' was slightly more appealing. Love the trials. Well worth the fall planting.

Koji  😞
 Tatsoi  😊 SE
 'Tatsoi' had nice large bunches. Bigger yields. The leaves of 'Koji' were smaller.

Koji  😞
 Tatsoi  😊 SE
 'Tatsoi' had better germination by far. The varieties tasted similar.

Koji  😞
 Tatsoi  😊 NC
 No comments.

Koji  😞
 Tatsoi  😊 SC
 'Tatsoi' had better flavor.

Prefer 'Tatsoi' (continued)

Koji ★★★★★ 😊
Tatsoi ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Plants of both varieties were beautiful, but were very much compromised by bugs. 'Tatsoi' was somewhat milder. I enjoyed eating this vegetable raw rather than cooked; it was tough when cooked.

Koji ★★★★★ 😞
Tatsoi ★★★★★ 😊 SC

There was a bug in my garden that loved both of them. Not much to yield and then it got so hot and dry that I did not have nearly as good a growth as I did last fall.

Koji ★★★★★ 😞
Tatsoi ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Tatsoi' had a longer harvest and milder raw taste. I liked the taste of the 'Tatsoi' better in salads, especially the small leaves. I stir-fried both varieties and both were very good. I'm still harvesting (October 5). 'Koji' has pretty tall heads.

Koji ★★★★★ 😊
Tatsoi ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties produced healthy plants. 'Tatsoi' produced a nice yield. Its leaves were bright green with a nice contrasting spine. Its flavor was fresh and had a bit of spice to it but not bitter. Although 'Koji' germinated earlier and produced a higher yield, we preferred the flavor and color of 'Tatsoi'. Both grew well and when mixed together made for a delicious salad.

Koji ★★★★★ 😞
Tatsoi ★★★★★ 😊 SW

My children preferred the taste of this over the kale I planted in my own garden. Fun to try different varieties and to be a "research reporter"—good experience for my kids.

Conclusions

'Koji' was the clear winner. This hybrid germinated better, grew faster and produced much higher yields. Its leaves were dark green and had a pleasing taste. The robust growth of 'Koji' allowed it to recover from insect pest attacks. The standard 'Tatsoi' showed relatively little vigor. Its leaves were bright green and had a mild flavor.

'Tatsoi' lacked vigor. Its leaves were bright green and had a mild taste.

Lettuce, Butterhead

Varieties

'Adriana'

50 days. Large, dense heads with good flavor. Dark green leaves. Tolerates heat and resists diseases.

'Buttercrunch'

66 days. Most popular butterhead. Dark green outer leaves with creamy heart. Slow to bolt.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Adriana	Buttercrunch	Same
Germinated best	29%	29%	43%
Healthier plants	28	39	33
Harvested earlier	35	47	18
Resisted bolting better	33	7	60
Higher yields	29	59	12
More attractive	38	50	13
Tasted better	19	56	25
Preference	28	72	
Recommend (😊)	72	83	
Mean score ¹	6.28	6.94	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Adriana'

Adriana ★★★★★ 😊
 Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Adriana' grew faster after germination. Seems a little more buttery tasting. Both varieties had beautiful, large, uniform heads. Both kept well in the fridge.

Adriana ★★★★★ 😊
 Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Plants were just a little more healthy and resisted bolting much longer than 'Buttercrunch'. 'Adriana' leaves were shiny while 'Buttercrunch' leaves were a little dull. 'Buttercrunch' was sweeter.

Adriana ★★★★★ 😊
 Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😞 SE
 'Buttercrunch' barely produced.

Adriana ★★★★★ 😊
 Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😞 NC
 'Adriana' seemed to do better in our sandy soil. They had the most successful plants.

Adriana ★★★★★ 😊
 Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 Both varieties produced abundant crops. Today is the 18th of October, and I just picked my last of the 'Adriana' lettuce. It has produced consistently all summer. Even when the bottom of the plants became tough, the upper leaves remained delicious.

Prefer 'Buttercrunch'

Adriana ★★★★★ 😞
 Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties germinated close to 100% and plants were very healthy. 'Buttercrunch' had excellent flavor and plants were very slow to bolt. Yield was terrific as well.

Adriana ★★★★★ 😊
 Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both were good but 'Buttercrunch' stayed better in the heat. More sweet crunch.

Both varieties resisted bolting and produced lots of fresh lettuce all summer.

Best green butterhead lettuce variety
 Top choice
 Buttercrunch

Prefer 'Buttercrunch' (continued)

Adriana ☺
 Buttercrunch ☺ SE

'Buttercrunch' was a favorite munching snack of the kids into September. 'Adriana' just didn't produce the volume of 'Buttercrunch' but it tasted good, what little it produced. Neither variety bolted.

Adriana ☺
 Buttercrunch ☺ NC

Both had close to 100% germination. Neither bolted until late August. First time ever I have had garden lettuce through August. 'Buttercrunch' produced well. It was ready to use a couple weeks earlier. It had very good flavor—a little milder and not bitter.

Adriana ☺
 Buttercrunch ☺ NC

Very dry conditions. Neither variety germinated well.

Adriana ☹
 Buttercrunch ☺ SC

'Buttercrunch' grew bigger and better. More and more leaves. Tasted better. 'Adriana' still had not bolted as of the end of August. Its leaves had a less pleasing texture and crunch.

Adriana ☹
 Buttercrunch ☺ SC

'Buttercrunch' had a fuller plant.

Adriana ☹
 Buttercrunch ☺ SC

'Adriana' did not sprout.

Adriana ☺
 Buttercrunch ☺ SC

'Buttercrunch' tasted slightly better and was more tender.

Adriana ☹
 Buttercrunch ☺ NW

'Buttercrunch' had a nice leaf—very buttery tasting—perfect for a sandwich or salad. Rabbits and pheasants ate almost all the lettuce due to drought in the area.

Adriana ☺
 Buttercrunch ☺ NW

It was a tough year for my lettuce. The cold June weather, hot dry July with winds, and the flocks of pheasants who were looking for anything green just about took care of the lettuce.

Adriana ☺
 Buttercrunch ☺ SW

No comments.

Adriana ☺
 Buttercrunch ☺ SW

Preferred the taste of 'Buttercrunch'. Was able to pick lettuce through August.

'Buttercrunch' is a proven winner. It grew faster and fuller this summer. Gardeners preferred its flavor and crunch.

Conclusions

Both varieties showed remarkable resistance to bolting and produced fresh lettuce all summer. Most gardeners preferred 'Buttercrunch'. It grew faster and fuller. Gardeners enjoyed its flavor and crunch. 'Buttercrunch' is the most popular butterhead in America and a proven performer in North Dakota.

Lettuce, Leaf

Varieties

'Bergam's Green'

51 days. Dark green, crumply leaves. Dense, full-sized heads with good flavor. Slow to bolt.

'Tropicana'

52 days. Dark green, heavy leaves form a full head. Tolerates heat. Great flavor. Proven performer.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bergam's Green	Tropicana	Same
Germinated best	40%	0%	60%
Healthier plants	33	11	56
Harvested earlier	44	11	44
Resisted bolting better	29	57	14
Higher yields	75	25	0
More attractive	33	44	22
Tasted better	11	22	67
Preference	56	44	
Recommend (☺)	67	67	
Mean score ¹	7.89	7.67	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Bergam's Green'

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☺
Tropicana ★★★★★☹ SE

Seedlings of both varieties came up at the same time and stayed healthy. Neither variety bolted. 'Bergam's Green' tended to have a fuller plant and this fullness made it more attractive. Both varieties were delicious.

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☺
Tropicana ★★★★★☺ SE

'Bergam's Green' produced more. Both varieties tasted good.

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☺
Tropicana ★★★★★☹ NC

Leaves of 'Tropicana' were tougher as they matured; better if picked small. They could be harvested longer than 'Bergam's Green', but got more of a leathery texture, yet still edible. 'Bergam's Green' had more delicate leaves and tasted sweeter, but bolted quicker.

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☺
Tropicana ★★★★★☺ SC

Not much difference; both were good and didn't bolt until late summer. Both were good producers.

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☹
Tropicana ★★★★★☹ SC

These were grown in pots. 'Bergam's Green' produced a week earlier and produced more yield. 'Tropicana' germinated first, but the plants always looked wilted, even with regular waterings. They went to seed very quickly. Its leaves are what I want in a leafy lettuce; not so jagged. Both varieties tasted bitter to me.

'Bergam's Green' was ready to harvest earlier and produced more lettuce.

Best green leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice
Tropicana

Strong performers

Bergam's Green
Deer Tongue
Royal Oakleaf
Salad Bowl
Slobolt

Prefer 'Tropicana'

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Tropicana ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Tropicana' did not bolt as soon and therefore produced longer. After picking, 'Tropicana' regrew faster.

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Tropicana ★★★★★★ 😊 SC
 Both were very good but 'Tropicana' tasted better.

Bergam's Green - ☹️
 Tropicana - 😊 SC
 'Tropicana' had great taste. I would plant it again.

Bergam's Green ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Tropicana ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Tropicana' took longer to germinate but had thicker leaves and clumps.

Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed the production and taste of both varieties. Their leafy heads were deep green and full. 'Bergam's Green' was ready to harvest earlier and was more productive overall. Both varieties tolerated the extreme heat, but 'Tropicana' showed superior resistance to bolting. 'Tropicana' has always performed well in our trials and this year was no exception.

'Tropicana' is a proven performer in North Dakota and showed superior resistance to bolting this year too.

Key to Site Reports

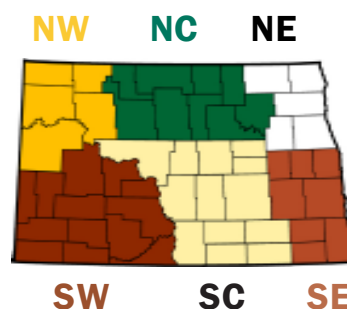
(reports are presented from east to west)

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

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) ↓
 NC

Location ↙
 Comments ↘

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



MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Lettuce, Romaine

Varieties

'Coastal Star'

57 days. Very popular romaine. Large, dense heads of dark green leaves. Good flavor. Tolerates heat.

'Fusion'

55 days. A cross between leaf and romaine types. Wavy, dark green leaves form a dense, upright head.



'Coastal Star' had the shape and flavor of a traditional romaine. It was a reliable producer and mild in flavor.

Data

Gardeners at 33 sites submitted information.

Trait	Coastal		
	Star	Fusion	Same
Germinated best	20%	30%	50%
Healthier plants	15	26	59
Harvested earlier	30	26	44
Resisted bolting better	15	50	35
Higher yields	30	48	22
More attractive	27	50	23
Tasted better	30	33	37
Preference	37	63	
Recommend (😊)	63	81	
Mean score ¹	7.44	8.19	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Coastal Star'

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Coastal Star' had a nicer leaf and was also less bitter later in the year. I prefer its traditional romaine leaf shape. Both were very slow to germinate—it was very dry though.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Plants of both varieties were huge. 'Coastal Star' was a little more attractive and a little larger. Good leaves for wraps. Both varieties were bitter. Both kept in the fridge much longer than store-bought lettuce.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Coastal Star' tasted better.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😞 NC
 I have grown 'Coastal Star' before and it seems to have done well every time.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😞 SC
 'Coastal Star' tasted better. 'Fusion' was slightly bitter.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 Both varieties did well. 'Coastal Star' was ready to harvest earlier and produced better heads of lettuce.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😞 SC
 'Coastal Star' had better flavor and yield.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😞 SC
 'Coastal Star' grew faster and had more tender leaves.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ 😊
 Fusion ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 Both had great flavor.

Best green romaine lettuce varieties

Top choice
 Fusion

Strong performers

- Crisp Mint
- Green Forest
- Starhawk

Prefer 'Coastal Star' (continued)

Coastal Star 😊
 Fusion 😊 SW
 'Coastal Star' showed elongated leaves and heads; 'Fusion' resembled leaf lettuce and wasn't as "heady." 'Coastal Star' had a consistent taste from the top of the leaf to the bottom of the stem. We ate 'Coastal Star' up to the end of September. We were very impressed—no bitter taste even considering the hot, dry summer. Kept very well in the fridge. Will definitely grow again.

Prefer 'Fusion'

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 MN
 Both varieties germinated very well—about 80% each. First harvest of 'Fusion' was earlier, on July 6. This variety had great flavor and its plants were very healthy. 'Fusion' was better all the way around.

Coastal Star 😊
 Fusion 😊 MN
 I liked the ruffled leaves of 'Fusion' and it resisted bolting better. 'Coastal Star' tasted a little milder and its plants were taller.

Coastal Star 😊
 Fusion 😊 MN
 Both varieties were good but 'Fusion' was especially attractive.

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 MN
 'Coastal Star' was really bitter.

Coastal Star 😊
 Fusion 😊 SE
 Fusion germinated at 90% compared to 40% for 'Coastal Star'. 'Fusion' was a beautiful plant—added interest to salads. It had a milder flavor—very good—and good texture.

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 SE
 'Fusion' produced without bolting for an additional month.

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 SE

The rabbits ate the plants back to 1 inch and then waited until they grew a few inches before eating them back again. 'Fusion' was the only variety that continued to grow despite the rabbits and was good to eat.

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 SE
 No comments.

Coastal Star 😊
 Fusion 😊 NC
 'Fusion' was interesting—like a romaine lettuce you'd see in the store—wavier leaves, frilly edges. Its plants were very healthy looking. I liked its looks ... fun and healthy all in one. Both varieties tasted good; 'Coastal Star' was crisper and sweeter.

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 NC
 Both did fairly well for the year; would like to try again next year. 'Fusion' had better flavor and appearance.

Coastal Star 😊
 Fusion 😊 SC
 The dry spring led to slow germination. Plants were healthy and grew at the same rate. No difference in yield or resistance to bolting. I liked to mix the curly leaves of 'Fusion' with the smooth leaves of 'Coastal Star'. 'Coastal Star' was more chewy (tougher) while 'Fusion' had a bitter aftertaste.

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 SC
 'Fusion' was more attractive and had better flavor. Both varieties got a bit strong in flavor due to the heat and lack of rain.

Coastal Star 😞
 Fusion 😊 SW
 I liked both varieties. We have never planted romaine lettuce but I will in the future. I got more cuttings from 'Fusion'—even into the fall.

Gardeners marveled at the looks, productivity and mild flavor of 'Fusion', a cross between leaf and romaine lettuces. It resisted bolting.

Both varieties grew well in spite of the drought. Both produced good crops of crisp, dark green, delicious lettuce.

Prefer 'Fusion' (continued)

Coastal Star ★★★★★☆ ☹️
Fusion ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

'Fusion' has great yield and taste. It works to start plants under grow lites. 'Fusion' seed is hard to find in seed catalogs.

Coastal Star ★★★★★☆ 😊
Fusion ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

I prefer the flavor of 'Fusion'. I thought its leaf shape was more appealing and noticed its resistance to bolting. This was my favorite trial!

Coastal Star ★★★★★☆ ☹️
Fusion ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

I liked 'Coastal Star' but 'Fusion' was better. 'Fusion' was crisper in salads and did not get bitter as soon as 'Coastal Star.'

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well in spite of the drought. Both produced good crops of dark green, crisp, delicious lettuce. 'Coastal Star' had the shape and flavor of a traditional romaine. Gardeners appreciated its reliability and mild flavor. 'Fusion', a cross between leaf and romaine lettuces, was exceptional. Gardeners marveled at the looks, productivity and mild flavor of its wavy leaves. Its resistance to bolting was remarkable. We have tested 'Fusion' against popular romaine varieties for 2 years and it was a winner each time.

Lettuce, Summer Crisp

Varieties

'Muir'

50 days. Extremely tolerant to heat. Light green, wavy, crisp leaves with excellent flavor.

'Nevada'

48 days. Bright green leaves form heavy, closed heads. Mild flavor. Resists diseases. Very slow to bolt.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Muir	Nevada	Same
Germinated best	44%	0%	56%
Healthier plants	20	0	80
Harvested earlier	56	33	11
Resisted bolting better	43	14	43
Higher yields	44	22	33
More attractive	50	13	38
Tasted better	67	11	22
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (☺)	100	67	
Mean score ¹	8.44	7.22	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Muir'

Muir ★★★★★ ☺
 Nevada ★★★★★ ☺ NE
 'Muir' had better taste. 'Nevada' had a touch of bitterness. Neither bolted—'Muir' dried up quicker.

Muir ★★★★★ ☺
 Nevada ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Muir' was very tender. 'Nevada' had very poor germination.

Muir ★★★★★ ☺
 Nevada ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 I liked both varieties, but 'Muir' had healthier plants and was a better producer.

Muir ★★★★★ ☺
 Nevada ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Muir' aced out 'Nevada' in all categories.

Muir ★★★★★ ☺
 Nevada ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 Both came up well in spite of drought. 'Muir' had a tighter head and curlier leaf—more attractive—but both varieties were attractive. 'Muir' had a slightly better taste.

Muir ★★★★★ ☺
 Nevada ★★★★★ ☺ NW
 'Muir' plants were consistent in size and shape, and once picked, lasted for quite a few days in the refrigerator. The plants were large, and we could pick the outer leaves and leave the rest of the plant in the ground with no problems. Both varieties grew well in my raised beds.

Prefer 'Nevada'

Muir ★★★★★ ☺
 Nevada ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 'Muir' had thicker leaves that tasted great but I loved the larger, crispier leaves of 'Nevada'. Both varieties were healthy. Neither bolted. I was able to harvest throughout summer through the heat, up until end of August! Wow! 'Nevada' had larger leaves so its harvest was larger. I loved the color of both—very pretty to look at.

'Muir'
 germinated better, grew faster and was more productive. Gardeners enjoyed the beauty and taste of its wavy leaves.

Best green summercrisp lettuce varieties



Top choice
 Muir

Strong performer
 Nevada

‘Nevada’ is a popular summer crisp lettuce and continues to perform well in North Dakota. Gardeners like its reliability and the quality of its lettuce.

Prefer ‘Nevada’ (continued)

Muir 
Nevada  NC
No comments.

Muir 
Nevada  NW
‘Nevada’ leaves were darker green (which I prefer) and a bit crisper. Both varieties produced lots of lettuce and made nice salads.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well and produced lots of lettuce. Both varieties showed remarkable resistance to bolting. ‘Nevada’ is a widely grown summer crisp lettuce and has performed well in our trials for years. Gardeners enjoy its reliability and the taste of its crisp, green leaves. But ‘Muir’ aced out ‘Nevada’ in all categories this year. It germinated better, grew faster and was more productive. Gardeners preferred its taste and liked its wavy leaves. Every gardener recommended ‘Muir’, an amazing accomplishment for a lettuce variety in a summer of extreme drought.

Melon, Cantaloupe

Varieties

'Aphrodite'

72 days. Melons are 6–8 pounds and ripen early. Firm, salmon flesh is thick and sweet. Good yields.

'Athena'

75 days. Melons are 5–6 pounds with thick, orange flesh. Most popular cantaloupe in the north.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Aphrodite	Athena	Same
Germinated best	26%	26%	48%
Healthier plants	26	13	61
Matured earlier	67	28	6
Higher yields	50	22	28
More attractive fruits	39	11	50
Tasted better	41	29	29
Preference	70	30	
Recommend (☺)	71	62	
Mean score ¹	7.24	6.71	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Aphrodite'

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
 Athena ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 Near 100% germination. The vines of 'Aphrodite' looked a bit healthier. It produced the first melons. Its melons were larger (my preference), but 'Athena' matched it for overall yield. The melons of both varieties tasted good.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
 Athena ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Aphrodite' melons were a lot bigger. 'Athena' produced a lot of small fruits but they were still hard when the vines died.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☹
 Athena ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Aphrodite' was sweeter.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
 Athena ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 'Athena' had twice as many plants germinate. Its vines were more vigorous and stayed green longer, although the vines of both varieties were healthy. 'Aphrodite' ripened 1 week earlier. Most of 'Athena' melons ripened in a short period. 'Aphrodite' had bigger melons but not as many. 'Athena' had more melons of medium size (my personal preference). Both had good looking melons inside and out! 'Aphrodite' had large, firm meat; very flavorful; nice bright color—awesome melon. If 'Aphrodite' would have germinated better, it would have been rated as a "10." Its size, appearance and flavor were outstanding. I would definitely start seeds indoors and plant seedlings in my garden.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☹
 Athena ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 I was not happy with either variety. They produced small fruit and did not mature at all.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
 Athena ★★★★★ ☺ NC
 Both varieties had 75% germination. 'Athena' ripened 2 days earlier but 'Aphrodite' melons were bigger. Plants of both varieties averaged 3 melons and they tasted great.

'Aphrodite'
ripened earlier
and produced
larger melons.

