

A close-up photograph of several different varieties of lettuce. The leaves are covered in small, clear water droplets, giving them a fresh appearance. The colors range from deep, dark purple to bright green. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture and veins of the leaves.

# North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

**RESULTS**  
**2020**



# NDSU

# EXTENSION

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# North Dakota

# Home Garden Variety Trials

## RESULTS FOR 2020

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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.<sup>1</sup> This indicates there are approximately 100,000 households in North Dakota with vegetable gardens.

There are significant economic benefits to gardening. A recent survey of community gardeners in Bismarck showed each household saved an average of \$105 on produce expenses per year.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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

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

## The Bottom Line

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

## Goals

This program has three major goals:

1. Gardeners will be introduced to new varieties. This will lead to more productive gardens and healthier diets.
2. Gardeners will identify superior varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers.

<sup>1</sup> National Gardening Association. 2008. Personal communication with Bruce Butterfield, Market Research Director.

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

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

- 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

Interested households can participate in up to seven trials. The fees are \$1 per trial. A fee of \$5.00 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 (Fig. 1). Gardeners receive simple, yet detailed instructions on laying out their plots (Appendix 1). We encourage a 10-foot plot length for obtaining representative 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.



Fig. 1. Gardeners sowing their research plots.

### Weather in 2020

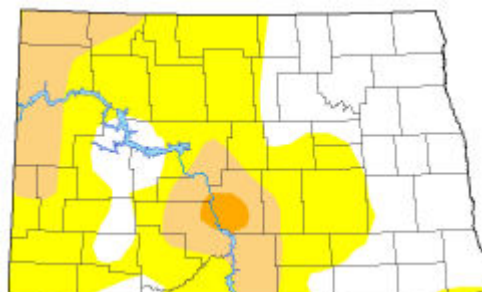
Weather conditions were generally unfavorable for most gardeners in 2020. The growing season was much shorter and drier than normal except for in portions of the far eastern region of the state.

Cool temperatures in April and May delayed planting in many gardens. Rainfall in spring was scarce.

In summer, temperatures were warmer than normal. The scarcity of rain continued and drought spread across most of central and western North Dakota (Fig. 2).

Very cold temperatures in October delayed the maturity of melons and other

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



September 1, 2020

- Abnormally dry: 61% of state.
- Moderate drought: 18% of state.
- Severe drought: 1% of state.

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

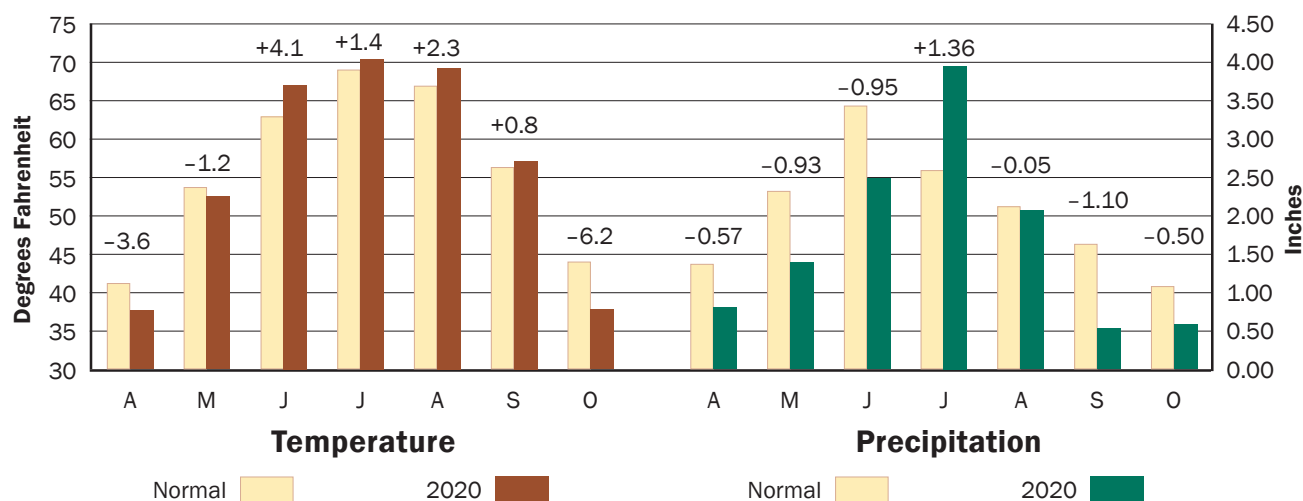


Fig. 3. Statewide monthly temperatures and precipitation amounts in normal years (1901–2000) and 2020. Cool temperatures in May delayed planting in most gardens. In summer, temperatures were warmer than normal. Near normal rains fell in the east, but drought spread across central and western regions of the state. Very cold temperatures in October delayed the maturity of crops. Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information.

late ripening crops. A hard frost occurred in most gardens on September 8–9, 3 weeks earlier than normal. Gardens in the far east escaped this and other hard frosts until early October, which was when they normally receive their first killing frost.

### Participation in 2020

In 2020, gardeners at 369 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from over 1,540 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 45 of the state’s 53 counties (Fig. 4). Our trials extended into Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Saskatchewan and South Dakota.

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

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

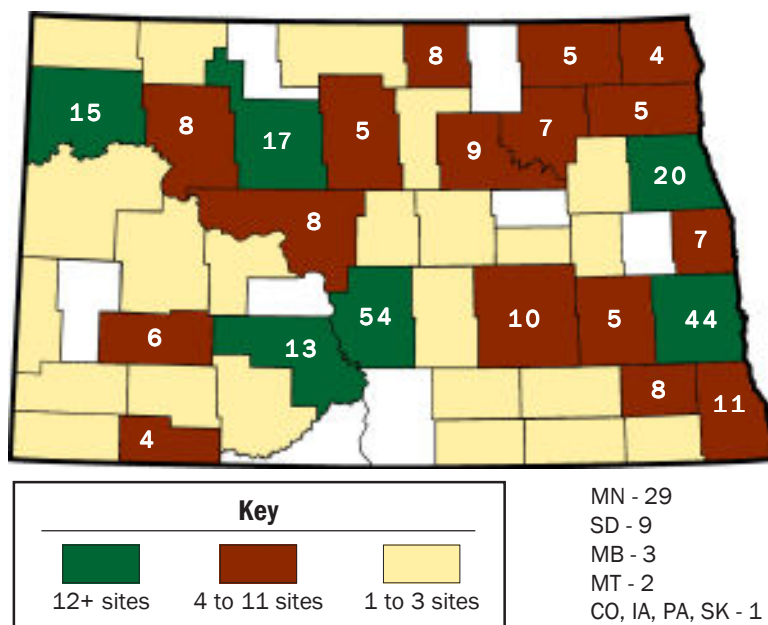


Fig. 4. Gardeners at 368 sites submitted results in 2020. Site numbers are shown above for each county with 4 or more sites.

### Compiling Data

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



Approximately 25% of reports this year were eliminated from our analysis. In most cases, these reports documented crop failures of both varieties due to drought or wildlife damage. A few reports with inconsistent data were eliminated.

## Presentation of Results

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

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

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

We document whether the gardener **recommends** the variety. A positive

recommendation is shown by a smiling face and a negative recommendation is shown by a frowning face.

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

## Fall Trials

A team of gardeners conducted observation trials of individual varieties for Asian greens, radish, spinach, turnips and cut sunflowers. These trials were not highly scientific, and a major emphasis of these trials was getting children involved in gardening. The results of these mini-trials are not presented, but we appreciate and acknowledge the work of this team in the Acknowledgements section of this report.

## Impacts

Evaluations of our project show gardeners in this project are introduced to new varieties and enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets. Youth in this project sharpen their skills in science. Youth enjoy healthier diets and increased levels of physical activity. Impact reports are posted on our website <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/>.

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

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)**

Variety A      ★★★★★

Variety B      ★★★★★

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)**

☺      ☹

**Garden type**

🍄 = Organic

🌱 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides

– = Not specified

**Location**

NC

**Locations**

MN = Minnesota

NE = Northeast

SE = Southeast

NC = North Central

SC = South Central

NW = Northwest

SW = Southwest

MB = Manitoba

SK = Saskatchewan

SD = South Dakota

MT = Montana



# Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states/provinces evaluated promising vegetable, herb and cut flower varieties. A team of gardeners at 369 sites rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. Over 1,540 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 <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/>.



## Bean, Green Snap

‘Annihilator’ ripened earlier at most sites. Gardeners were impressed by its dark green, slender and delicious pods. ‘Bush Blue Lake 274’ plants were healthy and produced a good crop of medium green, meaty pods all summer long.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Annihilator	62	82	7.79
B. Blue Lake 274	38	76	7.29
			(43 sites)



## Bean, Green Snap (Organic)

‘Antigua’ germinated much better, leading to higher yields at more sites. ‘Antigua’ plants were compact and upright; well suited for raised beds. Both varieties produced high yields of delicious pods. ‘Jade’ pods were longer and straighter.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Antigua	52	80	7.91
Jade	48	66	7.25
			(49 sites)



## Bean, Green Pole

‘Monte Cristo’ vines were more vigorous and produced higher yields. More gardeners preferred the pod quality of ‘Monte Cristo’, noting its straighter pods. ‘Fortex’ produced the first yields. Pods of both varieties were long and flavorful.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Fortex	23	50	6.57
Monte Cristo	77	79	7.86
			(15 sites)



## Bean, Yellow Snap (Organic)

‘Gold Rush’ plants were healthy and produced a bountiful harvest of straight, flavorful pods. The poor germination of ‘Rocdor’ in all gardens suggests its poor performance may be due to poor seed quality and not the variety itself.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gold Rush	100	100	8.56
Rocdor	0	50	6.13
			(19 sites)



## Bean, Dry (Organic)

Gardeners enjoyed the beauty and flavor of both varieties. Preferences for the varieties were split evenly. ‘Calypso’ beans had a more consistent color and shape. ‘Jacob’s Cattle’ ripened earlier, and more gardeners preferred its taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Calypso	50	81	7.67
Jacob’s Cattle	50	81	8.20
			(17 sites)



## Bean, Lima

This was our least popular trial and data are limited. Two of the four reporting gardeners had never grown lima beans before. All gardeners preferred ‘Fordhook 242’. They liked its larger pods, higher yields and its delicious flavor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Fordhook 242	100	100	9.25
Henderson	0	50	8.00
			(4 sites)



### Beet, Gold (Organic)

These varieties received similar ratings for all traits. Ratings were high and gardeners enjoyed the tastes of both. ‘Burpee’s Golden’ roots were described as “sweet and earthy;” ‘Touchstone Gold’ roots were “sweet,” “rich” and “mellow.”

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Burpee’s Golden	53	79	8.16
Touchstone Gold	47	79	7.95

(23 sites)

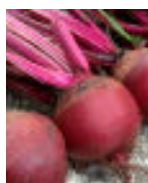


### Beet, Red

Gardeners were impressed with the vigor and yield of ‘Eagle’. ‘Merlin’ has performed well in our trials for many years, excelling in eating qualities. Most gardeners felt the eating qualities of ‘Eagle’ and ‘Merlin’ were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Eagle	59	89	8.00
Merlin	41	84	7.42

(25 sites)



### Beet, Red (Organic)

Gardeners liked both varieties. Gardeners who preferred ‘Sweet Dakota Bliss’ noted the appealing color and sweet taste of its roots. ‘Early Wonder Tall Top’ grew vigorously and was ready to harvest earlier.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early Wonder T.T.	50	83	7.71
Swt. Dakota Bliss	50	92	7.79

(30 sites)



### Carrot, Chantenay (Organic)

‘Cupar’ excelled in all categories. It germinated better and its yields were higher. ‘Cupar’ roots were larger, more attractive and better tasting. ‘Red-Cored Chantenay’ was healthy, but could not match the yield and root qualities of ‘Cupar’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cupar	69	77	7.15
R.-C. Chantenay	31	46	5.85

(16 sites)



### Carrot, Imperator

Both varieties struggled to germinate in our dry soils. Some gardeners noted ‘Candysnax’ roots were more uniform, better tasting and less likely to fork. Some gardeners noted ‘Imperator 58’ had larger roots.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Candysnax	53	76	6.82
Imperator 58	47	65	6.82

(32 sites)



### Carrot, Early Nantes

‘Goldfinger’ was preferred by most gardeners. It germinated better and had healthier plants. Several gardeners thought ‘Goldfinger’ roots were sweeter. Several gardeners noted ‘Ingot’ roots were more uniform and less likely to fork.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Goldfinger	63	79	7.37
Ingot	37	63	7.00

(27 sites)



### Carrot, Early Nantes (Organic)

‘Naval’ produced a higher yield at more sites. ‘Naval’ roots were longer. More gardeners thought ‘Naval’ roots looked more attractive and tasted better. The gardeners who preferred ‘Yaya’ often praised its sweetness and flavor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Naval	62	84	7.71
Yaya	38	71	7.32

(41 sites)



### Carrot, Heavy Nantes (Organic)

‘Bangor’ and ‘Negovia’ were easy to grow and their plants were healthy. Most gardeners preferred ‘Negovia’. They liked its long, straight roots. ‘Negovia’ produced higher yields at more sites and had a superior taste to more gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bangor	43	75	6.92
Negovia	57	88	7.38

(29 sites)



### Corn, Early

‘Sweetness’ is an outstanding early sweet corn. It ripened quicker and had higher yields at more sites. Its ears were more attractive and tasted sweeter to more gardeners. ‘Cuppa Joe’ grew vigorously but did not excel in any traits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cuppa Joe	32	47	6.68
Sweetness	68	68	7.68
			(22 sites)



### Corn, Super Sweet

Most gardeners preferred ‘Anthem XR’, often due to its sweetness. It produced an earlier and higher yield at more sites. ‘Signature’ performed consistently well across sites but did not excel in any trait.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Anthem XR	65	65	7.25
Signature	35	65	6.95
			(21 sites)



### Corn, Super Sweet (Organic)

‘Enchanted’ was superior in all traits. It germinated much better and produced higher yields. More gardeners preferred the look and taste of ‘Enchanted’ ears. ‘Natural Sweet’ rated low in all traits, and most gardeners did not recommend it.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Enchanted	69	69	7.00
Natural Sweet	31	31	5.15
			(13 sites)



### Cucumber, Burpless

Both varieties produced lots of delicious cucumbers. ‘Summer Dance’ cucumbers were dark green, smooth-skinned and more attractive. ‘Summer Dance’ produced earlier. ‘Tasty Green’ produced more cucumbers at more sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Summer Dance	60	87	8.11
Tasty Green	40	76	7.76
			(53 sites)



### Cucumber, Pickling (Organic)

Both varieties produced lots of quality cucumbers for pickling. ‘Calypso’ produced earlier and had higher yields. It rated slightly higher for plant health and fruit quality traits. Gardeners liked ‘Cool Customer’ but it did not stand out.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Calypso	63	78	7.63
Cool Customer	37	78	7.52
			(36 sites)



### Cucumber, Slicing

Gardeners liked the long, smooth cucumbers of ‘Raceway’. ‘Talladega’ produced earlier at more sites. The vines of both varieties were healthy, but several gardeners noted their yields suffered due to the dry weather.

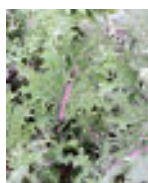
Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Raceway	56	74	7.42
Talladega	44	63	7.11
			(22 sites)



### Cucumber, Snack

Neither variety was productive. Gardeners liked the looks of ‘Green Finger’ cucumbers: long, straight and thin with small seeds. ‘Muncher’ vines were more productive at more sites. More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘Muncher’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Green Finger	50	60	6.37
Muncher	50	57	6.83
			(40 sites)



### Kale, Siberian (Organic)

Gardeners liked both varieties and were split on their preferences. ‘Red Russian’ grew more vigorously and was ready to harvest earlier. The taste qualities of the varieties were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Red Russian	50	75	8.00
Red Ursa	50	75	7.88
			(10 sites)





### Kale, Tuscan (Organic)

‘Dazzling Blue’ outperformed ‘Lacinato’ in all traits. It germinated and grew better. It produced a higher yield, looked prettier, and tasted better to more gardeners. ‘Lacinato’ was good, but ‘Dazzling Blue’ was brilliant.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Dazzling Blue	56	78	7.33
Lacinato	44	44	6.78
(14 sites)			



### Lettuce, Green Batavian (Organic)

Gardeners liked both varieties and thought they were delicious. ‘Muir’ germinated better, grew faster, resisted bolting better, and produced higher yields. ‘Muir’ received very high ratings and was recommended by nearly everyone.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Anuenue	21	65	7.26
Muir	79	95	9.16
(21 sites)			



### Lettuce, Red Butterhead

Both varieties were fantastic, producing high yields of crisp, flavorful lettuce. Most gardeners preferred ‘Alkindus’. They raved over the beauty of its leaves and its resistance to bolting. ‘Cervanek’ performed well again this summer.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Alkindus	67	81	8.25
Cervanek	33	69	7.88
(22 sites)			



### Lettuce, Red Eazyleaf (Organic)

‘Brentwood’ and ‘Burgandy’ were remarkably similar for yield, taste and most other traits. Neither variety generated much enthusiasm. More gardeners recommended ‘Brentwood’. They liked the darker red color of its leaves.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Brentwood	53	76	7.53
Burgandy	47	59	7.18
(20 sites)			



### Lettuce, Green Romaine (Organic)

‘Newham’ germinated much better, grew better, and produced higher yields. ‘Dragoon’ germinated poorly. The few plants of ‘Dragoon’ that did germinate almost matched ‘Newham’ plants for resistance to bolting, looks and taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dragoon	11	19	4.05
Newham	89	86	7.85
(24 sites)			



### Melon, Cantaloupe

Neither variety performed very well in our shorter-than-normal growing season. ‘Athena’ rated slightly higher for vine health while ‘Burpee’s Hybrid’ rated slightly higher for fruit quality. Yields and days to maturity were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Athena	50	50	6.43
Burpee’s Hybrid	50	57	5.86
(16 sites)			



### Melon, Galia

‘Arava’ received higher ratings and everyone recommended it. ‘Arava’ ripened earlier and produced higher yields. Most gardeners recommended ‘Courier’. Several gardeners were surprised of the sweetness and flavor of Galia melons.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Arava	75	100	8.63
Courier	25	63	7.13
(12 sites)			



### Melon, Honeydew

Most gardeners preferred ‘Earli-Dew’, the standard honeydew for the north, this year. ‘Earli-Dew’ ripened earlier and produced more melons in our short growing season. Yields and ratings for both varieties were not impressive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Earli-Dew	63	73	6.73
Honeycomb	37	73	6.18
(16 sites)			



### Pea, Shell (Organic)

‘Green Arrow’ produced higher yields and had larger pods, but was more likely to suffer from disease. ‘PLS 595’ produced the first peas. Its vines had more tendrils than leaves, generating mixed reactions from harvesters.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Green Arrow	57	68	7.50
PLS 595	43	54	6.78
			(43 sites)



### Pea, Snap

‘Sugar Ann’ proved again it is the best snap pea for ND. Gardeners were impressed with its earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste. ‘Sugar Sprint’ grew well in previous trials but grew poorly under dry conditions this year.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sugar Ann	86	89	8.25
Sugar Sprint	14	24	5.33
			(51 sites)



### Pea, Snow

‘Mammoth Melting’ was preferred by most gardeners. Its vines were more vigorous and productive at more sites. Gardeners enjoyed the taste but not the color of ‘Golden Sweet’ pods. ‘Golden Sweet’ ripened first.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Golden Sweet	25	38	5.75
Mamm. Melting	75	63	6.88
			(10 sites)



### Pumpkin, Midsize (Organic)

Both varieties produced attractive jack-o’-lanterns in our short growing season. Most gardeners preferred ‘Bellatrix’. Its pumpkins were generally larger and its vines showed greater resistance to powdery mildew. Yields were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bellatrix	61	74	7.89
E. Dak. Howden	39	79	7.42
			(24 sites)



### Pumpkin, Large

‘Early King’ has performed well in previous trials, but this year it was overshadowed by ‘Large Marge’. ‘Large Marge’ germinated better, had healthier vines, produced higher yields and grew bigger pumpkins.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early King	25	50	7.25
Large Marge	75	83	8.75
			(12 sites)



### Pumpkin, Giant White

‘Polar Bear’ fruits were big, round, pure white, and more attractive. ‘Polar Bear’ produced higher yields at most sites. Gardener liked the giant fruits of ‘New Moon’, which appeared in shades of ivory, blue and peach.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
New Moon	33	67	7.00
Polar Bear	67	73	7.00
			(17 sites)



### Radish, Bicolor

‘Red Head’ grew faster and produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and tasted better. ‘Sparkler’ struggled in this spring sowing. It often failed to produce a globular root, went to seed quickly, and had a harsh, sharp taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Red Head	78	100	7.22
Sparkler	22	22	3.22
			(14 sites)



### Radish, Red (Organic)

‘Sora’ produced higher, more consistent yields. Its roots were more uniform, more attractive, less susceptible to cracking, and had great taste. ‘Cherry Belle’ grew well this spring, but ‘Sora’ showed its tolerance to heat and grew much better.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cherry Belle	23	69	7.38
Sora	77	100	8.46
			(14 sites)



### Spinach, Semi-Savoy Leaf

‘Escalade’ plants were generally healthier and resisted bolting better in this spring sowing. ‘Escalade’ received higher ratings for taste. ‘Avon’ germinated well and was ready to harvest earlier at more sites. Most gardeners did not recommend it.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Avon	27	42	6.00
Escalade	73	92	7.17
			(17 sites)



### Spinach, Smooth Leaf

‘Lizard’ was impressive. Its leaves were very dark green and flavorful. The plants were healthy and resisted bolting. ‘Space’ has been a strong and reliable performer in our trials for many years. It produced high yields again this spring.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lizard	47	85	8.00
Space	53	75	7.65
			(23 sites)



### Squash, Dark Zucchini (Organic)

‘Desert’ and ‘Dunja’ received similar ratings for nearly all traits, including yield and fruit quality. Both varieties were productive. Gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on which variety they preferred.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Desert	50	75	7.83
Dunja	50	83	8.25
			(14 sites)



### Squash, Green Zucchini

Both varieties produced lots of attractive, delicious fruits. ‘Green Machine’ vines were robust and healthier. ‘Green Machine’ produced the first fruits but total yields were similar. There was no strong preference for taste qualities.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cashflow	27	82	6.91
Green Machine	73	91	8.73
			(14 sites)



### Squash, Summer Yellow

Both varieties had healthy plants that produced lots of fruits. ‘Multipik’ produced earlier at most sites. ‘Slick Pik YS 26’ fruits were consistently smooth and slender. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties, not showing a preference.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Multipik	64	83	7.50
Slick Pik YS 26	36	75	7.91
			(12 sites)



### Squash, Winter Acorn

‘Autumn Delight’ rated higher for all traits. It was healthier and produced much higher yields. Most gardeners liked ‘Sweet REBA’, but it was inferior in all respects. The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced tasty fruits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Autumn Delight	60	93	8.47
Sweet REBA	40	67	7.87
			(18 sites)



### Squash, Winter Delicata (Organic)

‘Zeppelin’ germinated better, grew vigorously, and produced higher yields. It ripened earlier at more sites. Gardeners who preferred ‘Honey Boat’ often mentioned its great taste. Vines of both varieties were aggressive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Honey Boat	42	60	6.06
Zeppelin	58	81	7.25
			(74 sites)



### Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

Both varieties were easy to grow. ‘Butterscotch’ produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners liked the smaller size of ‘Butter Baby’ fruits. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties, not showing a clear preference.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Butter Baby	45	67	6.83
Butterscotch	55	83	7.42
			(21 sites)





### Squash, Winter Butternut

‘Early Butternut’ ripened earlier at more sites. Its fruits were easier to peel, had smaller seed cavities, and tastier flesh. ‘Autumn Frost’ fruits were beautiful and seemed better suited for decorating than eating.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Autumn Frost	33	67	6.93
Early Butternut	67	73	7.47

(19 sites)



### Swiss Chard, Multicolor (Organic)

Both varieties were colorful and delicious. ‘Improved Rainbow’ plants were bigger and less prone to bolting. ‘Five Color Silverbeet’ germinated better, was ready to harvest earlier, and looked more attractive to more gardeners.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
F. C. Silverbeet	33	94	7.88
Improv. Rainbow	67	100	8.31

(17 sites)



### Watermelon, Red (Organic)

‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ vines were healthier and more productive. Its melons ripened earlier. The flesh of its melons was crisp, sweet and delicious. Some gardeners mentioned ‘Crimson Sweet’ had a more uniform fruit shape.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Crimson Sweet	40	63	6.71
Swt. Dakota Rose	60	84	8.10

(31 sites)



### Watermelon, Red Icebox

The new variety ‘Cherry Grande’ performed poorly for all traits. The old classic ‘Sugar Baby’ grew better, matured earlier, produced higher yields and tasted better. Neither variety received high ratings or sweeping recommendations.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cherry Grande	9	25	4.08
Sugar Baby	91	58	6.42

(17 sites)



### Watermelon, Yellow (Organic)

‘Early Moonbeam’ and ‘Petite Yellow’ received good ratings for watermelon varieties. ‘Petite Yellow’ had a thin rind, few seeds and ripened earlier. It was a more reliable producer. Yields and fruit quality ratings for the varieties were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early Moonbeam	60	67	6.83
Petite Yellow	40	67	8.33

(10 sites)



### Basil (Organic)

Both varieties were healthy and grew well. ‘Prospera’ rated higher for all traits. Its leaves were deep green and glossy with the classic Genovese flavor. ‘Rutgers Devotion’ was recommended by most, but was not especially remarkable.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Prospera	75	86	8.11
Rutgers Devotion	25	72	7.29

(37 sites)



### Cilantro (Organic)

‘Leisure’ and ‘Santo’ received high scores and were rated similarly for all traits. Some gardeners had difficulties finding any differences between the varieties. ‘Santo’ was preferred but for no consistent reason. Comments lacked enthusiasm.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Leisure	20	88	8.11
Santo	80	100	8.56

(12 sites)



### Dill, Dwarf Leafy (Organic)

‘Ella’ and ‘Greensleeves’ received similar ratings. Both varieties grew well and withstood the brisk winds of North Dakota. ‘Greensleeves’ was preferred by most gardeners. It germinated better and grew more vigorously at more sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Ella	30	74	6.78
Greensleeves	70	78	7.30

(27 sites)



### Balsam

Many gardeners had never heard of balsam. They loved the flowers and so did the bees. Both varieties grew well and were beautiful additions to gardens. ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ grew vigorously and produced more blooms at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bush Mix	42	88	7.65
Camellia Flower	58	88	7.96
			(34 sites)



### Cosmos, Red

‘Rubenza’ germinated better, grew taller, bloomed earlier and produced more blooms. ‘Sonata Red Shades’ had a more compact, fuller plant. Both ‘Rubenza’ and the ‘Sonata’ series of cosmos have always done well in our trials.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Rubenza	50	60	6.90
Sonata Red S.	50	70	6.80
			(15 sites)



### Cosmos, Striped

‘Picotee’ germinated better, grew more vigorously and was healthier. Its plants were taller, had more blooms, and were beautiful. ‘Velouette’ had compact plants that bloomed early, but the plants generally lacked health and vigor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Picotee	83	76	7.13
Velouette	17	44	4.96
			(27 sites)



### Sunflower, Bicolor

Gardeners liked both ‘Ruby Eclipse’ and ‘Strawberry Blonde’. Both varieties were easy to grow. ‘Ruby Eclipse’ bloomed earlier at more sites. More gardeners felt ‘Ruby Eclipse’ was prettier in their gardens.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Ruby Eclipse	56	82	8.06
Strawb. Blonde	44	76	7.88
			(25 sites)



### Sunflower, Lemon

‘Buttercream’ always excels in our trials. Every gardener who grew ‘Buttercream’ this year recommended it. It excelled in all traits and received very high scores. Lemon yellow is not a popular sunflower color; ‘Buttercream’ remains unknown.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Buttercream	100	100	9.00
Lemon Queen	0	60	6.60
			(9 sites)



### Sunflower, Orange

‘Gold Rush’ excelled over ‘Soraya’ in all categories. It germinated better and was healthier. It bloomed much earlier, more abundantly, and was prettier in gardens. Every gardener preferred ‘Gold Rush’ over ‘Soraya’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gold Rush	100	80	8.20
Soraya	0	60	4.80
			(8 sites)



### Sunflower, Peach

Gardeners were enchanted by the soft peach color and small size of ‘Peach ‘Passion’ blooms. ‘Apricot Beauty’ stalks were taller and healthier. ‘Apricot Beauty’ was preferred over ‘Peach Passion’ in our 2014 trials for its superior vigor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Apricot Daisy	20	80	7.20
Peach Passion	80	80	7.40
			(9 sites)



### Sunflower, Red

‘Moulin Rouge’ germinated better and was healthier than ‘Red Sun’. ‘Moulin Rouge’ bloomed earlier and more abundantly. Its burgundy flowers were stunning. ‘Moulin Rouge’ has been an impressive variety in our trials for years.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Moulin Rouge	70	74	6.96
Red Sun	30	52	5.87
			(26 sites)



### Zinnia, Cactus Mix

Gardeners loved both varieties. Their flowers were bright and beautiful with sturdy stems for cutting. Most gardeners preferred ‘Cactus Bright Jewel’. It had big, vibrant blooms. ‘Burpeeanna Giants’ produced more blooms at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Burpee. Giants	41	88	8.29
C. Bright Jewel	59	85	8.53
			(35 sites)



### Zinnia, Dahlia Mix

‘California Giants and ‘State Fair’ received high scores for their large, beautiful blooms. Both varieties were healthy, loved by pollinators, and good for cutting. Several gardeners noted ‘State Fair’ flowers were more vibrant in color.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
California Giants	40	91	8.23
State Fair	60	88	8.43
			(34 sites)



### Zinnia, Scarlet Dahlia

Both varieties grew well and were beautiful. Most gardeners recommended both varieties, but they preferred ‘Scarlet Flame’. ‘Scarlet Flame’ bloomed earlier and had more blooms. Its blooms were big, bright, and long lasting.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Scarlet Flame	60	93	8.53
Will Rogers	40	80	7.47
			(20 sites)



### Zinnia, Mexican

Most gardeners were surprised and pleased with Mexican zinnias. Both varieties had low, spreading habits and bloomed profusely. Gardeners liked the rich colors of ‘Old Mexico’. ‘Persian’ Carpet’ had more colors and often bloomed earlier.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Old Mexico	58	85	7.85
Persian Carpet	42	69	7.08
			(26 sites)



# Bean, Green Snap

## Varieties

### 'Annihilator'

53 days. Tender, dark-green pods are set high on the plant for easy picking. Tolerates poor soils.