Best
cantaloupe
varieties

Top choice
 Athena

Strong
performers
 Aphrodite
 Goddess
 Solstice
 Superstar

Prefer 'Aphrodite' (continued)

Aphrodite  
Athena   NC

Both varieties were healthy. 'Aphrodite' had more vigorous vines, set fruit first, and produced more fruit (8 good melons compared to 3 for 'Athena').

Aphrodite  
Athena   NC

The melons looked gray and dirty; likely drought related. Another 7–10 days and there would have been many more of both varieties. Four 'Aphrodite' ripened—and they were delicious! 'Athena' needed another week or so. 'Athena' produced more melons (22 versus 14), but they were smaller.

Aphrodite  
Athena   NC

It's wonderful to have such great flavor especially compared to the hard cantaloupe they try to sell you in the store. We have enjoyed melons for over 2 months and still are eating them. I store them in the fridge and cut them as I need them. Yum!

Aphrodite  
Athena   SC

'Aphrodite' germinated best; its melons were sweet and juicy.

Aphrodite  
Athena   SC

I had troubles getting both to grow (the original sowing did not germinate), but I did get to eat a few 'Aphrodite' melons. 'Athena' never ripened.

Aphrodite  
Athena   NW

'Aphrodite' melons were larger and tastier.

Aphrodite  
Athena   SW

We did not get to eat any. When I pulled the plants last week, there were a few tennis ball sized fruits on. Fruits were set late. The drought had something to do with it.

Prefer Athena

Aphrodite  
Athena   NE

'Athena' produced 57 melons compared to 35 for 'Aphrodite'. 'Aphrodite' melons were larger. 'Athena' was slightly sweeter and had better texture. 'Aphrodite' melons were larger but this made the fruit "woodier."

Aphrodite  
Athena   NC

'Athena' tasted a lot better.

Aphrodite  
Athena   NC

'Aphrodite' melons were larger but had a shorter shelf life.

Aphrodite  
Athena   SC

Even though it took 'Athena' longer to mature, it kept well and had fabulous flavor—very sweet. 'Athena' is smaller than 'Aphrodite' but tastes better.

Aphrodite  
Athena   SC

'Athena' was delicious, juicy and productive. 'Aphrodite' did not fully ripen on the vine.

Aphrodite  
Athena   SW

It was nice that 'Athena' ripened slightly earlier, produced more melons, and had slightly bigger melons, but its sweeter taste was most important. Both 'Athena' and 'Aphrodite' are superior to the 'Superstar' melons I have been planting.

Conclusions

'Athena' is popular in the north and has done well in our previous trials. 'Aphrodite' was superior this year. It ripened earlier—a very important trait considering our short growing season. 'Aphrodite' produced larger melons and higher yields. Gardeners enjoyed the flavor of both varieties and 'Aphrodite' was rated slightly higher for taste. 'Athena' melons kept well after harvest. We look forward to testing 'Aphrodite' again.

**'Athena'
melons were
very sweet and
kept well.**

Melon, Large Cantaloupe

Varieties

'El Gordo'

75 days. Huge melons can exceed 15 pounds. Oval shape with good netting. Fine flavor. Good juicer. Vigorous vines.

'Solstice'

76 days. Large, 8-pound melons have deep ribbing and thick netting. Good flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	El		
	Gordo	Solstice	Same
Germinated best	38%	13%	50%
Healthier plants	50	25	25
Matured earlier	43	43	14
Higher yields	43	43	14
More attractive fruits	33	50	17
Tasted better	33	33	33
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	25	50	
Mean score ¹	4.50	5.88	
Median score ¹	4.00	6.00	

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

Prefer El Gordo

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☹️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☹️ MN

Neither variety did well in my garden. We had squash growing near these plants that did very well, but the melons just looked bad the whole season!

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☺️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

Poor germination (20%) in our heavy clay soil. 'Solstice' plants became diseased and fell off. We irrigated the garden so this disorder was not caused by dryness.

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☹️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'El Gordo' really vined out a lot further. No melons ripened before frost.

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☺️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☹️ MT
Looked best.

Prefer Solstice

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☹️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☺️ SE

'Solstice' produced larger melons.

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☹️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

I had lots of 5- to 6-pound melons, with nice, rounded shape and good coloring. 'Solstice' had vigorous plants, good yield and better taste. I would grow 'Solstice' again.

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☹️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

No comments.

El Gordo ★★★★★ ☹️
Solstice ★★★★★ ☺️ SC

'Solstice' was first to ripen—flavor super—big producer.

Conclusions

This was not a popular trial and neither variety did especially well. Recommendation percentages for both varieties were low. 'Solstice' was rated higher for its more attractive fruits. 'El Gordo' vines were very healthy and vigorous.

Neither variety did well. 'Solstice' was rated higher for its more attractive fruits. 'El Gordo' vines were healthy and vigorous.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Athena

Strong performers
Aphrodite
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Melon, Galia

Varieties

'Arava'

77 days. Luscious, green flesh. Reliable yields. Three-pound fruits slip from vines when ripe.

'Diplomat'

71 days. Early yields on vigorous vines. Green flesh is sweet, thick and aromatic. Fruits slip when ripe.



Gardeners enjoyed these sweet and juicy melons.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Arava	Diplomat	Same
Germinated best	10%	10%	80%
Healthier plants	22	11	67
Matured earlier	38	25	38
Higher yields	25	25	50
More attractive fruits	25	38	38
Tasted better	38	13	50
Preference	56	44	
Recommend (☺)	45	55	
Mean score ¹	5.60	5.50	
Median score ¹	6.00	5.50	

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

Prefer 'Arava'

Arava ★★★★★☺
 Diplomat ★★★★★☺ SE

Both varieties had germination rates of 60%. 'Arava' matured 5 days earlier. 'Arava' melons were a bit sweeter, although the melons of both varieties were very juicy. 'Diplomat' had larger melons. Both varieties had trouble with squash bugs even though I powdered them.

Arava ★★★★★☹
 Diplomat ★★★★★☹ SE

Both had quite low germination.

Arava ★★★★★☺
 Diplomat ★★★★★☺ SC

'Arava' had twice as many seedlings and more plants survived. Its melons were larger; they look more like a cantaloupe on the outside and a honeydew on the inside. Their flavor is great to pure sugar. 'Diplomat' produced more melons but they were smaller. Their rind turns yellow when ripe, making it easier to tell when to harvest. Its flavor tastes good to great.

Arava ★★★★★☺
 Diplomat ★★★★★☹ SC

'Arava' was very sweet and juicy tasting. I did not know when they were ripe for sure.

Arava ★★★★★☺
 Diplomat ★★★★★☹ SC

Both varieties seemed to grow about the same rate and produce at the same rate; however, I believe we had a fungal or bacterial problem. The melons would begin to rot on the bottom of the melon before it was ready to be picked. They looked as if a freeze had taken place but none had.

Prefer 'Diplomat'

Arava ★★★★★☹
 Diplomat ★★★★★☹ SE

Only two plants of each variety germinated. Neither variety flourished. Vines were short. We did enjoy the flavor and texture of the few melons that grew.

Best Galia melon varieties
 Top choice Passport
 Strong performer Arava

Prefer 'Diplomat' (continued)

Arava ★★★★★ ☹️
 Diplomat ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties were healthy and produced melons of great flavor and texture.

'Diplomat' vines were more vigorous, produced melons a few days earlier and produced more melons. Its melons were larger and rounder.

Arava ★★★★★ ☹️
 Diplomat ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Diplomat' tasted better.

Arava ★★★★★ ☹️
 Diplomat ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Diplomat' tasted better, produced more melons per vine, and was easy to grow.

'Arava' melons were bigger. The varieties matured at about the same time.

Other

Arava ★★★★★ ☹️
 Diplomat ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

Neither variety produced any ripe fruits.

Arava - 😊
 Diplomat - 😊 NW

We could not tell the varieties apart because their vines got mixed together. The melons of both varieties were delicious and ripened on the vine.

Conclusions

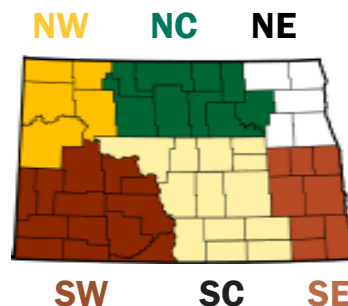
Neither of these varieties excelled or distinguished itself from the other.

Gardeners enjoyed the sweet and juicy flavor of Galia melons, but yields were only fair and recommendations were lukewarm.

Neither variety excelled or distinguished itself from the other. Yields were fair and recommendations were lukewarm.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Okra, Red

Varieties

'Candle Fire'

60 days. New variety. Bright red pods are smooth, slender and ribless. Productive. Pods turn green when cooked.

'Carmine Splendor'

51 days. Deep red pods get lighter as they enlarge. Early ripening. Strong yields. Beautiful blooms.



'Candle Fire' produced more pods. These bright red, ribless pods were tender and slow to become fibrous.

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Candle Fire	Carmine Splendor	Same
Germinated best	20%	27%	53%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Matured earlier	33	33	33
Higher yields	53	33	13
More attractive pods	47	20	33
Tasted better	54	0	46
Preference	77	23	
Recommend (☺)	53	53	
Mean score ¹	6.67	5.93	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Candle Fire'

Candle Fire ★★★★★☹
 Carmine Splendor ★★★★★☹ MN

They were both very pretty and grew well, but most people that tried them did not care for the texture. They tasted best when fresh picked, and seemed to get fibrous and less tasty over time after picking. We probably will not grow okra again but it was fun to try.

Candle Fire ★★★★★☺
 Carmine Splendor ★★★★★☺ MN

'Candle Fire' germinated a little better. There was not much difference in taste among the varieties, but a slight edge in taste goes to 'Carmine Splendor.'

Candle Fire ★★★★★☹
 Carmine Splendor ★★★★★☹ SE

These varieties got tough too quickly. I would not plant them again. 'Clemson Spineless' last year was a much better producer and it did not get tough until the pods were over 7 inches long; even 'Jambalaya' was better. Among these red varieties, 'Candle Fire' had smooth, rounded pods, and did not get tough as quickly as 'Carmine Splendor'. Yields favored 'Carmine Splendor' slightly: On September 25, I harvested 15 pods (all good) of 'Candle Fire' and 20 pods (15 good, 5 tough) of 'Carmine Splendor'. On September 28, I harvested 18 pods (16 good, 2 tough) of 'Candle Fire' and 23 pods (17 good, 6 tough) of 'Carmine Splendor'.

Candle Fire ★★★★★☺
 Carmine Splendor ★★★★★☹ NC

'Candle Fire' plants did way better after thinning stage. 'Carmine Splendor' had one pod per plant, where 'Candle Fire' had multiple.

Candle Fire ★★★★★☺
 Carmine Splendor ★★★★★☺ NC

Both had only about 50% germination and grew only about 2–3 feet tall. 'Candle Fire' had a better yield and had brighter red pods. I could not tell a difference in taste between the varieties.

Best okra varieties

Top choice
 Clemson Spineless

Strong performer
 Candle Fire

Prefer 'Candle Fire' (continued)

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😊
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😊 NC

It looked like every seed came up. 'Candle Fire' grew taller with the pods on top in clusters. 'Carmine Splendor' grew faster and during hot days I could harvest almost daily. 'Candle Fire' had very smooth cylindrical pods (like a candlestick) unlike traditional okra. The pods of 'Candle Fire' didn't seem to be as tough if they got a bit larger in size before picking. For pickling, they are equal, but for making okra on the grill I preferred 'Candle Fire' for its tenderness. The leaves on 'Candle Fire' seemed to cause skin rash and itchiness when touched. This wasn't the case with 'Carmine Splendor'. Both produced until our hard frost a week ago. Excellent varieties—great yields on both.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😞
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😞 NC
'Candle Fire' had beautiful flowers and attractive plants. The pods of both varieties were very tough and had poor taste.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😊
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😊 SC
'Candle Fire' plants were a lot taller and were big producers, but I am not a fan of the smooth look of its pods. The pods of both varieties had a good crunch.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😊
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😞 SC
'Candle Fire' seemed to overall just be better at everything. They got tall, they produced first and last. They looked beautiful! I loved their flowers! Its pods did not get woody. 'Carmine Splendor' did poorly. It produced some pods, its plants did not grow very tall and it smelled kind of bad.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😊
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😞 SC
'Candle Fire' was less fibrous and stringy. 'Carmine Splendor' matured more quickly.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😞
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😞 SW
Both varieties were slow to grow with tough fruit, even when picked very small.

Prefer 'Carmine Splendor'

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😊
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I think every seed germinated. 'Carmine Splendor' matured earlier by a few days and began producing more by late September. Its plants were bigger and healthier. The red pods of these varieties were pretty, but they didn't seem any better than the 'Clemson Spineless' I grew on a whim last year. Actually, I preferred 'Clemson Spineless' since it wasn't so prickly.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😞
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😊 SE
Both varieties took a long time to germinate (sown June 5). We were thinking we weren't going to see anything grow and suddenly both varieties were up and growing fast! Both varieties were pretty equal in production and flavor/quality. 'Candle Fire' pods stayed more tender longer—even as they grew bigger. 'Carmine Splendor' germinated better; given a dry start to the season, it seems to be more vigorous.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😞
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😊 SC
We got a late start (sown June 23) and these were so close to producing when it froze. They both struggled with the drought conditions. We tasted three pods of 'Carmine Splendor' and they were delicious.

Candle Fire ★★★★★ 😞
Carmine Splendor ★★★★★ 😊 SW
The red color was interesting. 'Carmine Splendor' had loads of pods. It grew very well. 'Candle Fire' had only a few pods.

Conclusions

'Candle Fire' grew taller and produced more pods. These bright red, ribless pods were very attractive, tender and slow to become fibrous. Its prickly plants irritated skin when touched. 'Carmine Splendor' excelled in no particular trait but was recommended just as often as 'Candle Fire.' The plants of both varieties were healthy and beautiful. Two gardeners with experience in growing okra mentioned that green-podded 'Clemson Spineless' was superior to both varieties.

'Carmine Splendor' excelled in no particular trait but was recommended just as often as 'Candle Fire'. Both varieties were healthy and beautiful.

Pea, Shell

Varieties

'Lincoln'

65 days. Good for freezing. Pods are filled with 8–10 tender peas. Excellent flavor. Height 28 inches.

'Sienna'

55 days. Dark green peas with outstanding flavor. Heavy yields. Height 25 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 38 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lincoln	Sienna	Same
Germinated best	41%	26%	32%
Healthier plants	43	13	43
Matured earlier	33	63	3
Higher yields	63	17	20
More attractive pods	57	17	27
Tasted better	33	10	57
Preference	77	23	
Recommend (☺)	90	58	
Mean score ¹	8.17	6.87	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

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

'Lincoln' had bigger pods, many more pods, and continued to produce in extreme heat.

Prefer 'Lincoln'

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺
 Sienna ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ MN
 'Lincoln' was a higher yielder.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☆ ☹
 Sienna ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ MN
 Both varieties did very poor. They dried up faster compared to the other varieties I planted. 'Lincoln' lasted a little longer but both were very disappointing.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺
 Sienna ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SE
 Excellent germination for both. 'Sienna' matured 5–7 days earlier, but the harvest of 'Lincoln' lasted longer into the season. 'Lincoln' pods contained 1–2 more peas. They were definitely sweeter and more tender. 'Lincoln' is my old favorite.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺
 Sienna ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Lincoln' pods were bigger and got more peas. The pods were long and slender. The vines were heavy bearing and the pods were easy to shell—bigger pods made it go faster. I've always liked 'Lincoln'. 'Sienna' produced the first pods. We couldn't tell the difference in the taste of the peas.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Sienna ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SE

'Lincoln' had more peas in the pods and they filled the pods completely. Although a bit slower to produce than 'Sienna', 'Lincoln' surpassed in yield. Both germinated well but 'Sienna' emerged a few days sooner and bloomed a week earlier.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Sienna ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Lincoln' had better germination (95% versus 90% for 'Sienna'). 'Lincoln' had by far healthier plants. Its vines were taller, had more leaves, flowers and pods. It had bigger pods, many more pods and continued to produce in extreme heat. Many of its pods had 9 peas. 'Lincoln' vines had three more pickings. It showed greater resistance to white mold and handled the heat. 'Sienna' bloomed 7 days earlier and had a 10-day earlier harvest. It had a few pods with 6–7 peas—the smaller pods were harder to shell. 'Sienna' was pulled on July 13 with no pods or flowers. It did not handle the heat and dryness. The taste of both varieties was the same—both good!

Best shell pea varieties

Top choice
Lincoln

Strong performers

- Early Frosty
- Green Arrow
- Little Marvel
- Maestro
- Improved Wando

Prefer 'Lincoln' (continued)

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Sienna' germinated better and had more vigor early in the season. 'Sienna' bloomed earlier and our first harvest was on July 28, 6 days before 'Lincoln'. 'Sienna' had twice the yield; its pods were plumper. I liked the taste of 'Lincoln' better. Both varieties suffered from powdery mildew.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties were okay. I prefer a more established variety like 'Little Marvel'.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Both varieties had poor germination; 'Sienna' was worse. 'Sienna' produced short pods.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Lincoln' really took to my soil—its germination was most consistent. 'Lincoln' vines were strong and its harvest was the gift that kept on giving! Its pods were nice, long and full. 'Sienna' yielded early and stopped producing early (end of July). Its pods were short.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Sienna' was 2 weeks ahead of 'Lincoln', which made for easier picking and using. 'Lincoln' had more peas per pod. My granddaughter did a great job of sowing these seeds.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Lincoln' was the best.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Lincoln' had long pods and they filled nicely. The vines were taller and produced for a longer period of time.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Lincoln' germinated a little better and its vines were slightly bigger. It matured a few days earlier. 'Lincoln' pods were bigger and had more peas in each pod. 'Sienna' kept producing later into the season.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Sienna' matured nearly 10 days earlier. 'Lincoln' peas were much sweeter and more tender. 'Lincoln' pods were bigger with more peas.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Lincoln' pods were full and long. The vines kept producing. 'Sienna' had short pods and very few of them. They both tasted good.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Lincoln' produced so well and had excellent flavor. I have grown 'Lincoln' in the past and they are still the best.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😊 NW

We had quite a time with the peas. The pheasants loved them as they were just emerging from the ground, and also helped themselves to the pods as they were developing. We finally covered the plants with a fine gauze, and did manage to get a few peas, mostly from 'Lincoln'. It seemed to be a better producer.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😞 NW

Rabbits ate most of the plants but what I did get was great.

Lincoln ★★★★★ 😊
Sienna ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Peas did not do well as far as peas getting large in the pods. Lots of shells. Tasted good.

'Lincoln' again proved that it is the best all-purpose garden pea for North Dakota.

‘Sienna’ was earlier and had a more concentrated harvest. Its pods were shorter and more difficult to shell.

Prefer ‘Lincoln’ (continued)

Lincoln  ☺
Sienna  ☺ SW

‘Lincoln’ produced over a week earlier and continued to produce with multiple small pickings through the season. I picked ‘Lincoln’ twice before ‘Sienna’ matured. ‘Sienna’ basically had one huge picking, with almost none before and after. This made it difficult to compare yields, but I think ‘Lincoln’ was slightly higher. Multiple smaller pickings make it better for eating, and if you miss a picking you don’t miss the whole crop. ‘Sienna’ is probably better for preserving because of a single large crop.

Lincoln  ☺
Sienna  ☺ SW

Neither variety had great germination but both gave a good yield. ‘Lincoln’ started earlier so had higher yield overall. ‘Lincoln’ had long pods with thin walls. ‘Sienna’ had big thick-walled pods. I preferred ‘Lincoln’ because I found ‘Sienna’ harder to harvest since the thick-walled pods were hard to determine which ones were ready to harvest. Also ‘Sienna’ pods did not pull free of the vine as easily as ‘Lincoln’ pods.

Lincoln  ☺
Sienna  ☹ SW

‘Lincoln’ survived the drought better than ‘Sienna’ It grew better than all of the vegetable varieties I tested this year.

Prefer ‘Sienna’

Lincoln  ☺
Sienna  ☺ NE



‘Sienna’ flowered and fruited first. Its peas tasted better when they got older. ‘Lincoln’ had a higher yield (6.1 versus 3.6 pounds for ‘Sienna’) and its pods filled out more.

Lincoln  ☺
Sienna  ☺ SE



‘Sienna’ vines were taller and were done producing by July 20; I liked its earliness; the pea harvest was done before the bean harvest started. ‘Lincoln’ started on July 12. If growing to freeze, you might like ‘Lincoln’ since it had more peas per pod (7–8 peas compared to 5–6 for ‘Sienna’).

Lincoln  ☹
Sienna  ☺ SE
‘Sienna’ was better tasting and had higher yield.

Lincoln  ☺
Sienna  ☺ NC
No comments.