### 'Bush Blue Lake 274'

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



## Data

Gardeners at 43 sites submitted information.

Trait	Anni-hilator	B.B.L. 274	Same
Germinated best	35%	32%	32%
Healthier plants	24	29	47
Harvested earlier	66	22	13
Higher yields	38	32	29
More attractive pods	61	9	30
Tasted better	42	26	32
Preference	62	38	
Recommend (😊)	82	76	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.79	7.29	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Annihilator'

Annihilator ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★😞MN

I was most impressed with 'Annihilator'. Its bean pod color, firmness and flavor were perfect. 'Annihilator' produced a very uniform looking pod that was never stringy or soft and didn't get to be too big to eat if I didn't make it out to pick beans for a few days. They were absolutely delicious and looked more appetizing compared to 'Bush Blue Lake'. I'd been a 'Bush Blue Lake' fan forever but would definitely go with 'Annihilator' from now on.

Annihilator ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★😞MN

'Annihilator' grew better. Both varieties were decimated by beetles and slugs.

Annihilator ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★😊MN

'Annihilator' had better germination and matured earlier.

Annihilator ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★😞MN

'Annihilator' had shorter plants and produced more beans. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' was more tolerant of dry weather.

Annihilator ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★😊MN

'Annihilator' tasted better. Both varieties had issues with white mold.

Annihilator ★★★★★😊 -  
 Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★😊MN

I really liked 'Annihilator'. It produced a lot and had beautiful, velvet green pods. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' can always be trusted. Its pods were more knobby and less attractive.

Annihilator ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★😊NE

'Annihilator' came up first and its beans were slightly more tender. Both varieties tasted excellent.






**Most gardeners preferred 'Annihilator'. It matured earlier at most sites.**






## Best green bush bean varieties






**Top choice**  
Annihilator






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






## Prefer 'Annihilator' (continued)






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SE  
'Annihilator' was better in all traits. I got beans all season. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' got moldy by its roots.






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SE  
'Annihilator' had better germination and greater yield. Both varieties were great!






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SE  
I liked the appearance of the plants and pods of 'Annihilator'. Great yield on both varieties.






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SE  
'Annihilator' matured 8 days earlier. It produced higher yields and tasted better.

Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   NC  
I preferred 'Annihilator' for its slenderer pods.




Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SC  
The pods' appearance, texture, and taste of 'Annihilator' were all slightly better than for 'Bush Blue Lake'.






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SC  
'Annihilator' germinated better and seemed healthier. Its beans were larger and longer—best for eating fresh or canning. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' would be better for stir frying.






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SE  
'Annihilator' had higher germination and better yield.







Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SC  
I have grown 'Bush Blue Lake' for a while, but 'Annihilator' was earlier and produced more through our dry summer. 'Annihilator' pods were sweeter and darker green.

Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   NW  
'Annihilator' had better germination and more yield.

Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   NW  
'Annihilator' pods were long and straight.






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   NW  
'Annihilator' matured earlier. Its pods had better color and flavor.






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   NW  
'Annihilator' had excellent flavor. It matured 1.5 weeks earlier. Both varieties were good, but 'Annihilator' was by far the best.

Annihilator      
Bush Blue Lake 274   SW  
'Annihilator' grew very fast, developed into large plants, and produced well. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' did not germinate very well, and the plants that did, were poor. The results were opposite of what I expected.

## Prefer 'Bush Blue Lake 274'






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   MN  
'Bush Blue Lake 274' had nicer beans, plants and yield.





Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   MN  
'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced earlier and tasted better.






Annihilator     
Bush Blue Lake 274   SE  
'Bush Blue Lake 274' came up a lot better. Its plants were much healthier. Although its first yield was a week later, it produced a higher and more extended yield. Its pods looked way more attractive. Both varieties tasted good.



**Gardeners were impressed by the quality of 'Annihilator' pods. They were dark green, slender and delicious.**

## Prefer 'Bush Blue Lake 274' (continued)






Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   SE  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' had a larger production. I enjoyed its mild flavor. Its large pods were fleshier. 'Annihilator' had a grassy taste.





Annihilator   -  
 Bush Blue Lake 274   NC  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' was better all around. Its yields were bigger.






Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   NC  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated first. Its plants were by far healthier. It produced first and had heavy yields. 'Annihilator' had beautiful pods, but not many.



Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   NC  
 We had a lot of beans.






Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   SC  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced more beans.






Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   SC  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' plants were hardier in the late season dryness.

Annihilator   -  
 Bush Blue Lake 274   SC  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced a little bit later, but for a longer time. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' had a more robust pod. I preferred the long and slim pod of 'Annihilator'.

Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   NW  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated better and was a higher producer. The pods of 'Annihilator' never got woody even if we missed them and they got big.

Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   NW  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods were very tender and tasty.

Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   SW  
 Neither variety did great.

Annihilator     
 Bush Blue Lake 274   CO  
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated well and consistently produced a lot of good quality beans from midsummer into late fall. This was in spite of dry, hot windy conditions all summer. It had long, tender beans, slow to get stringy or tough. Both varieties had excellent flavor.

## Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Annihilator'. It ripened earlier at most sites. Gardeners were impressed by the quality of 'Annihilator' pods. They were dark green, slender and delicious. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' plants were healthy and produced a good crop of medium green, meaty pods all summer long.

**'Bush Blue Lake 274' plants were healthy and produced a good crop of beans all summer long.**



# Bean, Green Snap (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Antigua'

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

### 'Jade'

55 days. Pods are long, slender and glossy. Bountiful yields and superior taste. Pale green seeds.



## Data

Gardeners at 49 sites submitted information.

Trait	Antigua	Jade	Same
Germinated best	60%	12%	28%
Healthier plants	42	21	37
Harvested earlier	36	36	29
Higher yields	47	33	21
More attractive pods	37	37	26
Tasted better	29	21	50
Preference	52	48	
Recommend (😊)	80	66	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.91	7.25	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Antigua'

Antigua ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Jade ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Antigua' grew 18 inches high. Its upright habit is suitable for a raised bed. 'Jade' plants fell over. The pods of both varieties tasted good. Their yields were the same. 'Jade' pods were 7–9 inches long.

Antigua ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Jade ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Antigua' had 20% better germination. Its plants stayed more upright. I thought it was a bit more flavorful both raw and cooked, but both varieties tasted good.

Antigua ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Jade ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Antigua' produced beans that were ready for harvesting earlier than 'Jade'. 'Jade' produced larger, crisp pods and a greater overall yield than 'Antigua'. 'Antigua' exhibited much sweeter beans that were crisp and more flavorful than 'Jade' and had a good yield.

Antigua ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Jade ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Antigua' had tender pods for in-garden eating. It had lots of flowers early and slightly taller plants. Both varieties produced a very big crop.

Antigua ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Jade ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Antigua' germinated better and produced higher yields. 'Jade' had poor germination but longer and more attractive pods.

Antigua ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Jade ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Antigua' had a healthier plant. It matured a week after 'Jade', but it produced much longer and produced higher yields. 'Jade' plants did not do as well in the heat. Both varieties had nice looking beans and tasted very good.

Antigua ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Jade ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Antigua' had an incredible early and heavy yield. 'Jade' yields went later in season. I liked the beany flavor of 'Antigua' over the sweet taste of 'Jade'.

**'Antigua' germinated much better, leading to higher yields at more sites.**

## Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice  
Annihilator

Strong performers

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

## Prefer 'Antigua' (continued)

Antigua SE  
 Jade

'Antigua' beans had a nice average size; they were tender and attractive. 'Jade' beans were much too large. When harvesting the beans on the same days, the 'Jade' beans seemed overgrown. 'Antigua' leaves got diseased first, and so the harvesting slowed down at the end of August.

Antigua SE  
 Jade

'Antigua' had better taste.

Antigua NC  
 Jade

'Jade' beans were thicker, which we prefer, but 'Antigua' beans were longer and thinner. Both varieties were healthy, easy to maintain and productive. As first-time growers of green beans we were happy with the outcome.

Antigua NC  
 Jade

'Antigua' had better taste.

Antigua NC  
 Jade

'Antigua' produced more and produced longer. Its beans were easy to find. Its plants turned rusty as summer progressed, but this didn't hurt the yield.

Antigua NC  
 Jade

'Jade' germinated poorly, and its beans were curly. I prefer 'Antigua', but it is not as good as 'Crockett'.

Antigua NC  
 Jade

'Antigua' plants were more upright, produced a straighter bean than 'Jade', and were very productive. It was a good tasting bean.

Antigua NC  
 Jade

'Antigua' had faster germination, better plants, and was more productive.

Antigua SC  
 Jade

Both varieties had nice, long, thin beans. They were delicious. Hearty plants. 'Antigua' had higher yields.

Antigua NW  
 Jade

'Antigua' had tall and wide bushes that produced lots of straight, long pods with sweet flavor. 'Jade' plants dried up.

Antigua NW  
 Jade

The compact plants of 'Antigua' were well suited for my raised beds. 'Jade' had a higher yield.

Antigua NW  
 Jade

'Antigua' produced longer and had higher yields. Its pods were fuller. Its plants were taller and bushier. 'Jade' did not germinate uniformly. It produced earlier but its plants developed yellow leaves.

Antigua SW  
 Jade

I liked the look and uniformity of 'Antigua' pods. They were good for pickling. 'Antigua' germinated better and produced much better. Its plants stayed compact. 'Jade' produced very long pods. The pods of both varieties tasted good.

Antigua SW  
 Jade

'Antigua' germinated better and was a better producer. The pods of both varieties were attractive and tasty.

Antigua SW  
 Jade

'Antigua' had better germination and higher production earlier in the season. 'Jade' had 50% germination. 'Jade' produced higher yields later in the season when 'Antigua' was done producing. There was no rust on either variety.

**'Antigua' plants were compact, upright, healthy and productive. This variety is well suited for raised beds.**

Antigua   
 Jade SW

'Antigua' had more plants, more beans.

### Prefer 'Jade'

Antigua   
 Jade NE

The beans on 'Jade' were long and slender. They produced heavy right away. I thought they were more attractive and nicer to work with. 'Antigua' beans were slow to develop, short and fat. They did produce better as the season progressed so both yielded similar overall. 'Antigua' had sturdy upright plants. 'Jade' plants were taller and floppier.

Antigua   
 Jade NE

'Jade' was more productive. It produced a week earlier and produced later than 'Antigua'. 'Jade' was still blooming when frost hit.

Antigua   
 Jade NE

I loved 'Jade'. Both varieties matured on the same day, but the first picking of 'Jade' produced twice as many pods. 'Jade' pods were longer and straighter. 'Antigua' produced more later. Many of its pods were stubby and some had zipper-like scars. I would recommend a second planting of 'Jade' just after a first harvest for a more reliable harvest through the whole season.

Antigua   
 Jade NE

The vines of both varieties stayed relatively healthy. There was no white mold but some rust late in the season. Both varieties were heavy yielders. 'Jade' produced a few days earlier. The first pickings of both varieties were similar. 'Jade' was better for the second and third pickings. We like the pods to fill out, and 'Jade' stayed tender, not fibrous. Neither variety showed any tendency to become fibrous. 'Jade' pods were much longer and slim. 'Antigua' had shorter, slightly fatter pods, and more of them. Two of three of us preferred the taste of 'Antigua'. Both were very tender and had excellent flavor. Their taste is comparable to 'Bush Blue Lake 274'; however, 'Bush Blue Lake 274' will definitely outyield these two varieties.

Antigua   
 Jade SE

'Jade' was more productive and had greener pods.

Antigua   
 Jade SE

'Jade' produced first, and its beans were more clustered on smaller plants; easier to find. Its pods were smoother. 'Antigua' plants were more consistent producers.

**Both varieties were healthy, easy to grow, and productive.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)** →

Variety A

Variety B

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →

= Yes

= No

**Garden type**

= Organic

= Uses inorganic fertilizers

= Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

**Locations**

MN = Minnesota

NE = Northeast

SE = Southeast

NC = North Central

SC = South Central

NW = Northwest

SW = Southwest

MB = Manitoba

SK = Saskatchewan

SD = South Dakota

MT = Montana

CO = Colorado

IA = Iowa

PA = Pennsylvania

**Location**

**Comments**

## Prefer 'Jade' (continued)

Antigua -  
 Jade SE

'Jade' made a stronger rebound after deer nibbled on the plants in mid-summer.

Antigua   
 Jade SE

We enjoyed both of these. They did not get overfull very quickly and seedy like some green beans do. When we did a taste test, our family of six was evenly divided on both varieties. The flavor of 'Jade' stayed more delicate longer.

Antigua   
 Jade SE

'Jade' plants stood up better.

Antigua   
 Jade SE

I really like the beans produced by 'Jade', but 'Antigua' was very good.

Antigua   
 Jade NC

'Jade' had a higher yield.

Antigua   
 Jade NC

'Jade' beans looked nicer and tasted better. It had a higher yield. 'Antigua' plants were bigger and healthier.

Antigua   
 Jade NC

'Jade' had larger, nicer beans and was more productive. Both varieties were healthy.

Antigua   
 Jade NC

'Antigua' was the first out of the ground and had more plants overall, but 'Jade' got larger and had more pods per vine. 'Jade' pods were a bit meatier. Both varieties produced a lot of beans.

Antigua   
 Jade SC

'Jade' pods were longer and straighter. They tasted great.

Antigua   
 Jade SC

'Jade' had very prolific plants and long bean pods. It tasted great.

Antigua   
 Jade SC

'Antigua' produced a slightly earlier and very uniform yield that was ready to be picked all at once. 'Jade' produced a larger yield over a longer time that was less uniform but tasted better.

Antigua   
 Jade SW

'Antigua' produced in fits and spurts (lots in July, little in August, more again in September) while 'Jade' was more consistent throughout the summer. 'Jade' produced the most unbelievably long and beautiful beans! Although 'Jade' didn't germinate fantastically, it had by far the most attractive beans.

Antigua   
 Jade SW

'Jade' pods were long, slender and tastier.

Antigua -  
 Jade SW

'Jade' produced more beans. 'Antigua' germinated better, and its plants were healthier.

Antigua   
 Jade SW

'Jade' had extremely long, straight pods. Everyone I shared beans with wanted to know what kind they were. In hot weather, 'Antigua' produced hollow pods that were not good to eat. 'Jade' continued producing into October.

## Conclusions

Both varieties were healthy, easy to grow, and productive. 'Antigua' germinated much better, leading to higher yields at more sites. 'Antigua' plants were compact, upright, healthy and productive. This variety is well suited for raised beds. Gardeners enjoyed the outstanding quality of pods produced by both varieties. 'Jade' pods were longer and straighter.

**Gardeners enjoyed the outstanding quality of pods produced by both varieties. 'Jade' pods were longer and straighter.**



# Bean, Green Pole

## Varieties

### 'Fortex'

60 days. Famous for its long pods and nutty taste. Sturdy vines produce pods over a long time.

### 'Monte Cristo'

71 days. Big yields of bright green, stringless, 10-inch pods. Vigorous vines produce from July to frost.



## Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Fortex	Monte Cristo	Same
Germinated best	29%	36%	36%
Healthier plants	14	64	21
Harvested earlier	50	21	29
Higher yields	21	57	21
More attractive pods	7	29	64
Tasted better	7	14	79
Preference	23	77	
Recommend (😊)	50	79	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.57	7.86	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Fortex'

Fortex ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Fortex' is certainly more vigorous starting out. It was earlier maturing and more productive.

Fortex ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Fortex' produced the first yield, about one week earlier than 'Monte Cristo'. Both varieties germinated really well and were very healthy. They produced a lot of green beans and the pods looked nice. My only dislike was that their pods were a little tough.

Fortex ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Fortex' was much earlier with higher yields. 'Monte Cristo' vines were easier to train on the trellis. Half of the 'Fortex' vines were on the ground.

### Prefer 'Monte Cristo'

Fortex ★★★★★ 😞 🏠  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Monte Cristo' vines appeared more aggressive. Its pods were straighter. 'Fortex' was more subject to insect damage. 'Fortex' pods had a tendency to curl if not picked young. The pods of both varieties had a fresh, pleasant taste.

Fortex ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Monte Cristo' was better overall. It germinated quicker, grew larger plants, produced a higher yield (61 pounds versus 40 pounds), and healthier pods. 'Fortex' was beginning to produce more with cooler temps and probably would have been better in a cooler summer. I loved how long 'Fortex' beans got and how much they would fill out without being tough. The pods of both varieties tasted great. They canned well and had no strings.

Fortex ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Monte Cristo' seedlings emerged first, but the vines of 'Fortex' took the June heat better. Yields were fairly low for both, but 'Monte Cristo' had better yield.

The pods of both varieties were long and flavorful. 'Fortex' produced the first yields.

### Best green pole bean varieties

Top choice  
 Monte Cristo

### Strong performers

- Fortex
- Orient
- Wonder
- Seychelles
- Stringless Blue
- Lake S-7

## Prefer 'Monte Cristo' (continued)

Fortex ★★★★★☹️ 🏠  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★😊 SE

'Monte Cristo' had a higher yield and more vigorous growth. The pods of both varieties were very long (8–9 inches), very squiggly and irregular in shape.

Fortex ★★★★★☹️ 🏠  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★😊 NC

'Monte Cristo' germinated better, had longer vines, and yielded much more.

Fortex ★★★★★😊 🐛  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★😊 NC

'Monte Cristo' had straighter beans. I had never grown pole beans before but will in the future. Pods of both varieties had excellent taste and were not stringy.

Fortex ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★☹️ SC

Neither variety did well. Odd-shaped pods, little germination. Last year, I had great success with 'Monte Cristo'.

Fortex ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★😊 SC

'Monte Cristo' vines were more vigorous and productive. The pods of both varieties were wonderful in flavor.

Fortex ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★😊 SE

Both varieties grew well and produced lots of beans. 'Monte Cristo' tasted better—more flesh and flavor.

Fortex ★★★★★😊 🐛  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★😊 SC

'Monte Cristo' pods developed up to 12 inches long and didn't have big seeds in them.

## No Preference

Fortex ★★★★★😊 🐛  
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★😊 SE

Both varieties grew well for us, tasted good and produced equally well.

## Conclusions

'Monte Cristo' has been very impressive over the past two years. Last year it excelled over a 'Kentucky Wonder' hybrid, and this year it beat 'Fortex', another variety famous for the quality of its pods. 'Monte Cristo' vines were more vigorous and produced higher yields. More gardeners preferred the pod quality of 'Monte Cristo', noting its straighter pods. 'Fortex' produced the first yields. The pods of both varieties were long and flavorful.

**'Monte Cristo' was exceptional. Its vines were more vigorous and produced higher yields.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

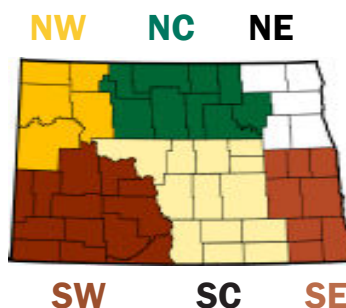
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★☹️

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



## Locations

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# Bean, Yellow Snap (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Gold Rush'

54 days. Straight, flavorful pods stay in prime condition for a long time on the vine. White seeds.

### 'Rocdor'

53 days. Smooth, light-yellow pods have buttery flavor. Sturdy plants produce high yields. Black seeds.



## Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold		
	Rush	Rocdor	Same
Germinated best	69%	0%	31%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Harvested earlier	60	0	40
Higher yields	67	0	33
More attractive pods	47	0	53
Tasted better	31	0	69
Preference	100	0	
Recommend (😊)	100	50	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.56	6.13	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	9.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Gold Rush'

Gold Rush 😊 MN  
 Rocdor 😊 NE

'Gold Rush' germinated much better. It produced earlier and had straighter pods. Both varieties can produce good yields. The pods of both varieties were crispy. I loved to eat them in salads cut up when picked young.

Gold Rush 😊 NE  
 Rocdor 😊 NE

'Gold Rush' was more prolific. It had a healthier appearance with lush foliage and produced more beans. We had fluctuating conditions, hot and dry, then very wet, but both varieties withstood the elements fairly well.

Gold Rush 😊 NE  
 Rocdor 😊 NE

I would certainly grow 'Gold Rush' again and again. Really loved it. Not sure why 'Rocdor' germinated poorly. The 'Rocdor' plants that did make it had nice, tasty beans and were a lot like 'Gold Rush'.

Gold Rush 😊 NE  
 Rocdor 😊 NE

'Gold Rush' tasted like a sweet bean! Such vibrant flavor.

Gold Rush 😊 SE  
 Rocdor 😊 SE

Enjoyed the fleshy pods of 'Gold Rush'.

Gold Rush 😊 SE  
 Rocdor 😊 SE

'Gold Rush' had better germination, faster growth, and larger production.

Gold Rush 😊 SE  
 Rocdor 😊 SE

'Gold Rush' germinated better, produced more, and had straighter pods.

Gold Rush 😊 SE  
 Rocdor 😊 SE

'Gold Rush' performed much better.

Gold Rush 😊 -  
 Rocdor 😊 SC

Taste was good for both.

**'Gold Rush' excelled in all traits. Its plants were healthy and produced a bountiful harvest of beans.**

## Best yellow bush bean varieties

Top choice  
Carson

Strong performers  
Borsalino  
Gold Rush

## Prefer 'Gold Rush' (continued)

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Rocdor ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Gold Rush' germinated very well and produced a bounty of beans. It had beautiful yellow color. The plants of both varieties were healthy, and their pods tasted good. 'Rocdor' germinated poorly.

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Rocdor ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Gold Rush' had better germination and better yield.

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Rocdor ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I loved both of these beans! The pods were long, thin, beautiful and delicious. The plants were hearty. 'Gold Rush' produced a higher yield.

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Rocdor ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Gold Rush' pods were skinny and straighter.

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Rocdor ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Gold Rush' germinated better, produced earlier and had a higher yield.

## Prefer 'Rocdor'

None.

## No Preference

Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Rocdor ★★★★★ 😊 NC

We did not notice a difference between the two. Both varieties had a nice taste and produced well.

## Conclusions

'Rocdor' performed poorly this year. The poor germination of 'Rocdor' in all gardens suggests its poor showing may be due to poor seed quality and not the quality of the variety itself. This does not diminish the outstanding performance of 'Gold Rush'. 'Gold Rush' received very high ratings and every gardener recommended it. Its plants were healthy and produced a bountiful harvest of beans. 'Gold Rush' pods were straight and flavorful.

**The poor germination of 'Rocdor' in all gardens suggests its poor showing may be due to poor seed quality and not the quality of the variety itself.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)** →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →

😊 = Yes

😞 = No

**Garden types**

- 🐛 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

**Locations**

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**Garden type** →

**Location** →

**Comments** →



# Bean, Dry (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Calypso'

(Shown) 90 days. Black and white beans have a mild flavor and creamy texture. Also called 'Ying Yang' and 'Orca'.

### 'Jacob's Cattle'

90 days. Full-flavored beans have beautiful red and white speckles. Rich aroma. Heirloom.



## Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jacob's Cattle		
	Calypso	Cattle	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	27	20	53
Harvested earlier	7	67	27
Higher yields	40	40	20
More attractive seeds	53	27	20
Tasted better	11	44	44
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	81	81	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.67	8.20	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Calypso'

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Calypso' plants looked great all summer but produced half the yield. Its beans had a consistent color and shape. 'Jacob's Cattle' grew slowly and matured inconsistently.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Calypso' germinated slightly better. The color pattern of its beans was consistent. 'Jacob's Cattle' bloomed and set pods earlier. Its plants had more trouble with rust, but not much. The color pattern of 'Jacob's Cattle' was not consistent; some beans were mostly red or all red.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I just absolutely adore both of these varieties, and I think they complement each other in the garden and in decorative purposes (I'd think in food, as well).

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both had excellent germination and held up well in our severe windstorm. 'Jacob's Cattle' had more bean flavor (very good flavor), but 'Calypso' had a smoother texture. Both varieties were good, but the different flavors lend themselves to different uses ('Calypso' for chili and 'Jacob's Cattle' for Mexican style food). 'Calypso' had a more consistent color and 'Jacob's Cattle' had more pale/shriveled beans. 'Jacob's Cattle' cooked faster than 'Calypso'. 'Calypso' produced 43% more beans by weight. 'Calypso' plants were very healthy. We would definitely grow both varieties again.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Calypso' produced a higher yield but matured later. I have not eaten them yet.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Calypso' plants were more compact. The beans of both varieties were colorful, but my family says 'Calypso' beans were smaller, more uniform, and more attractive.

**'Calypso' beans had a more consistent color and shape.**

**Best dry bush bean varieties**

**Top choice**  
Great Northern

**Strong performer**  
Arikara Yellow

## Prefer 'Calypso' (continued)

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 MT

'Calypso' was slightly better in all traits.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

'Jacob's Cattle' produced a lot more beans. The beans of both varieties were very pretty and had a nice size.

## Prefer 'Jacob's Cattle'

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN

Both varieties were decimated by beetles and then slugs. 'Jacob's Cattle' plants did better until the pests came.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

I liked both varieties, but 'Jacob's Cattle' had a higher yield. It looked more like a kidney bean. I cooked them together in the same soup. 'Jacob's Cattle' got a little mushier. Both had a good mouth feel.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE

I like both varieties. 'Calypso' beans are beautiful. They do take longer to ripen, and the pods are harder to break open. I would continue to grow both.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 -  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Jacob's Cattle' produced better. Its beans were prettier.

**'Jacob's Cattle' ripened earlier, and more gardeners preferred its taste.**

## Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed the beauty and flavor of both varieties. They were evenly split on which variety they preferred. 'Calypso' beans had a more consistent color and shape. 'Jacob's Cattle' ripened earlier, and more gardeners preferred its taste.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 NE

'Jacob's Cattle' germinated better and produced more. Its beans were firmer when cooked. 'Calypso' plants were healthier and bushier. Its beans didn't have much taste.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Jacob's Cattle ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Jacob's Cattle' had a more attractive bean.

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

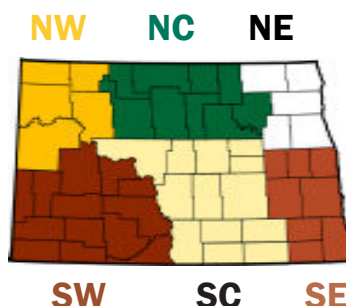
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



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# Bean, Lima

## Varieties

### 'Fordhook 242'

65 days. Bushes are productive and resist diseases. Small pods. Early and dependable yields. Heirloom.

### 'Henderson'

65 days. Bushes are productive and resist diseases. Small pods. Early and dependable yields. Heirloom.



## Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Fordhook		
	242	Hender'n	Same
Germinated best	25%	0%	75%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Harvested earlier	25	50	25
Higher yields	75	0	25
More attractive beans	50	0	50
Tasted better	67	0	33
Preference	100	0	
Recommend (😊)	100	50	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	9.25	8.00	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	9.50	7.50	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Fordhook 242'

Fordhook 242 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Henderson ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Fordhook 242' had bigger pods earlier. It was ahead of 'Henderson' throughout the growing season.

Fordhook 242 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Henderson ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Fordhook 242' had bigger pods. Its beans tasted better. This was my first time growing lima beans.

Fordhook 242 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Henderson ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked the large size of 'Fordhook 242' pods. They were easy to shell and we got a significant yield. I liked the texture of the bean when cooked. This was my first time growing lima beans, and I enjoyed eating them fresh from the garden. Yum!

### Prefer 'Henderson'

None.

### No Preference

Fordhook 242 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Henderson ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I cannot tell any difference.

## Conclusions

This was our least popular trial in 2020 and data are limited. Two of the four reporting gardeners had never grown lima beans before. All gardeners preferred 'Fordhook 242'. They liked its larger pods, higher yields and the delicious flavor of its beans.

**Gardeners liked the larger pods, higher yields and delicious flavor of 'Fordhook 242'.**

### Best lima bush bean varieties

Top choice  
Fordhook 242

Strong performer  
Eastland

# Beet, Gold (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Burpee's Golden'

55 days. Golden orange roots. Sweet flavor and non-staining juice. Light-green leaves with gold ribs.

### 'Touchstone Gold'

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



## Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Burp. Golden	Touch. Gold	Same
Germinated best	33%	19%	48%
Healthier plants	17	28	56
Harvested earlier	28	33	39
Higher yields	28	28	44
More attractive roots	22	22	56
Tasted better	22	17	61
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (😊)	79	79	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.16	7.95	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	9.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Burpee's Golden'

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (👎) 🏠  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (👎) MN

Not impressed with either variety. These are old style beets. Red hybrids are much better as they are crossed with sugar beets and sweeter.

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (😊) 🏠  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (😊) NE

'Burpee's Golden' germinated first, ripened first and appealed more to my taste. It was a little sweeter. I ate both varieties at their small, medium and large sizes. Both varieties are storing well as of today (November 14).

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (😊) 🏠  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (👎) NE  
 'Burpee's Golden' germinated first, produced the first yield and higher yields. This was my first time growing gold beets. They are good with a milder taste compared to red beets I am familiar with.

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (😊) 🏠  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (👎) SC  
 'Burpee's Golden' was healthier and produced the first yield.

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (😊) -  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (😊) SC  
 These varieties were very similar. They had a nice, mellow taste.

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (😊) 🏠  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (😊) SC  
 The leaves of 'Burpee's Golden' were huge and lush. Its roots had better taste.

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (😊) 🏠  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (😊) NW  
 I slightly prefer the taste and look of 'Burpee's Golden' roots. Both varieties had excellent germination.

Burpee's Golden ★★★★★ (😊) 🏠  
 Touchstone Gold ★★★★★ (😊) SW  
 'Burpee's Golden' produced higher yields.

**'Burpee's Golden' and 'Touchstone Gold' received similar ratings for all traits.**

**Best gold beet varieties**

**Top choice**  
 Boldor

**Strong performers**  
 Burpee's Golden  
 Touchstone Gold



## Prefer ‘Burpee’s Golden’ (continued)

Burpee’s Golden SD  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Burpee’s Golden’ germinated first and matured quickly. Its roots were round, beautiful and did not split. They were sweeter and had a more pleasing and uniform color throughout the root. Great taste. Its greens tasted good. The plants didn’t seem to have any pest problems. ‘Touchstone Gold’ roots were sweet and good tasting, but they were misshapen, split, spindly and not evenly colored. Its greens had a slightly “musty” taste.

## Prefer ‘Touchstone Gold’

Burpee’s Golden NE  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Touchstone Gold’ has a rich, vibrant taste. A higher yield, too.

Burpee’s Golden SE  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Touchstone Gold’ had a better yield, healthier plants and grew faster.

Burpee’s Golden SE  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Touchstone Gold’ had a noticeably richer and sweeter flavor. ‘Burpee’s Golden’ was more earthy and lacked some of the subtlety of flavor. This observation was made when the beets had been par-boiled to remove the skins. The difference was less noticeable when tossed in with a salad or other dish. I recommend both varieties because the nuances of flavor are personal preference.

Burpee’s Golden SE  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Touchstone Gold’ had a mellow flavor. The roots of these varieties did not get very large or hard.

Burpee’s Golden NC  
 Touchstone Gold

This was my first time growing yellow beets and I enjoyed the taste of both varieties. ‘Touchstone Gold’ germinated better and produced a higher yield.

Burpee’s Golden SC  
 Touchstone Gold

This was a very dry year, and our beets were smaller than usual. ‘Touchstone Gold’ had the bigger beets. Both varieties were very tasty.

Burpee’s Golden SC  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Touchstone Gold’ had a better yield, but both varieties produced very well.

Burpee’s Golden SC  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Touchstone Gold’ had a more delicate taste, which I prefer. The taste of ‘Burpee’s Golden’ was more earthy. ‘Touchstone Gold’ matured earlier.

Burpee’s Golden NW  
 Touchstone Gold

‘Touchstone Gold’ beets were more uniform in size.

**Most gardeners enjoyed the flavors of the roots of both varieties.**

## Conclusions

‘Burpee’s Golden’ and ‘Touchstone Gold’ received similar ratings for all traits. Overall ratings for both varieties were high, and gardeners were split on their preferences. Most gardeners enjoyed the flavors of the roots of both varieties. Words used more than once to describe these flavors include “sweet” and “earthy” for ‘Burpee’s Golden’ and “sweet,” “rich” and “mellow” for ‘Touchstone Gold’.

# Beet, Red

## Varieties

### 'Eagle'

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

### 'Merlin'

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



## Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Eagle	Merlin	Same
Germinated best	50%	6%	44%
Healthier plants	44	11	44
Harvested earlier	39	11	50
Higher yields	44	6	50
More attractive roots	11	22	67
Tasted better	17	17	67
Preference	59	41	
Recommend (😊)	89	84	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.42	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Eagle'

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 MN

All in all, 'Eagle' did much better. 'Eagle' gave me oblong roots the size of golf balls. 'Merlin' didn't really produce much of a beetroot. The tops of both varieties were good.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Eagle' produced higher yields.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Eagle' had a better yield early in the season.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Merlin' had better flavor, but its germination was very poor and the plants did not grow as well.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 SE

I had a hard time with the seeds germinating. I had to replant later in the season. 'Eagle' grew well later in the season.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties were great! This was our biggest and best beet crop. 'Eagle' had huge yields and roots.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Eagle' had nice-sized beets that were very uniform. The greens of both were nice.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Eagle' roots had a nice red color. Its roots were round and did not get real big; just right for pickles. 'Eagle' had better tops to cook as spinach. 'Merlin' grew slower.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Eagle' came up quicker and produced much higher yields. I especially liked its greens; they were just as tasty as its roots. 'Merlin' roots were more colorful and bigger.

**Gardeners were impressed with the vigor and yields of 'Eagle'.**

## Best red beet varieties

Top choice  
Merlin

Strong performers

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

### Prefer 'Eagle' (continued)

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 -  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Eagle' beets were larger at harvest. It had healthier plants and higher yields.

### Prefer 'Merlin'

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 MN  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

'Merlin' roots were more uniform in shape. Both varieties tasted great.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Merlin' had a better flavor.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NC  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

Both varieties grew well in our sandy soil. I was very pleased with the production, and they tasted so good. 'Merlin' produced earlier.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

Both stayed healthy through the dry summer, and produced very tender beets, even later in the summer. 'Merlin' roots stayed a preferable size longer and stayed very purple. 'Eagle' roots grew very large later in the season and lost its color in the center. If I would've picked these all earlier in the season, my preference would have been 'Eagle'.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

These varieties were very similar.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

We loved both varieties. 'Merlin' roots had a slightly sweeter taste.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

All my beets did better than ever. I had an exceptional crop. The roots were large but not woody. 'Merlin' produced a higher yield and more attractive roots.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 -  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 PA

'Merlin' roots had a round, uniform shape. These varieties tasted similar. 'Eagle' tops were taller.

### No Preference

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

I believe every seed germinated. Both varieties were great producers. I cannot believe how similar they were.

Eagle ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW  
Merlin ★★★★★ 😊

We really couldn't tell much difference between the two varieties. Both were excellent.

### Conclusions

Gardeners liked the looks and flavors of both varieties. They were impressed with the vigor and yield of 'Eagle'. 'Merlin' has performed well in our trials for many years, excelling in eating qualities. Most gardeners felt the eating qualities of 'Eagle' and 'Merlin' were similar. 'Eagle' looks very promising, and it warrants further evaluation.

**'Merlin' has performed well for several years, excelling in eating qualities.**

# Beet, Red (organic)

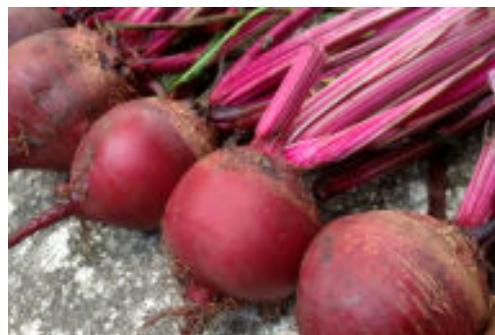
## Varieties

### 'Early Wonder Tall Top'

50 days. Popular for its rapid growth and bright leafy greens. Dark red, flattened roots.

### 'Sweet Dakota Bliss'

55 days. Dual-purpose beet. Delicious, burgundy roots. Leaves have bright red stems.



## Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early W.T.T.	Swt.Dak. Bliss	Same
Germinated best	23%	15%	62%
Healthier plants	24	16	60
Harvested earlier	50	17	33
Higher yields	38	21	42
More attractive roots	21	33	46
Tasted better	32	41	27
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	83	92	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.71	7.79	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Early Wonder Tall Top'

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 NE  
 'Early Wonder Tall Top' was more vigorous.

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 SE

Every single seed of both varieties germinated. Their roots were gorgeous. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' grew large roots faster and tasted just a tad sweeter.

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★ - 🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★ - SE

'Early Wonder Tall Top' had slightly higher yields. 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' had better shaped roots. I would like to try both again. I'm not sure why they performed so poorly. I've had better results with beets other years and am sure these would do better too.

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 SE

Both varieties were very healthy. The leaves of 'Early Wonder Tall Top' were fuller and brighter. Very tasty!

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 SE

We planted in mid-summer. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' germinated better. The roots of both varieties were small.

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 SC

Both varieties did great. Very large beets. Still going into October.

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 SC

'Early Wonder Tall Top' had better germination and yield.

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 NW

Really impressed with 'Early Wonder Tall Top'. Nice, dark red beets with luscious tops. It grew faster, produced more, and tasted sweet. Both varieties germinated well.

Early Wonder TT ★★★★★😊🐞  
 Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★★😊 NW

I got many more and bigger beets from 'Early Wonder Tall Top'. They were great for canning. The roots of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' were smaller and had a nice, dark red color.

**'Early Wonder Tall Top' grew vigorously and was ready to harvest earlier.**

## Best red beet varieties

Top choice  
Merlin

Strong performers

Bull's Blood  
 Cylindra  
 Detroit Dark Red  
 Red Ace



## Prefer 'Early Wonder Tall Top' (continued)

Early Wonder TT NW  
Sweet Dakota Bliss NW  
'Early Wonder Tall Top' tasted better.

Early Wonder TT NW  
Sweet Dakota Bliss NW  
I liked the color of 'Early Wonder Tall Top'. It is a very nice beet for pickles. I liked the shape of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss'.

Early Wonder TT SW  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SW  
'Early Wonder Tall Top' had better taste and higher production.

## Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Bliss'

Early Wonder TT NE  
Sweet Dakota Bliss NE  
I liked the taste of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' slightly better. Its roots stayed smaller and were dark red.

Early Wonder TT SE  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SE  
The roots of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' were more attractive and tasted better. The greens of both varieties were delicious.

Early Wonder TT NC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss NC  
The roots of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' had a better shape and taste.

Early Wonder TT NC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss NC  
'Sweet Dakota Bliss' did better overall. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' was stringy.

Early Wonder TT NC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss NC  
'Sweet Dakota Bliss' has superior taste. It lives up to its name.

Early Wonder TT NC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss NC  
'Sweet Dakota Bliss' had a deeper red color and a more attractive root. I still like the old 'Detroit Dark Red' beets.

Early Wonder TT SC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SC

Both varieties grew very well. I didn't get them pulled before we got super busy and the 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' were less soft and still made excellent beet salad!

Early Wonder TT SC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SC  
'Sweet Dakota Bliss' was sweeter. We had some really big beets this year, but also had many small ones.

Early Wonder TT SC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SC  
'Sweet Dakota Bliss' had nice, tall leaves and beautiful, dark red, round roots and very good taste. Both varieties germinated well, had similar leaves, were ready at the same time, were productive and very tasty. The roots of 'Early Wonder Tall Top' were lighter in color.

Early Wonder TT SC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SC  
I liked the deeper color of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' and it seemed a bit sweeter.

Early Wonder TT SC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SC  
Both varieties were excellent.

Early Wonder TT SC  
Sweet Dakota Bliss SC  
We made roasted beet salad and preferred the taste and texture of 'Sweet Dakota Bliss'. Its roots were bigger, and its flesh was denser.

## Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on their preferences. 'Early Wonder Tall Top' grew vigorously and was ready to harvest earlier. Gardeners who preferred 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' noted the appealing color and sweet taste of its roots. After this year's strong performance, 'Sweet Dakota Bliss' warrants further evaluation.

**Gardeners  
praised the  
appealing  
color and  
sweet taste of  
'Sweet Dakota  
Bliss'.**

# Carrot, Chantenay (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Cupar'

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

### 'Red-Cored Chantenay'

70 days. Famous for its rich color and taste. Short roots with broad shoulders. Tolerates rocky soils.



## Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red-Cored		
	Cupar	Chant.	Same
Germinated best	54%	15%	31%
Healthier plants	46	8	46
Harvested earlier	46	0	54
Higher yields	62	15	23
More attractive roots	69	8	23
Tasted better	46	15	38
Preference	69	31	
Recommend (😊)	77	46	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.15	5.85	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	6.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Cupar'

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 SE

In our family taste tests, 'Cupar' was the favorite when we cooked the carrots. When we ate them fresh, both tasted the same. Grandma didn't like "red looking carrots," but the kids didn't care. 'Cupar' had more tops and were taller.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Cupar' roots were large and consistent in size and shape. 'Red-Cored Chantenay' germinated better but its roots varied in size.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 NC  
 'Cupar' tasted better and had a brighter orange color. Its roots were larger and there were no double roots.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 NC  
 'Cupar' carrots are beautiful!

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 NC  
 'Cupar' grew better and tasted better.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 SC  
 We all liked the flavor of 'Cupar' better. It was sweeter and less pulpy. Its roots were longer, less stubby. It produced slightly higher yields. 'Red-Cored Chantenay' was fine tasting, but stronger and a bit bitter. Both varieties were healthy.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 NW  
 'Cupar' had a better yield and larger carrots. Both varieties had nicely formed carrots.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 SW  
 'Cupar' was a very good grower. Its tops were bigger, and its yields were higher. Its roots were more attractive.

**'Cupar' produced higher yields. Its roots were larger, more attractive and tasted better.**

## Best Chantenay carrot varieties

Top choice  
Cupar

Strong performer  
Hercules

## Prefer 'Cupar' (continued)

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 SW  
 My kids liked 'Cupar' better.

## Prefer 'Red-Cored Chantenay'

Cupar ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 SE  
 Both varieties were very similar.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😊 NC  
 Not a good carrot year for me. Germination was spotty. 'Red-Cored Chantenay' tasted better.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😞 🏠  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 NC  
 They are both a short, fat carrot. I prefer long, tapered carrots. 'Red-Cored Chantenay' tasted better.

Cupar ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
 Red-Cored Chantenay ★★★★★ 😞 SW  
 The roots of both varieties were short. The roots of 'Red-Cored Chantenay' were wider.

## Conclusions

'Cupar' excelled in all categories from start to finish. It germinated better and its yields were higher. 'Cupar' roots were larger, more attractive and better tasting. 'Red-Cored Chantenay' was healthy, but could not match the yield and root qualities of 'Cupar'.

**Most gardeners did not recommend 'Red-Cored Chantenay'. It did not excel in any category.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)** →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →

😊 = Yes  
 😞 = No

**Comments** →

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

**Garden types**

🐛 = Organic  
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers  
 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides  
 - = Not specified

**Garden type** →

NC

**Location** →

SW

**Locations**

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

# Carrot, Imperator

## Varieties

### 'Candysnax'

65 days. Crunchy roots with sweet, non-soapy flavor. Roots grow up to 12 inches long and 1 inch wide.

### 'Imperator 58'

73 days. Long, 8-inch roots are deep orange, fine-grained and tapered. Excellent flavor.



## Data

Gardeners at 32 sites submitted information.

Trait	Candy- snax	Imper. 58	Same
Germinated best	35%	29%	35%
Healthier plants	24	12	65
Harvested earlier	29	18	53
Higher yields	35	35	29
More attractive roots	50	38	13
Tasted better	29	18	53
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (☺)	76	65	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.82	6.82	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Candysnax'

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Candysnax' had nice carrots, good yield.

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Candysnax' germinated better and was more productive. Its roots were crunchier and sweeter.

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Candysnax' roots were a bit more attractive. I did not find either variety very tasty.

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☹ SE

I liked the shape of the roots of 'Imperator 58' better, but its germination was just too spotty. I had some of the craziest root formations in this trial; some of them were almost anatomical!

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☺ -  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Candysnax' had more attractive, consistent carrots. They thrived under some weed pressure, too.

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☹ NC

Both varieties were very slow in germinating. 'Candysnax' roots were slim and long. 'Imperator 58' roots had way too many fingers.

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Candysnax' roots had fewer roots that were either split or forked. The roots of both varieties were very sweet. 'Imperator 58' germinated best in two out of my three sowing dates.

Candysnax ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Imperator 58 ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Candysnax' had better flavor. The roots of both varieties grew so long that I had difficulty digging without breaking off the ends, even in somewhat sandy soil.

**'Candysnax' rated slightly higher for root quality traits.**

**Best  
Imperator  
carrot  
varieties**





**Top choice**  
Candysnax

**Strong  
performer**  
Imperator 58



## Prefer 'Candysnax' (continued)






Candysnax     
Imperator 58   MT  
'Candysnax' was better overall.






Candysnax   -  
Imperator 58   PA  
I loved the taste of 'Candysnax'. The plants of both varieties grew tall. The roots of both varieties were long and straight.






## Prefer 'Imperator 58'


Candysnax     
Imperator 58   NC  
'Imperator 58' had bigger carrots.

Candysnax     
Imperator 58   SC  
These varieties were very similar.

Candysnax     
Imperator 58   SC  
Both varieties performed well. They were very similar in performance. Twelve-inch roots are too long for us.

Candysnax     
Imperator 58   SC  
'Imperator 58' germinated best. It had a higher yield, and its roots were longer.

Candysnax     
Imperator 58   NW  
Only a few 'Candysnax' seedlings germinated and no amount of TLC got them interested in growing.

Candysnax     
Imperator 58   NW  
'Imperator 58' had higher yield and more attractive roots.

Candysnax     
Imperator 58   SW  
'Imperator 58' roots were longer and sweeter.

Candysnax     
Imperator 58   SW

'Imperator 58' germinated slightly better, was ready to harvest first, produced slightly higher yields, and produced slightly larger carrots. The roots of both varieties were delicious, but we preferred the taste of 'Imperator 58'.

## Conclusions

Both varieties struggled to germinate in our dry soils. 'Imperator 58' germinated slightly better at more sites. Some gardeners noted 'Imperator 58' had larger roots. 'Candysnax' received slightly higher ratings in root quality traits. Some gardeners noted 'Candysnax' roots were more uniform, better tasting and less likely to fork.

**'Imperator 58' germinated slightly better and often had larger carrots.**

# Carrot, Early Nantes

## Varieties

### 'Goldfinger'

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

### 'Ingot'

67 days. Known for its great taste, smooth texture and rich aroma. Rich in vitamins and easy to grow.



## Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold-finger	Ingot	Same
Germinated best	44%	17%	39%
Healthier plants	28	6	67
Harvested earlier	16	21	63
Higher yields	39	33	28
More attractive roots	28	33	39
Tasted better	44	17	39
Preference	63	37	
Recommend (😊)	79	63	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.37	7.00	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Goldfinger'

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Goldfinger' produced higher yields, more attractive roots and tasted better. 'Ingot' was ready to harvest earlier. I let them grow too big and they lost flavor.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Goldfinger' germinated much better.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Goldfinger' had much better germination.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Goldfinger' germinated better and had healthier plants.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Goldfinger' was better in all traits.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Goldfinger' produced larger, sweeter carrots.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Goldfinger' grew faster and had nicely shaped roots. 'Ingot' had longer roots.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Both varieties grew well, however I liked the sweet taste of 'Goldfinger' better.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Goldfinger' did slightly better but neither variety did well. Neither variety germinated well or produced many carrots. The plants were healthy. The roots were attractive and delicious.

Goldfinger ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Ingot ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Goldfinger' had nice, straight roots with a sweet taste. Both varieties produced some split roots.

**'Goldfinger' germinated better, had healthier plants, and tasted sweeter.**

## Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice  
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Laguna  
Mokum  
Napoli  
Naval  
Negovia

## Prefer 'Goldfinger' (continued)

Goldfinger     
Ingot   NW

Both varieties were good. 'Goldfinger' had a milder flavor, which I prefer. 'Ingot' roots were juicier.

Goldfinger     
Ingot   SW

'Goldfinger' tasted better.

## Prefer 'Ingot'

Goldfinger   -  
Ingot   MN

'Ingot' germinated much better. Its roots had better taste and were bigger.

Goldfinger     
Ingot   NE

Both varieties germinated favorably. They thrived in the garden, even with minimal watering during a dry late summer and fall. Their roots had a lovely and uniform shape; although there were a few split 'Goldfinger' roots in the last harvest. Both varieties tasted great. 'Ingot' produced a slightly higher yield.

Goldfinger     
Ingot   SE

'Ingot' tasted better. 'Goldfinger' germinated better and looked impressive early in the season.

Goldfinger     
Ingot   NC

'Ingot' germinated much better. Its roots looked and tasted better.

Goldfinger     
Ingot   SC

I'm not completely sure why, but 'Goldfinger' did not germinate well at all. It was planted next to 'Ingot'. It had the same soil, same amount of sunlight and water, but they never grew.

Goldfinger     
Ingot   SC

'Ingot' carrots were more uniform by far; not many twisted ones. It had a much higher yield.

Goldfinger     
Ingot   NW

'Ingot' tasted great. 'Goldfinger' had a lot of roots with weird shapes.

Goldfinger   -  
Ingot   PA

I liked the taste of 'Ingot'. It was slightly milder. The plants of both varieties were sturdy.

## Conclusions

'Goldfinger' has been a strong performer for years in our trials, and this year was no different. Most gardeners preferred it over 'Ingot'. 'Goldfinger' germinated better and had healthier plants. Several gardeners thought 'Goldfinger' roots were sweeter. Several gardeners noted that 'Ingot' roots were more uniform and less likely to fork.

**'Ingot' roots were uniform and less likely to fork.**

# Carrot, Early Nantes (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Naval'

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

### 'Yaya'

56 days. Roots are smooth, sweet and crisp. A popular summer carrot that can be harvested in fall.



## Data

Gardeners at 41 sites submitted information.

Trait	Naval	Yaya	Same
Germinated best	22%	26%	52%
Healthier plants	21	11	68
Harvested earlier	19	19	63
Higher yields	31	17	52
More attractive roots	39	21	39
Tasted better	32	25	43
Preference	62	38	
Recommend (☺)	84	71	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.71	7.32	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Naval'

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ -  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☺ MN

I was happy with the yields and tastes of both varieties. 'Naval' produced a higher yield although some of its carrots were small.

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☹ MN

I prefer a longer carrot. 'Naval' carrots were 7 inches long on average compared to only 4 inches for 'Yaya'. Some 'Yaya' carrots rotted in the ground. I recommend 'Naval' if you want full-sized carrots resembling what you'd buy at the grocery store.

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Naval' roots were more uniform.

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Naval' tasted sweeter. 'Yaya' roots were straighter and more uniform. 'Naval' roots tended to have multiple "legs."

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Naval' carrots were more attractive.

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Naval' germinated and produced higher yields than 'Yaya'. Its roots were 8–10-inches long, straight, medium orange in color, and had a sweet, crisp texture. 'Yaya' roots were sweeter, crisp and had medium orange color. 'Yaya' did not germinate as well so its yield was smaller.

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ -  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Naval' germinated better. Overall, I had a bad year with carrots. Germination was slow, and growth was spotty. We were very dry for our planting season.

Naval ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Yaya ★★★★★ ☺ SE

We just harvested both varieties and were pleasantly surprised how large the carrots were. 'Naval' tasted better but both varieties tasted good.

**'Naval' produced a higher yield at more sites.**

## Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice  
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Laguna  
Mokum  
Napoli  
Naval  
Negovia



## Prefer 'Naval' (continued)

Naval NC  
 Yaya

'Naval' tasted better and had better yields. Many of the 'Yaya' carrots were only 1–3 inches long. 'Yaya' roots had a slightly bitter taste.

Naval NC  
 Yaya

'Naval' roots were bigger.

Naval -  
 Yaya SC

'Naval' produced a bit more yield.

Naval -  
 Yaya SC

'Naval' produced slightly more carrots.

Naval NW  
 Yaya

'Naval' carrots were much sweeter. They were much sweeter, even before the frost.

Germination was excellent on both varieties.

Naval NW  
 Yaya

'Naval' carrots looked and tasted better. The carrots of both varieties had a very similar size. They were sweet and made great carrot sticks.

Naval NW  
 Yaya

'Naval' is a much better tasting carrot. It has long, straight roots and great flavor. I did not care for 'Yaya' as much. All taste tests were of the raw carrot, not cooked. 'Naval' is a great producer, too. It was the best of all four varieties I planted.

Naval SW  
 Yaya

'Naval' was my preferred carrot. 'Naval' was a sweeter carrot; 'Yaya' had more of an earthier flavor. 'Naval' was a longer carrot; 'Yaya' was a stubby carrot.

Naval SW  
 Yaya

Both varieties were very prolific. We harvested hundreds of carrots!

Naval MB  
 Yaya

These carrots were amazing. They were the biggest carrots I have ever grown. All 'Naval' carrots were beautifully straight. Some 'Yaya' carrots were forked. The carrots of both varieties were really tender and tasty.

## Prefer 'Yaya'

Naval MN  
 Yaya

'Yaya' produced a better shaped root and had great taste. 'Naval' roots had an odd shape.

Naval SE  
 Yaya

'Yaya' had slightly better germination. Both varieties were infected with leaf blight.

Naval NC  
 Yaya

'Yaya' roots were more attractive and tasted better.

Naval NC  
 Yaya

'Yaya' roots were more uniform and less likely to be misshapen.

Naval NC  
 Yaya

Flavor is important, no matter what we grow. 'Yaya' carrots tasted the best to us. I do like the looks of 'Naval' carrots, with a rounded bottom and nice, uniform carrots.

Naval SC  
 Yaya

'Yaya' had better taste and was better yielding. My grandkids enjoyed them.

Naval SC  
 Yaya

'Yaya' had better quality roots. I liked the tops of 'Yaya', too.

**'Naval' roots were longer. More gardeners felt 'Naval' roots looked more attractive and tasted better.**

## Prefer 'Yaya' (continued)

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Yaya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

This is the second year I have grown 'Yaya'. I like it. It produces a high yield. Multiple testers could not detect a difference in the tastes of the varieties.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Yaya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

Both are great varieties. Both had excellent germination. They produced 5 pounds of carrots. The roots were uniform in size, bright orange and sweet. I liked the short, strong, bushy tops of 'Yaya'.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Yaya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Yaya' had the most uniform and higher yield. It performed at the highest level. We had a very dry year and these carrots required frequent watering with the soaker hose to produce a great crop.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Yaya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

They were both great varieties. I preferred the looks and taste of 'Yaya'.

Naval ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
 Yaya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 CO

Both varieties germinated great and were thinned early. After thinning, the plants were healthy and strong. Yields were nice with nice-sized carrots for both varieties. 'Yaya' carrots were smaller but better flavored. The flavor of 'Naval' was never great.

## No Preference

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Yaya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

Both varieties were small in size, but sweet and tasty. We wished the carrots would have been bigger.

Naval ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Yaya ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

Both varieties had very good germination. Their roots were beautiful, long and straight. They tasted really good.

## Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Naval'. It produced a higher yield at more sites. 'Naval' roots were longer. More gardeners thought 'Naval' roots looked more attractive and tasted better. The gardeners who preferred 'Yaya' often mentioned that its sweetness and flavor were deciding factors.

The gardeners who preferred 'Yaya' often mentioned that its sweetness and flavor were deciding factors.

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

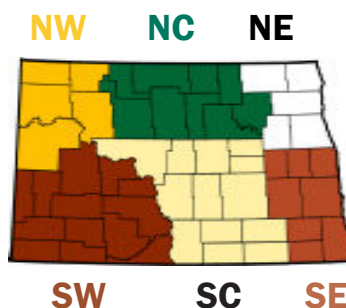
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★  
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



## Locations

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

# Carrot, Heavy Nantes (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Bangor'

90 days. Large, 8-inch roots are deep orange, crisp and sweet. High yields. Great for juicing. Stores well.