Lincoln  ☹
Sienna  ☺ SC
‘Lincoln’ looked healthier at the beginning, but ‘Sienna’ produced a week earlier. By the time of harvest, ‘Lincoln’ vines were almost dying; their pods didn’t fill and tasted overripe. ‘Sienna’ pods were very sweet. ‘Sienna’ was earlier, filled better and had a larger yield. I have raised ‘Lincoln’ before and have been really happy with this variety. Not sure if that affected the trial; maybe disease set into that variety earlier. It also produced later on a dry year, which affected production.

Lincoln  ☺
Sienna  ☺ SC
Both varieties were very good. We chose ‘Sienna’ as it had slightly better germination and it was available to eat before ‘Lincoln’.

Lincoln  ☹
Sienna  ☺ SC
This trial was grown in pots. ‘Lincoln’ looked sick from the beginning and never produced.

Conclusions

‘Lincoln’ again proved to be the finest all-purpose garden pea for North Dakota. ‘Lincoln’ had bigger pods, many more pods, and continued to produce even during a severe drought. ‘Sienna’ matured a week earlier and had a more concentrated harvest. Its pods were shorter and more difficult to shell. The peas of both varieties were sweet and delicious.

Pea, Snap

Varieties

‘Sugar Magnolia’

70 days. Sweet, dark purple pods with bright green peas. Bicolor purple flowers. Seven-foot vines.

‘Super Sugar Snap’

66 days. Matures earlier and shows improved resistance to mildew compared to ‘Sugar Snap’. Five-foot vines need a trellis.



Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sugar Magnolia	S. Sugar Snap	Same
Germinated best	38%	12%	50%
Healthier plants	29	38	33
Matured earlier	54	33	13
Higher yields	40	44	16
More attractive pods	52	32	16
Tasted better	8	72	20
Preference	16	84	
Recommend (☺)	32	76	
Mean score ¹	6.28	7.64	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer ‘Sugar Magnolia’

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☺ SE

The purple pods were beautiful in the garden! The plants of ‘Sugar Magnolia’ were way taller and had twice the yield of ‘Super Sugar Snap.’

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☹ SE

‘Sugar Magnolia’ produced larger yields and bigger pods. Its pods were fuller.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☹ NC

My family and I didn’t like the taste of either variety. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ had a fairly good yield.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☹ SC

Even though ‘Super Sugar Snap’ yielded better, the color of the pods put ‘Sugar Magnolia’ on top. Both were generally poor yielding.

Prefer ‘Super Sugar Snap’

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☺ MN

‘Super Sugar Snap’ really put on pods. It was good tasting, produced good yields and was easy to pick. Both varieties had great germination.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☺ MN

‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted better, was very productive and produced over a long period of time. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ was very pretty but was not as sweet or productive. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ vines needed a little bit more support.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☺ MN

‘Sugar Magnolia’ pods were stunning against the green plant. Its pods were generally smaller and its large pods got woody and had poor taste. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ had larger pods and better flavor. My only complaint was that it didn’t produce as many pods as ‘Sugar Magnolia’.

The purple pods of ‘Sugar Magnolia’ were unique and beautiful, but tasted tough and bland.

Best snap pea varieties

Top choice
 Sugar Ann

Strong performers
 Sugar Sprint
 Super Sugar Snap

‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted much better. It was very productive and produced over a long period of time.

Prefer ‘S. Sugar Snap’ (continued)

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 MN

‘Sugar Magnolia’ was beautiful and unique, but disappointing in flavor—so bland. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ looked more like an average pea (not as pretty) but tasted good.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties germinated nearly 100%. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ plants were green and continuously healthy while producing a large yield of pea pods. Peas had great flavor and texture. No issues with mold or other diseases. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ grew slightly faster but its vines turned yellow at the beginning of August and produced less pea pods than as well. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ plants were completely dead a couple weeks after turning yellow. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ peas were not as tasty, had a strange texture and tended to mold easily in the pod.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ 😊
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 MN

‘Sugar Magnolia’ pods were really strong and hard to bite into.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Similar germination rates. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ had pretty purple pods, but the pods were small, tough and poor tasting. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ had nice-sized pods and was good tasting.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 NE

The seeds germinated poorly due to seed maggots eating part of the seeds. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ had beautiful, abundant purple blooms and way out produced ‘Super Sugar Snap’. The pods of ‘Super Sugar Snap’ were prettier and better tasting pods. They were not tough or bitter even when huge.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 NE

‘Sugar Magnolia’ pods were attractive but their taste was off and their hulls were tough. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ pods were very sweet, more tender and juicier (kids loved to eat these).

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Super Sugar Snap’ vines produced more and kept producing longer into the season. Its pods were better tasting. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ vines died sooner.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ 😊
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted better.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I was super surprised to see those purple snap peas. I was singing the praises for ‘Sugar Magnolia’ about how good they were growing and how pretty the purple flowers and the purple pods were until I tasted them. I think you might have to pick these when they are pretty young to get past that tougher pod. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ really surpassed ‘Sugar Magnolia’ in flavor and eating experience. They were addictively good but did not grow as well. They were by no means bad though. They grew fine but they were definitely the runner-up growth wise. These were both grown in the shade in the absolute worst conditioned soil spot in the garden about 3 feet of each and I got like 100 peas and they didn’t die until nearly September. I pulled them out of the ground and they were still weakly producing. First peas I ever got to live on this land.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
 Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Super Sugar Snap’ produced a lot and tasted good.

Prefer ‘S. Sugar Snap’ (continued)

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Very dry—germination was not very good. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ didn’t get mildew until late, produced for a long time and wasn’t so tall and gangly. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ was fun!

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

Peas did poorly this year due to lack of moisture. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ performed better under these conditions.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both had near 100% germination. Both had attractive pods. The purple pods of ‘Sugar Magnolia’ were eye-catching and fun to watch. I enjoyed the novelty of the purple-podded ‘Sugar Magnolia’ but the taste of ‘Super Sugar Snap’ was superior.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 NC

‘Sugar Magnolia’ pods had a stiffer shell; harder to pick and chew.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

Both varieties produced well considering the conditions, but nobody enjoyed the taste of either variety. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted slightly better.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

‘Sugar Magnolia’ didn’t produce well or have good flavor. Its pods were tough and tasteless. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ also didn’t produce very good.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ ☹️
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 SW

‘Sugar Magnolia’ was the first to germinate and had a better germination rate. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ had a better taste and the pods were not as stringy. Both varieties grew very tall and needed a fence to grow on. I did not like how tall the vines got.

Sugar Magnolia ★★★★★ 😊
Super Sugar Snap ★★★★★ 😊 MT

‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted best.

Conclusions

The purple flowers and pods of ‘Sugar Magnolia’ were absolutely beautiful, but its pods were tough and tasteless. This was a major disappointment. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ matured a little later but its harvest extended much longer. Its pods were much sweeter and juicier.

Gardeners preferred ‘Super Sugar Snap’. Its pods were much sweeter, more tender and juicier.

Pumpkin, Small

Varieties

'Early Scream'

80 days. Orange color shows early and darkens over summer. Fruits weigh up to 15 pounds. Semi-bush vines tolerate mildew.

'Neon'

75 days. Ultra early. Bright orange color appears early. Black handles. Eight-pound fruits grow on semi-bush vines.

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early Scream	Neon	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	23	38	38
Harvested earlier	31	54	15
Higher yields	15	46	38
Bigger pumpkins	33	44	22
More attractive	14	38	46
Preference	31	69	
Recommend (☺)	77	92	
Mean score ¹	6.57	7.79	
Median score ¹	6.50	8.50	
Median weight (lbs)	6	6	

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

Prefer 'Early Scream'

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Early Scream' produced more pumpkins, and its pumpkins were slightly larger.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SC

Seedlings of both varieties were healthy and their vines were very vigorous. Both varieties produced abundantly. I liked the size of 'Early Scream' pumpkins; it was not too big, just right. They orange'd up early. It was a nice round pumpkin; only one was 'Cinderella' coach size.



Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SW

'Early Scream' had less compact plants, higher yields and handsome fruits the size of a basketball. Its bigger fruits had Halloween potential; smaller ones for cooking/baking and decorative use. 'Neon' was very early; set fruit soon after blossoming (late July/early August) They lay on bare ground until September and I feared they might develop rot but they held up well. I wonder if they might develop rot in a wet year. The rind was quite soft but after harvesting and curing in my barn for a few weeks they did eventually harden. The fruit was the size of a soccer ball and some smaller. I made pumpkin bars using 'Neon' and they were great. They could also have a decorative use. The plants were compact and did not have many vines. Since 'Neon' is a compact variety it might do better in a smaller garden. It truly is a small pumpkin good for cooking or decorative use.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SW

No comments.

Prefer 'Neon'

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☆ ☹
Neon ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ MN

'Neon' survived our storm (June 12) better. Its pumpkins were better looking and its vines were healthier. Both varieties produced nice looking pumpkins.

The vines of both varieties were healthy and productive.

Best short-vined pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Neon

Strong performers
Cargo
Magic Lantern

Prefer 'Neon' (continued)

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Neon' seedlings emerged more evenly and showed greater vigor. It set fruit earlier. Instant orange—very bold and attractive. 'Neon' produced 6 fruits compared to 2 for 'Early Scream'. My grandkids harvested them on September 25.

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

This was a difficult choice. If one puts early maturity ahead of standard shape, then 'Early Scream' would be preferable. If one wants a standard squatty, round shape, then 'Neon' would be preferable. Vines produced one fruit on average and their average fruit weights were virtually identical. I did not irrigate regularly.

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Neon' matured earlier and produced higher yields. Both varieties had orange pumpkins by August 1.

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Neon' produced twice as many pumpkins. We loved the bright, neon color of its pumpkins. The vines of 'Early Scream' were rich and dark green.

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Early Scream' is a great pumpkin but 'Neon' still is my favorite. I love its season-long bright color.

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Neon' produced more.

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Honestly, we did not like the name 'Early Scream'. They were both excellent varieties to grow.

Early Scream ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Neon ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

They were fun to grow. Vines were healthy. 'Neon' produced more fruits.

'Neon' matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners loved its precocious, bright orange color.

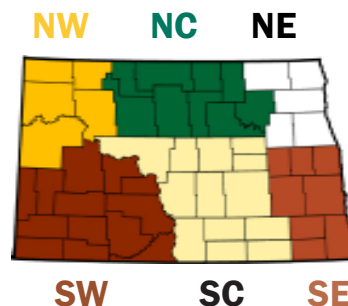
Conclusions

The vines of both varieties were healthy and productive. 'Neon' has always done well in our trials and it was the winner this year. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners loved its precocious, bright orange color.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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



MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Pumpkin, Medium

Varieties

'Early King'

90 days. Deep orange, 20-pound jack-o'-lanterns with strong handles. Vines resist mildew. Early ripening.

'Howden'

115 days. A very popular pumpkin in the USA. Its classic, 20-pound fruits are dark orange and symmetrical in shape.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early King	Howden	Same
Germinated best	38%	25%	38%
Healthier plants	36	14	50
Harvested earlier	50	29	21
Higher yields	64	14	21
Bigger pumpkins	43	29	29
More attractive	54	15	31
Preference	86	14	
Recommend (☺)	86	64	
Mean score ¹	7.93	6.71	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.50	
Median weight (lbs)	18	17	

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

Prefer 'Early King'

Early King ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Howden ★★★★★☆ ☺ SE

I appreciate the higher yields of 'Early King'. 'Howden' fruits turned orange earlier. Its fruits were very attractive and larger (45 pounds compared to 25 pounds for 'Early King').

Early King ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Howden ★★★★★☆ ☺ SE

'Early King' had a slight edge—bigger yields. Its pumpkins averaged 11 pounds; 'Howden' pumpkins averaged 8 pounds.



Early King ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Howden ★★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Both did well. I have a pile of pumpkins and don't know what to do with them all.

Early King ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Howden ★★★★★☆ ☹ NC

'Early King' pumpkins had nice orange color, full rounded shape and were ready to pick 2 weeks earlier. Average weight for them was 15 pounds. Its vines were nice and vigorous; they produced sooner and seemed to be more tolerant of drought than the vines of 'Howden'. I would definitely plant 'Early King' again. I was happy with the size and amount of pumpkins that it produced. 'Howden' was later to bloom, and the heat was hard on its blossoms setting fruits. Its average weight was 11 pounds.

Early King ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Howden ★★★★★☆ ☺ NC

'Early King' had a smoother face without deep creases and wasn't a burnt orange at maturity. However this is a personal preference as others might like the deep creases and color of 'Howden'. I also liked that 'Early King' was a smaller variety (20 pounds compared to 30 pounds for 'Howden') so that I could lift and move the pumpkins without help. Lastly, 'Early King' produced much larger yields than 'Howden'. These were larger than I expected for "medium" pumpkin size although I know really big pumpkins can weigh hundreds of pounds.

'Early King' matured earlier and produced more pumpkins. Its pumpkins were bigger and more beautiful.

Best jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
 Early King

Strong performers
 Autumn Gold
 Cronus
 Early Dakota
 Howden
 Gladiator
 Magic Lantern

Prefer 'Early King' (continued)

Early King ★★★★★ 😊
Howden ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Early King' pumpkins were round and plump. Its vines were better producers. 'Early King' pumpkins averaged 22 pounds; 'Howden' pumpkins averaged 18 pounds.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊
Howden ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Early King' germinated better. Its pumpkins were more attractive and uniform in shape. Its largest fruit was 18 pounds; the largest for 'Howden' was 11 pounds.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊
Howden ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Only one seed of each variety germinated and each vine produced one pumpkin. The pumpkins were nice in size and had nice flesh. The flesh of 'Early King' looked better, cooked down and made nice puree.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊
Howden ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Early King' had big, beautiful pumpkins.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊
Howden ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Howden' pumpkins were round and similar in size. 'Early King' had more pumpkins on the plant and they were bigger and different shaped, more oblong than round. I preferred it because I like pumpkins that have more personality and are bigger. Both were fun to see develop. 'Early King' pumpkins are big for being considered "medium." Their pumpkins ranged in weight from 25 to 38 pounds, compared to 'Howden' pumpkins with weights ranging from 15 to 25 pounds. I would like to try the varieties in the large pumpkin trial but I am afraid I couldn't move them.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊
Howden ★★★★★ 😞 NW
No comments.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊
Howden ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Early King' pumpkins were rounder. Pumpkins of both varieties were slow to turn orange.

Prefer 'Howden'

Early King ★★★★★ 😞
Howden ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Howden' pumpkins were huge (15 pounds on average) but somewhat misshaped. If you want a pumpkin variety that produces a lot of large pumpkins, go with 'Howden'. 'Early King' pumpkins were smaller (8 pounds on average), nicely shaped and fewer in number.

Early King ★★★★★ 😞
Howden ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Early King' never even grew; planted in the same way as 'Howden' with no results. We waited until May 30, after the last frost in spring to sow the seed.

Conclusions

'Howden' is one of the most popular varieties grown in the USA, but our gardeners clearly preferred 'Early King'. 'Early King' matured earlier and produced much higher yields. Its pumpkins were bigger at most sites and the fruits were judged to be more beautiful.

'Howden' is a popular variety in the USA, but it could not compare to 'Early King' in yield or fruit quality traits.

Pumpkin, Large

Varieties

'Early Giant'

95 days. Dark orange, 30-pound, slightly tall pumpkins perfect for carving. Vines resist mildew. Early ripening.

'Howden Biggie'

115 days. A classic big jack-o'-lantern. Dark orange, 45-pound fruits. Productive, vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early Giant	Howden Biggie	Same
Germinated best	46%	8%	46%
Healthier plants	23	8	69
Harvested earlier	46	15	38
Higher yields	69	23	8
Bigger pumpkins	57	43	0
More attractive	58	25	17
Preference	62	38	
Recommend (☺)	92	69	
Mean score ¹	7.46	6.69	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	28	28	

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

Prefer 'Early Giant'

Early Giant ★★★★★ ☺
 Howden Biggie ★★★★★ ☹ MN

Neither variety was anything to get excited about. I didn't get any mature pumpkins, just a few green ones.

Early Giant ★★★★★ ☺
 Howden Biggie ★★★★★ ☺ SE

The weights of the 'Early Giant' pumpkins varied greatly (4–25 pounds) but were generally larger and more attractive. 'Howden Biggie' pumpkins averaged 10 pounds. Slugs got into the bottom of the fruits of both varieties. It was very dry and I had not expected this.

Early Giant ★★★★★ ☺
 Howden Biggie ★★★★★ ☹ NC
 'Early Giant' had higher yields and its pumpkins had a more consistent orange color.

Early Giant ★★★★★ ☺
 Howden Biggie ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Early Giant' germinated better. Its pumpkins were smaller than expected (largest 'Early Giant' was 25 pounds compared to 19 pounds for 'Howden Biggie' but the dry weather had something to do with that. 'Early Giant' pumpkins looked nicer and were more uniform in shape.

Early Giant ★★★★★ ☺
 Howden Biggie ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 'Early Giant' had lots of big, unique looking fruits. Great for a carving pumpkin! Its fruits averaged 45 pounds and its vines were prolific. 'Howden Biggie' had near perfect looking fruits. Its fruits averaged at 30 pounds.

Early Giant ★★★★★ ☺
 Howden Biggie ★★★★★ ☺ SC
 Both varieties produced very nice large pumpkins! We were very happy with our pumpkin trials! We preferred 'Early Giant' as it had slightly better germination. Both varieties were very good!

'Early Giant' germinated better and produced more pumpkins. Gardeners liked the size and appearance of its fruits.

Best large pumpkin varieties
Top choice
 Big Moose
Strong performers
 Captain Jack
 Early Giant
 Howden Biggie

Prefer 'Early Giant' (continued)

Early Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Howden Biggie ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Early Giant' had larger and more pumpkins. Its pumpkins averaged 30 pounds compared to 20 pounds for 'Howden Biggie'. 'Early Giant' pumpkins ripened earlier.

Early Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Howden Biggie ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SW

'Howden Biggie' did not produce any pumpkins.

Prefer 'Howden Biggie'

Early Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Howden Biggie ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Howden Biggie' pumpkins were so much bigger and more beautiful. Its pumpkins averaged 40 pounds and one was 50 pounds. The pumpkins of 'Early Giant' averaged 35 pounds.

Early Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Howden Biggie ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Howden Biggie' had larger and stronger vines. They produced larger and more pumpkins. 'Early Giant' pumpkins were smaller but more symmetrical. Both matured at the same pace.

Early Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Howden Biggie ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Howden Biggie' pumpkins have a rounder shape, so it looks better when you carve it. 'Early Giant' had higher yields. Its pumpkins were slightly bigger (average 37 pounds compared to 33 pounds for 'Howden Biggie') and its stems were prettier.

Early Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Howden Biggie ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Early Giant' had larger pumpkins (25 pounds compared to 20 pounds for 'Howden Biggie') but 'Howden Biggie' had higher yields. We would prefer to get more pumpkins, over larger pumpkins.

Early Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Howden Biggie ★★★★★ 😊 SD

I preferred 'Howden Biggie' because I like them big! Its pumpkins averaged 60 pounds compared to 36 pounds for 'Early Giant'. 'Early Giant' produced a higher yield overall.

Conclusions

'Early Giant' germinated better and produced higher yields. Its pumpkins were judged to be more attractive by most gardeners. 'Howden Biggie' produced big pumpkins but fewer of them. Its performance was less consistent across sites in our drought-stricken state.

'Howden Biggie' produced big pumpkins but fewer of them. Its performance was less consistent across sites.

Radish, Purple (Fall)

Varieties

'Amethyst'

30 days. Bright purple skin makes a striking contrast with its white flesh. A proven performer in North Dakota.

'Bacchus'

30 days. Deep purple roots make a nice complement with other radishes. White flesh.



Data

Gardeners at 52 sites submitted information.

Trait	Amethyst	Bacchus	Same
Germinated best	10%	37%	54%
Healthier plants	15	32	54
Harvested earlier	29	39	32
Higher yields	18	53	30
More attractive roots	16	34	50
Tasted better	26	28	46
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (☺)	66	80	
Mean score ¹	6.73	7.45	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Amethyst'

Amethyst ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Bacchus ★★★★★☆ ☺ MN

'Amethyst' plants were larger and produced larger radishes. Either variety would work for ND or MN gardeners. Plants were healthy and radishes had excellent flavor in both cases.

Amethyst ★★★★★☆ ☹
 Bacchus ★★★★★☆ ☹ NE

'Bacchus' definitely grew better. Both had a rough start because of infestations of cabbage loopers and flea beetles. 'Bacchus' recovered somewhat but was never really able to be robust. I prefer 'Amethyst' because 'Bacchus' was too spicy for me.

Amethyst ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Bacchus ★★★★★☆ ☹ NE

They germinated in 2–3 days. I loved the color of 'Amethyst'. It had a very crisp, snappy taste.