### 'Negovia'

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



## Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bangor	Negovia	Same
Germinated best	25%	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>
Healthier plants	29	17	<b>54</b>
Harvested earlier	25	25	<b>50</b>
Higher yields	21	<b>46</b>	33
More attractive roots	25	<b>50</b>	25
Tasted better	26	<b>39</b>	35
Preference	43	<b>57</b>	
Recommend (☺)	75	<b>88</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.92	<b>7.38</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>8.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Bangor'

Bangor ☺ SE  
 Negovia ☺

'Bangor' had larger carrots.

Bangor ☺ SE  
 Negovia ☺

'Bangor' roots did not grow as big/long and were easier to pull out of the ground. I thought 'Bangor' tasted better, too.

Bangor ☺ SC  
 Negovia ☺

'Bangor' had smoother, better-shaped roots. They were more attractive to use in food preparation and easier to clean. Both varieties germinated well and were healthy. They had a similar taste that seemed better after frost.

Bangor ☺ SE  
 Negovia ☺

'Bangor' germinated better, had fewer bolted tops, and fewer rotted roots. We did have a wet spell and some of the plants were lost.

Bangor ☺ SE  
 Negovia ☺

'Bangor' tasted better.

Bangor ☺ NC  
 Negovia ☺

We had great germination for both varieties. 'Bangor' roots were straighter and darker orange in color. 'Negovia' roots were larger but almost all of them had extra "legs" or knobs growing from them. I liked the taste and texture of 'Negovia' roots better.

Bangor ☺ NC  
 Negovia ☹

'Bangor' had better germination.

Bangor ☺ SC  
 Negovia ☹

'Bangor' is just an all-around better carrot. Even after my son pulled them and forgot them laying on the soil for 3 days, he brought them in, washed them and they crisped right up and tasted fantastic. 'Negovia' really struggled and I planted in two different areas.

Bangor ☺ SC  
 Negovia ☺

'Bangor' was better overall.

**Gardeners liked both varieties. 'Bangor' and 'Negovia' were easy to grow and healthy.**

## Best Nantes carrot varieties

**Top choice**  
Goldfinger

**Strong performers**

Laguna  
 Mokum  
 Napoli  
 Naval  
 Negovia

## Prefer 'Negovia'

Bangor     
Negovia   MN

'Negovia' roots were longer and more uniform. We had five taste testers and they all preferred 'Negovia'. 'Bangor' carrots were shorter and more prone to forking.

Bangor     
Negovia   NE

'Negovia' had longer, straighter, nicer roots on average. It tasted better. 'Bangor' had a slightly soupy aftertaste. 'Negovia' produced 23.6 pounds compared to 21.4 pounds for 'Bangor'.

Bangor     
Negovia   NE

There was very poor germination due to excessive continual winds. I could not keep the seed bed moist. I picked 'Negovia' only because it yielded a little better. Under different conditions I think both varieties would do fine.

Bangor     
Negovia   SE

Both varieties germinate well, but 'Negovia' was a little faster. The plants appeared similar. Roots were harvested on the same day, and the varieties had similar yields. I thought 'Negovia' had more consistent looking roots and were sweeter tasting.




Bangor     
Negovia   SE






Growing carrots in the Red River Valley always proves problematic. The soil is heavy and it is difficult to prepare a nice seed bed if it is not dry. Additionally, it crusts over after a rain preventing ideal germination. That said, 'Bangor' was a complete crop failure. Rain followed by heat and wind made growing carrots tough this year. 'Negovia' came through and provided a nice harvest. It produced nice, straight, very appealing carrots.

Bangor     
Negovia   NC

'Negovia' tasted better. 'Bangor' had a harsh taste.

Bangor     
Negovia   NC  
'Negovia' was more aesthetically pleasing and marketable. 'Bangor' had more split roots.

Bangor     
Negovia   SC  
'Negovia' had beautiful, sturdy carrots that tasted amazing.






Bangor     
Negovia   NW  
'Negovia' produced quite a bit more carrots. Its roots were larger. I eat my carrots raw and both varieties tasted good.

Bangor     
Negovia   NW  
'Negovia' had more uniform, straight carrots. These were nice carrots for juicing as they were large but thin-skinned. Both varieties tasted sweet but 'Bangor' roots were slightly sweeter.

Bangor   -  
Negovia   SW  
'Negovia' germinated better and had better flavor.

Bangor     
Negovia   SW  
'Negovia' performed better all around.

## No Preference

Bangor     
Negovia   NW  
I could not tell a difference between the carrots of these varieties. They had the same size, color and flavor.

## Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. 'Bangor' and 'Negovia' were easy to grow and their plants were healthy. Most gardeners preferred 'Negovia'. They were impressed with its uniformly long, straight roots. 'Negovia' produced higher yields at more sites and had a superior taste to more gardeners.

**'Negovia' carrots were long, straight and beautiful.**



# Corn, Early

## Varieties

### 'Cuppa Joe' (syn)

74 days. Good yields of large ears. Great quality. Seedlings tolerate cold temps and grow vigorously.

### 'Sweetness' (syn)

68 days. An early corn of premium quality. The sturdy stalks produce well-filled ears of plump kernels.



## Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cuppa Joe	Sweetness	Same
Germinated best	6%	28%	67%
Healthier plants	33	39	28
Harvested earlier	17	67	17
Higher yields	18	47	35
More attractive ears	33	50	17
Tasted better	7	67	27
Preference	32	68	
Recommend (☺)	47	68	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.68	7.68	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	6.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Cuppa Joe'

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties germinated extremely well. I liked the flavor of 'Cuppa Joe' and my husband liked 'Sweetness' best. 'Cuppa Joe' had no smut, but 'Sweetness' had some smut on its stalks and ears.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☹ SE

Winds blew the stalks over when they were silking. I tied them up for a few weeks and they recovered. 'Cuppa Joe' had large ears that tasted good. 'Sweetness' stalks never got very big. The cobs were only 1.5–2.0 inches long but tasted good.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛 NC  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☹ NC

Both varieties suffered wind damage but recovered nicely. I was really impressed with 'Cuppa Joe'. It was delicious!

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Cuppa Joe' had healthier, more attractive stalks.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☹ SC

Neither variety produced much.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☹ NW

'Sweetness' stalks were tallest first, but 'Cuppa Joe' passed it. 'Sweetness' produced a few days to a week ahead of 'Cuppa Joe'. 'Cuppa Joe' had full cobs; 'Sweetness' cobs were thinner.

## Prefer 'Sweetness'

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Cuppa Joe' was a pretty plant but 'Sweetness' was heartier and able to stand up to the high winds. 'Cuppa Joe' kernels were all crazy shaped and grew in poorly, but still tasted good.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★ ☹ -  
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Sweetness' was the best tasting sweet corn. Its ears were more filled out and bigger.

**'Cuppa Joe' was healthy and grew vigorously, but it did not excel in any traits.**

## Best bicolor se and syn corn varieties

Top choice  
Sweetness

Strong performers

Allure  
Ambrosia  
Delectable  
Luscious  
Peaches & Cream  
Temptation

## Prefer 'Sweetness' (continued)

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 SE

'Sweetness' had orange and yellow kernels. Its cobs were bigger, mostly two ears per stalk, and tasted better—like sweet corn. 'Cuppa Joe' kernels were white, milky and very tender. Its stalks were taller, but its cobs were smaller.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★😊 -  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 SE

Both varieties tasted amazing!

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 NC

'Sweetness' had larger ears. The kernels were very juicy and much sweeter. 'Cuppa Joe' stalks grew taller.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★😊 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 NC

Both germinated at a high rate. 'Cuppa Joe' had bigger, nice looking plants early in the season. They ended up being 1 foot taller. 'Sweetness' stalks shot up by mid-July and produced mature ears about 10 days earlier. 'Sweetness' ears were fuller and more consistent. The ears of both varieties were good!

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★😊 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 NC

Both varieties germinated well. 'Cuppa Joe' stalks were much taller. 'Sweetness' matured earlier. It had more ears. 'Sweetness' ears were small, very sweet and easy to eat. 'Cuppa Joe' ears were large and very pretty. The ears of both varieties had very good taste.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 NC

'Sweetness' was all around better for us. It tasted better. We did have some drought stress during pollination.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 NC

'Sweetness' grew better and tasted better.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★☹️ -  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 SC

The germination of both varieties was very good. The stalks were healthy and produced good yields. 'Sweetness' ripened first, had more attractive ears and tasted better. 'Cuppa Joe' suffered from sap beetles.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★☹️ NW

Both varieties were late in germinating. Their ears were very small. 'Sweetness' ears were fuller.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 SW

Near 100% germination for both. 'Sweetness' showed excellent vigor and produced ears 5–10 days earlier. 'Sweetness' produced 3–4 ears per stalk compared to 2–3 ears for 'Cuppa Joe'. 'Sweetness' had more attractive ears—hands down. We so loved 'Sweetness'. It was sweet with big ears.

Cuppa Joe ★★★★★😊 🐛  
Sweetness ★★★★★😊 SW

'Sweetness' was superior in standability and earliness.

## Conclusions

'Sweetness' proved once again it is an outstanding early sweet corn. It ripened quicker and had higher yields at more sites. Its ears were more attractive and tasted sweeter to more gardeners. 'Cuppa Joe' was healthy and grew vigorously, but it did not excel in any traits.

**'Sweetness' ripened quicker and had higher yields at more sites. Its ears were more attractive and tasted sweeter to more gardeners.**

# Corn, Super Sweet

## Varieties

### 'Anthem XR' (shA)

73 days. Very tender and sweet. Straight rows of kernels fill ears. A proven performer in North Dakota.

### 'Signature' (shA)

73 days. Deep, tender kernels with outstanding flavor. Ears have good tip fill and husk cover.



## Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Anthem XR	Signature	Same
Germinated best	37%	37%	26%
Healthier plants	26	21	53
Harvested earlier	37	26	37
Higher yields	37	26	37
More attractive ears	32	26	42
Tasted better	35	18	47
Preference	65	35	
Recommend (☺)	65	65	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.25	6.95	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.50	7.50	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Anthem XR'

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Signature ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Anthem XR' had a sweeter taste.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Signature ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Anthem XR' produced sweeter, larger ears.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Signature ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Anthem XR' produced the first ripe cobs (August 1), but 'Signature' was close behind in maturity.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Signature ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Anthem XR' germinated quicker. Its plants were healthier and more robust from the start. 'Anthem XR' ripened a few days earlier and produced a few extra ears. 'Anthem XR' ears were slightly larger and had darker, heavier husks. The ears of both varieties tasted pretty good.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ -  
Signature ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Signature' never really took off. When it did mature it was short and unhealthy.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Signature ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Anthem XR' had better taste and size of ears. Rabbits damaged 'Signature' but it came back nice.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Signature ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Anthem XR' had superior taste and larger kernel size. I hardly got more than one mature ear of corn on any stalk in either variety.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Signature ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Anthem XR' had larger, healthier plants that produced quickly and had large, fully pollinated ears. These super sweet varieties seem to be more prone to lodging due to weather.

More gardeners preferred 'Anthem XR', often due to its sweetness.

**Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties**

Top choice  
American Dream

Strong performers  
Anthem XR  
Enchanted  
Xtra-Tender  
274A

## Prefer 'Anthem XR' (continued)

Anthem XR SC  
Signature SC

These varieties were very similar. 'Anthem XR' was earlier, which avoids our insects and our dry summers.

Anthem XR SW  
Signature SW

The stalks of 'Anthem XR' were slower growing, more compact and healthier. It's a great corn.

Anthem XR SW  
Signature SW

'Signature' was sweeter, but 'Anthem XR' was juicier and had better texture. The higher yields and juicy ears of 'Anthem XR' won me over. Both varieties produced equally well in the May planting, but 'Anthem XR' produced better in the June planting, providing a wonderful late-season treat.

## Prefer 'Signature'

Anthem XR NE  
Signature NE

'Anthem XR' did not do well at all but seemed to have good taste on the few cobs we did get.

Anthem XR SE  
Signature SE

'Signature' was surprising. It looked like it would be tough to bite into but was pleasantly "poppy" and sweet! 'Anthem XR' was clearly more prone to smut, so it produced a smaller yield due to cob loss.

Anthem XR NC  
Signature NC

'Signature' had more large, well-shaped and filled ears.

Anthem XR SC  
Signature SC

'Signature' had the best flavor.

Anthem XR -  
Signature SC

'Signature' was easier to grow and more consistent.

Anthem XR SC  
Signature SC

'Signature' came up much more quickly and had a better stand, even after the horrible windstorm. After the storm, we stood each stalk up and pressed dirt against the root system. 'Signature' recovered quickly while 'Anthem XR' took a bit longer. We didn't get to taste the corn because raccoons decimated the entire corn patch.

## No Preference

Anthem XR MN  
Signature MN

These varieties were very similar. They tasted sweet but had small cobs. I prefer other varieties that have larger cobs.

Anthem XR NC  
Signature NC

Both varieties were incredibly sweet.

Anthem XR SW  
Signature SW

Stalks only grew 4.5 feet tall. Both varieties had small ears. 'Signature' was crunchy but had no taste.

## Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Anthem XR', often due to its sweetness. It produced an earlier and higher yield at more sites. 'Anthem XR' has performed well in our trials of previous years. Most gardeners recommended 'Signature'. It was a consistent performer but did not excel in any trait.

**Most gardeners recommended 'Signature', but it did not excel in any trait.**



# Corn, Super Sweet (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Enchanted' (shA)

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

### 'Natural Sweet' (shA)

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



## Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Natural		
	Enchant.	Sweet	Same
Germinated best	62%	8%	31%
Healthier plants	75	8	17
Harvested earlier	77	15	8
Higher yields	75	17	8
More attractive ears	38	15	46
Tasted better	46	31	23
Preference	69	31	
Recommend (☺)	69	31	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.00	5.15	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	6.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Preferred 'Enchanted'

Enchanted ★★★★★☺📍  
 Natural Sweet ★★☆☆☆☹️ MN

'Enchanted' ripened first. Its stalks were taller.

Enchanted ★★★★★☺🐛  
 Natural Sweet ★★☆☆☆☹️ NE

'Enchanted' had 75% greater germination than 'Natural Sweet', contributing to a much larger harvest. 'Enchanted stalks' were strong and 5–6 feet tall compared to the 5-foot stalks of 'Natural Sweet'. Both produced cobs that were full but 'Enchanted' cobs were 8–9 inches long compared to 7–8 inches for 'Natural Sweet'. 'Enchanted' kernels were larger, sweet, and crispy with an overall better taste.

Enchanted ★★★★★☺📍  
 Natural Sweet ★★☆☆☆☹️ NE

'Natural Sweet' germinated poorly. The ears of 'Enchanted' were filled out to the ends, but they were not as tasty as some other varieties we have grown in the past (for example, 'Moxie' and 'American Dream').

Enchanted ★★★★★☺🐛  
 Natural Sweet ★★☆☆☆☹️ NE

'Enchanted' ripened almost a week earlier. Its cobs were consistent in size and slightly longer compared to those of 'Natural Sweet'. There was fungus in both varieties, more so in 'Enchanted'. The ear tips of both varieties were infested with sap beetles.

Enchanted ★★★★★☺📍  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★☺ SE

'Enchanted' stalks grew a foot taller. Its ears had excellent flavor.

Enchanted ★★★★★☺🐛  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★☹️ NC

'Enchanted' produced a higher yield. 'Natural Sweet' had smaller cobs, and its kernels didn't seem to ripen.

Enchanted ★★★★★☺📍  
 Natural Sweet ★★☆☆☆☹️ SC

'Enchanted' produced a higher yield and nicer ears.

**'Enchanted' was superior in all traits. It germinated much better and produced higher yields. More gardeners preferred the look and taste of 'Enchanted' ears.**

**Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties**

**Top choice**  
 American Dream

**Strong performers**  
 Anthem XR  
 Enchanted  
 Xtra-Tender 274A

## Prefer 'Enchanted' (continued)

Enchanted ★★★★★ (sad) 🐛 MB  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★ (sad) 🐛

'Enchanted' had a much higher germination rate. Its stalks were taller and more robust. 'Enchanted' ripened about 7 days earlier, and many of its stalks had multiple cobs. The ears of both varieties were not particularly attractive; their rows of kernels were not uniform. 'Natural Sweet' was sweeter but more prone to smut.

Enchanted ★★★★★ (happy) 🐛 SD  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★ (sad) 🐛

'Natural Sweet' had extremely poor germination. 'Enchanted' had pollination issues, possibly due to the almost total failure of 'Natural Sweet'.

## Prefer 'Natural Sweet'

Enchanted ★★★★★ (sad) 🐛 MN  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★ (happy) 🐛

Almost every seed of 'Natural Sweet' germinated but 'Enchanted' germinated poorly. 'Natural Sweet' stalks were healthier, and its ears had good flavor.

Enchanted ★★★★★ (happy) 🐛 NC  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★ (happy) 🐛

Both varieties suffered wind damage and 'Enchanted' never recovered. 'Natural Sweet' had delicious ears but there were not many of them.

Enchanted ★★★★★ (sad) 🐛 NC  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★ (happy) 🐛

'Enchanted' grew well but its corn seemed too sweet.

Enchanted ★★★★★ (sad) -  
 Natural Sweet ★★★★★ (sad) SC

Neither variety produced much.

## Conclusions

'Enchanted' was superior in all traits. It germinated much better and produced higher yields. More gardeners preferred the look and taste of 'Enchanted' ears. 'Natural Sweet' was a disappointment. It rated low in all categories, and most gardeners did not recommend it.

**'Natural Sweet' was a disappointment. It rated low in all categories.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★ (happy)  
 Variety B ★★★★★ (sad)

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →  
 (happy/sad icons)

**Garden type** →  
 🐛 = Organic  
 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers  
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides  
 - = Not specified

**Location** →  
 NC

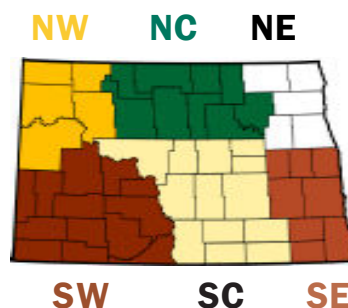
**Comments** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

### Garden types

- 🐛 = Organic
- 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

### Locations

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



# Cucumber, Burpless

## Varieties

### 'Summer Dance'

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

### 'Tasty Green'

60 days. Smooth, dark-green cukes are thin-skinned, burpless, and bitter free. Easy to grow.



## Data

Gardeners at 53 sites submitted information.

Trait	Summer Dance	Tasty Green	Same
Germinated best	34%	27%	<b>39%</b>
Healthier plants	39	16	<b>45</b>
Harvested earlier	<b>55</b>	39	7
Higher yields	32	<b>43</b>	25
More attractive cukes	<b>48</b>	20	32
Tasted better	26	19	<b>55</b>
Preference	<b>60</b>	40	
Recommend (😊)	<b>87</b>	76	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.11</b>	7.76	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.50</b>	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Summer Dance'

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ NE

I would grow 'Summer Dance' again. It is a great producer, early cukes and great taste. 'Tasty Green' was slow growing and produced less.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Summer Dance' was slightly earlier. The cucumbers of both varieties were excellent for fresh eating while small and tender. As the cucumbers got larger, they were still excellent quality making great sliced cucumber salads and dips. This is the most popular vegetable we grow in the garden.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I loved both varieties. They had vigorous vines and wonderful yields. Both had long, hearty cucumbers with wonderful flavor. I used both varieties for making pickles; they fit well into quart jars, being straight. Even when the fall came (cooler and less watering) and slight drying of vines, they continued to produce (though less). Some 'Summer Dance' cucumbers had a C-shape.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NE

We loved both varieties!

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ SE

'Tasty Green' fruits were nice, but 'Summer Dance' fruits were darker green.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The cucumbers of both varieties had a great, juicy taste and a large yield! 'Summer Dance' cucumbers had a smoother skin.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Summer Dance' grew faster and produced a lot of cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SE

These varieties are both very good. 'Summer Dance' grew a little better.

**Both varieties produced lots of 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 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Dance' cucumbers looked and tasted better.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 NC

Wow—what a harvest of 'Summer Dance' cucumbers. Its vines were healthy, and the cucumbers were very delicious! 'Tasty Green' vines were smaller and less productive.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ - 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ - NC

Cucumbers in our greenhouse did fantastic. All of our outdoor cucumber plantings, including this trial, were lacking. I'm not sure why these varieties were not productive. Many folks locally had problems with cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Dance' is a great looking burpless cucumber with great flavor. I love the glossy, deep green cukes this variety produces. 'Summer Dance' vines produce lots of nice, straight cucumbers. One of my favorites! 'Tasty Green' is a pretty good 2nd place cuke.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Summer Dance' is the best producer, but both varieties produced very well. Both need to be watered well.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Summer Dance' had nice, long, thin cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Summer Dance' cucumbers were tastier, less bitter, and had a good shelf life.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Summer Dance' had high yields. Its cucumbers were tasty even when large. 'Tasty Green' vines died back earlier and produced fewer cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Dance' cucumber is my favorite variety ever! It's still producing! It germinated better, matured 1 day earlier, and produced many more cucumbers—always of superior quality.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 SC

The germination and taste of 'Summer Dance' were slightly better.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Dance' vines were smaller and slower to start, but once they started producing, they outyielded 'Tasty Green'. These are very similar varieties. Both produced many sweet, 10–12-inch cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Summer Dance' produced more.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Summer Dance' produced well and had less vining, so it is better for small gardens. Its fruits were straighter—no curved ones. 'Summer Dance' didn't do well in the August heat.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😞 NW

These were very similar.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both did pretty well. I liked the flavor and milder skin of 'Summer Dance'.

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



## Prefer 'Summer Dance' (continued)

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 SW

The cucumbers of 'Summer Dance' were more uniform and smoother. I preferred the taste of 'Summer Dance' but friends I shared produce with said both were excellent. 'Tasty Green' produced more cukes per plant.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 SD

Both varieties had good germination. 'Summer Dance' had thicker vines and more cukes. 'Summer Dance' cukes were dark green with a sheen. The cukes of both varieties were good but 'Summer Dance' was the best tasting.

## Prefer 'Tasty Green'

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were good. Some of the first picks were the best cucumbers I have ever tasted! Unfortunately, the vines got fungus, which reduced yields.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 🍷  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Tasty Green' cucumbers were more uniformly straight. Both varieties germinated well and had healthy vines. I liked the taste of them both, and I liked that the seeds are smaller in these varieties.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The plants grew like crazy on my cattle panel trellis. 'Tasty Green' produced earliest. 'Summer Dance' fruits were smoother and similar to 'Straight 8'. As long as 'Tasty Green' fruits were picked when small, the skin was smooth and didn't need to be peeled. 'Tasty Green' was a prolific producer.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 SE

'Summer Dance' succumbed to a disease early on and had to be pulled out.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 🍷  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Tasty Green' stayed on the vine and remained slim longer. I like the flexibility to leave it on the vine longer than I did with the cucumbers of the 'Muncher' variety, which I grew in previous seasons. These cucumbers tasted great.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Tasty Green' cucumbers were thinner and longer. 'Summer Dance' had a variety of shapes and had a sponge-like look around the outside toward the end of the season.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Tasty Green' has the best cucumbers I've ever eaten. You could eat them right from the garden. They stayed consistent through the whole season.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 NC

Neither of these produced prolifically.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 🍷  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Tasty Green' vines spread out more, looked better and produced more. Its fruits tasted better and were less likely to curl.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Tasty Green' produced longer than 'Summer Dance', leading to higher yields overall. Both varieties produced very good cucumbers. 'Tasty Green' had a tendency for the fruit to curl more than 'Summer Dance'.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 🍷  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Tasty Green' appeared to hold up better in our severe drought (with daily watering). It had fewer misshapen cucumbers. Both varieties were delicious—no bitter cucumbers!

**'Tasty Green' produced more cucumbers at more sites.**

## Prefer 'Tasty Green' (continued)

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Tasty Green' had double the yield. Its cucumbers were smaller and thinner. The tastes of the varieties were similar, and both were easy to grow.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Neither variety tasted bitter. Many of the cucumbers got really long and started to bend, but they still tasted good!

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I believe 'Tasty Green' has a better taste. When I shared them with friends, some preferred 'Summer Dance' and some preferred 'Tasty Green'. These two varieties were very similar in size and color.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊 📖  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Tasty Green' was a better performer from germination to harvest. I didn't think any variety would beat out 'Summer Dance' after growing it for three seasons, but 'Tasty Green' did a great job and is my new favorite. I'm very happy with both varieties but will be looking for 'Tasty Green' in my spring catalogs.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ 😊 📖  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Tasty Green' produced first and had a crunchier cucumber. Both varieties did wonderful in the garden. Their cucumbers were nice and long. 'Summer Dance' cucumbers were not as prickly. 'Tasty Green' cucumbers had smaller seeds.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ ☹️ -  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SW  
 'Summer Dance' wilted quickly in the heat.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SK

'Tasty Green' plants did much better. 'Summer Dance' was very slow.

Summer Dance ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SK

'Tasty Green' had better germination and produced the first cucumbers.

## No Preference

Summer Dance ★★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both of these varieties produced an abundance of cucumbers! They were planted next to a panel that allowed them to vine up on. What I liked best is the seeds remained small. Some cucumbers were as long as my arm and as thick at times. They just kept producing! Truly one of the best years for cucumbers that we have ever had.

Summer Dance ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Tasty Green ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

According to everyone who ate them, the cucumbers of these varieties were identical.

## Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of delicious cucumbers. Both varieties have done well in tests in previous years and received high scores from gardeners this year. Most gardeners preferred 'Summer Dance'. Its cucumbers were dark green, smooth-skinned and more attractive. 'Summer Dance' produced cucumbers earlier. 'Tasty Green' produced more cucumbers at more sites.

**Both varieties received high scores, and most gardeners preferred 'Summer Dance'.**

# Cucumber, Pickling (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Calypso'

52 days. Heavy and reliable yields of medium-dark green, slightly tapered fruits. Vines resist diseases.

### 'Cool Customer'

55 days. Rugged vines produce good yields. Fruits are blocky, uniform, crunchy and flavorful.



## Data

Gardeners at 36 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cool		
	Calypso	Custom.	Same
Germinated best	29%	29%	42%
Healthier plants	32	20	48
Harvested earlier	58	25	17
Higher yields	52	24	24
More attractive cukes	32	16	52
Tasted better	12	4	84
Preference	63	37	
Recommend (☺)	78	78	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.63	7.52	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Calypso'

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Calypso' produced a good yield, and its cucumbers were nice for pickling.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Calypso' produced first and continued to produce. Both varieties were wonderful!

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Calypso' produced more uniform-sized cucumbers, which are more attractive for pickles and eating.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☺ SE  
'Calypso' was slightly better in all categories.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☹ 📦  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Calypso' produced earlier and produced more cucumbers. Both varieties pickled well, and yields were better than anticipated. I was very disappointed in the germination of both varieties.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Calypso' produced a tad more and had a longer harvest period.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Calypso' was a slightly better producer. Both varieties are good for pickling but must be well watered.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Neither variety germinated extremely well. In spite of that, I found I had plenty of cukes to make many quarts of pickles. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted very good and were attractive. We used a drip line this year and I was diligent at watering.

Calypso ★★★★★ ☺ 📦  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Calypso' had better flavor.

**Both varieties produced lots of quality cucumbers for pickling.**

## Best pickling cucumber varieties

**Top choice**  
Homemade Pickles

**Strong performers**

Alibi  
Calypso  
Eureka  
H-19 Little Leaf

## Prefer 'Calypso' (continued)

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Very good production by both varieties, but we felt 'Calypso' outperformed 'Cool Customer' through summer and even late in the season.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Calypso' had a better yield and its cucumbers were more attractive. Both varieties got powdery mildew in late August.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Calypso' produced more cucumbers.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties did great! 'Calypso' produced quite a bit more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were more uniform. Some of the 'Cool Customer' cucumbers grew into the shape of a curly Q.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 NW

The cucumbers of both varieties were excellent in taste and shape. 'Calypso' was a better producer.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SW

This was a tough year, and we were in drought conditions most of the summer. 'Calypso' grew well. Its cucumbers were flavorful.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Calypso' was higher yielding and had more attractive cucumbers.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 MB

'Calypso' had more evenly shaped and attractive cucumbers. Some 'Cool Customer' cucumbers were curved. Both varieties produced exceptionally well and had excellent flavor. They made wonderful dill pickles and fresh cucumber salad. The last picking on September 12 was still productive with no bitterness that is sometimes evident in cucumbers late in the season.

## Prefer 'Cool Customer'

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The cucumbers of 'Cool Customer' had a nicer shape.