Amethyst ★★★★★☆ ☹
 Bacchus ★★★★★☆ ☹ NE

They tasted too strong and hot to me.

Amethyst ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Bacchus ★★★★★☆ ☺ SE

My trees grew so much this year and shaded my garden area so roots were pretty small. The greens were excellent on both varieties; wonderful flavor. I would like to try these in my spring garden. 'Amethyst' produced a slightly higher yield. I recommend both varieties as suitable for North Dakota gardens.

Amethyst ★★★★★☆ ☺
 Bacchus ★★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Both varieties came up at the same time, but 'Amethyst' produced harvestable roots first. 'Amethyst' had thick, dark green leaves; its root color was rich and consistent. It tasted milder. 'Bacchus' yielded more roots but they were smaller. 'Bacchus' roots were very strong and more bitter. Both varieties were easy to grow and did well, however my preference for 'Amethyst' came down to its flavor.

Both varieties grew well and produced flavorful radishes. The contrasting purple skin and white flesh was striking.

Best purple radish varieties

Top choice
 Bacchus

Strong performer
 Amethyst

Prefer 'Amethyst' (continued)

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SE

'Amethyst' produced the first and highest yields.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SE

'Amethyst' roots were redder in color and not as hot.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SE

'Amethyst' has a bit better flavor. Both varieties produced nice, large roots and similar yields.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 NC

Very few 'Amethyst' seedlings emerged while the entire row of 'Bacchus' was up in 3 days. The greens of both varieties were smaller than other radishes I've seen, but the roots had a nice size. They were ready to harvest on the same day. 'Bacchus' roots were larger and dark purple. 'Amethyst' roots were lighter and bright; I preferred its milder taste—not too strong.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SC

'Amethyst' had nice big radishes and they were more bug resistant. 'Bacchus' tops were eaten by flea beetles and were located only a hand's width apart from 'Amethyst'. I found both varieties to be quite hot to taste, but they were beautiful!

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SC

'Bacchus' roots were deep purple and round. 'Amethyst' varied in color from a nice purple to light purple to red and weren't as uniform in shape. Both have good flavor but 'Bacchus' had more roots that were spongy (not sure if this was due to lack of water). Although I liked everything else better for 'Bacchus', the texture of 'Amethyst' was so much better that I had to choose 'Amethyst'. It would be interesting to see if consistent watering would change the texture of 'Bacchus'.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SC

I preferred 'Amethyst' for its large radishes and nice shape. Both varieties produced nicely despite squirrels digging in the elevated beds.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 NW

'Amethyst' roots had mild flavor and even when they were large they were not woody. Beautiful and brilliant color. Really loved the looks in a salad and we even roasted them on the grill. Excellent flavor.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SW

The varieties tasted the same. Caterpillars were found in the plants.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SD

'Amethyst' had a very slightly better taste, but both were good.

Prefer 'Bacchus'

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 MN

'Bacchus' had exceptional yield. Both varieties were delicious and among the most flavorful radishes we have ever had! Very zippy flavor. I would like more seeds for both varieties for next year if possible!

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 MN

I prefer 'Bacchus' for its milder flavor. 'Amethyst' cracked early.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 MN

'Bacchus' produced bigger radishes first. It germinated better, although neither variety germinated well.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 MN

Flea beetles mowed down the 'Amethyst'. 'Bacchus' showed exceptional seedling vigor and half of its plants survived. 'Bacchus' produced wonderful roots and great flavor!

'Amethyst' roots were brilliant purple. Most gardeners felt it was mild in flavor.

‘Bacchus’ germinated well and grew vigorously. It produced higher yields and was ready to harvest earlier.

Prefer ‘Bacchus’ (continued)

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 NE

‘Amethyst’ germination was about 50%, even after watering, and it produced small globes. ‘Bacchus’ had great germination, grew almost too fast, had nice purple color, and had some heat in its taste. Its roots grew very large, to the size of a crabapple. Neither variety produced woody radishes.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SE

‘Bacchus’ grew better and produced higher yields.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SE

Both varieties are outstanding, however ‘Amethyst’ brings with it some heat. The mild flavor of ‘Bacchus’ is very nice and satisfying without any residual heat. Again as in last year’s radish trial I prefer fall plantings of radish to spring plantings. Not only can one use garden space used by a previously harvested vegetable, the outcome is more assured. It is frustrating to use valuable garden space in the spring to plant radish that bolts and doesn’t perform. Fall radish plantings need to be better promoted in the larger gardening community. While spring plantings can bring some of the first produce of the garden, they often disappoint and use garden space that could be put to a better use.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SE

I love the color of ‘Bacchus’. The few ‘Amethyst’ that grew were very small.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SE

‘Bacchus’ is very resilient. We accidentally ran the hose over the row and I thought the whole row was destroyed, but they bounced back and delivered consistent size, brilliant color radishes. Its radishes were brighter and less spicy compared to ‘Amethyst’.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SE

With lack of water, and higher temps in August than I was expecting, both types germinated well, though I would say ‘Bacchus’ slightly better. However, in the end, ‘Amethyst’ was not able to withstand the conditions, and really petered out, dwindling to almost nothing. As temps cooled these last weeks, I was pretty amazed to see how ‘Bacchus’ just picked right back up! As I have been putting my gardens to bed, I was not able to let ‘Bacchus’ fully develop, but enjoyed the greens in our salads, and had several pea- to acorn-sized radishes that had a great concentrated spice to them, as I would have expected for their small size. I will look forward to trying this variety again, perhaps in the spring. Thank you!

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SE

Both varieties germinated well and at the same time. Both had healthy plants, nice and green, and looked good. ‘Bacchus’ produced a bigger radish than ‘Amethyst’ and it was ready first to harvest. ‘Bacchus’ was crisp and mild; a little milder than ‘Amethyst’.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SE

Tasted the same.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  ☹️ NC

Neither grew very big compared to other varieties I have grown in the past. A couple got normal size but many were very small—not sure if this is due to fall weather? ‘Bacchus’ grew a little larger. (Sown August 16.)

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 NC

Sowed on August 10 and the varieties germinated at the same time. The roots never grew larger than marbles; perhaps should have sown sooner. There were lots of bug holes in the leaves.

Prefer 'Bacchus' (continued)

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SC

Both varieties were brutally attacked by cabbage moths. 'Bacchus' recovered better and produced several sizable radishes. These radishes tasted pretty mild (which was disappointing). I preferred the peppery taste of 'Amethyst' although many of its plants did not form bulbs.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SC

Both varieties germinated and grew very well in pots. Both were very good tasting; however, a few of 'Amethyst' had a "bite." Both had a unique outside purple radish color and a nice white center ... and both had a few that were red? Both were very big in size and none were hollow. The pesky cabbage moths liked the leaves of both varieties but they didn't affect the flavor. We enjoyed the trial. It was a great way to try purple radishes and a fall crop.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SC

'Bacchus' came up a bit quicker and more of them grew to eating size. They both tasted fairly mild—which is good and surprising—despite the heat. Normally my spring radishes get too hot.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SC

'Bacchus' yield was lower but its roots were sweeter and did not get bitter as fast. Its roots were uniformly purple while 'Amethyst' had both red and purple roots.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SC

Both were really good.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SC

'Bacchus' plants were leafier, taller and healthier. Bacchus' produced triple the yield, but the individual roots were small. Its roots had a pungent, unpleasant odor after picking. Both varieties had some plants revert to red radishes. We sowed on August 18 and there was not enough time for the roots to mature.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SW

'Bacchus' was not bitter and its production was great. 'Amethyst' roots were not consistent in color. Both varieties were tolerant of light frosts.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SW

These radishes did not do as well as my fall radishes from last year; it is drier and hotter. I have not even picked half of them yet (October 7) because they are too small (sown August 9). 'Bacchus' germinated better.

Amethyst  ☹️
 Bacchus  😊 SW

'Bacchus' produced larger radishes, with more flavor than 'Amethyst'.

Amethyst  😊
 Bacchus  😊 SW

'Bacchus' produced much larger roots.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well in fall and produced flavorful radishes. The contrast between the purple skin and white flesh was beautiful. 'Bacchus' germinated well and grew vigorously. It produced higher yields and was ready to harvest earlier. Its roots were deep purple and more consistent in color. 'Amethyst' was a redder, more brilliant shade of purple. Many gardeners liked 'Amethyst' for its mild flavor.

'Bacchus' roots were deep purple and more consistent in color.

Radish, Red (Fall)

Varieties

'Rover'

21 days. Extra early. Very dependable even under heat stress. Roots are dark red, smooth and uniform.

'Roxanne'

21 days. Big crops of red, round and uniformly shaped radishes. Tolerates heat. This hybrid is reliable and grows vigorously.



Both varieties were fantastic. They grew well and their roots were beautiful, crisp and tasty.

Data

Gardeners at 47 sites submitted information.

Trait	Rover	Roxanne	Same
Germinated best	30%	18%	53%
Healthier plants	20	40	40
Harvested earlier	24	42	33
Higher yields	31	44	25
More attractive roots	18	26	56
Tasted better	15	42	42
Preference	47	53	
Recommend (☺)	76	78	
Mean score ¹	7.65	7.59	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Rover'

Rover ★★★★★ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ NE

'Rover' had smaller, crack-free roots and produced higher yields. 'Roxanne' was ready to harvest a day earlier.

Rover ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ NE

'Rover' had larger radishes; otherwise they performed the same. Both tasted spicy. Rootworms and flea beetles reduced yields.

Rover ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ NE

'Rover' germinated faster. Its plants were shorter but healthier. Its roots were milder, prettier, rounder and more uniform in shape.

Rover ★★★★★ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

Both germinated well and at the same time. 'Rover' plants were healthier; more leaves and fewer holes in the leaves. Both varieties grew at the same pace and produced similar yields.

Rover ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SE

Very similar. 'Rover' roots were more uniform in shape. Both varieties were fantastic, excellent.

Rover ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SE

'Rover' germinated better.

Rover ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ SE

I've never had radishes grow so big. Planting in fall avoided trouble with bugs.

Rover ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☹ SE

'Roxanne' did not germinate well.

Rover ★★★★★ ☆ ☺
 Roxanne ★★★★★ ☆ ☺ NC

I prefer 'Rover' because of its milder taste, although 'Roxanne' seemed to thrive in spite of the dryness. Both varieties were hurt by flea beetles and drought.

Best red radish varieties

Top choice
 Roxanne

Strong performers

Cherry Belle
 Rover

Prefer 'Rover' (continued)

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Rover' and 'Roxanne' are truly excellent varieties. Excellent germination. Those seeds we planted with diatomaceous earth were excellent ... those we didn't were full of rootworms as is the usual with our garden. 'Rover' got larger faster than 'Roxanne'. Both were nice, round, beautiful radishes. We thought 'Roxanne' was milder early in the harvest when roots were small. 'Rover' was milder later in the season when roots were large.

Rover ★★★★★ 😞
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😞 NC
'Roxanne' germinated at less than 10%.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The plants of both varieties looked good. Their roots were similar: bright red, crack-free, solid and crisp, good tasting and not pithy. Late in the season they had an earthy taste but when peeled and sliced tasted good on a vegetable tray and in stir fry. 'Rover' had a longer harvest season. 'Roxanne' germinated first and more uniformly. Its plants were slightly larger and its roots were ready to harvest earlier and all at once.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Wow. These were both great varieties. In the past when I have grown fall radishes, they get woody. These did not. A close decision on picking a favorite. 'Rover' germinated first and produced the first yield so I'm giving it the vote. This was a great test and both varieties performed very well. If you like radishes, these are winners! We are still eating them here in the house (October 9).

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Rover' had more plants, stronger plants and higher yield (although small radishes). We sowed on August 18 and there was not enough time for the roots to mature. 'Roxanne' plants were small and puny. We only harvested one 'Roxanne' radish.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Rover' produced higher yields and tasted very good. Both varieties grew better when planted in the ground compared to in pots.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Rover' had beautiful, marble-sized radishes. Good, sharp flavor with the classic radish bite aftertaste—a good peppery kick. 'Roxanne' had larger radishes and after the frost had a beautiful sweet taste.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Rover' had greater consistency in taste and better production early in the season. Both were very frost tolerant. I wish I had spaced planting a week apart to even out production (sowed August 25). We have had a couple heavy frosts and both have kept producing without covering plants.

Prefer 'Roxanne'

Rover ★★★★★ 😞
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both germinated at the same time. 'Roxanne' grew a little faster and produced slightly more yield. Its bulbs seemed to have rounder bottoms and tasted less bitter.

Rover ★★★★★ 😊
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Roxanne' had a little more vigor and larger roots.

Rover ★★★★★ 😞
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Roxanne' did great: good germination, fast growth, nice round radish and good color. 'Roxanne' is high quality. 'Rover' had poor germination and small radishes.

Rover ★★★★★ 😞
Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Roxanne' outshined 'Rover' by far. Its roots were bigger and tastier. 'Rover' roots were a lot smaller and didn't have the nice flavor 'Roxanne' did. We'd definitely plant 'Roxanne' radishes again. Very pleased.

'Rover' roots were uniform in shape. They had a classic, peppery kick.

‘Roxanne’ had healthy plants, faster growth and good yields. Its roots were larger and milder.

Prefer ‘Roxanne’ (continued)

Rover ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

The roots of both looked very nice. ‘Roxanne’ had higher yields and better taste.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Roxanne’ was more robust in growth: bigger plants, faster growth and larger roots. The leaves and roots of both varieties looked nice and were tasty.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties came up in 3 days. Plants were healthy and were ready to harvest at the same time. Yields were similar and their roots were beautiful, red and healthy. We taste-tested them with 3–6th graders and they chose ‘Roxanne’. It had a milder taste. Those who really like radishes would enjoy the taste of ‘Rover’ as well.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

‘Roxanne’ produced evenly sized radishes with mild flavor. The roots of both varieties were excellent in taste; not strong; mild.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties grew very well and produced beautiful looking radishes. I enjoyed the flavor of ‘Roxanne’ better because it was a bit milder. ‘Rover’ was also good but too strong for my taste.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

Overall better performance.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Roxanne’ had higher yields and better taste. Both varieties were very good.

Rover ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Roxanne’ tasted excellent and lasted a long time.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Roxanne’ produced higher yields and was ready to harvest sooner. Harvested on September 7 (sown August 9). The roots of both varieties tasted so much better than radishes grown in the spring.

Rover ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Roxanne’ was superior to ‘Rover’ in all traits. ‘Rover’ had a stronger bite to its taste and the radishes were not as big. ‘Roxanne’ on the other hand had better germination rates, grew faster and bigger and was milder to taste.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both were very good. Both were red and shiny. They were almost identical but ‘Roxanne’ seemed to get bigger faster.

Rover ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I prefer the flavor of ‘Roxanne’.

Rover ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Bigger radishes.

Rover ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Roxanne ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both radishes were a bright red color which was eye appealing. ‘Roxanne’ roots were uniform in size and larger than ‘Rover’. The flavor of ‘Roxanne’ was earthy, with a little hint of heat but not hot or pungent.

Conclusions

Both varieties were fantastic. They grew well and their roots were bright red, crisp and tasty. ‘Roxanne’ had a little more vigor and often produced higher yields. Its roots were larger and milder. ‘Rover’ roots were uniform in shape and had a classic, peppery kick.

Spinach, Savoy Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

'Emperor'

37 days. Dark green, semi-savoy leaves.
Grows quickly and produces good yields.

'Reflect'

38 days. Medium green, oval to round leaves.
Semi-savoy type suited for autumn.



Data

Gardeners at 44 sites submitted information.

Trait	Emperor	Reflect	Same
Germinated best	34%	14%	51%
Healthier plants	34	25	41
Harvested earlier	42	19	39
Higher yields	47	30	23
More attractive	33	17	50
Tasted better	37	23	40
Preference	58	42	
Recommend (☺)	69	47	
Mean score ¹	6.78	6.09	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Emperor'

Emperor ★★★★★ ☺
Reflect ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Emperor' germinated much better. Its plants had larger leaves and grew faster. When I harvested it for a meal, it regenerated faster. As for taste, it was hard to tell a difference between the varieties.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☺
Reflect ★★★★★ ☺ MN

I liked the flavor of 'Emperor'. It tasted like beet greens; 'Reflect' had a mellow flavor.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☺
Reflect ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Emperor' was simply superior in every aspect. Both were pest-free and easy to grow. This was my first experience growing in pallets and 'Emperor' performed well.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☹
Reflect ★★★★★ ☹ SE

Both varieties took a very long time to germinate ... neither produced much for plants. The plants that came up were healthy and relatively bug-free. 'Emperor' looked fuller and had slightly better looking leaves. It had a better taste—'Reflect' was very bitter. I don't recommend either.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☺
Reflect ★★★★★ ☹ SE

Both varieties did not germinate well; very sparse. Both did not have a very healthy plant. Both produced about the same, which was not very good. They both had nice green color and tasted good. 'Emperor' had a few more plants, but I was disappointed with both of them.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☺
Reflect ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Emperor' germinated first and had beautiful, large leaves; 'Reflect' didn't germinate well and had very small leaves. 'Emperor' grew faster and produced more. The yield of 'Reflect' was low and slow.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☺
Reflect ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Emperor' stood better after heavy rains. 'Reflect' got a bit smushed. The germination and flavor of both varieties was very good. Spinach is one of my favorites to grow in my garden. I would grow both again.

Germination rates were sometimes disappointing, but plants were healthy and the harvested leaves were delicious.

Best savoy-leaf spinach varieties

Top choice
Emperor

Strong performers

Bloomsdale
Long
Standing
Melody
Tye

**‘Emperor’
germinated
better, grew
quicker and
produced more
spinach.
Gardeners
enjoyed its
flavor.**

Prefer ‘Emperor’ (continued)

Emperor
 Reflect SE

They both grew very well. Overall, I really enjoyed ‘Emperor’ the most. ‘Reflect’ tasted a little bitter.

Emperor
 Reflect SE

‘Reflect’ germinated poorly and its seedlings had more bug damage. ‘Emperor’ produced over 90% more.

Emperor
 Reflect SE

All around performed best.

Emperor
 Reflect NC

Both grew well and are still growing under row covers now in mid-October. ‘Emperor’ had better flavor; ‘Reflect’ tasted bitter.

Emperor
 Reflect SC

‘Emperor’ was somewhat more vigorous, but both varieties were good.

Emperor
 Reflect SC

Both germinated within 5 days. ‘Emperor’ started out better and produced the first yield. ‘Reflect’ came on later and caught up. ‘Emperor’ had slightly better yield.

Emperor
 Reflect SC

The plants of both varieties were healthy and looked very nice. ‘Emperor’ had better yields and was ready to harvest earlier. Its flavor was mild; great for salads.

Emperor
 Reflect SC

‘Emperor’ had higher yield. There was a bug in my garden that loved both varieties. Not much to yield and then it got so hot and dry that I did not have nearly as good a growth as I did the year before.

Emperor
 Reflect SC

‘Reflect’ did not produce vigorous plants. ‘Emperor’ really took off!

Emperor
 Reflect SC

‘Emperor’ germinated better but not many plants of either variety. My garden was bad this year.

Emperor
 Reflect SC

‘Emperor’ was just a nice plant and good tasting.

Prefer ‘Reflect’

Emperor
 Reflect MN

‘Reflect’ tasted better and I really liked it.

Emperor
 Reflect MN

‘Reflect’ had better germination.

Emperor
 Reflect SE

‘Reflect’ was better, hands down. Its leaves were thick and full. ‘Emperor’ only produced one small bunch of leaves.

Emperor
 Reflect SE

The varieties germinated at the same time. Plants looked great, although there were a few holes in some leaves of ‘Emperor’. ‘Reflect’ was ready to harvest a little earlier, and the yields of both varieties were very good. The plants were full, sturdy and dark green—they both looked great. Kids thought ‘Reflect’ was milder; Mom and Dad thought both were great. We later mixed leaves of both varieties into a salad and they were crisper and more flavorful than anything I can find in a store or farmers market. I would happily grow both of these again!

Prefer 'Reflect' (continued)

Emperor ★★★★★ ☹️
 Reflect ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I grew them in containers. 'Emperor' was more productive but 'Reflect' had a better physical appearance. This trial was wonderful. Well worth the time. Excellent.

Emperor ★★★★★ 😊
 Reflect ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Reflect' was tastier.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☹️
 Reflect ★★★★★ 😊 NC

The 'Reflect' leaf was slightly more tender. It was fun to try these types of spinach. We enjoy spinach as a salad, etc.

Emperor ★★★★★ 😊
 Reflect ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Neither variety germinated very well and the plants were slow growing. Both of the varieties tasted great! 'Reflect' produced more of the nice, sweet, big leaves.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☹️
 Reflect ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

They germinated the same. Both had dark green leaves. 'Reflect' had a larger harvest early in the season and this continued throughout the fall. I did not like the savory leaf texture, but both varieties tasted okay when cooked. Both varieties had very brittle leaf stems and would break when cutting the whole plant.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☹️
 Reflect ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Reflect' was very fast coming up and produced well.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☹️
 Reflect ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

'Reflect' had a slightly better taste. Neither variety showed much growth or vigor. I planted after a good rain and irrigated my garden when needed. My spinach crop last fall was much better.