**Most gardeners preferred 'Calypso'. It produced earlier and higher yields.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →  
Variety A: Yes (😊)  
Variety B: No (😞)

**Garden type** →  
Variety A: 🐞 (Organic)  
Variety B: NC (Location)

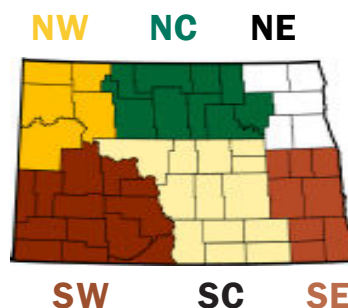
**Comments** →  
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

### Garden types

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

### Locations

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





## Prefer 'Cool Customer' (continued)

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated very well. Their vines were green and had lots of blossoms. Their cucumbers tasted very good and made excellent pickles. 'Cool Customer' had a slightly higher yield.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Calypso' was slow to germinate but had a better stand than 'Cool Customer'. After 1 month, 'Cool Customer' vines were noticeably bigger than those of 'Calypso'. Some of the 'Calypso' cukes had a strange shape and weren't nice for pickling. I made several jars of pickles. This year I had way more cucumbers than jars and lids!

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cool Customer' germinated very well. It had healthy, robust plants and was a heavy producer. I would grow it again. 'Calypso' germinated poorly.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cool Customer' had much better germination.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cool Customer' was easy to pick; its vines had less foliage and were less vigorous. The cucumbers of 'Cool Customer' had a nice shape and didn't get large as fast as those of 'Calypso'. 'Cool Customer' is a nice pickling cucumber if picked when shorter than 4 inches long.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I had a large cucumber crop and pickled more than I have in years. 'Cool Customer' produced the first cucumbers and higher yields.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🍄 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties did very well. They both got a little Alternaria leaf blight, but I was able to control it with fungicide for the most part. 'Cool Customer' produced more.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Cool Customer' was outstanding. Its vines showed greater vigor and were very healthy. It produced cucumbers 7–10 days earlier. Overall yields were similar. The cucumbers of 'Calypso' looked good, but those of 'Cool Customer' looked better. 'Cool Customer' cukes were so good; they were hands down better tasting.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🍄  
Cool Customer ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Cool Customer' had a higher yield. I would grow either variety.

## Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of quality cucumbers for pickling. Most gardeners preferred 'Calypso'. It produced earlier and higher yields. 'Calypso' received slightly higher ratings for plant health and fruit quality traits. Gardeners liked 'Cool Customer' but it did not stand out in any way.

**Gardeners liked 'Cool Customer' but it did not stand out in any way.**

# Cucumber, Slicing

## Varieties

### 'Raceway'

52 days. Disease-resistant vines produce loads of quality fruits over a long harvest season. Early.

### 'Talladega'

60 days. Smooth, 8-inch fruits are dark green. Disease-resistant vines produce heavy yields.



## Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Race-way	Talla-dega	Same
Germinated best	16%	32%	53%
Healthier plants	32	21	47
Harvested earlier	26	42	32
Higher yields	37	37	26
More attractive cukes	53	21	26
Tasted better	21	26	53
Preference	56	44	
Recommend (😊)	74	63	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.42	7.11	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Raceway'

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 -  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Raceway' had better slicers.

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Raceway' produced huge yields of big, fresh cukes. We grew more than we could give away! 'Talladega' produced some curled cukes. Vines of both varieties were very healthy throughout the growing season. The first harvest of both varieties was on the same day. Both varieties produced an occasional bitter cuke.

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Raceway' produced a good harvest of slicers. They were very good tasting.

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Raceway' had a higher yield. Neither variety germinated very well.

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

Both varieties produced very well. 'Raceway' had slightly healthier vines and slightly higher yields.

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

'Raceway' had healthier plants, but both varieties were great.

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

Both varieties were excellent. 'Raceway' matured a bit faster. The varieties were similar for germination, plant health and production.

Raceway ★★★★★ 😊 -  
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Raceway' was better in all traits.

**Gardeners liked the long, smooth cucumbers of 'Raceway'.**

## Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice  
General Lee

## Strong performers

Dasher II  
Raceway  
Raider  
Straight Eight

Raceway   
 Talladega SW

‘Raceway’ germinated better. It produced higher yields, although yields were low this year for me and my neighbors. ‘Talladega’ fruits were short and round with little “necks.” ‘Talladega’ fruits had little to no bitterness and tasted better.

Raceway   
 Talladega MT

It took a long time for both varieties to germinate. ‘Raceway’ did slightly better in all traits. This was a tough year for cucumbers.

### Prefer ‘Talladega’

Raceway -   
 Talladega NC

‘Raceway’ was okay, but ‘Talladega’ grew better, and its cucumbers were more attractive.

Raceway   
 Talladega NC

My cucumber plants all looked pathetic and were not very productive this year. Many gardeners in town had bad luck with cucumbers this year. I’ve grown ‘Talladega’ before and it did not do well, but up against ‘Raceway’ this year it was better.

Raceway -   
 Talladega SC

‘Talladega’ had nicer cucumbers and high yields.

Raceway   
 Talladega SC

‘Talladega’ came up better and produced more. The cucumbers of both varieties seemed a little bitter.

Raceway   
 Talladega SC

They were both really good, especially when they were picked at under 8 inches. I would recommend the ‘Talladega’ for taste but if you’re looking for yield, then ‘Raceway’ is the choice. The only issue I had was a period of bitterness during the late July/ August dry spell.

Raceway   
 Talladega SC

Only about one-third of seeds germinated. ‘Talladega’ produced better.

Raceway   
 Talladega NW

‘Talladega’ was very high yielding. It produced 33 pounds compared to 18 pounds for ‘Raceway’. ‘Raceway’ cucumbers were long and smooth. The cucumbers of both varieties were dark green, mild and crisp.

Raceway   
 Talladega NW

‘Talladega’ produced more.

### No Preference

Raceway   
 Talladega SC

After a very successful garden in 2019, my entire garden in 2020 and both of these varieties were very marginal. I worry my results are more of an indicator of a poor garden than a superior seed variety. I grew ‘Talladega’ last year and had success.

### Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred ‘Raceway’. They liked its long, smooth cucumbers. ‘Talladega’ produced earlier at more sites. The vines of both varieties were healthy, but several gardeners noted their yields suffered due to the dry weather. ‘Talladega’ has always been a productive variety in our trials.

**‘Talladega’  
 produced  
 earlier in more  
 gardens.**

# Cucumber, Snack

## Varieties

### 'Green Finger'

60 days. Fruits have a thin skin, crisp flesh and a small seed cavity. Vines produce good yields of quality fruits..

### 'Muncher'

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



## Data

Gardeners at 40 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green		
	Finger	Muncher	Same
Germinated best	39%	17%	44%
Healthier plants	26	38	35
Harvested earlier	40	46	14
Higher yields	37	40	23
More attractive cukes	46	26	29
Tasted better	31	40	29
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	60	57	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.37	6.83	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	6.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Green Finger'

Green Finger ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
Muncher ★★★★★ 😞 MN

Both varieties germinated poorly. They were slow in vining but really branched out once they got established. The shapes of their fruits were not uniform. 'Green Finger' fruits were generally slimmer and 'Muncher' fruits were shorter and grew fatter. The cucumbers of both varieties were fresh tasting and crunchy.

Green Finger ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Muncher ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Green Finger' germinated better and had more vigorous vines. It was ready to harvest a couple days earlier and its fruits were more uniformly shaped.

Green Finger ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Green Finger' outperformed 'Muncher' in vine vigor and fruit quality.

Green Finger ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Muncher ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The fruits of 'Green Finger' were long and slender. They had fewer seeds and tasted better.

Green Finger ★★★★★ 😞 📦  
Muncher ★★★★★ 😞 SE

I liked the cucumbers of 'Green Finger', but the plants grew slowly and were not very productive. 'Muncher' grew okay, but I did not like the skin texture or its large seeds.

Green Finger ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Muncher ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Green Finger' cucumbers were more crisp, less prickly, and had smaller seeds.

Green Finger ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Muncher ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Green Finger' is basically a long, thin cucumber with small seeds for slicing and eating raw. It is a good cucumber for slicing. A 'Muncher' cucumber is crisp. It has small seeds when it is small to medium in size but will have big seeds if it gets just a little bigger. 'Muncher' has an odd, unattractive shape for use when making dill pickles. I would not use 'Muncher' for slicing or pickling.

**Gardeners liked the looks of 'Green Finger' cucumbers. These fruits were long, straight and thin with small seeds.**

**Best snacking cucumber varieties**

Top choice  
Muncher

Strong performer  
Mercury



## Prefer 'Green Finger' (continued)

Green Finger   
 Muncher NC

I liked the full-bodied cucumber flavor of 'Green Finger'. I liked the skin of 'Muncher' fruits.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SC

'Green Finger' cucumbers were mild, crisp and juicy. I loved the look of them.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SC

'Green Finger' produced higher yields. Its cucumbers looked and tasted better.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SC

'Green Finger' germinated better and was easy to grow. Its cucumbers had a straight shape, small seeds, and were very tasty and crunchy. Its vines grew well and kept producing despite the heat and drought. 'Muncher' had curved cucumbers.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SC

'Green Finger' produced the first cucumbers and higher yields overall.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SC

'Green Finger' was more productive and had larger fruits. Both varieties easily contracted disease; anthracnose I believe.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SC

Both varieties were not very drought tolerant even though they had shade cloth over them. 'Muncher' cucumbers got bulbous at one end and stayed skinny on the other.

Green Finger   
 Muncher NW

I preferred the taste and texture of 'Green Finger' cucumbers.

Green Finger   
 Muncher NW

I liked the skin, texture, size and uniformity of 'Green Finger' cucumbers. 'Green Finger' produced well into mid-September.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SW

'Green Finger' produced more, and its cucumbers were better tasting. It definitely outperformed 'Muncher' but unfortunately the plants were full of Alternaria leaf blight. Neither variety did all that great. I probably wouldn't plant either of them again.

## Prefer 'Muncher'

Green Finger   
 Muncher MN

'Muncher' had better flavor, but I did not like the fuzzy skin on its fruits. The cucumbers of both varieties had to be picked quite small; otherwise they had too many seeds.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SE

'Muncher' had better taste and fewer or no seeds. It is good for cucumber salads. 'Green Finger' was very productive. It was a trick to pick them before they got too big.

Green Finger   
 Muncher NC

'Muncher' produced more cucumbers. Both varieties had poor germination.

Green Finger   
 Muncher NC

I really enjoyed 'Muncher'. Its cucumbers were crunchy and stayed crunchy; they had a uniform shape. 'Muncher' vines were better producers. I would plant 'Muncher' again.

Green Finger   
 Muncher SC

'Muncher' vines were healthier. 'Green Finger' germinated poorly and needed to be resown. 'Green Finger' had higher yields and nicer looking cucumbers.

**More gardeners preferred the taste of 'Muncher', but its fruits had a tendency to develop large seeds quickly if not picked regularly.**



## Prefer 'Muncher' (continued)

Green Finger    
 Muncher  SC

'Muncher' cucumbers were much slimmer and had fewer seeds.

Green Finger  -  
 Muncher  SC

'Muncher' tasted better.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  SC

Both varieties were good, but we preferred the taste of 'Muncher'.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  SC

Both varieties were easy to grow and produced well. 'Muncher' cucumbers grew fatter fairly quickly, with bigger seeds if not picked small. They tasted sweeter and had tender skin when picked small. 'Green Finger' cucumbers stayed slimmer much longer and its seeds did not get big. 'Green Finger' cucumbers tended to be bitter until they were larger, then the skin was tough.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  SC

'Muncher' plants looked healthier and produced more. I liked the size of its cucumbers.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  SC

'Muncher' cucumbers tasted best when they were smaller.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  NW

We really enjoyed 'Muncher'. The 'Green Finger' plants died before setting fruits.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  NW

'Muncher' tasted better.

Green Finger  -  
 Muncher  NW

'Green Finger' germinated poorly and did not produce any fruits.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  NW

'Muncher' cucumbers were more flavorful and had a nice color and shape. The cucumbers of both varieties did well when canned for pickles.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  NW

'Muncher' had healthier, more productive vines. Both varieties produced nice cucumbers that made for great eating.

Green Finger    
 Muncher  SK

'Muncher' had better germination (70% compared to 20% for 'Green Finger'). All cucumber varieties had poor germination in our area this year. 'Muncher' vines were healthier and produced a higher yield.

## No Preference

Green Finger    
 Muncher  NC

We did not care for either variety. We planted in two gardens. These cucumbers produced in one garden but not the other. We did not care for the taste and lack of crispness of these varieties compared to burpless.

## Conclusions

Both varieties struggled to germinate and grow due to dry conditions at many sites. Their vines were not especially vigorous or productive. Gardeners were evenly split on the variety they preferred. Gardeners liked the looks of 'Green Finger' cucumbers. These fruits were long, straight and thin with small seeds. 'Muncher' vines were more productive at more sites. More gardeners preferred the taste of 'Muncher', but its fruits had a tendency to develop large seeds quickly if not picked regularly.

**Both varieties struggled to germinate and grow due to dry conditions at many sites. Their vines were not especially vigorous or productive.**

# Kale, Siberian (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Red Russian'

(Shown) 50 days. Smooth, lobed, slate-green leaves with purple veins. Sweet and tender. Thrives in cold.

### 'Red Ursa'

65 days. This frilly kale adds flavor and color to salads. Deeply lobed leaves with pink stems. Tender.



## Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red Russian	Red Ursa	Same
Germinated best	38%	25%	38%
Healthier plants	25	13	63
Harvested earlier	63	25	13
Higher yields	38	13	50
More attractive	25	25	50
Tasted better	29	29	43
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	75	75	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.88	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.50	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Red Russian'

Red Russian ★★★★★😊🐞  
Red Ursa ★★★★★😊SE

Both did very well. 'Red Russian' was more vigorous. Most of the seeds that germinated were harvested as microgreens, which is my preferred way for eating kale. It is sweet and a wonderful salad enhancement.

Red Russian ★★★★★😊🐞  
Red Ursa ★★★★★😊SE

They both had great taste. 'Red Russian' was just a bit more mild and pleasant; it was neutral enough for cooking, baking and blending. 'Red Russian' developed just a bit quicker. Both varieties did very well with the cold fall weather and additional harvesting occurred into late October.

Red Russian ★★★★★😊🐞  
Red Ursa ★★★★★😊🐞 SC

'Red Russian' germinated 25% better.

Red Russian ★★★★★😊🐞  
Red Ursa ★★★★★😊🐞 NW

Both were healthy and very productive. 'Red Russian' had a bigger leaf. I preferred the shape of the 'Red Russian' leaf and its feel.

### Prefer 'Red Ursa'

Red Russian ★★★★★😊🐞  
Red Ursa ★★★★★😊SE

'Red Ursa' was slightly better in appearance and taste. Both varieties were nice.

Red Russian ★★★★★😊🐞  
Red Ursa ★★★★★😊NC

'Red Ursa' had better flavor. 'Red Russian' was slightly bitter. 'Red Russian' germinated better. I noticed bug holes in the leaves of 'Red Ursa' but not in the leaves of 'Red Russian'. 'Red Ursa' leaves were darker green and thicker.

Red Russian ★★★★★😊🐞  
Red Ursa ★★★★★😊SC

'Red Ursa' germinated better. These varieties tasted the same.

## Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and were split on their preferences. 'Red Russian' grew more vigorously and was ready to harvest earlier. The taste qualities of the varieties were similar.

**'Red Russian' grew more vigorously and was ready to harvest earlier.**

### Best kale varieties

Top choice  
Red Russian

### Strong performers

Black Magic  
Dazzling Blue  
Vates  
White Russian  
Winterbor

# Kale, Tuscan (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Dazzling Blue'

60 days. Blue-green leaves with pink veins. Its tenderness and flavor are ideal for salads and smoothies.

### 'Lacinato'

(Shown) 55 days. Heirloom with blistered, blue-gray leaves. Very tender. Great for salads and soups.



## Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dazzling Blue	Lacinato	Same
Germinated best	63%	13%	25%
Healthier plants	50	25	25
Harvested earlier	63	13	25
Higher yields	75	25	0
More attractive	63	25	13
Tasted better	43	29	29
Preference	56	44	
Recommend (😊)	78	44	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.33	6.78	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Dazzling Blue'

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😊🌱 MN  
Lacinato ★★☆☆☆😞🌱

'Dazzling Blue' had bigger leaves, nicer color and better taste.

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😊🐞 SE  
Lacinato ★★☆☆☆😞🐞

'Dazzling Blue' had fewer problems with pests. It produced a higher yield, looked better and tasted better. 'Lacinato' struggled to germinate but was a good tasting kale.

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😊🌱 NC  
Lacinato ★★☆☆☆😞🌱

'Dazzling Blue' germinated better. It tolerated the heat better, but both varieties dried up in June, even with watering.

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😊🌱 SC  
Lacinato ★★★★★😞🌱

'Dazzling Blue' had larger, healthier plants and tasted better.

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😊🐞 SW  
Lacinato ★★☆☆☆😞🐞

'Dazzling Blue' had better germination and its plants had pretty red veins.

### Prefer 'Lacinato'

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😞🌱🐞 NE  
Lacinato ★★★★★😊🌱

'Lacinato' tasted sweeter. 'Dazzling Blue' germinated 3–4 days earlier, grew more vigorously, and had larger leaves.

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😊🐞 NC  
Lacinato ★★★★★😊🐞

'Lacinato' plants were larger.

Dazzling Blue ★★★★★😊🐞 SC  
Lacinato ★★★★★😊🐞

I harvested 'Lacinato' longer.

Dazzling Blue ★★☆☆☆😞🐞 CA  
Lacinato ★★★★★😊🐞

I will definitely plant 'Lacinato' again.

## Conclusions

'Dazzling Blue' outperformed 'Lacinato' in all traits. It germinated and grew better. It produced a higher yield, looked prettier, and tasted better to more gardeners. 'Lacinato' was good, but 'Dazzling Blue' was brilliant.

**'Dazzling Blue' was brilliant. It grew better, produced higher yields, looked prettier, and tasted better to more gardeners.**

### Best kale varieties

Top choice  
Red Russian

### Strong performers

Black Magic  
Dazzling Blue  
Vates  
White Russian  
Winterbor

# Lettuce, Green Batavian (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Anuenue'

72 days. Crisp and sweet leaves. Compact, tightly packed hearts. Grows slowly. From Hawaii.

### 'Muir'

50 days. Extremely tolerant to heat. Light-green, wavy, crisp leaves with excellent flavor.



## Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Anuenue	Muir	Same
Germinated best	10%	<b>75%</b>	15%
Healthier plants	0	35	<b>65</b>
Harvested earlier	15	<b>55</b>	30
Resisted bolting better	11	<b>47</b>	42
Higher yields	0	<b>70</b>	30
More attractive	10	40	<b>50</b>
Tasted better	25	35	<b>40</b>
Preference	21	<b>79</b>	
Recommend (😊)	65	<b>95</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.26	<b>9.16</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	<b>10.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Anuenue'

Anuenue ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Muir ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Anuenue' had a better taste. It was mild with no bitterness.

Anuenue ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Muir ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Anuenue' produced small heads, which I prefer, and had great flavor. 'Muir' was highly productive and was less "sweet" in flavor.

Anuenue ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC  
 Muir ★★★★★ 😞 🐞

'Anuenue' was delicious. We really liked the small heads which stored very well in the refrigerator. We would definitely plant this variety again. The only negative is that it takes a long time to mature.

Anuenue ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC  
 Muir ★★★★★ 😊

'Anuenue' had beautiful bunches of darker green lettuce. It was tasty and easy to clean. 'Muir' germinated better and provided an extra cutting. Both varieties were healthy and neither bolted.

### Prefer 'Muir'

Anuenue ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Muir ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I loved the curly leaves, taste and the longer lasting harvest (very slow to bolt) of 'Muir'. 'Muir' had a noticeably higher germination. The plants of both varieties looked great once established.

Anuenue ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE  
 Muir ★★★★★ 😊

The leaves of these varieties were very different. 'Muir' leaves were frilly and 'Anuenue' leaves were flat. 'Muir' was slightly crisper and sweeter. It lasted longer—sweet into September.

The heads of 'Anuenue' were darker green, compact and delicious.

**Best green Batavian lettuce varieties**

**Top choice**  
Muir

**Strong performer**  
Nevada



## Prefer 'Muir' (continued)

Anuenue  ☹️  NE  
 Muir  😊

The seeds were sown inside under lights with 'Muir' germinating in 2 days. Their seedlings appeared healthier in the beginning, but 'Anuenue' caught up and both varieties grew well when transplanted to the garden. 'Muir' exhibited a pleasing appearance with crinkled edges and a bright green color. 'Anuenue' had smooth, wide, and darker green leaves. Both varieties were crisp and delicious. The taste and texture of both blended well together in a salad and were very flavorful. Both resisted bolting until mid-late July.

Anuenue  ☹️  SE  
 Muir  😊

'Muir' germinated best, resisted bolting, and produced a higher yield.

Anuenue  😊  SE  
 Muir  😊

'Muir' was slightly superior in every way except taste.

Anuenue  😊  SE  
 Muir  😊

'Muir' had larger heads and was very slow to bolt. I would grow either of these varieties again. Both did great.

Anuenue  😊  NC  
 Muir  😊

'Muir' stood up to the wind better. It produced a higher yield. Both varieties had fantastic crops!

Anuenue  ☹️  NC  
 Muir  😊

'Muir' produced a heavy yield. It is a very good variety. Beautiful in all traits.

Anuenue  ☹️  NC  
 Muir  😊

'Muir' grew well, produced more, and regrew after cutting. It tasted good.

Anuenue  😊 -  
 Muir  😊 SC

'Muir' is an excellent lettuce.

Anuenue  ☹️  SC  
 Muir  😊

It was a tough year for lettuce and 'Muir' won all the tests, including appearance and taste.

Anuenue  ☹️  NW  
 Muir  😊

So few of the 'Anuenue' seeds germinated that it was hard to judge. 'Muir' produced very well and had great flavor.

Anuenue  ☹️  NW  
 Muir  😊

I planted this trial on May 6. 'Muir' resisted bolting. I'm still eating lettuce in September. It is not bitter!

Anuenue  ☹️  SW  
 Muir  😊

'Muir' germinated well and performed beautifully well into August, even through the hot weeks. Its higher yield was due to better germination. Plant per plant, they were comparable. 'Muir' was rufflier while 'Anuenue' had thicker leaves.

Anuenue  😊  SW  
 Muir  😊

'Anuenue' came up more sparsely. 'Muir' plants were larger. I preferred the leaves of 'Muir'.

## Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and thought they were delicious. 'Muir' was very impressive. It germinated much better, grew much faster, resisted bolting better, and produced higher yields. 'Muir' received very high ratings and was recommended by nearly all gardeners. 'Muir' proved again to be one of the finest lettuce varieties for North Dakota.

**'Muir' was very impressive. It germinated much better, grew much faster, resisted bolting, and produced higher yields.**



# Lettuce, Red Butterhead

## Varieties

### 'Alkindus'

52 days. Dark red outer leaves with a bright-green heart. Heads are dense and shiny. Reliable.

### 'Cervanek'

53 days. Heads are attractive, firm and heavy. Leaves are tender and slightly blistered. Tolerates bolting and keeps its red color in the heat.



## Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Alkindus	Cerv- anek	Same
Germinated best	31%	25%	44%
Healthier plants	25	6	69
Harvested earlier	38	31	31
Resisted bolting better	50	14	36
Higher yields	20	20	60
More attractive	50	13	38
Tasted better	31	19	50
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (😊)	81	69	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.25	7.88	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	9.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Alkindus'

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😞 SE  
 The foliage of 'Alkindus' was more red and more appealing.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😞 SE

I cannot say enough good things about 'Alkindus'. Beautiful and tasty leaves with a rose blush, very vigorous, larger leaves than 'Cervanek'. 'Cervanek' also had high yields; however a much narrower leaf, little or no rose blush, and slight browning on the edges.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Alkindus' germinated earlier. Both varieties tasted bland.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Alkindus' grew a bigger, fuller crop. Both varieties were fantastic.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties tasted very good but 'Alkindus' was sweeter. I didn't think I would like a lettuce better than 'Cervanek', but I prefer 'Alkindus'.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Alkindus' appeared to be healthier. It kept its shape (bunched).

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 SC

It was very hard to pick between the two varieties, but 'Alkindus' was more attractive and resisted bolting better.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 NW

These were both great, especially in our hot early summer. Both varieties produced well but 'Alkindus' tasted better.

**'Alkindus' was more attractive and resisted bolting better.**

**Best red butterhead lettuce varieties**

**Top choice**  
Alkindus

**Strong performers**  
Cervanek  
Red Cross  
Skyphos

## Prefer 'Alkindus' (continued)

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties were excellent. They were full of flavor. 'Alkindus' resisted bolting better.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Alkindus' is the best red lettuce I've ever grown. It has beautiful plants and taste.

## Prefer 'Cervanek'

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Cervanek' was sweeter and crisper, although both varieties were slightly bitter.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Cervanek' was more tender. 'Alkindus' bolted much earlier and had tougher leaves.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Cervanek' germinated better although both varieties had slow, spotty germination. These varieties tasted somewhat bitter.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties did well but germinated and grew at different rates. 'Cervanek' had slightly larger plants and was ready to harvest earlier.

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😞 📦  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cervanek' was beautiful and tasty. It produced a heavy yield. I harvested three times!

## No Preference

Alkindus ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
 Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties produced well and had crispness and good flavor. The varieties grew well both in the garden and in pots. The potted plantings continued to produce until the end of October indoors.

## Conclusions

Both varieties were fantastic, producing high yields of crisp, flavorful lettuce. Most gardeners preferred 'Alkindus'. They raved over the beauty of its leaves and its resistance to bolting. 'Cervanek' has performed well in previous trials and performed well again this summer.

**Both varieties were fantastic, producing high yields of crisp, flavorful lettuce.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →  
 Variety A: Yes (😊)  
 Variety B: No (😞)

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

**Location** →  
 NC

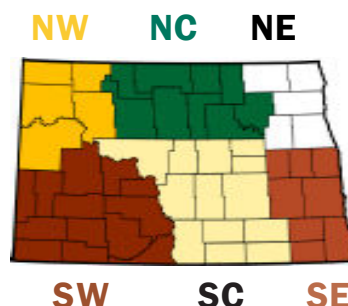
**Comments** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

### Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

### Locations

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# Lettuce, Red Eazyleaf (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Brentwood'

50 days. Dark-red outer leaves with green interiors. Leaves separate easily from the base when cut.

### 'Burgandy'

55 days. Medium-red, deeply lobed, outer leaves with bright-green interiors. Crunchy texture.



## Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Brentwood	Burgandy	Same
Germinated best	31%	31%	<b>38%</b>
Healthier plants	31	19	<b>50</b>
Harvested earlier	31	25	<b>44</b>
Resisted bolting better	<b>36</b>	29	<b>36</b>
Higher yields	27	33	<b>40</b>
More attractive	31	25	<b>44</b>
Tasted better	27	33	<b>40</b>
Preference	<b>53</b>	47	
Recommend (😊)	<b>76</b>	59	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	<b>7.53</b>	7.18	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.00</b>	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Brentwood'

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😊 NE

We love this lettuce. 'Brentwood' was very hardy and lasted the longest in the season. I will look for this darker lettuce in the future.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😞 SE

I liked the texture and color of 'Brentwood'.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Brentwood' tasted better. Its leaves were slightly less bitter. Both varieties produced high yields and made great salads. Their plants were thick, lush and hearty.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😞 SE  
 'Brentwood' leaves were larger and easier to clean. They never got bitter or overly fibrous. We got several cuttings and were pleased with the yield.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😊 NC  
 'Brentwood' stayed uniform and marketable longer.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😊 SC  
 'Brentwood' had excellent taste and it was better able to come back from grazing deer.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😞 SC  
 'Brentwood' tasted better. Both varieties were good in a mix. I don't think I would want either as a stand-alone salad.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😞 SC  
 'Brentwood' wasn't as bitter and had more attractive, darker color.

Brentwood ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Burgandy ★★★★★ 😞 NW  
 'Brentwood' produced more leaves in my garden. Neither variety bolted.

**More gardeners recommended 'Brentwood'. They liked the darker red color of its outer leaves.**

## Best red leaf lettuce varieties

**Top choice**  
Red Sails

**Strong performers**  
 Merlot  
 New Red Fire  
 Red Salad Bowl  
 Red Velvet

## Prefer 'Burgandy'

Brentwood ★★★★★☹️ -  
 Burgandy ★★★★★☹️ MN

Both varieties germinated well and are vigorous growers. Each plant had a nice, strong clump. The clumps were very sturdy and full of leaves. Two plants can fill a plastic grocery bag. 'Burgandy' has a slightly better taste. I cannot recommend them because they did not resist bolting. They started bolting in the end of July. They also got bitter sooner than other varieties I have grown.

Brentwood ★★★★★😊 🐛  
 Burgandy ★★★★★😊 SE

'Burgandy' had better taste and was slower bolting.

Brentwood ★★★★★☹️ 📦  
 Burgandy ★★★★★😊 NC

They were both good but 'Burgandy' was best overall.

Brentwood ★★★★★😊 🐛  
 Burgandy ★★★★★😊 SC

They were both great, but 'Burgandy' just suited me a little better.