Emperor ★★★★★ 😊
 Reflect ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I prefer the leaf shape of 'Reflect'.

Emperor ★★★★★ ☹️
 Reflect ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

Neither of these varieties germinated well, either that or they were getting eaten as they came out of the ground by voles. Only half of the row of 'Emperor' came up. About 2/3 of the row of 'Reflect' came up. 'Reflect' had a larger leaf.

'Reflect' excelled in no traits. Most gardeners did not recommend it.

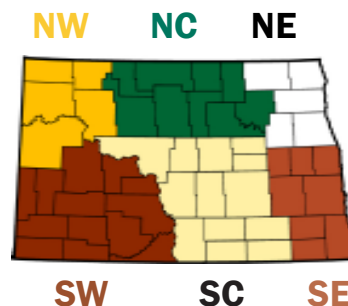
Conclusions

Germination is always a challenge in fall spinach production and it was a problem for both varieties this year due to our drought. Most gardeners preferred 'Emperor'. It germinated better, grew quicker and produced higher yields. 'Reflect' excelled in no traits and most gardeners did not recommend it. The plants of both varieties were healthy and delicious.

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 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC
Location ←
Comments ↙
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.



MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

Varieties

'Olympia'

45 days. Yields are quick and abundant. Leaves are smooth and mild in flavor. Plants resist bolting.

'Space'

45 days. Grows vigorously and is slow to bolt. Medium-green color. Its upright habit keeps the leaves clean.



Data

Gardeners at 34 sites submitted information.

Trait	Olympia	Space	Same
Germinated best	43%	18%	39%
Healthier plants	24	24	52
Harvested earlier	38	21	42
Higher yields	29	38	33
Resisted bolting better	9	50	41
More attractive	17	46	38
Tasted better	22	39	39
Preference	38	62	
Recommend (☺)	63	79	
Mean score ¹	6.75	7.33	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Olympia'

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ ☹️ MN

'Olympia' tasted better, but both varieties tasted really bitter.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☺️
Space ★★★★★ ☺️ NE

'Olympia' germinated better, was healthier and produced better yields. I could not irrigate the trial for 10 days after sowing and yields suffered.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☺️
Space ★★★★★ ☺️ NE

Both varieties were just fair this year. They both bolted very early and so the harvest period was short.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☺️
Space ★★★★★ ☹️ NE

Poor germination on both, but 'Space' turned yellow before any leaves were large enough to use.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☺️
Space ★★★★★ ☺️ SE

'Olympia' showed more vigor. Its first harvest was on July 3, 5 days earlier than the first harvest of 'Space'. 'Olympia' produced higher yields. Its leaves were very large; a co-worker liked the shape of 'Space' leaves. 'Space' resisted bolting a couple days longer. I pulled all plants on July 26. Both tasted good but 'Olympia' was better.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☺️
Space ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

Neither variety germinated well under the dry conditions. 'Olympia' was ready to harvest first.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☺️
Space ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

'Olympia' was easy to grow. It tasted wonderful (raw and cooked) with little to no wilting. It lasted a long time in the fridge.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☺️
Space ★★★★★ ☺️ NW

Both were great producers! We enjoyed both in salads and in making pesto. I hate to choose one over the other. 'Olympia' produced more and larger plants. 'Olympia' gave just a hint of pepper to the pesto.

'Olympia' germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier at many sites. It has been a reliable performer for springtime sowings.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for spring sowing
Top choice Space
Strong performer Olympia

Prefer 'Space'

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Space' outperformed 'Olympia' in almost every area. It had fabulous growth while 'Olympia' seemed very slow. 'Space' provided a much bigger harvest while 'Olympia' leaves never got to a good size. 'Space' bolted later—we were harvesting in mid-July. 'Space' had a good "spinach" flavor while 'Olympia' was bland.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Olympia' had 95% germination and grew fast. Plants grew taller but bolted after the first cutting. The stand of 'Space' was not as thick. Its plants bushed out and had large leaves. It was cut three times and resisted bolting. It grew back faster after cutting, therefore producing higher yields. Its leaves were larger and greener. Both varieties produced a lot of spinach and both tasted very good with no bitter aftertaste.

Olympia ★★★★★ 😊
Space ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties had very healthy plants and produced well. I liked them both for their nice color and smooth leaves that were easy to clean. 'Space' was ready to pick just a little sooner and was much slower to bolt. 'Space' had crisp texture—nice in sandwiches—and a slightly tangy flavor.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Yields were poor due to heat. Both tasted bitter but 'Space' was a little milder.

Olympia ★★★★★ 😊
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Space' tasted much better and was a better plant—this year. To be fair to 'Olympia', I liked it much better other years when drought wasn't a problem. Both varieties bolted almost right away due to heat.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Space' did not bolt as quickly. Its plants had a nice, dark green color and uniform shape.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both germinated slowly due to the dry conditions. Plants were healthy and harvesting began in mid-June. Great yields. Equal in appearance and taste. 'Space' bolted on July 4, 1 week later than 'Olympia'.

Olympia ★★★★★ 😊
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

They were both great but 'Space' beat out 'Olympia', especially for its superior taste.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Space' produced more plants with more attractive and bigger leaves. It also went to seed a few weeks later than 'Olympia', which made for a longer and more productive harvest.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ 😊 NW
'Space' had darker green, tastier leaves.

Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both germinated well. 'Olympia' was ready to harvest earlier. Space seemed a little more resistant to leaf miners. This was the first time I had smooth-leaf spinach in my garden. Both varieties were fairly equal and I prefer this type over curled-leaf spinach. There was more overall yield than spinach I've tried to grow in the past.

Olympia ★★★★★ 😊
Space ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were very similar but 'Space' bolted a bit later.

Conclusions

Both varieties did well but most gardeners preferred 'Space'. It showed remarkable resistance to bolting, leading to higher yields. More gardeners preferred the looks and taste of 'Space' leaves. 'Olympia' germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier at many sites. 'Olympia' has always done well in our spring trials, but it could not match the heat tolerance of 'Space'.

'Space' was productive and showed remarkable resistance to bolting—even during an extreme drought. Gardeners liked the color and flavor of its leaves.

Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

'Gazelle'

36 days. Dark green, oval leaves. Long stems for bunching. Resists downy mildew.

'Red Kitten'

34 days. Medium green leaves with distinctive red veins. Colorful addition to salads. Resists diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 62 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red		
	Gazelle	Kitten	Same
Germinated best	38%	25%	38%
Healthier plants	26	23	51
Harvested earlier	52	20	28
Higher yields	45	32	23
More attractive	13	63	24
Tasted better	26	37	37
Preference	45	55	
Recommend (☺)	81	70	
Mean score ¹	6.96	6.87	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Gazelle'

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ MN

I really enjoyed both varieties of spinach. Both are beautiful varieties with large leaf structure. They both tasted great. They handled the 28°F weather we had the other night! Great for northern gardens. 'Gazelle' produced more yields. It also handled the extremes much better since going from drought to 6 inches of rain to frozen temperatures. It germinated much better in the arid conditions and it's still producing with zero plant loss! 'Red Kitten' is very attractive. It looks wonderful in a garden as well as on the dinner plate; a very showy spinach.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Both varieties produced very compact plants that had nice flavor (not bitter). Either one would make a great addition to a salad or stir fry. I prefer 'Gazelle' only because its germination was better than 'Red Kitten'.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Gazelle' had bigger leaves and healthier plants. 'Gazelle' is delicious and such a wonder vegetable. I add it to so many things (spinach on pizza is amazing). 'Red Kitten' leaves were rubbery—very attractive but the taste was just not there.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Red Kitten' germinated a little better. Both varieties grew to produce leaves but 'Gazelle' had larger leaves.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Due to the dry spell in August, only some of the seeds came up. Recently the rest of the seeds came up and I have two rows of small spinach seedlings. I preferred 'Gazelle'. It looked more like traditional spinach and had bigger leaves.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Gazelle' was more productive.

Both varieties grew well and gardeners enjoyed fresh salads through much of October.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
 Olympia

Strong performers
 Gazelle
 Red Kitten

Prefer 'Gazelle' (continued)

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

Although 'Red Kitten' was beautiful with its red pigmentation, I preferred 'Gazelle' as it had a better taste.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

'Gazelle' appeared slightly more robust. The varieties grew at the same pace but 'Gazelle' was more productive. It tasted better. The red veins of 'Red Kitten' made it more attractive.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

I preferred the look of 'Gazelle' and don't care for the red color of 'Red Kitten'. The yield was pretty similar between the two. I didn't have a preference in taste, as they are both mild in flavor.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

Only 'Gazelle' germinated. Very few plants though. Good greens.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NC

The row of 'Gazelle' was much thicker. It had higher yield and better taste.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NC

'Gazelle' came up first but both did very well for a fall crop. Both tasted very good and we made many salads.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NC
 No comments.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

'Gazelle' produced higher yields. I think 'Gazelle' is more tolerant of drier soil. My garden is away from home and I didn't water as much as I should have.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

Hot and dry (82+°F) during first week of planting. 'Gazelle' germinated at 5–8 days; good emergence. 'Red Kitten' germinated at 8–10 days; spotty emergence. 'Gazelle' had thick, dark green leaves with tender stems. It tasted better. 'Red Kitten' had poor production. Its leaves were small and its stems were not edible.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

'Gazelle' was healthier and hardier. Its leaves were beautiful and large; it matured earlier. 'Red Kitten' had small leaves, grew slower and had a great unique taste.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

'Gazelle' produced faster.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

'Gazelle' had higher yields and healthier plants.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NW

'Gazelle' produced larger leaves, higher yield, and was ready to pick 1 week earlier. 'Gazelle' produced a sweeter, less dense leaf that was easier to chew. We liked its bright green color and fresh crispness. We felt 'Red Kitten' added nice color to a salad mix but lacked much flavor. We grew 'Gazelle' last year and it produced a smaller plant this year, but there was not as much rain this year and we relied on irrigation water versus rain water.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NW

'Gazelle' had more flavor. I used it in soups and salads and it was great. 'Gazelle' seedlings emerged first, 6 days after the August 9 sowing. Both varieties are still producing as of October 21 even with the cool temps that we have had.

'Gazelle' produced higher yields and was ready to harvest sooner. Its leaves were large, dark green and flavorful.

Prefer 'Gazelle' (continued)

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NW

'Gazelle' produced a bigger, tastier leaf. More of a spinach taste.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SW

It took 8 days for both to emerge. 'Gazelle' had better plant vigor and double the yield. The red stems and veins of 'Red Kitten' were attractive.

Prefer 'Red Kitten'

Gazelle
 Red Kitten MN

Germination could have been better; 'Red Kitten' germinated better. Both varieties had a good, mild flavor. I had two cuttings. 'Red Kitten' had bigger leaves/plants. I loved its red stems.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten MN

I would rather eat 'Red Kitten'. I like the way it tastes.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten MN

I had no flavor preference, but my husband liked 'Red Kitten' better. It would look great in a salad with raspberries. We would like to grow 'Red Kitten' next year.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NE

'Red Kitten' had slightly better taste. It was unique and adds color to salad. Both varieties were very healthy and attractive; shiny full leaves. I would probably use both.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NE

'Red Kitten' had the best flavor and best yield. It was tasty while 'Gazelle' tasted bitter and "planty."

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

'Red Kitten' leaves were healthier, fuller and thicker.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

'Red Kitten' tasted better.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

'Red Kitten' outperformed 'Gazelle'.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SE

Red Kitten has beautiful leaves and no disease issues. It had excellent germination while 'Gazelle' had poor germination. Thank you—it's great to have a fall crop of spinach!

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NC

We sowed the seeds in containers and 'Gazelle' never germinated. 'Red Kitten' germinated and was transplanted to the garden. It was a hearty plant but the yield was small.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten NC

No comments.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

I prefer 'Red Kitten' because of its red stem. My motto is "Eat your colors." So I'm attracted to more colorful veggies. 'Gazelle' leaves were slightly larger.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

I loved 'Red Kitten'. Such a different type of spinach. Love the look, too. Both varieties are perfect for salads.

Gazelle
 Red Kitten SC

I liked the red veins of 'Red Kitten'. Thank you for introducing me to fall planting. Yields were not as good as spring planting but adequate.

The red veins and stems of 'Red Kitten' leaves were unique and added bright color to salads.

Prefer 'Red Kitten' (continued)

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 I liked the presentation of 'Red Kitten' with its cool red stems. Its leaves looked like beet leaves. It had better taste, too. 'Gazelle' had bigger leaves and greater production.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😞
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Red Kitten' is a beautiful spinach! The color is so attractive in salads and tasted great! I'm impressed with how hardy these varieties are. Even though it has frosted several times, I'm still harvesting!

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Red Kitten' germinated better. Both varieties exhibited downy mildew: yellowish areas on tops of leaves; smaller, black, fungus looking areas on the undersides. The disease affected the initial leaves once they became larger. It had minimal effect on yields. We are planning to mulch the plants to see if they'll survive the winter. I do this each year in a little plot on the south side of house. We always enjoy very early spinach.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Red Kitten' has such interesting coloring and tastes great.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 I like the red stem on 'Red Kitten'. I think it looks a little like a baby beet leaf. Both varieties tasted nice and fresh.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Red Kitten' had very pretty red stems and veins. It was easier to see and weed around. 'Gazelle' grew faster. Both varieties tasted about the same and I liked them whether cooked and fresh.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 Both germinated at the same time. 'Gazelle' was healthier. Both varieties were pretty and flavorful, but I prefer the looks and milder flavor of 'Red Kitten'.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😞
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😞 SW
 'Gazelle' did not germinate. 'Red Kitten' germinated well. 'Red Kitten' is growing slowly to baby spinach size. Have eaten some—tastes good. I hesitate to recommend 'Red Kitten' because I have grown it previously in the spring and was not impressed. I have not had good luck with fall greens but keep trying. I have had better luck with sowing late and the seeds start growing in the spring when they are ready.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Red Kitten' had larger leaves and was sweeter than 'Gazelle'.

Gazelle ★★★★★ 😊
 Red Kitten ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Red Kitten' was very attractive in the garden and had better taste. 'Gazelle' produced better.

Conclusions

This was a popular trial and both varieties grew well. Gardeners enjoyed fresh salads through much of October. 'Red Kitten' generated a lot of excitement. The red veins and stems of its leaves were unique and added bright color to salads. 'Gazelle' produced higher yields and was ready to harvest sooner. Its leaves were large, dark green and flavorful. It's interesting that most gardeners preferred the colorful 'Red Kitten' but felt more comfortable recommending 'Gazelle', a more productive and traditional spinach.

Most gardeners preferred the colorful 'Red Kitten' but felt more comfortable recommending 'Gazelle', a more productive and traditional spinach.

Squash, Straightneck

Varieties

'Fortune'

45 days. Smooth, bright yellow fruits. Sturdy necks. Yellow gene masks green streaking.

'Multipik'

50 days. Bright yellow fruits. No green streaking. Amazing yields. Great for grilling.

Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Fortune	Multi-pik	Same
Germinated best	38%	0%	63%
Healthier plants	0	13	88
Harvested earlier	38	25	38
Higher yields	38	25	38
More attractive fruits	38	13	50
Tasted better	38	0	63
Preference	63	38	
Recommend (☺)	75	63	
Mean score ¹	8.00	7.38	
Median score ¹	8.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Fortune'

Fortune ★★★★★☺
 Multipik ★★★★★☹ SE

'Fortune' germinated faster. It had prettier fruits with less tough skin. Also tasted better and seemed less seedy inside. The vines of 'Multipik' were darker green. Its fruits had a bumpy skin that looked unattractive.

Fortune ★★★★★☺
 Multipik ★★★★★☺ SC

Both varieties produced lots of squash. Hail damaged the plants in early July and I was very pleased with how the plants bounced back from that. 'Multipik' tasted good, but 'Fortune' had a much more amazing taste!

Fortune ★★★★★☺
 Multipik ★★★★★☹ SC

'Fortune' had higher yield.



Fortune ★★★★★☺
 Multipik ★★★★★☺ SC

'Fortune' fruits were longer, slimmer (not as bulb shaped) and had thinner skin.

Fortune ★★★★★☺
 Multipik ★★★★★☺ NW

These are excellent varieties, especially when picked small and roasted on the grill. Both varieties produced like crazy. I gave away hundreds of squash.

Prefer 'Multipik'

Fortune ★★★★★☹
 Multipik ★★★★★☹ SE

No real difference between the two. They were underwhelming. I got a few more 'Multipik' squash. I grew 2 plants of each and got less than 10 squash all together.

Fortune ★★★★★☺
 Multipik ★★★★★☺ NC

Both varieties produced very heavy yields.

Fortune ★★★★★☹
 Multipik ★★★★★☺ SW

Drought was hard on these!

Conclusions

The varieties were similar in many respects and both produced an amazing amount of squash. Most gardeners preferred 'Fortune.' They hailed 'Fortune' for its superior taste and its thin, smooth skin.

Both varieties produced an amazing amount of squash. Gardeners preferred 'Fortune' for its taste and its thin, smooth skin.

Best straightneck squash varieties
 Top choice Zephyr
 Strong performers Fortune Multipik

Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

Varieties

'Dunja'

47 days. High yields of straight fruits. Open plants and short spines make harvesting easy. Vines resist powdery mildew.

'Raven'

48 days. Dark green, smooth, glossy fruit. Vines have an open habit. Big yields but its harvest season is short.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dunja	Raven	Same
Germinated best	0%	38%	63%
Healthier plants	29	29	43
Harvested earlier	29	43	29
Higher yields	29	29	43
More attractive fruits	29	43	29
Tasted better	14	29	57
Preference	29	71	
Recommend (☺)	57	71	
Mean score ¹	6.57	7.57	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Dunja'

Dunja ★★★★★☺
 Raven ★★★★★☺ SE
 'Dunja' produced more.

Dunja ★★★★★☺
 Raven ★★★★★☹ SC
 'Dunja' fared very well in the hot weather. Its fruits were very tender and juicy.

Prefer 'Raven'

Dunja ★★★★★☺
 Raven ★★★★★☺ NE
 'Raven' germinated faster and had more vigorous seedlings. It produced the first yields.

Dunja ★★★★★☺
 Raven ★★★★★☺ SE

Both varieties were good long-term producers. 'Raven' fruits were healthier and better. 'Dunja' had more curved/twisted fruits.

Dunja ★★★★★☹
 Raven ★★★★★☹ SE

These varieties were okay. I got some really nice zukes but the fruits are harder than I like. Yields were moderate.

Dunja ★★★★★☹
 Raven ★★★★★☺ SC

'Raven' had lots more yield.

Dunja ★★★★★☹
 Raven ★★★★★☺ NW

'Raven' fruits last longer off the vine and taste better. The fruits have a darker green skin, which I like. Some of the smaller 'Dunja' fruits rotted at the blossom end.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Raven'. These gardeners reported that 'Raven' germinated better and matured faster. They liked its dark, glossy skin and the straightness of its fruits. For years, 'Raven' has been unsurpassed at producing a fast crop. This is a valuable trait in North Dakota, where our growing season is cool and short.

Most gardeners preferred 'Raven'. They reported it germinated better, matured earlier and produced dark, glossy fruits.

Best zucchini varieties

Top choice
Raven

Strong performers
Payload
Spineless
Beauty

Squash, Green Zucchini

Varieties

'Payload'

44 days. Shiny, cylindrical fruits. Vines are open and nearly spineless, making harvesting easy.

'Spineless Perfection'

45 days. Straight, attractive fruits form on spineless vines. Its resistance to diseases leads to a long and productive harvest.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Spineless		
	Payload	Perfect.	Same
Germinated best	11%	56%	33%
Healthier plants	11	44	33
Harvested earlier	67	22	11
Higher yields	44	33	22
More attractive fruits	44	0	56
Tasted better	44	0	56
Preference	63	38	
Recommend	67	78	
Mean score ¹	7.89	7.22	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Payload'

Payload ★★★★★ 😊
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Payload' pulled ahead in yield at the end of the year. Both produced well into October! Fruits of both varieties were equally tasty.

Payload ★★★★★ 😊
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😞 NC
 'Spineless Perfection' vines turned yellow during fruiting stage, while 'Payload' vines stayed green throughout multiple harvests. 'Payload' produced bigger yields.

Payload ★★★★★ 😞
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😞 SC
 'Payload' produced first. Yields of both varieties were poor. Plants got white spots.

Payload ★★★★★ 😊
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Payload' had a softer, more palatable skin. 'Spineless Perfection' was dark and tough.

Payload ★★★★★ 😊
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Payload' produced less but I loved the shape and texture of its fruits.

Prefer 'Spineless Perfection'

Payload ★★★★★ 😞
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Spineless Perfection' was an outstanding producer, good through October 3.

Payload ★★★★★ 😊
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Spineless Perfection' produced higher yields and its small fruits were well shaped. Both varieties were strong performers and produced an abundance of zucchini.

Payload ★★★★★ 😞
 Spineless Perfection ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 Both produced near identical results. Slight edge to 'Spineless Perfection' since it germinated earlier and had more vigor.

Conclusions

'Payload' matured earlier and produced good yields. Its fruits were more attractive, uniformly shaped, delicious, and had a softer, more palatable skin. Gardeners liked the strong germination and vigor of 'Spineless Perfection'.

Most gardeners preferred 'Payload' for its outstanding fruit quality. They liked 'Spineless Perfection' for its superior germination and plant vigor.

Best zucchini varieties

Top choice
Raven

Strong performers
Payload
Spineless Beauty

Swiss Chard, White

Varieties

'Barese'

45 days. Dwarf type can be grown for baby leaves or harvested as a whole plant like celery at 8 inches.

'Silverado'

60 days. Crinkly, dark green leaves with broad white stems. Flavorful. Slow to bolt.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Barese	Silverado	Same
Germinated best	11%	67%	22%
Healthier plants	22	44	33
Harvested earlier	11	78	11
Higher yields	22	78	0
More attractive	11	89	0
Tasted better	11	56	33
Preference	11	89	
Recommend	67	89	
Mean score ¹	6.56	8.56	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Barese'

Barese ★★★★★☆ 😊
Silverado ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC

'Barese' matured later but kept healthy longer—less insect damage. It kept growing even after our first frost and then deer ate them.

Prefer 'Silverado'

Barese ★★★★★☆ 😞
Silverado ★★★★★☆ 😊 MN

Germination was about 75% for both varieties. Initially it appeared 'Barese' plants germinated far better than 'Silverado', but 'Silverado' rallied and plants looked great after a couple weeks. I absolutely preferred 'Silverado' over 'Barese'. The appearance, flavor and yield of 'Silverado' were all significantly better compared to 'Barese'.

Barese ★★★★★☆ 😞
Silverado ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Silverado' is more traditional looking—lots of wrinkles. It produced the first yield of the trial on July 20. 'Barese' has smooth leaves and is easier to clean. It had a thicker leaf, but cooked it up nice and tender. The varieties tasted the same.

Barese ★★★★★☆ 😊
Silverado ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Silverado' germinated better (72% versus 35% for 'Barese'). It was ready for harvest earlier. The plants were taller and looked healthier. Both varieties had attractive plants and were delicious. Both regrew well after cutting.

Barese ★★★★★☆ 😊
Silverado ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Silverado' tasted better and held up better.

Barese ★★★★★☆ 😊
Silverado ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Barese' bolted by early July. I cut both varieties back and by the end of August all the way through mid-October I was picking a second crop of leaves. 'Silverado' had the more familiar ruffled leaves. They were easier for me to use in what I normally cook. I used them in fresh salads or very lightly wilted with butter and garlic as a side. The thicker glossy leaves of 'Barese' held up to longer cooking better. I used them as a substitute for spinach in my recipes for dips and soups.

'Barese' leaves were thicker, smoother, easier to clean, and resisted insect pests.

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bright Lights

Strong performers

Flamingo
Lucullus
Oriole
Peppermint
Rhubarb
Silverado

‘Silverado’ was the clear winner. Gardeners liked its crinkly leaves, superior flavor and higher yields.

Prefer ‘Silverado’ (continued)

Barese ★★★★★☆ ☹️
 Silverado ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Silverado’ was abundant, beautiful and crunchy—loved it. The bugs preferred it too. ‘Barese’ was pathetic and waxy.

Barese ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Silverado ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

‘Silverado’ had more tender leaves. ‘Barese’ resisted insect damage better.

Barese ★★★★★★ 😊
 Silverado ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

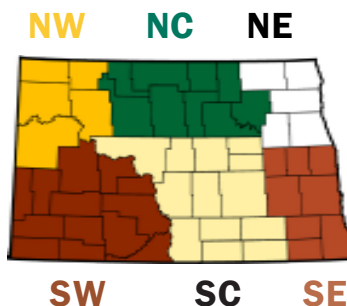
The flat leaves of ‘Barese’ are nice, but the leaves of ‘Silverado’ are larger so I picked those most. I sort of liked both varieties but liked ‘Silverado’ best.

Conclusions

Gardeners strongly preferred ‘Silverado’. They liked its crinkly leaves, superior flavor and higher yields. ‘Barese’ leaves were thicker, smoother and easier to clean. It seemed that insect pests—and a few gardeners—resisted eating it.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
- NC = North Central
- SC = South Central
- NW = Northwest
- SW = Southwest
- SD = South Dakota
- MT = Montana

Watermelon, Red

Varieties

'Sangria'

90 days. Very high quality. Deep red flesh is very sweet and refreshing. Melons grow 20 pounds.

'Sweet Dakota Rose'

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 10–20 pounds. Proven performer.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sweet Dakota		
	Sangria	Rose	Same
Germinated best	24%	18%	59%
Healthier plants	14	21	64
Matured earlier	33	33	33
Higher yields	46	31	23
More attractive fruits	50	8	42
Tasted better	50	25	25
Preference	71	29	
Recommend (😊)	63	44	
Mean score ¹	6.60	6.27	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Sangria'

Sangria ★★★★★😊
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊 MN
 We got multiple 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons and only one 'Sangria' melon—but it was delicious.

Sangria ★★★★★😊
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊 SE
 These are both excellent watermelons; great taste and large producers. The oblong fruit of 'Sangria' fits in the refrigerator better. 'Sangria' produced 6 melons with a total weight of 68 pounds while 'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced 6 melons with a total weight of 96 pounds. I did not irrigate them. I didn't expect anything in this drought year.

Sangria ★★★★★😊
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊 SE
 'Sangria' melons were larger with good flavor. Germination of the trial was poor due to the weather conditions.

Sangria ★★★★★😊
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊 SE
 'Sangria' showed 85% germination and vigorous seedling growth. Its vines grew faster and vined out more. These vines produced higher yields of larger, mature and fully developed melons. It matured early enough to enjoy throughout late summer and fall. The flesh of 'Sangria' was redder with few seeds; the shape of its melons was more uniform and elongated. Superior taste! Best tasting watermelon and best watermelon by far! 'Sweet Dakota Rose' showed 50% germination and weak seedling vigor. Its vines later came on and looked healthy. The first melon of both varieties ripened on the same date.

Sangria ★★★★★😊
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊 SE
 'Sangria' was very sweet and tasted great. Melons of both varieties had a lot of seeds.

Sangria ★★★★★😊
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊 SC
 Both varieties were slow to get growing and didn't produce melons until quite late. There were far more melons of 'Sangria' but flavor did lack this year in both. I think our growing season wasn't favorable to them this year. The melons were not very sweet.

Gardeners raved over the delicious, deep red flesh of 'Sangria'. Its vines were productive.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sangria

Strong performers
Sugar Baby
Sweet Dakota Rose

‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ has always done well in our trials. It produced sweet, juicy melons again this year.

Prefer ‘Sangria’ (continued)

Sangria ★★★★★ 😊
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 SC
Both varieties produced very nice melons. We chose ‘Sangria’ as best because of better germination (only one seed of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ germinated) and its melons were larger and tasted slightly better. The melons of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ were more round; the melons of ‘Sangria’ were more oblong. We had more melons from ‘Sangria’, but we also had more seeds that had germinated. One drawback on ‘Sangria’ was that it seemed to be more difficult to cut through the rind of this melon. But overall, both were fantastic melons!

Sangria ★★★★★ ☆ 😞
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 SW
‘Sangria’ had superior taste, texture and sugar content. Its largest melon was 17 pounds compared to 23 pounds for ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’. With an October 3 freeze, some of these melons barely got ripe; the majority did not get ripe. I will not grow these varieties in North Dakota because of this. Both varieties would make a great melon in South Dakota.

Sangria ★★★★★ 😊
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 SW
‘Sangria’ had long, oblong watermelons that were heavier than the nearly round fruits of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’. Both varieties had sweet, juicy, flavorful fruit. ‘Sangria’ had more fruit reach maturity before first frost, was first to have a mature melon, and had larger melons at maturity. I was impressed with the excellent germination of both varieties. I was very impressed with the size and quality of the ‘Sangria’ watermelons.

Prefer ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’

Sangria ★★★★★ ☆ 😞
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 SC
The melons of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ had a better size and better flavor.

Sangria ★★★★★ 😊
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 SC
Both are juicy and sweet. There were more ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ melons but the ‘Sangria’ were larger so the yields were similar. ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ seemed a little sweeter (but not much!). All ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ melons ripened whereas there were quite a few ‘Sangria’ that did not mature. I was surprised how juicy and crisp both were with the drought. Although we did water, I didn’t think we had watered enough for the entire season. The largest ‘Sangria’ we harvested was 21 pounds. The largest ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ melon was smaller but did not get weighed (my husband ate it before I could weigh it). Quantities of seeds inside the melons were similar but those in ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ melons were closer together and could be removed easier.

Sangria ★★★★★ ☆ 😞
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 SW
I did not get fully vine ripened melons from either of these varieties. I picked all the melons before the first hard frost at the end of September and let them ripen another week indoors. Neither was fully ripe when cut into, but in this partially ripened state ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ tasted sweeter.

Sangria ★★★★★ ☆ 😞
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 MT
‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ was the best.

Other

Sangria ★★★★★ ☆ 😞
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 SC
I am waiting for a ripe melon. The melons on the vine are only 4 inches in diameter.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred ‘Sangria’. They were especially impressed with its sweet and delicious, deep red flesh. The vines of ‘Sangria’ were more productive and its first melons ripened at the same time as those of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’. ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ has always done well in our trials. It produced sweet, juicy melons again this year, but it could not match ‘Sangria’ for yield or fruit quality.

Watermelon, Red Icebox

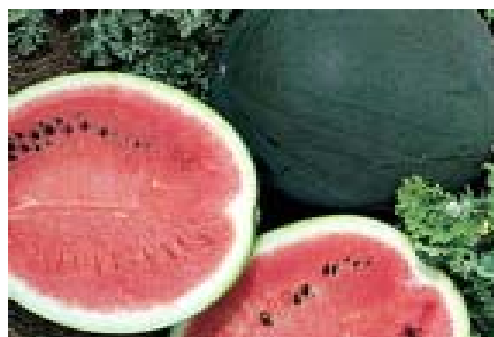
Varieties

'Jade Star'

75 days. 'Sugar Baby' type with reported higher yields, larger fruits and sweeter flesh.

'Sugar Baby'

75 days. Popular early melon. Deep red, crisp flesh. Small seeds. Dark green rind. Melons grow 8 pounds.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jade Star	Sugar Baby	Same
Germinated best	11%	56%	33%
Healthier plants	33	56	11
Matured earlier	22	56	22
Higher yields	33	56	11
More attractive fruits	25	50	25
Tasted better	0	86	14
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (☺)	22	56	
Mean score ¹	5.22	5.44	
Median score ¹	5.00	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Jade Star'

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☺
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 We had to constantly water due to drought. 'Jade Star' melons were more fleshy.

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☺
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Jade Star' had twice as many seedlings. Its vines grew very well and produced soccer ball-sized melons. 'Sugar Baby' produced only baseball-sized melons.

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☹
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ SC
 'Jade Star' seedlings looked sickly but they lived while those of 'Sugar Baby' died. 'Jade Star' plants were very slow to grow. The melons tasted okay, not great.

Prefer 'Sugar Baby'

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☹
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties had very small melons.

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☹
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Sugar Baby' did better in all traits but both varieties produced low yields.

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☹
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Sugar Baby' produced first.

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☹
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Sugar Baby' had substantially more melons.

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☹
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Sugar Baby' tasted better.

Jade Star ★★★★★ ☹
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ NW

We watered frequently but both varieties performed poorly. 'Jade Star' produced no melons and died early. 'Sugar Baby' produced two melons that were very small.

Conclusions

Yields of both varieties were poor and gardeners were not happy. 'Sugar Baby' had better germination, healthier vines, higher yields and better quality fruits. The hybrid 'Jade Star' was a disappointment.

'Sugar Baby' performed better in all measured traits, but both varieties produced low yields.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sangria

Strong performers
Sugar Baby
Sweet Dakota
Rose

Watermelon, Yellow

Varieties

'Gold in Gold'

80 days. New award winner with distinctive gold rind. Elongated, 12 pound melons.

'Lemon Krush'

85 days. Bright yellow flesh is crisp and sweet. Oval, striped melons grow 16 pounds.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

'Lemon Krush' rated higher for most traits. Its striped green rind was judged more attractive than the distinctive yellow rind of 'Gold in Gold'.

Trait	Gold in Gold	Lemon Krush	Same
Germinated best	12%	50%	38%
Healthier plants	25	50	25
Matured earlier	33	50	17
Higher yields	50	50	0
More attractive fruits	0	80	20
Tasted better	50	50	0
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	57	43	
Mean score ¹	5.29	5.86	
Median score ¹	6.00	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Gold in Gold'

Gold in Gold ★★★★★ ☺
Lemon Krush ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Gold in Gold' germinated better and its vines were more vigorous. The varieties produced the same number of fruits, but the fruits of 'Gold in Gold' ripened first and were larger. Both varieties tasted good, but 'Gold in Gold' was slightly sweeter.

Gold in Gold ★★★★★ ☺
Lemon Krush ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Gold in Gold' had a fun yellow rind, great taste, earlier ripening and fewer seeds. Its rind was a two-tone yellow while the rind of 'Lemon Krush' was green—both attractive.

Gold in Gold ★★★★★ ☺
Lemon Krush ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Gold in Gold' had better flavor; fewer seeds.

Prefer 'Lemon Krush'

Gold in Gold ★★★★★ ☹
Lemon Krush ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Lemon Krush' ripened one week earlier and produced many more big, mature melons. Its green rind, yellow flesh and round shape were attractive! The yellow texture was nice and its rind held up better than other yellow-flesh melons when ripe. Its melons stored well after harvest. I preferred its flavor; maybe had a hint of lemon flavor. 'Gold in Gold' germinated slowly; its vines died before melons ripened.

Gold in Gold ★★★★★ ☹
Lemon Krush ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Lemon Krush' is the only one that grew well for me. Its vines were strong and produced about 15 melons with a good flavor. My friends and family enjoyed it.

Gold in Gold ★★★★★ ☺
Lemon Krush ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Vines grew well and their first melons ripened at the same time. 'Lemon Krush' had more decent-sized melons. It was difficult to get kids to eat 'Gold in Gold' because of its yellow rind. Both varieties did better than my red-flesh watermelons.

Conclusions

'Lemon Krush' rated higher for most traits. Its striped green rind was judged more attractive than the distinctive yellow rind of 'Gold in Gold.' Neither variety gained a high number of recommendations.

Best yellow watermelon variety
Top choice
Early
Moonbeam

Basil, Italian

Varieties

'Eleonora'

65 days. Its open habit and slightly cupped leaves reduce mildew problems. Its flavor is slightly spicier than others.

'Genovese'

70 days. Classic flavor and appearance. Dark green leaves. Height 30 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Eleonora	Genovese	Same
Germinated best	23%	50%	27%
Healthier plants	29	57	14
Harvested earlier	24	67	10
Higher yields	24	67	10
More attractive	29	48	24
Tasted better	14	29	57
Preference	33	67	
Recommend	67	95	
Mean score ¹	6.84	7.95	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Eleonora'

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😊
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Eleonora' had a more compact plant. Both varieties had excellent plants and tasted great.

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😊
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Eleonora' was more productive.

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😊
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Eleonora' was milder for pesto recipes and had a higher yield due to its superior germination. 'Genovese' grew faster and its leaves had a dull, earthy flavor. Seeds were sown June 1, germinated on June 23, and the first harvest was on July 22.

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😊
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Eleonora' had bushy plants and produced a higher yield. The taste of 'Genovese' was stronger and better.

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😊
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😞 SC
 'Eleonora' had a nicer plant.

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😊
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Genovese' started out leaps and bounds ahead of 'Eleonora' with a higher germination rate. My kids all commented that I picked a boring trial this year that it was obvious which one was better. Midway through the summer, 'Eleonora' came alive and ended up not quite double the size of 'Genovese'. 'Genovese' didn't bolt, but it just quit growing. We prefer 'Eleonora' because more leaves means more pesto!

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😊
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 No comments.

Prefer 'Genovese'

Eleonora ★★★★★ 😞
 Genovese ★★★★★ 😊 MN
 'Genovese' germinated better. Its plants were nice and full. Its yields were very prolific early in the season. This is an excellent basil. 'Eleonora' grew better later in the season and it was hardy longer. I liked the taste of both varieties.

'Eleonora'
 started slowly
 but grew well
 later in the
 season.

Best basil varieties

Top choice
 Genovese

Strong performers

Mrs. Burns
 Lime
 Siam Queen

**‘Genovese’
germinated
better. Its
plants were
larger, fuller
and healthier.**

Prefer ‘Genovese’ (continued)

Eleonora ☹️
Genovese 😊 MN

I had a beautiful, well producing row of ‘Genovese’ that lasted until frost. I made lots of pesto! Only had a couple plants of ‘Eleonora’. It was very unproductive and blah tasting.

Eleonora 😊
Genovese 😊 SE

‘Genovese’ had better yield and healthier plants.

Eleonora ☹️
Genovese 😊 SE

‘Genovese’ was beautiful and delicious. It produced much higher yields and its plants were two times taller. It is just now going to seed. ‘Eleonora’ germinated poorly.

Eleonora 😊
Genovese 😊 SE

‘Genovese’ had taller, bushier and healthier plants.

Eleonora 😊
Genovese 😊 SE

I loved the taste and growth of both of these! A few leaves on ‘Genovese’ plants were slightly sunburned during the hottest days of summer. Other than that, both varieties were super healthy! ‘Genovese’ had larger leaves and a classic basil flavor that we love! ‘Eleonora’ was an excellent performer, but we preferred ‘Genovese’. I have always grown my basil in pots but this time I sowed them directly into the garden. Wow! Fabulous growth on both! It is October 24 and both are still lush! I had other basil plants in pots and the cooler temps wiped them out.

Eleonora 😊
Genovese 😊 SE

I have grown ‘Genovese’ in the past and was pleased to see how it performed compared to another variety.

Eleonora 😊
Genovese 😊 NC
‘Genovese’ has always been an excellent producer—love it!

Eleonora ☹️
Genovese 😊 SC
‘Genovese’ tastes the best.

Eleonora 😊
Genovese 😊 NW

Both varieties produced very well in the garden and in containers until the frost. ‘Genovese’ continues to be my basil of choice. The taste is great and the plants produced very well. We just dehydrated some plants for use this winter and the scent when opening the jars is still very fresh.

Eleonora ☹️
Genovese 😊 SW

‘Genovese’ had nicer plants that were more uniform in size and color. Its leaves were full, rounder and dark green. ‘Eleonora’ had narrower leaves that were more yellowish.

Eleonora ☹️
Genovese 😊 SW

‘Genovese’ was a larger, fuller plant. ‘Eleonora’ was a little scraggly.

Eleonora ☹️
Genovese 😊 SW

I had to sow the seeds twice. None germinated the first round; only ‘Genovese’ germinated well in the second round.

Eleonora 😊
Genovese 😊 SW

‘Genovese’ had more plants.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well at most sites and gardeners enjoyed their flavor. Most gardeners preferred ‘Genovese’ and almost all recommended it. It germinated better. Its plants were larger, fuller and healthier. ‘Eleonora’ got off to a slow start but grew well later in the season.

Basil, Thai

Varieties

'Cardinal'

80 days. Beautiful plant with showy red-purple flowers. Leaves are large with cinnamon/clove scent.

'Siam Queen'

72 days. Purple flowers adorn plants with bright green leaves. Leaves are licorice scented and very flavorful.



Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Siam		
	Cardinal	Queen	Same
Germinated best	60%	0%	40%
Healthier plants	50	25	25
Harvested earlier	75	0	25
Higher yields	60	20	20
More attractive	25	50	25
Tasted better	0	50	50
Preference	40	60	
Recommend	80	80	
Mean score ¹	7.60	5.40	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Cardinal'

Cardinal ★★★★★ 😊
Siam Queen ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

'Siam Queen' never germinated but 'Cardinal' was amazing in every way. I had too much and gave it to young girls selling veggies at their roadside market.

Cardinal ★★★★★ 😊
Siam Queen ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Cardinal' had two times more seedlings emerge. Its plants were taller and had more leaves. The plants of both varieties were healthy—no problems.