Brentwood ★★★★★☹️ 📦  
 Burgandy ★★★★★😊 SC

'Burgandy' lasted longer before bolting. It had a better second crop after the first picking. 'Burgandy' had a more mellow taste.

Brentwood ★★★★★😊 🐛  
 Burgandy ★★★★★😊 SC

'Burgandy' germinated better and was tastier. It went to seed faster.

Brentwood ★★★★★😊 📦  
 Burgandy ★★★★★😊 NW

'Burgandy' had a milder taste. Bugs left it alone and it didn't bolt. 'Brentwood' was crisper but bolted and had a few aphids. Both varieties performed well until the mid-August heat. I mixed them for salads—very colorful.

Brentwood ★★★★★☹️ 🐛  
 Burgandy ★★★★★☹️ SW

I did not get to taste them because they bolted in the summer heat.

## Conclusions

There was no clear cut winner in this comparison. The performances of 'Brentwood' and 'Burgandy' were remarkably similar for most traits. Neither variety generated much enthusiasm. Gardeners were evenly divided on which variety produced more, tasted better, and which of the varieties they preferred. More gardeners recommended 'Brentwood'. These gardeners liked the darker red color of its leaves.

**Gardeners were evenly divided on which variety produced more, tasted better, and which of the varieties they preferred.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

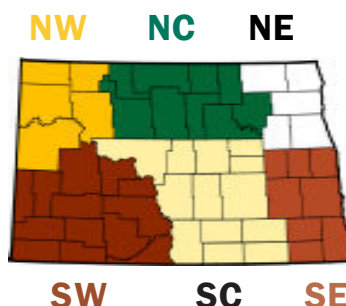
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★☹️

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

**Garden type** →  
 🐛 = Organic  
 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers  
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides  
 - = Not specified

**Location** →  
 NC

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



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# Lettuce, Green Romaine (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Dragoon'

43 days. Compact, very dense heads grow rapidly. Leaves are dark green, thick and crisp.

### 'Newham'

52 days. Uniform, upright heads and great flavor. Dark-green leaves with blanched hearts. Slow to bolt.



## Data

Gardeners at 24 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dragoon	Newham	Same
Germinated best	6%	<b>89%</b>	6%
Healthier plants	0	<b>72</b>	28
Harvested earlier	11	<b>83</b>	6
Resisted bolting better	22	28	<b>50</b>
Higher yields	0	<b>100</b>	0
More attractive	18	29	<b>53</b>
Tasted better	24	29	<b>47</b>
Preference	11	<b>89</b>	
Recommend (😊)	19	<b>86</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	4.05	<b>7.85</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	3.50	<b>8.50</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Dragoon'

Dragoon ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Dragoon' had a darker green leaf and tasted better. It resisted bolting better.

'Dragoon' germinated poorly. 'Newham' produced 10 times more plants.

Dragoon ★★★★★ 😊 📦  
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I liked the shape and taste of 'Dragoon'. It was a good keeper in the fridge. It was great for wraps. 'Dragoon' had poor germination. We started harvesting 'Newham' on June 20. It was very tasty.

## Prefer 'Newham'

Dragoon ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 📦  
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties bolted early. 'Dragoon' had poor germination.

Dragoon ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞  
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I had such poor germination on 'Dragoon' that it was difficult to get an accurate comparison.

Dragoon ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞  
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Newham' resisted bolting and was longer lasting—more productivity.

Dragoon ★★★★★ ☹️ 📦  
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Newham' produced a very good crop. Its leaves looked good and tasted better. Only a few seeds of 'Dragoon' germinated.

Dragoon ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞  
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 NC

We planted both varieties side by side, but only one plant of 'Dragoon' came up the first time and none the second. 'Newham' came up thick. We loved everything about 'Newham'. I will be planting 'Newham' again. I recommended it to friends and gave away lots! It was great tasting and slow to bolt. Its heads were just the right size for one large salad. The leaves can be used like butter lettuce for wraps or for a Caesar salad as they have enough crispness.

**'Newham' germinated much better, grew better, and produced a higher yield at nearly all sites.**

## Best green romaine lettuce varieties

Top choice  
Fusion

Strong performers  
Crisp Mint  
Green Forest  
Newham  
Starhawk

## Prefer 'Newham' (continued)

Dragoon     
 Newham   NC

'Newham' was a little better looking.

Dragoon     
 Newham   SC

'Dragoon' produced nothing.

Dragoon     
 Newham   SC

I am not a big fan of either variety. They both started to bolt right before they were ready to harvest. They tasted bitter even after I watered daily.

Dragoon     
 Newham   SC

'Newham' way outperformed in germination and the plants were healthier and yielded some nice heads. The heads of 'Newham' were smaller than some of the other lettuce varieties I've had in the past but were nice and compact. Since they all matured at once, it was impossible to keep it from bolting. I sowed and later resowed 'Dragoon', but its germination was poor.

Dragoon     
 Newham   SC

'Dragoon' was the worst variety I've ever tested. About 75% of the seeds germinated, but I only picked lettuce off of three plants, because the rest died before the first true leaves even formed. Right beside them, the 'Newham' plants produced some of the best lettuce we've had. 'Newham' lettuce was dark green, long lasting, and kept bitter-free for quite a while.

Dragoon     
 Newham   NW

'Newham' showed superior germination. I sowed half the seeds on May 30 and the other half on June 29. The first sowing yielded zero 'Dragoon' plants. The second sowing 'Dragoon' yielded 25% of plants compared to 'Newham'.

Dragoon     
 Newham   NW

Both varieties produced early and resisted bolting until late in the season. We were still harvesting lettuce into late August. 'Newham' had large heads with great taste.

Dragoon     
 Newham   NW

I got four cuttings from 'Newham'. It grew back beautifully each time. It was delicious. No seeds of 'Dragoon' germinated.

Dragoon   -  
 Newham   SW

Yields were great. I had lettuce to share!

Dragoon     
 Newham   SW

'Newham' had better germination and healthier plants.

Dragoon     
 Newham   MB

The germination of the first sowing was dreadful (10%); the second sowing was only slightly better (35%). 'Newham' had a higher germination rate. As it was very hot, both varieties bolted and turned bitter quickly.

Dragoon     
 Newham   SK

'Newham' had better germination and great taste.

## Conclusions

'Newham' performed well in our previous trials, and it was a clear winner in this year's romaine trials. It germinated much better, grew better, and produced a higher yield compared to 'Dragoon' at nearly all sites. 'Dragoon' germinated poorly; so poorly that one must consider this shortcoming was due to the quality of the seed and not the variety itself. This trial used pelleted seeds, which require consistent soil moisture until germination. The dry spring conditions no doubt were a factor. The few plants of 'Dragoon' that did germinate and grow almost matched the performance of 'Newham' plants for resistance to bolting, looks and taste.

**Nearly every gardener preferred and recommended 'Newham' over 'Dragoon'.**

# Melon, Cantaloupe

## Varieties

### 'Athena'

75 days. Melons are 5–6 pounds with thick, orange flesh. Most popular cantaloupe in the north.

### 'Burpee's Hybrid'

82 days. Popular for its exceptional flavor and reliable yields. Grows well in cool weather.



## Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Burpee's		
	Athena	Hybrid	Same
Germinated best	54%	23%	23%
Healthier plants	45	18	36
Matured earlier	36	36	27
Higher yields	42	33	25
More attractive fruits	27	36	36
Tasted better	27	36	36
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	50	57	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.43	5.86	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.50	7.50	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Athena'

Athena ★★★★★☺ 🏠  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☺ MN  
 'Athena' produced more fruit.

Athena ★★★★★☺ 🐛  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☺ NE  
 'Athena' produced slightly earlier. The total yields of both varieties were similar.

Athena ★★★★★☺ 🐛  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☹ NE  
 'Athena' had the best flavor I've had in melons for many years ... like back in the 90's. It had excellent emergence and plant health. All 'Burpee's Hybrid' plants died as they started to vine.

Athena ★★★★★☺ 🏠  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☹ SE  
 'Burpee's Hybrid' didn't have very many fruits, but 'Athena' was creating fruits up to the fall.

Athena ★★★★★☺ 🐛  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☺ SE  
 The melons of 'Athena' looked better. My son won a county fair grand champion award with 'Athena'.

Athena ★★★★★☺ 🏠  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☹ SC  
 'Athena' germinated better. Its melons tasted so much better. I didn't like the taste of 'Burpee's Hybrid'; it got soft/mushy much faster.

## Prefer 'Burpee's Hybrid'

Athena ★★★★★☹ 🐛  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☺ NE  
 The melons of Burpee's Hybrid' did not taste watery. They were perfect on the inside.

Athena ★★★★★☹ 🐛  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☺ NC  
 'Burpee's Hybrid' vines were vigorous, and its fruits were very sweet. 'Athena' did not germinate.

Athena ★★★★★☹ 🐛  
 Burpee's Hybrid ★★★★★☺ NC  
 'Burpee's Hybrid' produced the first ripe melon, and it was firm and sweet. Frost killed the vines in early September.

**Neither variety performed very well. Our growing season was much shorter than normal for most gardeners.**

## Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice  
Aphrodite

Strong performers  
Athena  
Goddess  
Solstice  
Superstar

## Prefer 'Burpee's Hybrid' (continued)

Athena ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞  
 Burpee's Hybrid ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SC  
 Neither variety was very good.

Athena ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠  
 Burpee's Hybrid ☆☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC  
 'Burpee's Hybrid' had a higher yield.

Athena ☆☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞  
 Burpee's Hybrid ☆☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW  
 The vines of both varieties were healthy, and their yields were very similar. The fruits of 'Burpee's Hybrid' looked better. The fruits of both varieties were very juicy and sweet!

## No Preference

Athena ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞  
 Burpee's Hybrid ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ NC  
 None of the melons ripened before frost.

Athena ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠  
 Burpee's Hybrid ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SW  
 No plants grew after germination.

## Conclusions

Neither variety performed very well. Our growing season was much shorter than normal for most gardeners this year. Gardeners were split on their preferences. 'Athena' rated slightly better for vine health while 'Burpee's Hybrid' rated slightly better for fruit quality. Yields and days to maturity were comparable between the varieties.

**Gardeners were split on their preferences. Yields and days to maturity were comparable between the varieties.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

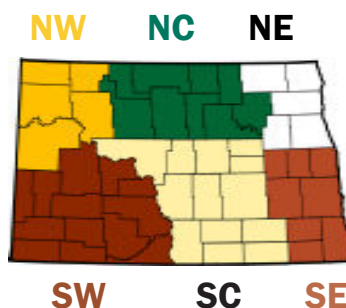
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ☆☆☆☆☆  
 Variety B ☆☆☆☆☆

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



## Locations

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# Melon, Galia

## Varieties

### 'Arava'

77 days. Luscious, green flesh. Reliable yields. Three-pound fruits slip from vines when ripe.

### 'Courier'

85 days. Fruits have dense green flesh and small seed cavities. Very sweet. Vines resist diseases.



## Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Arava	Courier	Same
Germinated best	10%	10%	<b>80%</b>
Healthier plants	30	20	<b>50</b>
Matured earlier	<b>71</b>	29	0
Higher yields	<b>63</b>	38	0
More attractive fruits	25	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>
Tasted better	25	13	<b>63</b>
Preference	<b>75</b>	25	
Recommend (😊)	<b>100</b>	63	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.63</b>	7.13	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	<b>9.00</b>	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Arava'

Arava 😊 NE  
 Courier 😊 NE

We preferred 'Arava'. The texture of its melons and its ability to remain firmer after storage were the deciding points for my family. We all liked the sweetness of 'Courier', but its texture was a turn off. Its flesh was grainier and quickly became mushy. Before the first frost, we harvested the not-quite-ripe melons of both varieties and they finished ripening in the garage quite nicely. The vines of both varieties tolerated early rainy weather and very dry late summer weather. Neither had any trouble with disease. Both were bothered by beetles in September.

Arava 😊 NE  
 Courier 😊 NE

This was a pleasant surprise in production and flavor. I did not know what to expect since I didn't know of this melon before. Both varieties were excellent. They yielded wonderfully and tasted so good. One really has to watch these melons closely for the best time to pick them. Ripe melons were invaded by sap beetles. 'Arava' was ready to harvest a couple days earlier. It produced a slightly higher yield.

Arava 😊 SE  
 Courier 😞 SE

'Arava' vines grew faster and its melons ripened a few days earlier. Its melons were larger.

Arava 😊 NC  
 Courier 😊 NC

'Arava' ripened earlier. I was unsure of this type of melon and was very surprised how sweet both varieties were. Buyers at Farmers' Market loved them.

Arava 😊 NC  
 Courier 😞 NC

I loved the taste of 'Arava'! It is sweet and delicious. I didn't enjoy eating 'Courier' so I put the melon in a blender and used it for gelato. The yield of 'Arava' was double that of 'Courier'. Its melons weighed 3.5–5.0 pounds. 'Courier' melons are smaller at 3.0–3.5 pounds. The rind of 'Arava' had a nice, even netting whereas the rind of 'Courier' was partly smooth and partly netted.

**Every gardener recommended 'Arava'. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields.**

**Best Galia melon varieties**

**Top choice**  
Passport

**Strong performer**  
Arava

## Prefer 'Arava' (continued)

Arava ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Courier ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Arava' tasted better. We did not like the texture of 'Courier'.

## Prefer 'Courier'

Arava ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Courier ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Courier' was easier to tell when ripe. It produced more fruits and had a great taste. The melons of both varieties were small, per the norm in North Dakota.

Arava ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Courier ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Courier' tasted better.

## Conclusions

'Arava' received higher ratings and every gardener recommended it. 'Arava' ripened earlier and produced higher yields compared to 'Courier'. It has been a consistent performer in our trials over the years. Most gardeners recommended 'Courier' as well. Several gardeners were surprised of the sweetness and flavor of Galia melons.

**Several gardeners were surprised of the sweetness and flavor of Galia melons.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)**

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)**

😊 = Yes  
 😞 = No

**Comments**

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

**Garden types**

🍷 = Organic  
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers  
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides  
 - = Not specified

**Garden type**

🍷 = Organic  
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers  
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides  
 - = Not specified

**Location**

NC = North Central

**Locations**

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

# Melon, Honeydew

## Varieties

### 'Earli-Dew'

80 days. A reliable, early ripening honeydew. Lime-green flesh has excellent flavor and texture. Melon slips off the vine when ripe.

### 'Honeycomb'

78 days. Early maturing, large-sized honeydew. Icy green, sweet flesh with outstanding flavor and aroma. Vines resist diseases.



## Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Earli-Dew	Honeycomb	Same
Germinated best	36%	18%	45%
Healthier plants	45	9	45
Matured earlier	56	11	33
Higher yields	40	30	30
More attractive fruits	20	30	50
Tasted better	38	25	38
Preference	63	37	
Recommend (😊)	73	73	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.73	6.18	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.00	6.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Earli-Dew'

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 MN

We started our plants indoors. 'Honeycomb' had much better germination and larger plants. It produced 34 melons compared to 16 melons for 'Earli-Dew'. 'Honeycomb' melons were much larger. 'Earli-Dew' melons were ready earlier and very sweet. We liked these the best. 'Honeycomb' ripened later so we didn't get a very good taste test on them to compare. I would plant both varieties again as they are both very good producers and taste great.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 NE  
'Earli-Dew' had excellent sweetness, amazing flavor, and was easy to grow.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😞 NE  
'Earli-Dew' ripened before frost; 'Honeycomb' did not. Many 'Earli-Dew' melons had openings that wasps and sap beetles infested.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 NC  
'Earli-Dew' produced higher yields.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 NC  
'Earli-Dew' ripened earlier, and its melons tasted good. Its vines were healthy.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😞 NC  
We had an early frost and only one melon of each variety was ripe. The 'Earli-Dew' melon had a nice size and was good tasting.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😞 SC  
'Earli-Dew' tasted better. Both varieties had a very thin rind and would split open before being ripe. Hail damaged a lot of the melons.

**'Earli-Dew'**  
ripened earlier  
and produced  
more melons.

**Best  
honeydew  
varieties**

**Top choice**  
Earli-Dew

**Strong  
performer**  
Honey  
Orange

## Prefer 'Honeycomb'

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 SE

These varieties were very similar.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Honeycomb' had more melons.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Although 'Earli-Dew' had better growth, 'Honeycomb' tasted better. Overall, I wasn't too impressed with either variety, but I would give them both another chance before I would make a final judgment. It's so nice to grow a sweet melon in the Northern Plains.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Earli-Dew' did not germinate. 'Honeycomb' produced two grapefruit-sized melons. They tasted good; they had a firm texture and were not very sweet.

## Conclusions

'Earli-Dew' has been the standard honeydew grown in the north for many years. Most gardeners preferred it over 'Honeycomb' this year. 'Earli-Dew' ripened earlier and produced more melons in our short growing season. Yields and ratings for both varieties were not impressive.

**Yields and ratings for both varieties were not impressive.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

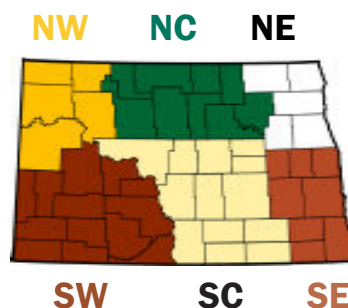
**Comments** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

#### Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
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#### Locations

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# Pea, Shell (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Green Arrow'

65 days. Amazing yields. Long, dark green pods are filled with 8–11 peas. Vines grow 28 inches tall.

### 'PLS 595'

64 days. Attractive pods filled with tasty peas. Upright, 24-inch vines are productive and easy to harvest.



## Data

Gardeners at 43 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green Arrow	PLS 595	Same
Germinated best	25%	19%	<b>56%</b>
Healthier plants	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>
Matured earlier	15	<b>61</b>	24
Higher yields	<b>53</b>	38	9
More attractive pods	<b>46</b>	26	29
Tasted better	<b>38</b>	26	35
Preference	<b>57</b>	43	
Recommend (😊)	<b>68</b>	54	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	<b>7.50</b>	6.78	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.00</b>	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Green Arrow'

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'Green Arrow' had larger pods with more peas. 'PLS 595' germinated first, had more tendrils to climb the fence, and produced the first yield (July 12).

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Green Arrow' had bigger pods.

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Green Arrow' was a traditional pea. It produced higher yields and more attractive pods. 'PLS 595' was too viny.

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Green Arrow' was a sweeter tasting pea. 'PLS 595' grew better and produced three times as many peas.

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Green Arrow' germinated better, was healthier, and more productive. 'PLS 595' had a lot of vines.

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Green Arrow' had a better yield and a better taste.

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Green Arrow' vines produced over a much longer time. It had more peas in each pod and a sweeter taste.

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Green Arrow' had larger and more pods.

Green Arrow ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 PLS 595 ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Green Arrow' had a more upright plant. It was easier to pick and its peas were slightly sweeter. 'PLS 595' produced its first yield on July 10, 5 days before 'Green Arrow'.

**'Green Arrow' had higher yields and larger pods.**

## Best shell pea varieties

Top choice  
Lincoln

Strong performers

Early Frosty  
 Green Arrow  
 Knight  
 Little Marvel  
 Maestro  
 Improved Wando

## Prefer 'Green Arrow' (continued)

Green Arrow SE  
 PLS 595

'Green Arrow' had nicer plants, nicer peas. I dislike varieties with so many tendrils. 'PLS 595' tasted bitter quickly.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SC

'Green' Arrow produced higher yields. 'PLS 595' had lots of tendrils which I didn't like; it made it hard to pick peas without damaging the vines. 'PLS 595' did not have any powdery mildew.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SE

Both varieties germinated well. 'Green Arrow' had better taste and higher yield. The tendrils on 'PLS 595' were amazing!

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 NC

'Green Arrow' had better taste.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 NC

'Green Arrow' produced a better yield. Its plants and pods looked nicer. Its peas tasted better.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SC

'Green Arrow' did better overall. It had less mildew and healthier plants. It tasted better fresh.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SC

'Green Arrow' grew better and produced more peas. Its pods were tougher. 'PLS 595' pods were tender.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SC

'Green Arrow' tasted better and was easier to pick. 'PLS 595' had so many tendrils that I had to rip them apart to get some of the peas out. 'Green Arrow' developed severe powdery mildew, but most of the pea crop was harvested by that point so it was ok.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SC

'Green Arrow' was sweeter. I feel like the peas didn't grow as tall this year. We did have a pretty decent crop, but we can never get enough peas!

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SC

'Green Arrow' was very tasty, slow to bolt, and had a good shelf life.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 NW

'Green Arrow' had superior plants and long pods that were very full. 'PLS 595' had many stringy vines.

## Prefer 'PLS 595'

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 SE

'Green Arrow' grew with more vigor, but it was full of powdery mildew as soon as the pods were ready. Those pods were not good to eat. 'PLS 595' had oval leaves and many tendrils—almost looked like dill. Its tendrils made the vines cling to the fence, and it was a delight for picking. I would definitely plant 'PLS 595' again.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 NC

'PLS 595' produced higher yields and more attractive pods. Its peas tasted better.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 NC

'PLS 595' had a nice stand of plants. Its pods were full, with 9–10 peas per pod. It was easy to pick.

Green Arrow -  
 PLS 595 NC

The pods on 'PLS 595' were the longest and fullest pods I've ever seen. They were amazing. 'PLS 595' produced pods into August, longer than 'Green Arrow'.

**The vines of 'Green Arrow' grew vigorously but were susceptible to disease.**

## Prefer 'PLS 595' (continued)

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SC

Neither variety germinated well. We preferred the taste of 'PLS 595'. 'Green Arrow' produced larger pods and a higher yield.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SC

'PLS 595' had better yield and taste.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SC

'PLS 595' had more tendrils than leaves; held onto the fence very tightly, making them a little more difficult to harvest. 'PLS 595' had 5% more peas per pod than 'Green Arrow'. 'PLS 595' peas were sweeter. 'Green Arrow' had a "green" flavor and was less sweet, but they still tasted good. 'Green Arrow' vines were much more susceptible to mildew and were pulled earlier out of the garden.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SC

'PLS 595' already had tendrils when 'Green Arrow' was only 2 inches tall. 'PLS 595' was much more vigorous and started out with tons of pods and was harvested first. 'Green Arrow' was more drought tolerant.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SC

'PLS 595' had more peas per pod.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   NW

I was really impressed with 'PLS 595'. It had lots of long pods with 10–12 peas per pod. It produced 4 pounds of peas compared to 3 pounds for 'Green Arrow'. It was easy to pick 'PLS 595' because of its spiny bush. The peas of both varieties were good eating!

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   NW

Both took a long time to germinate. 'PLS 595' had so many tendrils which hid the pods. The grandkids loved finding and eating them. 'Green Arrow' got some fungus on it fairly early.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SW

'PLS 595' tasted better.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SW

Both germinated poorly. 'PLS 595' had more tendrils than leaves. My kids called them the alien peas. 'PLS 595' had higher yields.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SW

'PLS 595' had a much higher germination rate and produced for 3–4 more weeks longer than 'Green Arrow'.

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   CO

'PLS 595' germinated well and had excellent pods with good tasting peas. Both varieties had long pods filled with quality peas. These both did surprisingly well in a very hot, dry summer. I irrigated constantly.

## No Preference

Green Arrow    
PLS 595   SE

I prefer 'Lincoln' over these two varieties.

## Conclusions

'Green Arrow' was preferred by most gardeners. It produced higher yields and had larger pods. The vines of 'Green Arrow' were more likely to suffer from disease. 'PLS 595' produced the first peas. Its vines had more tendrils than leaves. This Afilia vine habit generated mixed reactions from gardeners. Some felt these vines were easier to pick, while others felt the abundance of tendrils made the vines more susceptible to being damaged during the harvest.

**The vines of 'PLS 595' had more tendrils than leaves. This generated mixed reactions among gardeners.**

# Pea, Snap

## Varieties

### 'Sugar Ann'

58 days. Very early and reliable. The 27-inch vines produce sweet, crisp pods. A proven performer.

### 'Sugar Sprint'

62 days. Pods are very sweet and nearly stringless. Compact, 28-inch vines bear heavy yields.



## Data

Gardeners at 51 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sugar Ann	Sugar Sprint	Same
Germinated best	73%	10%	18%
Healthier plants	75	13	13
Matured earlier	74	11	16
Higher yields	81	11	8
More attractive pods	46	14	41
Tasted better	51	8	41
Preference	86	14	
Recommend (😊)	89	24	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.25	5.33	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	5.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Sugar Ann'

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 MN

My kids all preferred the taste of 'Sugar Ann'. 'Sugar Sprint' had larger pods. Both varieties developed powdery mildew early in the season due to 90 °F and high humidity.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 MN

I got twice the yield from 'Sugar Ann'.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🌱  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Sugar Ann' germinated much better and produced consistently into early fall. 'Sugar Ann' pods were crispy and sweet.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🌱  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Sugar Ann' was fast growing, good producing, and tasted good. 'Sugar Sprint' produced little and grew slowly, almost like it was stunted.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🌱  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Sugar Ann' had better taste, germination, and a longer production time. Although it did not have a very good yield, it tasted really good raw.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🌱  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Sugar Ann' germinated 2 days earlier. Its vines were taller and trellised nicely. Its pods were tender and tastier.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🌱  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Sugar Ann' pods were sweeter and smoother, but its strings are tougher.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🌱  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Sugar Ann' was sweeter and had higher yields.

Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Sugar Sprint ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Sugar Ann' produced for a longer amount of time and was super tasty the whole season.

**Gardeners were very impressed with the earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste of 'Sugar Ann'.**

**Best snap pea varieties**

Top choice  
 Sugar Ann

Strong performer  
 Super Sugar Snap



## Prefer 'Sugar Ann' (continued)

Sugar Ann SE  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' had good germination, rapid growth and produced two times more yield. It later developed mildew while 'Sugar Sprint' did not.

Sugar Ann SE  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' had a better yield, bigger pods and lasted longer.

Sugar Ann SE  
 Sugar Sprint

Both varieties came up very spotty. I liked the taste of 'Sugar Ann'. It was sweet and crisp. 'Sugar Sprint' did not produce very well at all.

Sugar Ann NC  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' grew better and had a higher yield in both my container and in-ground gardens. Its pods tasted sweeter.

Sugar Ann NC  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' had nice, sweet, crisp pods and produced earlier than 'Sugar Sprint'.

Sugar Ann SC  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' had better growth and better yield. Its yield was earlier and more prolonged. 'Sugar Ann' pods were slightly sweeter. 'Sugar Sprint' performed poorly, but its pods had less string.

Sugar Ann SC  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' germinated better. Its vines more vigorous, taller and fuller, and kept producing. Its pods were a little larger and had a fresher taste—my grandkids loved them.

Sugar Ann SC  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' had better everything.

Sugar Ann SC  
 Sugar Sprint

The pods of both varieties were hard and dried up.

Sugar Ann SC  
 Sugar Sprint

Both varieties performed well. 'Sugar Ann' produced longer into the season.

Sugar Ann SC  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' tasted better, and its pods were less tough. This wasn't a great year for peas, and neither of these two varieties outperformed my usual 'Cascadia' sugar snap peas.

Sugar Ann SC  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' won all the tests and was by far the better variety. 'Sugar Sprint' had very poor germination.

Sugar Ann NW  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' produced better yields and was earlier. It stood up to the early heat we had this year.

Sugar Ann NW  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' germinated well and was tasty. Its vines lasted longer and produced longer in the season. We did not like the taste of 'Sugar Sprint'. It did not produce as well as 'Sugar Ann'.

Sugar Ann NW  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' had better germination and was earlier to produce. 'Sugar Sprint' did not produce well. Both varieties suffered from mildew.

Sugar Ann NW  
 Sugar Sprint

'Sugar Ann' took a long time to germinate and seemed slow to grow. 'Sugar Sprint' produced virtually no yield. It was horrible.

**'Sugar Ann' proved again it is the best snap pea for North Dakota.**

## Prefer 'Sugar Ann' (continued)

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SW

'Sugar Ann' had better flavor and yield. Its plants looked better.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SW

'Sugar Ann' germinated better, and its vines grew taller. It produced a higher yield, although its pods were smaller.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SW

'Sugar Ann' had better germination. It produced more and tastier pods, but 'Sugar Sprint' resisted mildew better and produced later into the season.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SW

'Sugar Ann' did well in all categories. It had earlier germination, healthier plants and tasted sweeter. 'Sugar Sprint' had to be replanted.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SW

'Sugar Ann' thrived and produced way more.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint MT

'Sugar Ann' was better in all categories.

## Prefer 'Sugar Sprint'

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint MN

'Sugar Sprint' produced a little better yield. Both varieties germinated poorly.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SE

Both varieties were good, but 'Sugar Sprint' had a slower maturing rate. Its pods were nice sized and did not get overripe right away, so we had a nice window to pick them within. It vined nicely.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint NC

'Sugar Sprint' vines and pods were beautiful. The pods tasted so good! I first harvested on June 27 and kept eating them fresh out of the garden for weeks!