Prefer 'Siam Queen'

Cardinal ★★★★★ 😊
Siam Queen ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Siam Queen' had a smaller yield but I preferred its milder taste. 'Cardinal' grew quicker and taller, but I didn't care for the dark, woody stems and strong licorice flavor. Seeds were sown June 1, germinated on June 20, and the first harvest was on July 22.

Cardinal ★★★★★ 😊
Siam Queen ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These varieties were comparable in many traits and both were delicious.

Cardinal ★★★★★ ☹️
Siam Queen ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Siam Queen' had fuller, bushier plants. Its taste was milder, which I prefer. 'Cardinal' had a much stronger, overwhelming taste.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Siam Queen' for its milder flavor. 'Cardinal' germinated much better across sites. 'Cardinal' grew more vigorously, produced more leaves and was ready to harvest earlier in the season.

Most gardeners preferred 'Siam Queen' for its milder flavor. 'Cardinal' germinated better and grew more vigorously.

Best basil varieties

Top choice
Genovese

Strong performers
Mrs. Burns
Lime
Siam Queen

Cilantro

Varieties

‘Calypso’

52 days. Easy to grow. Bushy plants and good yields. Slow to bolt. Enhances salsas and curries.

‘Cruiser’

52 days. Upright, bushy plants are extremely slow to bolt. Large leaves and sturdy stems.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Calypso	Cruiser	Same
Germinated best	45%	27%	27%
Healthier plants	30	20	50
Harvested earlier	50	20	30
Higher yields	50	40	10
Resisted bolting better	60	20	20
More attractive	30	30	40
Tasted better	40	10	50
Preference	70	30	
Recommend	80	50	
Mean score ¹	7.90	6.30	
Median score ¹	8.50	6.50	

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

Prefer ‘Calypso’

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Calypso’ germinated first but ‘Cruiser’ caught up a few days later. ‘Calypso’ grew faster at first but ‘Cruiser’ eventually grew bigger. Both were very healthy and phenomenal at resisting bolting. In a fresh taste test, we preferred the milder flavor of ‘Calypso’ but did not dislike the flavor of ‘Cruiser’. When used in recipes, we could not tell the difference in their flavors.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😞 NC

‘Calypso’ did very well even in drought.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😞 NC

‘Cruiser’ bolted much earlier.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😞 SC

‘Calypso’ had bigger leaves and had a “stooling” habit, growing outwards and not upwards. ‘Cruiser’ germinated better, grew more upright, produced higher yields and bolted sooner.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😞 SC

‘Calypso’ had fuller plants.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😞 SC

This trial was planted in pots. ‘Cruiser’ germinated poorly and its plants went to seed quickly. ‘Calypso’ grew better in every respect.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😊 SW

I cannot believe how long ‘Calypso’ lasted. It is just flowering now on some plants. Some have green seeds (September 30, 2017). ‘Cruiser’ showed 25% better germination. It started to bolt in late August—still very good—better than any other variety I’ve grown in the past.

‘Calypso’ showed remarkable resistance to bolting. It was productive and gardeners enjoyed its mild flavor.

Best cilantro variety
 Top choice
 Calypso

Prefer 'Cruiser'

Calypso ★★★★★ ☹️
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😊 NC
 Yields of both varieties were too much and not enough people like cilantro. Both tasted wonderful. Their aromas were amazing and strong. I always liked picking it—my hands smelled good! Both varieties produced a long time before either bolted.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☹️
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 Cilantro bolts so quickly; 'Cruiser' resisted bolting longer so that is why I prefer it.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☹️
 Cruiser ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Cruiser' outperformed 'Calypso' in every way. The yield of 'Cruiser' lasted longer. 'Calypso' had very poor germination. I got very little of 'Calypso' to try.

Conclusions

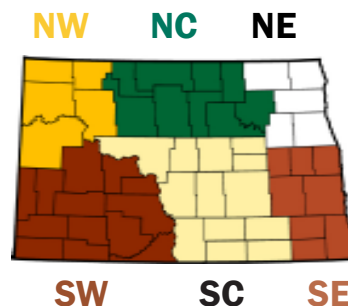
Both varieties were healthy and produced good yields. Most gardeners preferred 'Calypso'. It showed remarkable resistance to bolting. Its plants were full and bushy, and gardeners enjoyed its mild flavor. 'Cruiser' also grew well and resisted bolting. It produced lots of flavorful leaves.

'Cruiser' grew well, resisted bolting and produced many flavorful leaves.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

	Ratings (1 to 10)	Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)	Location
Variety A	★★★★★ 😊	☹️	
Variety B	★★★★★ ☹️	😊	NC
<p>'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.</p>			



MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
 SE = Southeast
 NC = North Central
 SC = South Central
 NW = Northwest
 SW = Southwest
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Cosmos, Novelty

Varieties

'Cupcakes Mix'

95 days. Blooms are light; fluted as cupcake wrappers. Height: 45 in.

'Double Click Mix'

82 days. Tall (44-inch) plants filled with double and semidouble blooms. Great cut flower.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

'Cupcakes' had large, long-lasting flowers. Its plants were tall and healthy.

Trait	Double		Same
	Cupcakes	Click	
Germinated best	32%	32%	37%
Healthier plants	29	24	47
Bloomed earlier	12	65	24
More blooms	6	65	29
Prettier in garden	18	41	41
Better cut flower	15	38	46
Preference	35	65	
Recommend	78	94	
Mean score ¹	7.35	8.18	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Cupcakes'

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Double Click ★★★★★☆ 😊 MN
 Had nearly 100% germination from 'Double Click', about 75% from 'Cupcakes'. I really liked the large flowers of 'Cupcakes'. Its plants were very tall which made them fun to have in the garden. 'Double Click' plants appeared very healthy. Both varieties were very attractive to bees! Great for pollinators!

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Double Click ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE
 No comments.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Double Click ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Cupcakes' had nicer flowers and required less maintenance. 'Double Click' flowers needed deadheading much more often as they wilted faster. Both varieties had very beautiful flowers and plants.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Double Click ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC
 'Cupcakes' outperformed 'Double Click'. Its plants stood taller.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Double Click ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 Both varieties performed very similar in my garden. Both bloomed very late in the season. 'Cupcakes' had a more attractive color.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Double Click ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 Seedlings emerged slowly due to the dry weather. Plants were healthy. 'Cupcakes' had large numbers of beautiful blooms that were larger. I liked the larger blooms as they were more striking from a distance. 'Double Click' bloomed on July 30, 1 week earlier than 'Cupcakes'. Its blooms were smaller but the double petals were beautiful.

Best cosmos varieties

Top choice
 Sonata

Strong performers

- Double Click
- Picotee
- Psyche
- Rubenza

Prefer 'Double Click'

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Double Click' plants had more branching. I loved its mixed colors and double flower petals. 'Cupcake' germinated earlier and at a higher percentage. I will grow both of these again—so pretty! Both looked great in a bouquet and long lasting as a cut flower. I did have to tie the plants up because they started to fall over.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Double Click' had more flowers.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😞
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

While the germination period on cosmos is quite long, I almost gave up hope on 'Cupcakes' making it out of the ground. It lagged behind all summer. 'Double Click' became established first and continued to outperform 'Cupcakes' throughout the entire growing season. While 'Cupcakes' produces some nice blooms, 'Double Click' does it better.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😞
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

No comments.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Double Click' produced more flowers. 'Cupcakes' produced some really beautiful white blooms.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I loved the color of 'Double Click' flowers. Its petals were uniquely shaped. Its plants got pretty tall and leggy in the garden.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Double Click' plants were taller and had stronger stems. They bloomed several days earlier. 'Cupcakes' germinated better. Its plants had flower buds a long time before blooming.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

They both were beautiful and grew to very healthy plants. It is hard to choose the better variety because they were both great.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😞
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

They are still blooming (October 8)! They did the best in my garden this year. They have held up really well.

Cupcakes ★★★★★☆ 😊
Double Click ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Double Click' had shorter plants but more flowers.

Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed the beauty of both of these novelty cosmos. Most gardeners preferred 'Double Click'. It bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers. 'Double Click' grew consistently well across sites. 'Cupcakes' had larger and long-lasting blooms. Its plants were tall and healthy.

'Double Click' bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers.

Sunflower, Gold Cutting

Varieties

‘Pro Cut Gold’

50 days. One bloom per plant; perfect for cutting. Pollenless.

‘Vincent’s Fresh’

60 days. Extra ring of rounded petals makes blooms look fuller. Single bloom per plant; for cutting.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Pro Cut Vincent’s		
	Gold	Fresh	Same
Germinated best	18%	36%	45%
Healthier plants	43	19	38
Bloomed earlier	20	60	20
More blooms	39	17	44
Prettier in garden	33	14	52
Better cut flower	42	33	25
Preference	57	43	
Recommend	76	71	
Mean score ¹	7.86	7.48	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer ‘ProCut Gold’

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
 Vincent’s Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 MN
 ‘ProCut Gold’ flowered a little later but had a stronger plant.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
 Vincent’s Fresh ★★★★★ 😞 MN
 I loved the vigor and beauty of ‘ProCut Gold’. The only thing that would be better is a dark center. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ flopped due to weak stems. It bloomed earlier. The flowers of ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ were a tad prettier but had some random defects (unsymmetrical flower head, deformed or double flowers).

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
 Vincent’s Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I was disappointed as I thought I was getting an ornamental sunflower rather than one that produced seeds. These varieties were great if you wanted sunflower seeds for birds. Birds were on the heads all the time. ‘ProCut Gold’ had bigger heads so it produced more seeds. I used them for fall decorations outdoors. I tied them to several fences and they looked nice for a long time.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
 Vincent’s Fresh ★★★★★ 😞 NC

The plant and flower of ‘ProCut Gold’ were superior. Its flower lasted longer. Both varieties produced flowers even when the plants were eaten off by deer when heads were being developed.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
 Vincent’s Fresh ★★★★★ 😞 NC

‘ProCut Gold’ was a larger, healthier looking plant. Much thicker stalks. Seemed to be less affected by the drought. Its flowers were very large and beautiful—just more striking. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ bloomed earlier but looked scraggly all summer. Its heads were very small with weak stalks.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
 Vincent’s Fresh ★★★★★ 😞 SC

‘ProCut Gold’ plants were more vigorous early in the season. Its blooms were prettier and more symmetrical. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ had uneven, ragged petals. Some of its plants had multiple flowers.

‘ProCut Gold’ stalks were healthier. Its flowers were large, symmetrical and beautiful.

Best sunflowers for cutting

Top choice ProCut

Strong performer Sunrich

Prefer 'ProCut Gold' (continued)

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties did extremely well. 'ProCut Gold' had a few more heads.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😞 SW

Both these varieties had such large flower heads that the stems could not hold them up. 'ProCut Gold' produced more flowers and the flowers had more petals around the large central disk. I would not recommend either variety for cut flowers or landscaping. Either could be used to attract birds.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'ProCut Gold' seemed hardier in the drought conditions. It bloomed a few days earlier and its flowers were bigger.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'ProCut Gold' had massive flowers/heads compared to 'Vincent's Fresh', although they were spaced only one foot apart within row.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SW
No comments.

Prefer 'Vincent's Fresh'

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties were absolutely gorgeous.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SE

We had dry conditions and watered seldom, but both performed well.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😞
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Vincent's Fresh' was very pretty. 'ProCut Gold' flowers were larger and drooped.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SE

No comments.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😞
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Vincent's Fresh' germinated better. It was more attractive in the garden.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😞
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'ProCut Gold' grew taller and had bigger heads but fewer petals. 'Vincent's Fresh' had some really nice flowers.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both germinated extremely well (near 100%). 'Vincent's Fresh' grew slightly taller and bloomed a couple of days earlier. 'ProCut Gold' heads were a bit bigger. They both were really quite large. Very nice, healthy plants. My guests loved the bouquets ... but the heads were huge!

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😞
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😞 NC

When I was choosing a cut flower to test, I didn't realize these would be huge!

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😞
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Germination was slow due to dry spring. Plants were very healthy. 'Vincent's Fresh' bloomed 1 week earlier (July 24), had a taller plant and much larger blooms.

ProCut Gold ★★★★★ 😊
Vincent's Fresh ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I thought these plants would stay small like the roadside sunflowers I love so much. They did not! They grew taller than the garage and I had to brace them.

Conclusions

'ProCut Gold' had healthier stalks and seemed to tolerate the drought better. Its blooms were large, symmetrical and attractive. 'Vincent's Fresh' bloomed earlier. Its flowers were beautiful but not as symmetrical. Several gardeners were expecting shorter plants with smaller heads. This can be achieved to some degree by growing stalks closer to each other.

'Vincent's Fresh' bloomed earlier. Its blooms were beautiful but less uniform.

Zinnia, Scarlet

Varieties

'Benary's Giant Scarlet'

82 days. Double, 4–6 inch blooms on sturdy stems. Resists mildew.

'Giant Dahlia Scarlet'

82 days. Large, 4–6 inch blooms for cutting. Includes single, semidouble and double types.

Data

Gardeners at 61 sites submitted information.

Trait	Benary's Giant	Giant Dahlia	Same
Germinated best	32%	26%	42%
Healthier plants	31	22	47
Bloomed earlier	27	50	23
More blooms	39	29	33
Prettier in garden	24	31	45
Better cut flower	31	23	46
Preference	48	52	
Recommend	88	84	
Mean score ¹	8.08	8.20	
Median score ¹	9.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Benary's Giant Scarlet'

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were great performers. They had nice tall plants with strong stems. I never had to tie them up or brace them. Very bright flowers. 'Benary's Giant' flowers were larger and more attractive with thicker stems and more branching.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Overall I liked 'Benary's Giant'. Both varieties had beautiful, large plants/flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NE
No comments.



Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

We only had 20% germination. The blooms of 'Benary's Giant' were more uniform in size, formation and color. 'Giant Dahlia' bloomed first.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Benary's Giant' grew so much taller and had more blooms.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties had excellent germination. 'Benary's Giant' emerged a little bit earlier, but 'Giant Dahlia' bloomed about a week earlier. Both varieties had a ton of blooms on each plant. When I went to cut some to sell at the local Farmer's Market, it was much easier to find 'Benary's Giant' blooms with the long stems desired for marketing purposes. Also, not all of 'Giant Dahlia' blooms were scarlet. There were several plants with various pink colors that weren't scarlet at all. Each 'Benary's Giant' plant had true scarlet, beautiful blooms. I will definitely plant this variety in years to come!

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Germination was great and both had very healthy plants. Both varieties had very bright and showy flowers. The blooms of 'Benary's Giant' were large and had staying power—lasted when cut also.

This was our most popular trial in spring.

Best zinnia varieties for cutting

Top choice

Benary's Giant

Strong performers

Burpeeanna
Giants
Cut and Come Again
Giant Dahlia
Oklahoma
Uproar Rose
Zowie! Yellow
Flame

Prefer 'Benary's Giant' (continued)

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Benary's Giant' had more consistent blooms. The plants were taller and they were beautifully perfect! All blooms were scarlet. 'Giant Dahlia' plants were shorter but still healthy. Its blooms came in shades of pink, orange and scarlet.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Giant Dahlia' germinated better in the dry soil. The plants of 'Benary's Giant' were a little bushier, which led to a few more flowers. The blooms of both varieties were beautiful in the garden and as cut flowers. This trial was a bright spot in a very poor year!

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Germination was slow due to the very dry spring. Plants were healthy. First blooms came at the same time. 'Benary's Giant' was more vigorous, had slightly larger blooms, and slightly more blooms.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😞
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Benary's Giant' had large blossoms and bright color.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Benary's Giant' did really well; grew tall and produced wonderful flowers. I didn't water these much and if I had, 'Giant Dahlia' may have done better.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties had healthy plants and beautiful flowers. 'Benary's Giant' had more branching which resulted in more flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Giant Dahlia' bloomed 1 week earlier. 'Benary's Giant' had huge flowers, much longer stems and lasted longer in a vase.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Benary's Giant' performed much better. It came up well and produced lots of beautiful, huge flowers. Although I irrigated the trial, 'Giant Dahlia' came up sparsely and so produced fewer flowers. Its flowers were slightly smaller. The blooms of both varieties were beautiful and bright.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Benary's Giant' bloomed longer.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Benary's Giant' stood up to bad weather better. Nice bright red color. Its flowers had a striking appearance.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Benary's Giant' produced big flowers on tall plants. I will save the seed. 'Giant Dahlia' was sown 3 feet away but did not come up.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Giant Dahlia' blooms were bigger but the plants were more susceptible to mildew. I used copper fungicide to control it. The plants of 'Benary's Giant' were taller, bushier and had nicer foliage. Both varieties were a beautiful red color. Both of these varieties were so nice. I would definitely grow them again. They both produced long lasting flowers, beautiful red flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NW

I liked the color of both varieties but liked the larger flower of 'Benary's Giant'.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Benary's Giant' plants grew 3 inches taller; flowers of the two varieties were identical.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Giant Dahlia' had more color variety but 'Benary's Giant' had larger flowers.

The flowers of 'Benary's Giant' were slightly larger, all with double petals, and more uniform in color. Its well-branched plants produced lots of flowers. Its long, thick stems were great for cutting.

Prefer 'Benary's Giant' (continued)

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😞 SW

I was very impressed with 'Benary's Giant'! Its flowers were larger, bloomed earlier and had double petals. 'Giant Dahlia' had many single-petal flowers and was less showy. Also, there were some orange flowers mixed with the red in the row of 'Giant Dahlia'.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Benary's Giant' had slightly better germination and bloomed first. The blooms of the varieties were essentially the same size and shape.

Prefer 'Giant Dahlia Scarlet'

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Giant Dahlia' was healthy and bloomed a few days earlier. It had beautiful, big blooms with lovely color, shape and size. 'Benary's Giant' had better germination and healthier plants. Both varieties produced beautiful flowers. Gorgeous!

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Benary's Giant' was a rich consistent, dark red color. Its flowers were not as abundant. 'Giant Dahlia' was impressive but lacked consistency. Colors ranged from light pink to burnt sienna to lipstick red. The bees preferred 'Giant Dahlia'. I liked it, too.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😞
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Giant Dahlia' produced bright red flowers. 'Benary's Giant' had some "pinkish" flowers—not attractive.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both were very attractive and continued producing until frost. Neither variety lasted long as a cut flower.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Giant Dahlia' produced more flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Giant Dahlia' had nice and full but compact flowers which lasted longer. The flowers of both varieties were loved by butterflies and bees.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😞
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Benary's Giant' plants were not very healthy. They wilted and had to be pulled. One of the 'Giant Dahlia' flowers was pink.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Benary's Giant' had 67% germination while 'Giant Dahlia' had 50%. 'Giant Dahlia' bloomed first with 'Benary's Giant' blooming a few days later. Both varieties were attractive, but 'Giant Dahlia' produced more flowers on each plant and bigger flowers. Its flowers had a rounder, fuller look; I loved how they looked in the garden!

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😞
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Germination was slower and spottier with 'Benary's Giant'. They also seemed to struggle more and were not as tall. 'Giant Dahlia' was a wonderful zinnia all around. It had taller plants, lots of blooms and re-blossomed better after cutting. It was nice to see that deer do not like zinnias.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Giant Dahlia' germinated slightly better and had slightly healthier plants. Both varieties produced nice cut flowers with beautiful, vibrant colors.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😞
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I wasn't really pleased with the germination of either. 'Giant Dahlia' germinated better. The blooms of both varieties were pleasing.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both were absolutely beautiful. 'Giant Dahlia' produced more. There were pink and orange blossoms among 'Giant Dahlia'.

'Giant Dahlia' bloomed a few days earlier. Its flowers were less uniform but just as vibrant and beautiful.

Prefer 'Giant Dahlia' (continued)

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Plants of both varieties were very healthy and produced beautiful flowers. 'Giant Dahlia' featured stronger color.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Giant Dahlia' flowers were fuller, redder and stood out to me. Very pretty. 'Benary's Giant' bloomed 2 weeks earlier.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Giant Dahlia' plants were taller and the multiple colors of its blooms made me happy!

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Giant Dahlia' bloomed earlier, had taller plants and more flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both were great for cut flowers. 'Giant Dahlia' produced slightly better.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Wow! These plants were gorgeous. People stopped on the street to look in the yard at these flowers when they began to bloom. Once they did start, they didn't stop until the freeze. The blossoms were huge (3–4 inches across). They were both gorgeous. These plants were tall, strong, showy, glorious reds. I planted them with some smaller varieties from Burpee, and the beds were fabulous. 'Giant Dahlia' produced a few more plants, and the heads had some different color ranges. Some of the flower heads even had doubles. I'm picking the seeds off some of the plants tomorrow.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

These flowers were beautiful and full of blooms that lasted a long time. 'Giant Dahlia' plants were a little taller.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

These were beautiful plants. The blooms on both plants lasted a really long time. I planted in my boxes but I would plant them in the front yard if I do this again. I loved these flowers. 'Giant Dahlia' blooms lasted a long time. Its plants were tall and the blooms smelled good.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Giant Dahlia' produced more flowers, although both varieties were attractive.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Giant Dahlia' had huge blossoms.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Giant Dahlia' started blooming in mid-July; 'Benary's Giant' started at the end of August.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★★ 😊
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

They did take longer this year to fully grow due to the drought. When they did, both varieties had strong and healthy plants.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★☆ 😞
 Giant Dahlia ★★★★★★ 😊 MT

'Giant Dahlia' produced many and beautiful flowers. Drought was a factor.

The plants of both varieties were healthy and produced an abundance of huge, showy flowers.

Conclusions

Gardeners gave very high ratings to both varieties. The plants were healthy and filled with huge blooms. The flowers of 'Benary's Giant' were slightly larger, all with double petals, and more uniform in color. Its plants were well branched and produced lots of flowers. Its long, thick stems were well suited for cutting. 'Giant Dahlia' bloomed a few days earlier. Its flowers were less uniform in color and petal number, but nonetheless just as vibrant and beautiful in the garden. The superior disease resistance of 'Benary's Giant' was not a major factor in this dry year.

Appendix 1

Welcome Letter

Spring 2017

NDSU EXTENSION
SERVICE

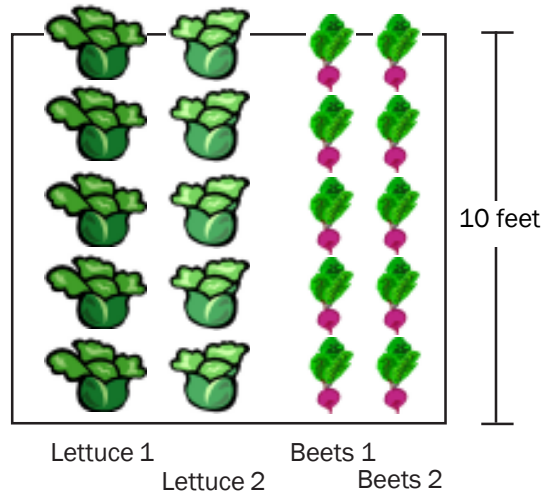
Dear Gardener,

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. We've enclosed a row marker with string. There is a 10-foot space between the two marks on the string. 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
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Bismarck, ND 58503
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701.328.9722

**Welcome
to our
research
team!**

More Info

Go to the ND Home Garden Variety Trials website: www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

Appendix 2

Example of Evaluation Form

Cantaloupe Variety Trial

Trial #00

Gardener Name: Jenny Gardener

County: Golden valley

Date Sown: May 30

Which variety?	Apollo	Zeus	Same	Comments
Germinated best?		X		Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor
Had healthier plants?		X		Apollo vines turned gray in fall
Produced the first ripe melons?	X			Three days earlier than Zeus
Produced higher yields?		X		Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6
Had more attractive melons?		X		Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh
Tasted better?		X		Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet

Overall Performance Rating	Apollo	Zeus
Rate each variety on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 5 = good and 10 = excellent. <i>Don't give both a "10". Be very critical!</i>	5	9

Preference	
Circle the variety you prefer. <i>Don't circle both—make a choice!</i>	Apollo Zeus
Please state the reason(s) for your preference: Zeus was outstanding. Good yields of large, sweet fruits. The vines looked healthy all summer. Apollo ripened early, but the vines were weak and the melons tasted bland.	

Recommendation
Circle the varieties you recommend for North Dakota gardeners: Apollo Zeus Both Neither

Please write any additional comments on back. They are very helpful!

Appendix 3

Seed Sources



The following are a few sources where seeds of the varieties tested in 2017 may be found. This list is not meant to be a complete list; many other seed companies offer these varieties. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to a company are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the North Dakota State University Extension Service is implied.

Key:

BC = Baker Creek	Bu = Burpee	EB = Eden Brothers	Fe = Fedco
Gu = Gurney's	Ha = Harris	HF = Henry Field's	HP = HPS
Jh = Johnny's	Jr = Jordan	Ju = Jung	Kz = Kitazawa
MV = Mtn Valley	NE = NE Seed	Os = Osborne	Pa = Park
Pi = Pinetree	PR = Prairie Road	Re = Reimer	SS = Seed Savers
St = Stokes	Sw = Swallowtail	Te = Territorial	TT = Totally Tomatoes
Tw = Twilley	VB = Vermont Bean	Vs = Veseys	

BEAN. Bush Blue Lake 274: BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, HP, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Tw, VB. **Inspiration:** Bu, Ju, Pa, VB. **Crockett:** Ha, Os, Te, VB. **Pike:** Ha. **Purple Queen Improved:** Gu, HF, Ju, VB. **Royal Burgundy:** EB, Fe, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pi, Re, St, Te, Tw, Vs. **Carson:** Ha, Jr, Pi, Te, VB. **Gold Rush:** Fe, MV, NE, Pi, St, VB. **Kentucky Blue:** Bu, Ha, Jr, Ju, MV, Pa, Pi, Re, Te, Tw, VB, Vs. **Monte Cristo:** Te. **Envy:** BC, Jh, Pi, Re, SS. **Tohya:** Gu, Jh, Kz, Os.

BEET. Boldor: Fe, Gu, HF, Jh, Te, Vs. **Touchstone Gold:** Fe, Gu, Ha, Jh, Os, Pa, Pi, St, Sw, Te, Tw. **Merlin:** Bu, Ha, Os, Pa, Re, St, Tw, Vs. **Red Ace:** Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Sw, Te, VB, Vs.

CARROT. Hercules: Jh, Re. **Royal Chantenay:** EB, Ha, MV, Re, St, Te. **Goldfinger:** Ha, Os, St, Vs. **Mokum:** Bu, Fe, Jh, Pi, Sw, Te, VB, Vs. **Bolero:** Jh, Ju, Os, St, Sw, Te, VB, Vs. **Kuroda (including Shin Kuroda):** BC, Fe, Ha, Kz, Pi, Re, VB. **Chablis Yellow:** Kz. **Solar Yellow:** Ed, Jr, Kz, NE.

CORN. Ambrosia: Bu, EB, Fe, HP, Jr, MV, NE, Pa, Re, Tw, VB. **Peaches & Cream:** Bu, EB, HP, Jr, MV, Os, Re, Tw. **Anthem XR:** Ha, Jr, Tw. **Xtra-Tender 274A:** Ha, Jr, Os, St, Tw. **Bodacious RM:** EB, Fe, Gu,

HF, HP, Jr, Ju, MV, Os, Pa, Re, Sw, Te, Tw, VB. **Inferno:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Te, Tw, Vs. **Fiesta:** Ha, HP, Jr, Ju, NE, Pa, Tw. **Painted Mountain:** Fe, Gu, HF, Jh, Ju, Os, St. **Autumn Explosion:** HP, Jr, Ju, Re, VB. **Glass Gem:** Fe, Jh, MV, Pi, Te. **Cherry Berry:** Ha, St. **Strawberry:** BC, EB, Jr, Ju, NE, Os, Pa, SS, Tw.

CUCUMBER. Summer Dance: Bu, Ju, Kz, Os, Pi, Re, Te, TT, VB, Vs. **Sweet Slice:** Re, Te, TT, VB. **Homemade Pickles:** EB, HP, Jr, Ju, NE, Pa, Pi, PR, Re, Sw, Te, TT, VB. **Regal:** Jr. **General Lee:** Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Pi, Re, Te, TT, Tw. **Stonewall:** Ha, Jr, Re, St. **Mercury:** Os, Vs. **Muncher:** BC, HP, Ju, MV, Pi, Re, TT. **Martini:** Os, TT, Tw, Vs. **Silver Slicer:** Fe, Ha.

GREENS. Miz America: Bu, Jh, Pa, Tw. **Red Kingdom:** Jh. **Koji:** Jh. **Tatsoi:** BC, EB, Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Kz, MV, Os, Pi, SS, Vs.

LETTUCE. Adriana: Jh. **Buttercrunch:** BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Jh, Ju, MV, NE, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Sw, Te, Tw, VB. **Bergam's Green:** Jh, Os. **Tropicana:** Gu, HF, Jh, Os. **Coastal Star:** Jh, Os, Te. **Fusion:** Jh. **Muir:** Jh. **Nevada:** Ha, Jh, Sw, Te, VB.

MELON. Aphrodite: Bu, Ha, HP, Jr, Ju, Os, Pa, Tw, VB. **Athena:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, HP, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pa, Pi, St, Te,

Seed Sources (continued)

Tw. **El Gordo:** Bu, Gu, HF, Ju, NE, Tw, VB.
Solstice: Ha, Jr, Ju. **Arava:** Fe, Jh.
Diplomat: Fe, Jh.

OKRA. Candle Fire: Ju, Pa, Te, Tw.
Carmine Splendor: Jh, Ju.

PEA. Lincoln: BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Te, VB.
Sienna: Jh. **Sugar Magnolia:** BC, Bu, Pi, Te. **Super Sugar Snap:** Bu, Fe, Ha, HP, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, Pi, Re, Te, Tw, VB, Vs.

PUMPKIN. Early Scream: Jr (2017).
Neon: Ha, Jr, Te, Tw, Vs. **Early King:** Ha, Tw, Vs. **Howden:** BC, Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pa, Pi, Re, Te, Tw, VB, Vs.
Early Giant: Jh, Jr, Pi, Tw. **Howden Biggie:** Ha, Jr, Ju, MV, Re, St, Tw.

RADISH. Amethyst: Ha, Jh. **Bacchus:** Jh.
Rover: Jh, Ju, VB, Vs. **Roxanne:** Bu, Jh, Pa, St, Te, Tw, Ve.

SPINACH. Emperor: Jh. **Reflect:** Jh, Ju, Pi, Tw. **Olympia:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Ju, Os, Sw, Te. **Space:** Fe, Jh, Ju, Pa, Sw, Tw, VB, Vs. **Gazelle:** Jh. **Red Kitten:** Jh.

SQUASH. Dunja: Jh, Os. **Raven:** Fe, Jh, Pa, Pi, Te. **Payload:** Ha, St. **Spineless Perfection:** Ha, Jh, St, Tw. **Fortune:** St, Te, Tw. **Multipik:** Gu, Ha, HF, Jh, Jr.

SWISS CHARD. Barese: BC, Jh, Re.
Silverado: Os, Re, St.

WATERMELON. Sangria: Fe, Gu, HF, Jr, MV, Pa, Pi, Sw, Te, Tw. **Sweet Dakota Rose:** Fe, PR. **Jade Star:** Jr, Tw. **Sugar Baby:** BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, HP, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Pi, Sw, Te, Tw, VB. **Gold in Gold:** HP, Os, TT, Tw. **Lemon Krush:** NE, Tw.

HERBS. Eleonora: Jh, Os, St, Te.
Genovese: BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Jh, Jr, MV, Os, PR, Re, SS, St, Tw. **Cardinal:** Jh, Pa. **Siam Queen:** BC, EB, Ha, Ju, Kz, MV, Pa, Pi, Re, Te, Tw. **Calypso:** Bu, Jh, Ju, Os, Pa, Vs. **Cruiser:** Jh, St, Te.

FLOWERS. Cupcakes: Jh, Pa, Pi. **Double Click:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Jh, Ju, Pa, St, Sw, Te, Tw. **ProCut Gold:** Ha, Jh, Os, Sw, Tw. **Vincent's Fresh:** Ha, Sw, Tw. **Benary's Giant:** Fe, Ha, Jh, Ju, Os, Pi, St, Te, Tw. **Giant Dahlia:** Jh, Tw.



Appendix 4

Acknowledgements

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Cheryl Lepp
Rebecca Limke
Ellin Lindee
Michael Luckenbill
Rae Ann Lynne
Karen MacDonald
Margaret Marcusen
Jeffrey Martian
Janell Martin
Judy Martinson
Jan McCarthy
Michael McDaniel
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Eden McLeod
McMillan Family
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Janice Mills
Sara Mittelsteadt
Jayma Moore and David Rider
Diane Moran
Elizabeth and Taylor Morical
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Mr. L's Class
Alice, Dora and Terry Musumba
Eli, Logan, Katie and Madison
Muth
Nicholas Nadeau
Juliana and Susan Nelson
Linda Ness
Penny Nester

Emily and Forrest Nielsen
Lori Nienhuis
Sally Niessen
Monica Norby
Vivian Novotny
Cindy and Dan Olson
Evan and NaTanya Olson
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Linda Opstad
Joel and Kim Owen
Judy Pacella
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Season Parlier
Cory and Pam Paulson
Audrey Pederson
Leigh Ann Perdue
Kari Perreault
Charles Peterson
Donna Peterson
Jodi Peterson
Hannah Planteen
Shelley Porter
Angie Qual
August Rahlf
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Sue Williams
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Variety Descriptions

This is an academic report published for educational purposes only. The author gratefully acknowledges the sources of the descriptions of the varieties tested in this project: Fedco Seeds, Harris Seeds, Horticultural Products and Services, Kitazawa Seed, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Jung Seed, Osborne Seed, Prairie Road Organic Seed, Reimer Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, Seeds of Change, Stokes Seeds, Swallowtail Garden Seeds, Territorial Seed and Veseys Seeds.

Gardeners Identify Superior Varieties for ND

The Situation

The first step in growing a productive garden is to select a superior variety. A superior variety can lead to major increases in yield and food quality.

The benefits of selecting superior varieties are great. Over 93,000 households in North Dakota grow a garden (*National Garden Bureau, 2008*). Surveys of gardeners in our state show these gardeners enjoy healthier diets and save millions of dollars on food expenses (for example, garden renters in Bismarck save an average of \$105 per household on food expenses).

Extension Response

A team of 233 families across the state was formed to evaluate promising vegetable and cut flower varieties in spring and fall. These volunteers evaluated 99 varieties for plant vigor, health, earliness, yield, and food/ornamental quality. No other program in the USA can match this program for its number of participants and varieties tested.

Impacts

A survey was conducted to document the impacts of the project. One hundred and forty-one of 193 online households (73%) responded.

- 96% were introduced to new varieties.
- 94% will change the way they grow their garden in the future.
- 87% reported more productive gardens.
- 78% reported healthier diets.

Positive impacts were documented with children:

- 79% of children improved their diets.
- 78% of children sharpened their skills in science and math.
- 71% of children increased their level of physical activity.

These impacts on youth are noteworthy as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 92% of children in North Dakota do not eat enough vegetables for a healthy diet. An estimated 78% of children do not get enough physical activity (*North Dakota: State Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Profile, 2012*).



Results are shared with gardeners online and in workshops conducted across the state. Over 2,000 gardeners will attend these programs next spring.

Feedback

"We were introduced to varieties that we wouldn't have tried on our own. We will plant them again."

"I had never done any fall garden planting before, but I will from now on!"

Public Value Statement

Superior varieties lead to higher yields. Higher yields lead to healthier diets and greater savings on food expenses.

Primary Contact

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Resource Links

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/>

Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

2018

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, Purple Passion.

BEAN. Bush: Blue Lake 274, Crockett, Derby, Espada, Greencrop, Inspiration, Jade, Maxibel, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Royal Burgundy, Serengeti, Strike. **Dry:** Arikara Yellow, Great Northern.

Lima: Fordhook 242, Eastland. **Pole:** Fortex, Orient Wonder, Stringless Blue Lake S-7. **Soybean:** Envy, Tohya. **Wax:** Carson, Gold Rush, Rocdor, Soleil.

BEET. Avalanche, Boldor, Bull's Blood, Detroit Dark Red, Early Wonder Tall Top, Merlin, Red Ace, Touchstone Gold.

BROCCOLI. Packman.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS. Jade Cross E.

CABBAGE. Chinese: Blues. **Head:** Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

CARROT. Orange: Bolero, Caracas, Goldfinger, Hercules, Laguna, Mokum, Nelson, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes.

Other: Chablis Yellow, Purple Haze.

CAULIFLOWER. Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

CORN. Shrunken kernel: Anthem XR, SS2742, Vision, Xtra-Tender 274A and 277A, XTH20173. **Sugary enhanced:** Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Sugar Pearl, Temptation. **Synergistic:** Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select.

CUCUMBER. Pickling: Alibi, Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little



Leaf. **Slicing:** Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Mercury, Muncher, Orient Express II, Raider, Salad Bush, Silver Slicer, Straight Eight, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green.

EGGPLANT. Black Beauty, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express.

GREENS. Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Komatsuna, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Vegetable Amaranth.

KALE. Black Magic, Red Russian, Vates, White Russian, Winterbor.

KOHLRABI. Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner.

LETTUCE. Leaf: Bergam's Green, Deer Tongue, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Royal Oakleaf, Salad Bowl, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. **Bibb/Crisphead:** Buttercrunch, Muir, Nancy, Nevada, Red Cross, Sierra, Skyphos.

Romaine: Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Starhawk.

MELON. Muskmelon: Aphrodite, Athena, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. **Specialty:** Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan, Sun Jewel.

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, Sugar Sprint, Super Sugar Snap. **Snow:** Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sweet Horizon.

PEPPER. Bell: Bell Boy, Early Sunation, Jupiter, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze. **Frying/Roasting:** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. **Hot:** Cheyenne, Early Jalapeno, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, Tiburon.

POTATO. Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

PUMPKIN. Cooking: Small Sugar, Rouge Vif D'Etampes. **Jack-o'-lantern:** Autumn Gold, Cronus, Early Dakota Howden, Early Giant, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Howden Biggie, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie. **Giant:** Big Moose, Dill's Atlantic Giant.

RADISH. Standard: Amethyst, Bacchus, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Rover, Roxanne, White Icicle.

RUTABAGA. American Purple Top.

SPINACH. Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Gazelle, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, SV2157VB, Tye.

SQUASH, SUMMER. Crookneck: Sundance. **Scallop:** Flying Saucer, Sunburst. **Straightneck:** Multipik, Zephyr. **Zucchini:** Easypick Gold, Fortune, Gold Rush, Green Tiger, Portofino, Raven, Spineless Beauty.

SQUASH, WINTER. Acorn: Carnival, Table Ace, Table King. **Buttercup:** Bon Bon, Burgess. **Butternut:** Early Butternut, Waltham. **Delicata:** Cornell's Bush Delicata. **Hubbard:** Blue Magic. **Kabocha:** Ambercup, Sunshine, Sweet Mama.

SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.

SWISS CHARD. Bright Lights, Flamingo, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Rhubarb.

TOMATO. Cherry: Juliet, SunSugar, Supersweet 100, Sweet Baby Girl, Yellow Pear. **Fresh market:** Big Beef, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus. **Paste:** Roma VF, Viva Italia. **Heirloom:** Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Striped German, Stupice, Wisconsin 55.

TURNIP. Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross.

WATERMELON. Seeded: Early Moonbeam, Sangria, Sugar Baby, Sweet Dakota Rose. **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.

Baker Creek Seed, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704; www.rareseeds.com; 417.924.8917.

Burpee Seed, 300 Park Ave., Warminster, PA 18974; www.burpee.com; 800.888.1447.

Fedco Seeds, PO Box 520, Waterville, ME 04903; www.fedcoseeds.com; 207.426.9900.

Gurney's Seed and Nursery, PO Box 4178, Greendale, IN 47025; www.gurneys.com; 513.354.1492.

Harris Seeds, 355 Paul Rd, PO Box 24966, Rochester, NY 14624; www.harriseseeds.com; 800.544.7938.

Henry Fields, PO Box 397, Aurora, IN 47001; www.henryfields.com; 513.354.1494.

HPS, W. Stroud St., Randolph, WI 53956; www.hpsseed.com; 800.297.3123.

Johnny's Selected Seeds, 955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901; www.johnnyseeds.com; 877.564.6697.

Jung Seed, 335 S. High St., Randolph, WI 53956; www.jungseed.com; 800.297.3123.

Kitazawa Seed, 201 Fourth St., #206, Oakland, CA 94607; www.kitazawaseed.com; 510.595.1188.

Mountain Valley Seed, 175 W. 2700 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84115; www.mvseeds.com; 801.486.0480.

Osborne Seed, 2428 Old Hwy 99 S. Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273; www.osborneseed.com; 360.424.7333.

Pinetree Garden Seeds, PO Box 300, Gloucester, ME 04260; www.superseeds.com; 207.926.3400.

Prairie Road Seed, 9824 79th St. SE, Fullerton, ND 58441; www.prairieroadorganic.co; 701.883.4416.

Seed Savers Exchange, 3094 N. Winn Rd., Decorah, IA 52101; www.seedsavers.org; 563.382.5990.

Stokes Seeds, PO Box 548 Buffalo, NY 14240; www.stokesseeds.com; 800.396.9238.

Territorial Seed, PO Box 158, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; www.territorialseed.com; 800.626.0866.



All gardeners are invited to join our team of backyard researchers. Go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

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