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SC

'Sugar Sprint' seemed sweeter than 'Sugar Ann'.

Sugar Ann   
Sugar Sprint SW

'Sugar Sprint' grew longer into the season.

## Conclusions

'Sugar Ann' proved again it is the best snap pea for North Dakota. It received high ratings and was preferred by most gardeners. Gardeners were very impressed with its earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste. 'Sugar Sprint' has performed well in previous trials. It grew poorly in 2020, a year marked by a dry spring and summer.

**'Sugar Sprint' has performed well in previous trials. It grew poorly in 2020, a year marked by a dry spring and summer.**

# Pea, Snow

## Varieties

### 'Golden Sweet'

61 days. Young pods are gold in color. Vines grow up to 6 feet and must be trellised. Purple flowers.

### 'Mammoth Melting'

70 days. Big crops of green, tender pods. Vines grow 6 feet and must be trellised. A long-time favorite.



## Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Golden Sweet	Mamm. Melting	Same
Germinated best	33%	33%	33%
Healthier plants	0	67	33
Matured earlier	75	25	0
Higher yields	13	38	50
More attractive pods	13	50	38
Tasted better	38	38	25
Preference	25	75	
Recommend (☺)	38	63	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	5.75	6.88	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	5.50	9.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Golden Sweet'

Golden Sweet ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Mammoth Melting ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

'Golden Sweet' pods were bigger, sweeter and more tender. 'Mammoth Melting' plants were bigger, and its pods were tough.

Golden Sweet ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠  
Mammoth Melting ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

'Golden Sweet' pods were very sweet and so tasty. The yellow color was unappealing until we tasted them. 'Mammoth Melting' was so plain tasting. 'Mammoth Melting' vines seemed to grow and grow and grow and did not produce that many pods. Both varieties tolerated harsh conditions (hail, wind and drought) remarkably well.

## Prefer 'Mammoth Melting'

Golden Sweet ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛  
Mammoth Melting ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both varieties grew well. They produced good yields for an extended period of time despite extremes in conditions. 'Mammoth Melting' withstood the conditions better.

Golden Sweet ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠  
Mammoth Melting ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Mammoth Melting' had bushier plants and higher yields.

Golden Sweet ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛  
Mammoth Melting ★★★★★ ☺ NC

The pods of 'Mammoth Melting' were sweeter and had a better texture. 'Golden Sweet' seemed to require more water to not dry up. It was too quick to mature.

Golden Sweet ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠  
Mammoth Melting ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Both varieties grew well. 'Mammoth Melting' produced better and had larger pods.

Golden Sweet ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛  
Mammoth Melting ★★★★★ ☺ MB

'Mammoth Melting' pods tasted great in stir fries. Its peas were delicious in soups.

## Conclusions

'Mammoth Melting' was preferred by most gardeners. Its vines were more vigorous and productive at more sites. Gardeners enjoyed the taste but not the color of 'Golden Sweet' pods. 'Golden Sweet' ripened first.

'Mammoth Melting' vines were more vigorous. Gardeners enjoyed the taste but not the color of 'Golden Sweet' pods.

**Best snow pea varieties**

**Top choice**  
Sweet  
Horizon

**Strong performers**  
Oregon Giant  
Oregon Sugar  
Pod II

# Pumpkin, Midsize (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Bellatrix'

95 days. Medium-orange fruits with sturdy handles. Vines are productive and resist diseases.

### 'Early Dakota Howden'

90 days. An early selection of the popular 'Howden' variety. Bred in ND. Twenty-pound fruits.



## Data

Gardeners at 24 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bella- trix	E.Dak. Howden	Same
Germinated best	20%	25%	55%
Healthier plants	16	16	68
Harvested earlier	47	11	42
Higher yields	32	32	37
Bigger pumpkins	33	28	39
More attractive	28	28	44
Preference	61	39	
Recommend (😊)	74	79	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.89	7.42	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	14	10	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Bellatrix'

Bellatrix ★★★★★😊 -  
E. Dakota Howden ★★★★★😞 NE

'Early Dakota Howden' did not germinate; some of the seeds rotted and others were eaten by maggots. 'Bellatrix' produced four mature pumpkins. They averaged 6.5 pounds, with the largest weighing 10 pounds.

Bellatrix ★★★★★😊🍂  
E. Dakota Howden ★★★★★😊 NE

'Bellatrix' pumpkins had more of a round, uniform shape, which is more to my liking. 'Early Dakota Howden' pumpkins were more oblong in shape. 'Early Dakota Howden' vines produced more fruits.

Bellatrix ★★★★★😊🍂  
E. Dakota Howden ★★★★★😞 NC  
'Bellatrix' had bigger pumpkins.

Bellatrix ★★★★★😊🍂🍄  
E. Dakota Howden ★★★★★😊 NC  
Both were great pumpkin producers, but 'Bellatrix' did have better germination. The average weights of pumpkins for these varieties were 15 pounds.

Bellatrix ★★★★★😊🍂  
E. Dakota Howden ★★★★★😊 SC  
I loved the 'Bellatrix' pumpkins. Their shape was perfect for decorating.

Bellatrix ★★★★★😊🍂🍄  
E. Dakota Howden ★★★★★😞 SC  
'Early Dakota Howden' didn't produce any fruits; I suspect they are particularly prone to powdery mildew, which in this dry year was particularly bad. 'Bellatrix' grew a modest-sized vine and produced one to two ideal carving pumpkins per vine with very little fuss. Its average pumpkin weight was 20 pounds. I grew four varieties of pumpkins including the two in this trial this year and the only variety which failed was 'Early Dakota Howden'.

**'Bellatrix' pumpkins were generally larger, and its vines showed greater resistance to powdery mildew.**

## Best jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice  
Early King

Strong performers  
Autumn Gold  
Bellatrix  
Cronus  
Early Dakota  
Howden  
Gladiator  
Magic Lantern



## Prefer 'Bellatrix' (continued)

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NW

'Early Dakota Howden' was slower to germinate and developed a foliar disease early in the season. 'Bellatrix' had much more hearty seedlings and plants. The average weight of 'Bellatrix' was 12 pounds, compared to 9 pounds for 'Early Dakota Howden'. A few 'Early Dakota Howden' pumpkins were asymmetrical in shape.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NW

The size and skin of 'Bellatrix' pumpkins were nice! 'Early Dakota Howden' vines had larger leaves.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NW

These varieties were very similar.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  SW

The vines of 'Early Dakota Howden' spread out faster.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  SW

'Bellatrix' germinated poorly, but the plants that did germinate produced big, beautiful pumpkins. It produced two pumpkins (average 15 pounds) compared to nine or ten pumpkins (average 10 pounds) for 'Early Dakota Howden'. 'Bellatrix' pumpkins were more attractive for decorating. The vines of both varieties got powdery mildew, but it didn't seem to affect the fruit.

## Prefer 'Early Dakota Howden'

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  SE

I prefer the look of 'Early Dakota Howden' pumpkins—beautiful. Its pumpkins averaged at 22 pounds compared to 20 pounds for 'Bellatrix'.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NC

'Early Dakota Howden' pumpkins were slightly bigger and a beautiful orange!

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NC

Both varieties are nice. They had beautiful plants. Their pumpkins weighed 20 pounds on average. The pumpkins of 'Early Dakota Howden' had a nicer shape.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NC

Both varieties had very aggressive vines, but 'Early Dakota Howden' branched more. 'Early Dakota Howden' produced 15 pumpkins; the largest had a circumference of 38 inches and the average circumference was 34 inches. 'Bellatrix' produced 4 pumpkins with circumferences that ranged from 36 to 44 inches. The sizes and shapes of all the pumpkins were perfect for jack-o'-lanterns.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NC

'Early Dakota Howden' had better taste, production and was very hardy.

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  NW

'Bellatrix' vines were aggressive. Their fruits were less uniform in shape and size. 'Early Dakota Howden' vines produced fewer pumpkins, but they looked nicer.

## No Preference

Bellatrix   
E. Dakota Howden  SE

Both varieties produced nice pumpkins. I did not weigh the pumpkins, but they all got to be quite large—at least twice the size of a basketball.

## Conclusions

Both varieties produced attractive jack-o'-lanterns in our short growing season. Both varieties were recommended by a majority of gardeners. Most gardeners preferred 'Bellatrix'. Its pumpkins were generally larger and its vines showed greater resistance to powdery mildew. Yields were similar.

**Both varieties produced attractive jack-o'-lanterns in our short growing season.**

# Pumpkin, Large

## Varieties

### 'Early King'

90 days. Deep-orange, 20-pound jack-o'-lanterns with strong handles. Resists mildew. Early.

### 'Large Marge'

105 days. Vigorous vines produce 30-pound fruits. Fruits are dark orange with stocky handles.



## Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early King	Large Marge	Same
Germinated best	17%	<b>58%</b>	25%
Healthier plants	8	<b>50</b>	42
Harvested earlier	33	<b>42</b>	25
Higher yields	17	<b>58</b>	25
Bigger pumpkins	8	<b>67</b>	25
More attractive	30	<b>40</b>	30
Preference	25	<b>75</b>	
Recommend 😊	50	<b>83</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.25	<b>8.75</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.50	<b>9.00</b>	
Median weight (lbs)	18	<b>24</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Early King'

Early King ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😞 🍷 MN

'Early King' produced more and larger pumpkins. Both varieties matured late; many pumpkins are still green.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😞 🍷 SE

There were multiple pumpkins per plant on 'Early King'. 'Large Marge' only had one pumpkin per plant. Both varieties had nice deep orange colors. 'Early King' had attractive dark-green stems. 'Large Marge' germinated earlier, but 'Early King' seemed to germinate better.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SE  
 'Early King' ripened first.

### Prefer 'Large Marge'

Early King ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 🍷  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 NE

'Large Marge' had a much faster growth rate. It had a larger yield. Its pumpkins were quicker to turn orange but both varieties were late.

Early King ★★★★★ ☆ 😊 🍷  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SE

'Large Marge' had a similar yield (surprising) with much bigger pumpkins and large, healthy plants. The vines of both varieties resisted mildew until mid-September. The pumpkins of both varieties were very attractive and very carvable.

Early King ★★★★★ ☆ 😞 🍷  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 NC

Both varieties produced many pumpkins. Their pumpkins weighed 30 pounds on average. 'Large Marge' pumpkins had a nicer shape.

Early King ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 NC

'Large Marge' had bigger pumpkins (60 pounds compared to 35 pounds for 'Early King'). I enjoyed raising both varieties and hope to raise them again.

**'Early King' has performed well in previous trials, but this year it was overshadowed by 'Large Marge'.**

## Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice  
Big Moose

Strong performers  
 Dill's Atlantic Giant  
 Early King  
 Early Giant  
 Large Marge  
 Polar Bear

## Prefer 'Large Marge' (continued)

Early King ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🕒  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 NC

It was difficult to state a preference as both were good producers. 'Large Marge' did germinate better. Luckily both varieties matured early enough to be picked just before the first frost in mid-September.

Early King ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Large Marge' had twice the yield. Its pumpkins were larger and more symmetrical.

Early King ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Large Marge' grew better, produced a higher yield, and had bigger fruits.

Early King ★★★★★ 😞 -  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Large Marge' produced larger pumpkins. It was better in all categories.

Early King ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
 Large Marge ★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Large Marge' had more fruits and much healthier plants. 'Early King' had mature fruits by first freeze, while 'Large Marge' still had some green.

## Conclusions

'Early King' has performed well in previous trials, but this year it was overshadowed by 'Large Marge'. 'Large Marge' germinated better, had healthier vines, produced higher yields and grew bigger pumpkins. Both varieties produced ripe pumpkins before the first frost. 'Large Marge' was extremely impressive, and we look forward to testing it again in the future.

**'Large Marge' germinated better, had healthier vines, produced higher yields and grew bigger pumpkins.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

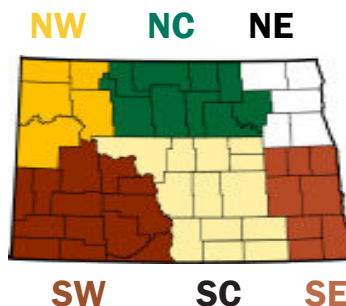
**Comments** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

### Garden types

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- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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# Pumpkin, Giant White

## Varieties

### 'New Moon'

90 days. White inner flesh is a breakthrough. Great for painting and carving. Rind may turn ivory.

### 'Polar Bear'

100 days. Its rind retains its white color after harvest—ideal for displays. Fruits exceed 50 pounds.



## Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	New Moon	Polar Bear	Same
Germinated best	25%	42%	33%
Healthier plants	33	33	33
Harvested earlier	17	42	42
Higher yields	36	55	9
Bigger pumpkins	42	50	8
More attractive	25	50	25
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (😊)	67	73	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.00	7.00	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	25	25	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'New Moon'

New Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😞 SE

The average weight of a 'New Moon' pumpkin was 20 pounds. 'Polar Bear' didn't produce any pumpkins.

New Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'New Moon' pumpkins were massive! They averaged 50 pounds compared to 25 pounds for 'Polar Bear'.

New Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties germinated poorly to begin with. Eleven days after sowing, we had only three plants. Each variety produced one ripe pumpkin and several small, unripe pumpkins. Both ripe pumpkins were symmetrical and looked nice. 'New Moon' had slightly better germination and a slightly bigger pumpkin (14 pounds compared to 11 pounds for 'Polar Bear').

New Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😞 SD

'New Moon' had larger fruits and much healthier plants. The average weight of its pumpkins was 75 pounds compared to 14 pounds for 'Polar Bear'.

## Prefer 'Polar Bear'

New Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SE

While my favorite individual fruit was a 'New Moon', the overall consistency of 'Polar Bear' was better. One 'New Moon' pumpkin weighed 44 pounds. The average weights of pumpkins were 25 pounds for both varieties.

New Moon ★★★★★ 😞 🍷  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Polar Bear' produced higher yields. Its pumpkins were bigger and more attractive.

New Moon ★★★★★ 😞 🏠  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Polar Bear' had massive white pumpkins.

**Gardeners liked the massive pumpkins of 'New Moon'.**

## Best large pumpkin varieties

**Top choice**  
Big Moose

**Strong performers**  
 Dill's Atlantic  
 Giant  
 Early King  
 Early Giant  
 Large Marge  
 Polar Bear

## Prefer 'Polar Bear' (continued)

New Moon ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Polar Bear' produced one pumpkin. It weighed only 7 pounds. 'New Moon' did not produce any pumpkins.

New Moon ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Polar Bear' is pure white and rounder. It is smaller and more my size. 'New Moon' has a shade of blue and sometimes a peach color too.

New Moon ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠 SC

I had only one 'New Moon' plant (one 25-pound pumpkin) and three 'Polar Bear' plants (three pumpkins with an average weight of 30 pounds). This trial took up a lot of space for 4 pumpkins. I have grown white pumpkins in the past and got about 20 medium/large pumpkins.

New Moon ★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

'Polar Bear' was amazing! It produced huge pumpkins.

New Moon ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠 🐛  
 Polar Bear ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

'Polar Bear' produced big (50-pound), round pumpkins that were very uniform in size. 'New Moon' had flowers, but none produced into pumpkins.

## Conclusions

For the second straight year, gardeners showed an appreciation for both varieties and a preference for 'Polar Bear'. They liked the massive fruits of 'New Moon', which sometimes appeared in shades of ivory, blue and peach. They loved 'Polar Bear'. Its fruits were big, round, pure white, and more attractive. 'Polar Bear' produced higher yields at most sites.

**Most gardeners preferred 'Polar Bear'. Its pumpkins were big, round, pure white, and more attractive.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

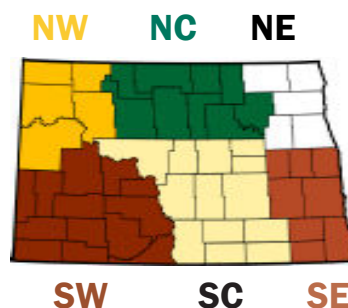
**Comments** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

### Garden types

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# Radish, Bicolor

## Varieties

### 'Red Head'

30 days. Snow-white roots with bright fuchsia crowns. Mild and crisp. From Netherlands.

### 'Sparkler'

(Shown) 25 days. Bright-scarlet roots with white tips. Crisp and delicious flesh. Heirloom.



## Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red		
	Head	Sparkler	Same
Germinated best	11%	11%	<b>78%</b>
Healthier plants	<b>44</b>	22	33
Harvested earlier	<b>67</b>	22	11
Higher yields	<b>78</b>	0	22
More attractive	<b>56</b>	22	22
Tasted better	<b>56</b>	22	22
Preference	<b>78</b>	22	
Recommend (😊)	<b>100</b>	22	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	<b>7.22</b>	3.22	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	<b>8.00</b>	2.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Red Head'

Red Head 😊   
 Sparkler 😞 NE

Both varieties had near 100% germination. 'Sparkler' plants bolted early, and their roots were smaller. 'Red Head' was healthy. 'Sparkler' roots were too small and too spicy.

Red Head 😊   
 Sparkler 😞 NE

'Sparkler' was poor in nearly all respects. It had poor germination and went to seed quickly.

Red Head 😊   
 Sparkler 😞 NW

Both varieties grew quickly, and their foliage looked good. The roots of 'Sparkler' failed to form into globes.

Red Head 😊 -   
 Sparkler 😞 NW

'Red Head' produced a nice globe and not a strong flavor. Its roots were similar in size. 'Sparkler' did not make globular radishes.

Red Head 😊   
 Sparkler 😞 SW

Both varieties germinated in 4 days. 'Sparkler' came up spotty and went to seed faster. Its roots had a sharp taste. 'Red Head' had smaller plants but bigger radishes. It tasted milder. 'Red Head' was more productive and lasted longer in the garden.

Red Head 😊   
 Sparkler 😞 SW

'Red Head' produced a better yield.

Red Head 😊   
 Sparkler 😞 SW

'Sparkler' had all tops and a small round radish.

Red Head 😊   
 Sparkler 😊 PA

'Red Head' germinated first and grew faster. Its roots were smaller and had a slightly stronger taste. We liked that it had a kick to it.

**'Red Head' grew faster and produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and tasted better.**

**Best bicolor radish varieties**

Top choice  
French  
Breakfast

Strong performer  
Red Head

## Prefer ‘Sparkler’

Red Head      ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Sparkler      ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties performed well. ‘Red Head’ had more lush foliage. ‘Sparkler’ was ready for harvest a few days before ‘Red Head’. I preferred ‘Sparkler’ in taste because it was less spicy.

Red Head      ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Sparkler      ★★★★★ 😊 SC

We let these go to seed and the pods that formed were delicious! They tasted just like the radish, but a bit milder. ‘Sparkler’ had a nice, mild taste.

## Conclusions

‘Red Head’ was clearly superior. It grew faster and produced higher yields consistently across sites. Its roots were more attractive and tasted better. Every gardener recommended ‘Red Head’. ‘Sparkler’ struggled in this spring sowing. It often failed to produce a globular root, went to seed quickly, and had a harsh, sharp taste. Only a few gardeners recommended ‘Sparkler’.

**‘Sparkler’ bolted early and had a harsh, sharp taste.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

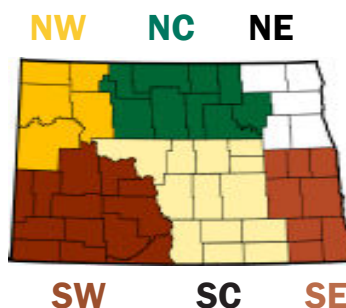
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A      ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B      ★★★★★ 😞

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



### Locations

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# Radish, Red (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Cherry Belle'

21 days. Classic, bright-red, globular radish. Smooth roots with crisp, white flesh. Grows quickly.

### 'Sora'

23 days. Superior quality. Red, globular roots with juicy, crisp white flesh. Tolerates heat. Reliable.



## Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cherry		
	Belle	Sora	Same
Germinated best	8%	15%	77%
Healthier plants	8	23	69
Harvested earlier	15	31	54
Higher yields	0	54	46
More attractive	15	62	23
Tasted better	17	50	33
Preference	23	77	
Recommend 😊	69	100	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.38	8.46	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	9.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Cherry Belle'

Cherry Belle 😊 SE  
Sora 😊

Both varieties were good. 'Cherry Belle' roots were rounder and more red in color. The leaves of 'Sora' looked better, were greener and suffered less insect damage.

Cherry Belle 😊 SW  
Sora 😊

'Cherry Belle' roots were crisper and grew longer into the growing season without getting woody.

Cherry Belle 😊 SD  
Sora 😊

'Cherry Belle' had slightly better taste.

### Prefer 'Sora'

Cherry Belle 😊 MN  
Sora 😊

Both varieties germinated very well (98%). 'Sora' had less insect damage to its leaves. 'Sora' grew well and produced a higher, more consistent yield. 'Cherry Belle' roots cracked open sooner.

Cherry Belle 😊 MN  
Sora 😊

'Sora' radishes were more consistent in flavor, texture and bite. It had more radish flavor. Some 'Cherry Belle' roots did not form into globes.

Cherry Belle 😊 SE  
Sora 😊

'Sora' had higher yields. They were both too hot for my taste.

Cherry Belle 😊 NC  
Sora 😊

I really prefer the taste of 'Sora'. Its color is brighter and there are fewer flaws in the skin. 'Cherry Belle' was ready to harvest earlier. Both varieties had uniformly sized roots.

Cherry Belle 😊 NC  
Sora 😊

'Sora' had a spicy, full bodied flavor. Both varieties stood up well to hot temperatures.

**'Cherry Belle' is a popular variety known for its rapid production of quality roots.**

### Best red radish varieties

Top choice  
Roxanne

Strong performers  
Champion  
Cherry Belle  
Rover  
Sora

## Prefer 'Sora' (continued)

Cherry Belle ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
 Sora ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties thrived and had great taste. 'Sora' roots looked more attractive.

Cherry Belle ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Sora ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sora' was ready first, more uniform, more productive and had great taste. It had nice, smaller leaves.

Cherry Belle ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠  
 Sora ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sora' was more consistent. Each plant had a beautiful, nicely shaped radish. Its flavor was good and milder.

Cherry Belle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛  
 Sora ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties grew in a similar manner. 'Sora' had less splitting and strange shapes and didn't get quite so hot. I liked its taste better. I expected 'Cherry Belle' to win because that's a variety I remember seeing for as long as I've been planting radishes.

Cherry Belle ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛  
 Sora ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Sora' had earlier yield, higher production and a more attractive root. Its small, compact top would be excellent for a small garden. I had issues with flea beetles, especially on 'Sora'. My in-laws enjoy being involved in the tasting portion of the trials, and they thought both varieties were delicious.

Cherry Belle ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
 Sora ★★★★★★ 😊 PA

Both varieties had hardy plants and excellent taste. 'Sora' had just the right flavor. It grew faster, had larger roots, and a higher yield. 'Sora' roots were bright red. 'Cherry Belle' was slightly milder. Its roots were bright rose in color.

**'Sora' produced higher, more consistent yields. Its roots were more uniform and had great taste.**

## Conclusions

'Sora' has a reputation for being tolerant of heat, and its performance in this spring trial reinforced this feature. 'Sora' produced higher, more consistent yields across the state. Its roots were more uniform, more attractive, less susceptible to cracking, and had great taste. 'Cherry Belle' is a popular variety known for its rapid production of quality roots. 'Cherry Belle' grew well this spring, but 'Sora' grew much better. Every gardener recommended 'Sora'.

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

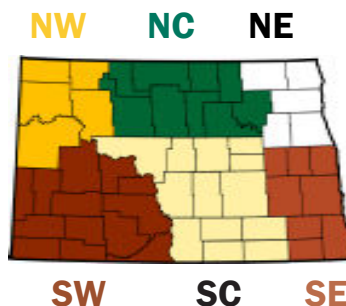
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★★ 😞

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



## Locations

MN = Minnesota  
 NE = Northeast  
 SE = Southeast  
 NC = North Central  
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 CO = Colorado  
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# Spinach, Semi-Savoy Leaf

## Varieties

### 'Avon'

42 days. Large, slightly crinkled, dark leaves. Sprightly sweet flavor. Vigorous and holds well in field.

### 'Escalade'

43 days. Medium to dark green leaves are uniform, large and round. Exceptional heat tolerance.



## Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Avon	Escalade	Same
Germinated best	36%	27%	36%
Healthier plants	27	36	36
Harvested earlier	50	20	30
Higher yields	9	27	64
Resisted bolting better	27	55	18
More attractive	30	20	50
Tasted better	10	40	50
Preference	27	73	
Recommend (😊)	42	92	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.00	7.17	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	5.50	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Avon'

Avon ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Avon' germinated better and resisted bolting. Its leaves were larger.

Avon ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Avon' had bigger leaves with less bolting.

Avon ★★★★★ 😊 -  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Avon' was healthier and tasted better.

### Prefer 'Escalade'

Avon ★★★★★ 😞 -  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Escalade' was healthier, resisted bolting better and tasted better.

Avon ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Escalade' had bigger leaves, better yield, and was later to bolt. Both varieties bolted more than I expected.

Avon ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Escalade' did much better in the heat. It did not bolt until July. 'Escalade' leaves were bigger and darker. I preferred the taste of 'Escalade'; it had a thicker leaf and bolder flavor. My wife preferred the more delicate texture and flavor of 'Avon'. 'Avon' had bigger, fuller plants with smaller leaves. It was ready to harvest a few days earlier and fared better against pests, but it bolted weeks earlier.

Avon ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Avon' bolted first and was more bitter. The leafminers were horrible on both varieties. There wasn't much of a useable harvest, even using pesticides.

Avon ★★★★★ 😞 🏠  
Escalade ★★★★★ 😊 NW

The taste of 'Escalade' was exceptional in salads, wilted, and in pesto.

'Avon' germinated well and was ready to harvest earlier at more sites.

**Best savoy-leaf spinach variety for spring sowing**

Top choice  
Escalade



## Prefer 'Escalade' (continued)

Avon ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
 Escalade ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 NW

These varieties were very similar.

Avon ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛  
 Escalade ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both seemed to bolt quickly, while the plants were still fairly small. 'Escalade' was slower to bolt. 'Avon' had a slightly bitter aftertaste.

Avon ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠  
 Escalade ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

'Escalade' produced earlier and a higher yield. 'Avon' took much longer to get going, but once it took it did well. 'Avon' had very nice leaves.

Avon ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠  
 Escalade ★★★★★☆ 😊 CO

'Escalade' germinated at 85% compared to 50% for 'Avon'. 'Escalade' produced first. Once I picked off the first few leaves, the 'Escalade' plants exploded. It produced significantly higher yields. Neither variety bolted super early, but both had areas where plants turned yellow and died. 'Escalade' was more heat tolerant. Both varieties were good tasting.

## No Preference

Avon ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠  
 Escalade ★★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Both varieties bolted immediately.

## Conclusions

'Escalade' is known for its tolerance to heat. Its plants were generally healthier and resisted bolting better in this spring sowing. 'Escalade' received high ratings for taste, too. Nearly all gardeners recommended 'Escalade'. 'Avon' germinated well and was ready to harvest earlier at more sites. Most gardeners did not recommend it for a spring sowing.

**'Escalade' was generally healthier and resisted bolting better in this spring sowing.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

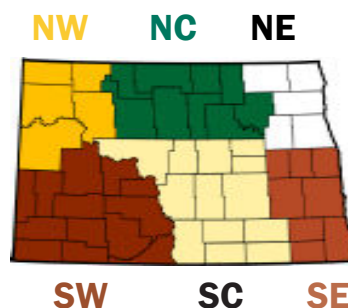
**Ratings (1 to 10)** → ★★★★★☆  
**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** → 😊 😞  
**Garden type** → 🐛 🏠 🧴 -  
**Location** → NC  
**Comments** → 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

### Garden types

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

### Locations

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# Spinach, Smooth Leaf

## Varieties

### 'Lizard'

45 days. Smooth, round leaves on upright plants stay clean and are easy to harvest. Tolerates heat.

### 'Space'

37 days. Thick, dark-green, sweet and juicy leaves. A top performer in North Dakota. Resists diseases.



## Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lizard	Space	Same
Germinated best	30%	30%	40%
Healthier plants	42	11	47
Harvested earlier	20	30	50
Higher yields	32	37	32
Resisted bolting	35	29	35
More attractive	35	15	50
Tasted better	40	20	40
Preference	47	53	
Recommend (😊)	85	75	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.65	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Lizard'

Lizard 😊 NE  
Space 😊

'Lizard' performed better overall. It was healthier, produced higher yields, and resisted bolting better. We like a more mild flavor, which 'Space' had.

Lizard 😊 SE  
Space 😞

The very dark green color of 'Lizard' was very attractive. It bolted later. 'Space' had many plants that turned yellow with heat.

Lizard 😊   
Space 😞

'Lizard' was prolific. It just kept giving!

Lizard 😊 NC  
Space 😊

'Lizard' had a little thicker textured leaf for cooking. 'Space' is better for salads.

Lizard 😊 SC  
Space 😊

'Lizard' stayed crisper for a longer time.

Lizard 😊 SC  
Space 😞

'Lizard' was darker green and looked better. Its flavor was deeper, but not too strong.

Lizard 😊 NW  
Space 😞

'Lizard' tasted better and was very dark green.

Lizard 😊 NW  
Space 😞

'Lizard' was the clear winner. Its leaves were very crisp and tasty. 'Space' leaves were very bitter. 'Lizard' produced a much larger crop.

Lizard 😊 SW  
Space 😊

'Lizard' had a better taste and greener color.

## Prefer 'Space'

Lizard 😊 NE  
Space 😊

'Space' produced a better yield. Its plants were fuller. The flavor of 'Lizard' was more "spinachy" and less earthy.

**Gardeners enjoyed the dark green, flavorful leaves of 'Lizard'. The plants were healthy and resisted bolting.**

**Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for spring sowing**

Top choice  
Space

Strong performers  
Lizard  
Olympia

## Prefer 'Space' (continued)

Lizard  SE  
 Space 

Both of these varieties were awesome. 'Lizard' had a bit of a deeper "green" taste, if that makes sense. I really enjoyed that, but my children and the general public would probably think 'Space' tasted better as it was a bit more neutral in taste. The yield of 'Space' was a bit bigger. Overall, its taste and leaf quality was preferred.

Lizard  SE  
 Space 

The yield of 'Space' was higher by far. 'Lizard' leaves were darker and richer in color and more flavorful. While I liked the appearance and taste better of 'Lizard', I would sacrifice that for the higher yield of 'Space'.

Lizard  SE  
 Space 

I liked the looks of 'Space' better. 'Space' grew more vigorously. 'Lizard' resisted bolting better.

Lizard  SE  
 Space 

'Space' germinated slightly better. Both varieties produced good crops.

Lizard  -  
 Space  SC

I liked the lighter color and smoother leaves of 'Space' compared to the darker green, scrunchy leaves of 'Lizard'. 'Space' had bigger plants from the start and produced higher yields. Both varieties tasted good.

Lizard  SC  
 Space 

Both varieties germinated very well. 'Space' had larger leaves and produced two cuttings. 'Lizard' bolted after the first cutting.

Lizard  SC  
 Space 

'Space' was more prolific and resisted bolting better.

Lizard  NW  
 Space 

We liked the flavor of 'Space'. Both varieties were good. They bolted by July 7.

Lizard  SW  
 Space 

'Space' had much better flavor. Its plants looked healthier and resisted bolting better.

## No Preference

Lizard  NE  
 Space 

We enjoyed both of these smooth-leaf varieties.

## Conclusions

'Lizard' is a new variety that shows great promise. Its leaves were very dark green and flavorful. The plants were healthy and resisted bolting. 'Space' has been a strong and reliable performer in our trials for many years. It produced high yields again this spring.

**'Space' is a reliable variety that produced high yields again this spring.**

# Squash, Dark Zucchini (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Desert'

50 days. High yields of straight fruits. Open plants make harvesting easy. Vines resist powdery mildew.

### 'Dunja'

47 days. Disease-resistant vines produce glossy fruits. The open plants are easy to harvest.



## Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Desert	Dunja	Same
Germinated best	33%	8%	<b>58%</b>
Healthier plants	25	25	<b>50</b>
Harvested earlier	<b>50</b>	33	17
Higher yields	17	33	<b>50</b>
More attractive fruits	17	33	<b>50</b>
Tasted better	17	17	<b>67</b>
Preference	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	
Recommend (☺)	75	<b>83</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.83	<b>8.25</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.50	<b>9.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Desert'

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☹ MN

'Dunja' had an odd shape and a woodier texture even when young.

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Desert' tasted better.

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Desert' had a somewhat more appealing appearance, but both were great! Both varieties had heavy yields. You won't be having a zucchini shortage with these varieties.

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Desert' produced first. This trial was grown under cover.

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☺ SC

The first harvests were not great. There were lots of fruits with blossom end rot. Leaves died.

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☹ SW

They were both great performers. Plants watered from soaker hose only and 'Desert' was mildew free for the entire season.

Grandson sold these at market and made quite a profit. 'Dunja' had quite a bit of mildew and produced less. I would go with 'Desert' every year. I'm still looking for a compact organic variety for a small garden.

## Prefer 'Dunja'

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Dunja' had smaller fruits. Its skin was easier to peel. The skin of 'Desert' was tougher.

Desert ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Dunja' produced first and kept producing until I had to pull them.

**These varieties received similar ratings for nearly all traits, including yield and fruit quality.**

**Best dark green zucchini varieties**

**Top choice**  
Raven

**Strong performer**  
Desert

## Prefer 'Dunja' (continued)

Desert ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠  
 Dunja ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Dunja' fruits were more attractive. It had higher yields.

Desert ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Dunja' produced well, although we did have some blossom end rot later in the fall.

'Desert' plants died. We would like to try both again to verify results.

Desert ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞  
 Dunja ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

The fruits of 'Dunja' had a better appearance.

Desert ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
 Dunja ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Dunja' tasted better.

## Conclusions

'Desert' and 'Dunja' received similar ratings for nearly all traits, including yield and fruit quality. Both varieties were productive. Gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on which variety they preferred.

**Gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on which variety they preferred.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

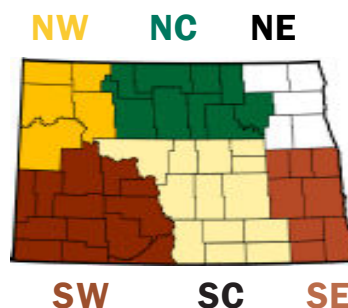
**Comments** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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# Squash, Green Zucchini

## Varieties

### 'Cashflow'

45 days. Open, vigorous plants produce heavy yields of 8-inch, high quality fruits.

### 'Green Machine'

45 days. Disease-resistant vines produce exceptional yields of straight fruits over a long period.



## Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cash- flow	Green Machine	Same
Germinated best	27%	27%	45%
Healthier plants	0	55	45
Harvested earlier	18	64	18
Higher yields	9	27	64
More attractive fruits	27	27	45
Tasted better	9	18	73
Preference	27	73	
Recommend	82	91	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.91	8.73	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	9.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Cashflow'

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE

'Cashflow' fruits were easier to remove from the plant. The stems of 'Green Machine' fruits had a tendency to break from the fruit and stay on the plant, so I had to harvest using clippers. 'Cashflow' had more aborted fruits early in the year. Neither variety was great, but we had large production all year.

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Cashflow' produced more fruits. Its fruits tasted slightly better and were more uniform in size.

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😞 SW

'Cashflow' had more attractive fruits. It produced steadily over a long period. 'Green Machine' had the first fruits. Overall yields of the varieties were similar.

### Prefer 'Green Machine'

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Green Machine' produced beautiful fruit. 'Cashflow' did not produce any fruit.

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Green Machine' was healthier.

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

The fruits of 'Green Machine' ripened first, were plentiful, and had beautiful color! Overall yields of the varieties were similar.

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Green Machine' was a better producer. Both varieties were very good tasting and slow to mature. I was very surprised that both stayed tender for a long time.

Cashflow ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛  
Green Machine ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Cashflow' produced a good yield, but the yield of 'Green Machine' was tremendous! 'Green Machine' plants were healthy and robust. 'Cashflow' got mildew faster.

**Both varieties produced lots of attractive, delicious fruits.**

**Best green zucchini varieties**

**Top choice**  
Spineless  
Beauty

**Strong performers**  
Cashflow  
Green  
Machine  
Payload

## Prefer 'Green Machine' (continued)

Cashflow ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties had 100% germination. 'Green Machine' plants were big and bushy with large leaves. 'Cashflow' produced first. Both varieties were high yielding. Their fruits had a nice green color and were very good tasting.

Cashflow ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
 Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Green Machine' germinated better. I preferred its thinner, lighter colored skin. Both varieties were hit with hail on July 5 but came back to produce.

Cashflow ★★★★★ 😊 🏠🕒  
 Green Machine ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties produced lots of fruits, but 'Green Machine' produced earlier.

## Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of attractive, delicious fruits. Most gardeners preferred 'Green Machine'. Its vines were robust and healthier. 'Green Machine' produced the first fruits but total yields were similar. Gardeners did not show a strong preference for taste qualities.

**Most gardeners preferred 'Green Machine'. Its vines were healthier and produced fruits earlier.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)** →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →

😊

😞

**Garden type**

🐛 = Organic

🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

**Location**

NC

**Locations**

MN = Minnesota

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# Squash, Summer Yellow

## Varieties

### 'Multipik'

50 days. Smooth, bright yellow fruits. No green streaking. Amazing yields. Great for grilling.

### 'Slick Pik YS 26'

48 days. Early yields of flavorful fruits. Spineless vines lead to easy harvesting and blemish-free fruits.



## Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Slick Pik		
	Multipik	YS 26	Same
Germinated best	9%	27%	64%
Healthier plants	36	36	27
Harvested earlier	55	36	9
Higher yields	36	45	18
More attractive fruits	18	36	45
Tasted better	18	18	64
Preference	64	36	
Recommend (😊)	83	75	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.50	7.91	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.50	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Multipik'

Multipik ★★★★★😊🐛  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😞MN

'Multipik' ripened first and produced more squash. 'Slick Pik YS 26' grew slower, had more blossom end rot, more powdery mildew and did not taste as good.

Multipik ★★★★★😊🏠  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😊MN

'Multipik' produced better.

Multipik ★★★★★😊🐛  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😊SE

'Slick Pik YS 26' had some rot on the end of a few fruits. Otherwise, they were both great! 'Multipik' ripened first.

Multipik ★★★★★😊🐛  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😊SE

While they both produced well, I prefer the shape (long, sleek, meaty) of 'Multipik'. I would choose both over any crookneck squash.

Multipik ★★★★★😊🐛  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😊SE

'Multipik' was healthier. Both varieties produced a ton of squash, far more than I've grown in the past.

Multipik ★★★★★😊🐛  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😊SE

'Multipik' had a higher yield and tasted better.

Multipik ★★★★★😊🏠  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😞SC

My soil is poor. 'Multipik' had more production.

## Prefer 'Slick Pik YS 26'

Multipik ★★★★★😊🐛  
Slick Pik YS 26 ★★★★★😊NC

I prefer the long, smooth, slender fruit of 'Slick Pik YS 26' for slicing. 'Multipik' fruits were squatty and bumpy. 'Slick Pik YS 26' had larger plants and seemed more resistant to powdery mildew. Both varieties produced tremendously.

**Both varieties had healthy plants that produced lots of fruits. 'Multipik' produced earlier at most sites.**



**Best summer yellow squash varieties**



**Top choice**  
Multipik



**Strong performers**

Gentry  
Gold Star  
Slick Pik YS 26  
Sundance

## Prefer 'Slick Pik YS 26' (continued)

Multipik  SC  
 Slick Pik YS 26  SC  
 'Multipik' fruits were small and did not taste good.

Multipik  NW  
 Slick Pik YS 26  NW  
 'Slick Pik YS 26' fruits were more uniform in shape and had nice skin.

Multipik  SW  
 Slick Pik YS 26  SW  
 'Slick Pik YS 26' produced a few more squash. Its fruits were more uniform. Both varieties had a good, mild flavor.

## No Preference

Multipik  SE  
 Slick Pik YS 26  SE

There was a minimal rate of germination, but the plants were vigorous. Once these plants started growing, there was no discerning between varieties! I had expected higher yields than what I got. All tasted good!



## Conclusions

Both varieties had healthy plants that produced lots of fruits. Most gardeners preferred 'Multipik'. It produced earlier at most sites. 'Multipik' has always been a strong performer in our trials. Gardeners gave high ratings to 'Slick Pik YS 26'. Its fruits were consistently smooth and slender. Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties and did not express a clear preference.




**The fruits of 'Slick Pik YS 26' were consistently smooth and slender.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

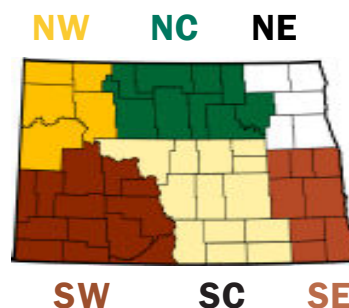
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A   
 Variety B   
**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.  
**Garden type** →  
 NC  
**Location** →  
**Comments** →

#### Garden types

-  = Organic
-  = Uses inorganic fertilizers
-  = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

#### Locations

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# Squash, Winter Acorn

## Varieties

### 'Autumn Delight'

80 days. High yields of uniform fruits with dark-green skin. Semibush vines tolerate mildew.

### 'Sweet REBA'

90 days. This resistant early bush acorn (REBA) has it all. High yields. Semi-bush. Sweet, dry flesh.



## Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Autumn Delight	Sweet REBA	Same
Germinated best	47%	13%	40%
Healthier plants	53	7	40
Harvested earlier	33	27	40
Higher yields	53	7	40
More attractive fruits	40	13	47
Tasted better	25	17	58
Preference	60	40	
Recommend	93	67	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.47	7.87	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Autumn Delight'

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SE  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Autumn Delight' produced more squash per plant.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 NC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties yielded about the same. We oven-roasted an 'Autumn Delight' and it was so good!

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 NC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Autumn Delight' had larger squash. It produced three times more than 'Sweet REBA'. 'Autumn Delight' had a better texture. The vines of both varieties were healthy.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 NC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Both varieties produced nice fruits. 'Autumn Delight' fruits were bigger and tasted better.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 NC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC

'Autumn Delight' matured much faster and produced more squash.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😞 SC

'Autumn Delight' far outproduced 'Sweet REBA'. Its plants produced more mature vegetables at harvest. I picked an 'Autumn Delight' on August 28. It was 18 inches in diameter and had beautiful, meaty flesh.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Autumn Delight' fruits were heavier.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC

'Autumn Delight' produced twice as much squash.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SC  
Sweet REBA ★★★★★☆ 😞 NC

'Autumn Delight' grew better and was more productive. Raccoons smashed the planting before harvest.

**'Autumn Delight' rated higher for all traits. It was healthier and produced much higher yields across the state.**

**Best acorn winter squash varieties**

**Top choice**  
Carnival

**Strong performers**

Autumn Delight  
Black Bellota  
Table Ace  
Table King



## Prefer 'Sweet REBA'

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ ☹️ -  
 Sweet REBA ★★★★★★ 😊 MN  
 'Sweet REBA' had larger fruit.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN  
 Sweet REBA ★★★★★★ 😊 MN  
 'Sweet REBA' produced larger squash.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 MN  
 Sweet REBA ★★★★★★ 😊 MN  
 I really like 'Sweet REBA'. It had good taste, texture and yield.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 NC  
 Sweet REBA ★★★★★★ 😊 NC  
 With just the two of us, the fruits of 'Sweet REBA' are the perfect size. They are delicious. 'Autumn Delight' is better for bigger families or larger groups. 'Autumn Delight' seedlings emerged first. Its plants were bigger and healthier all along. 'Sweet REBA' matured first. 'Autumn Delight' produced 18 squash (43.9 pounds) and 'Sweet REBA' produced 10 squash (14.4 pounds).

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 NW  
 Sweet REBA ★★★★★★ 😊 NW  
 These varieties were very similar.

Autumn Delight ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 NW  
 Sweet REBA ★★★★★★ 😊 NW  
 'Sweet REBA' squash were small but meaty, very few seeds, and were delicious. We were not expecting that taste, because they did not look like typical acorn squash. Both varieties produced a large number of squash and we hope to keep them all winter. I would plant either or both again!

**The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced tasty fruits.**

## Conclusions

'Autumn Delight' rated higher for all traits. It was healthier and produced much higher yields across the state. Nearly all gardeners recommended it. Most gardeners liked 'Sweet REBA' but it was inferior in all respects. The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced tasty fruits.

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

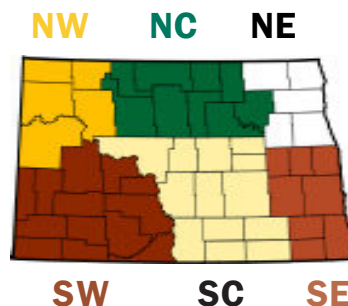
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★☆  
 Variety B ★★★★★☆ ☹️

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



## Locations

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

# Squash, Winter Delicata (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Honey Boat'

100 days. One of the sweetest squashes. Long fruits with copper skin and green striping. Stores well.

### 'Zeppelin'

100 days. Classic delicata with creamy-yellow skin and green stripes. Exceptional flavor.



## Data

Gardeners at 74 sites submitted information.

Trait	Honey		
	Boat	Zeppelin	Same
Germinated best	15%	<b>53%</b>	33%
Healthier plants	23	35	<b>42</b>
Harvested earlier	28	<b>47</b>	26
Higher yields	16	<b>63</b>	22
More attractive fruits	32	23	<b>45</b>
Tasted better	28	24	<b>48</b>
Preference	42	<b>58</b>	
Recommend	60	<b>81</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.06	<b>7.25</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.00	<b>8.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Honey Boat'

Honey Boat MN  
 Zeppelin MN  
 'Honey Boat' was high yielding and had good flavor.

Honey Boat MN  
 Zeppelin MN  
 'Honey Boat' was earlier and looked healthier.

Honey Boat NE  
 Zeppelin NE  
 We liked the taste and texture of 'Honey Boat' better. It was slightly more dry. The vines of both varieties sprawled over a large area in the garden.

Honey Boat   
 Zeppelin SE

The fruits of 'Honey Boat' had a brighter color and looked best.

Honey Boat   
 Zeppelin SE

Both tasted good, but 'Honey Boat' tasted a little better. The vines of both varieties were nice and healthy. 'Zeppelin' produced more but not by a lot.

Honey Boat   
 Zeppelin SE

Both were good. We felt the flavor of 'Honey Boat' was better.

Honey Boat   
 Zeppelin SE

Both are great varieties. 'Honey Boat' fruits look prettier and the flesh had a creamier, more squashy taste compared to 'Zeppelin'. 'Zeppelin' produced higher yields and was less prone to mildew.

Honey Boat   
 Zeppelin SE

Both varieties had lots of vines, flowers and spread well. They were slow to produce fruit. By the time the frost came, only some of the fruits were mature. In another month perhaps they would have been ready. 'Honey Boat' had more mature fruit. I would not plant this squash as the fruit is too hard to use and takes too long to mature with a lot of vines. I am going back to buttercup squash.

**Slightly more gardeners preferred the fruit appearance and taste of 'Honey Boat'.**

**Best delicata winter squash varieties**

**Top choice**  
 Cornell's Bush Delicata

**Strong performer**  
 Zeppelin

## Prefer 'Honeyboat' (continued)

Honey Boat NC  
 Zeppelin SC

'Honey Boat' tasted better.

Honey Boat SC  
 Zeppelin SC

I had slightly better luck with 'Honey Boat'.

Honey Boat SC  
 Zeppelin SC

'Honey Boat' was slightly sweeter. 'Zeppelin' had better germination and yield.

Honey Boat -  
 Zeppelin SC

'Honey Boat' had stronger vines, set fruit earlier, was a better producer and had larger fruit. I am definitely a fan of 'Honey Boat' and will grow it again!

Honey Boat SC  
 Zeppelin SC

'Honey Boat' had better taste.

Honey Boat SC  
 Zeppelin SC

'Honey Boat' tasted better.

Honey Boat SC  
 Zeppelin SC

Neither variety matured before killing frost. 'Honey Boat' vines were more vigorous and had more fruits.

Honey Boat SC  
 Zeppelin SC

In taste, 'Honey Boat' wins hugely for us. Its flavor was much more robust. Everyone in our family kept reaching for 'Honey Boat' over 'Zeppelin'. We grow delicata squash every year, so this was a fun trial for us, and 'Honey Boat' will now be our choice of variety! 'Zeppelin' had darker green leaves that were beautiful. 'Zeppelin' fruits were much longer and had a pretty, exterior cream color.

Honey Boat SC  
 Zeppelin SC

Both did exceptionally well, and I would plant either again. The only downfall: they are big spreaders and took up much room in the garden. However, it's a small sacrifice for how much produce you are provided!

Honey Boat -  
 Zeppelin SC

'Honey Boat' was delicious.

Honey Boat SW  
 Zeppelin SW

'Honey Boat' had 100% germination compared to 50% for 'Zeppelin'. Both varieties developed powdery mildew but 'Honey Boat' showed more resistance to it. The early frost came before the fruit fully ripened.

Honey Boat SW  
 Zeppelin SW

'Honey Boat' germinated faster and its fruits tasted sweeter. I wished it produced more. 'Zeppelin' had a higher yield and tasted good.

Honey Boat SW  
 Zeppelin SW

'Honey Boat' fruits were more attractive and better tasting.

## Prefer 'Zeppelin'

Honey Boat MN  
 Zeppelin MN

'Zeppelin' plants grew larger vines. It bloomed first and produced the first fruits. 'Zeppelin' had much larger fruits and higher yields. 'Zeppelin' surprised me with its delicious, very sweet fruit.

Honey Boat MN  
 Zeppelin MN

Both varieties struggled and their fruits were very small. Only the 'Zeppelin' fruits were harvestable.

**Vines of both varieties were aggressive, taking up a lot of room in gardens.**

## Prefer 'Zeppelin' (continued)

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  

'Zeppelin' grew faster, bloomed first, and produced more fruits. The fruits were delicious! I will definitely grow them next year. My new favorite squash!

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  

'Zeppelin' germinated best and produced a higher yield.

Honey Boat  -  
 Zeppelin  NE

Although both were similar, 'Zeppelin' vines looked better through the year.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NE

'Zeppelin' germinated better. It produced many fruits, and these fruits had very pretty colors.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NE

'Zeppelin' skin was thinner. All around, 'Zeppelin' blew 'Honey Boat' away in terms of plant and fruit growth as well as taste and skin thickness.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

'Zeppelin' was more productive.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

More 'Zeppelin' seeds sprouted, and it was more vigorous growing. Yields and taste qualities of the varieties were similar.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

Both varieties had huge plants that took over our garden. They are good producers but many of the fruits froze before they were ripe. 'Zeppelin' had better flavor, but the texture of 'Honey Boat' is much better. I prefer buttercup squash.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

'Zeppelin' ripened first.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

'Zeppelin' was healthier and produced more fruits.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

'Honey Boat' did not germinate.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

'Honey Boat' seeds did not germinate.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

We received hail on August 14 and most of the fruits were damaged. However, the plants rebloomed and we were able to harvest some fruits in late September. I covered them though the first few frost events. We liked the flavor of 'Zeppelin' better. We felt it had a creamier texture.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

'Zeppelin' was robust. It tasted good.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SE

'Zeppelin' was higher yielding, tasted better, and germinated faster. The fruits of both varieties were small compared to buttercup.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NC

I never grew this type of squash before, and I liked it a lot. The size of the fruits makes it easier to use for a meal for two and for processing. I liked the softer shell and that it can be eaten.



Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NC

I prefer traditional winter squash over these. If a gardener had a small space these would be a good option. Also, I didn't feel they were as sweet as other varieties.



**Most gardeners preferred 'Zeppelin'. It germinated better, grew vigorously, and produced higher yields.**



## Prefer 'Zeppelin' (continued)

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SC  
 'Zeppelin' produced countless squash. It was unreal.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SC  
 Both varieties germinated well. Half of the 'Honey Boat' plants were killed by high winds.



Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SC  
 'Zeppelin' had more uniformly shaped and sized squash.



Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SC  
 'Zeppelin' was very tasty and easy to bake. I planted and replanted 'Honey Boat' and it did not grow well. It was very sickly.



Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SC  
 'Zeppelin' had vigorous and long vines that produced 26 fruits. It tolerated the light frost better. 'Honey Boat' vines were compact and produced 6 fruits. The fruits of both varieties were very good when baked—nice balance of sweetness.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NW  
 'Zeppelin' produced more, and its fruits had a better taste.



Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NW  
 'Zeppelin' was more productive.



Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NW  
 'Zeppelin' germinated much better and was a good producer.



Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SW  
 'Zeppelin' grew nicely but neither variety produced ripe fruits before frost.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SW  
 'Zeppelin' was the more productive and faster growing of the two varieties.

## No Preference

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  NC  
 Neither grew well for me. Germination was poor and no fruits were grown.

Honey Boat  -   
 Zeppelin  SC  
 Neither variety impressed me. They were quite tasteless. The seed cavity was so large there was little to eat. I will not plant either again.

Honey Boat    
 Zeppelin  SC  
 'Honey Boat' germinated at 60% compared to 33% for 'Zeppelin'. 'Honey Boat' produced 58 fruits compared to 60 fruits for 'Zeppelin'. I really wish we would have had a longer growing season which would have allowed proper maturation.

## Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Zeppelin'. It germinated better, grew vigorously, and produced higher yields. Vines of both varieties were aggressive, taking up a lot of room in gardens. Gardeners who preferred 'Honey Boat' often mentioned its great taste. Overall, slightly more gardeners preferred the fruit appearance and taste of 'Honey Boat'. The early frost reduced yields in several gardens. 'Zeppelin' ripened earlier at more sites.

**The early frost reduced yields in several gardens. 'Zeppelin' ripened earlier at more sites.**



# Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

## Varieties

### 'Butter Baby'

100 days. Petite, 0.5–1.5-pound fruits with flavorful, dark-orange flesh. Stores well. Semi-bush plants.

### 'Butterscotch'

100 days. Small, 1–2-pound fruits. Flesh is rich and sweet. Short, semi-bush plants resist mildew.



## Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Butter Baby	Butterscotch	Same
Germinated best	17%	25%	58%
Healthier plants	17	42	42
Harvested earlier	25	42	33
Higher yields	17	50	33
More attractive fruits	42	25	33
Tasted better	9	18	73
Preference	45	55	
Recommend	67	83	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.83	7.42	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	6.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Butter Baby'

Butter Baby ★★★★★ ☹️ 🍷  
Butterscotch ★★★★★ ☹️ NE

'Butter Baby' germinated at 67% compared to 50% for 'Butterscotch'. 'Butter Baby' produced twice as many squash. Its fruits had a darker color and were more consistent in size. 'Butterscotch' tasted better; it was slightly sweet. I do not recommend either variety because their plants did not appear to be compact compared to regular winter squash.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😊 SE

They were both great varieties! I liked the smaller size of 'Butter Baby' fruits.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were good. 'Butter Baby' had a slightly richer taste.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ ☹️ 🍷  
Butterscotch ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

We did not like the taste of either variety. Their fruits were smaller and the right size for two.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🍷  
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😊 SC

We harvested more 'Butter Baby' (20 squash) than 'Butterscotch' (12 squash), but 'Butterscotch' fruits were larger. 'Butter Baby' fruits were better tasting, being creamier and sweeter. Both varieties were easy to grow with little maintenance needed.

## Prefer 'Butterscotch'

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties grew vigorously and produced wonderful yields. 'Butterscotch' produced slightly more. I loved the size of these smaller fruits. They are more adaptable for 1–2 persons to eat at a meal. The fruits of both varieties were uniform. I loved the taste of both varieties. 'Butterscotch' had a nuttier flavor.

**Gardeners liked the smaller size of 'Butter Baby' fruits.**

## Best butternut winter squash varieties

### Top choice

Early  
Butternut

### Strong performers

Butter Baby  
Butterscotch  
Waltham

## Prefer 'Butterscotch' (continued)

Butter Baby  😊   
Butterscotch  😊 SC

'Butterscotch' grew faster. Its fruits were more even in size and had a pretty yellow color. The vines of 'Butter Baby' did not spread out as far.

Butter Baby  😞   
Butterscotch  😊 SC

'Butterscotch' had much larger fruits and overall healthier plants. Both varieties had squash with very creamy, orange flesh.

Butter Baby  😊   
Butterscotch  😊 SC

'Butterscotch' produced more.

Butter Baby  😞   
Butterscotch  😊 NW

'Butterscotch' produced higher yields. Its fruits had more flavor.

Butter Baby  😊   
Butterscotch  😊 SW

'Butterscotch' produced better.

## No Preference

Butter Baby  😊   
Butterscotch  😊 NE

Both varieties produced a big crop with no issues. I am having a hard time finding a use for these fruits since most members of my family prefer buttercup squash.

## Conclusions

Both varieties were easy to grow. 'Butterscotch' produced higher yields at more sites. It was preferred and recommended by more gardeners. Gardeners liked the smaller size of 'Butter Baby' fruits. They enjoyed the taste of both varieties, not showing a clear preference. For the second straight year, the baby butternut trial was more popular than the standard butternut trial.

**'Butterscotch'  
produced  
higher yields at  
more sites.**

# Squash, Winter Butternut

## Varieties

### 'Autumn Frost'

100 days. Uniquely ribbed, blocky shape. Great flavor, stores well and can be decorative. Semi-bush vines.

### 'Early Butternut'

82 days. Early maturing hybrid produces good yields of delicious fruits on compact vines.



## Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Autumn Early		
	Frost	Butternut	Same
Germinated best	23%	31%	46%
Healthier plants	38	23	38
Harvested earlier	31	46	23
Higher yields	36	36	29
More attractive fruits	46	23	31
Tasted better	0	58	42
Preference	33	67	
Recommend	67	73	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.93	7.47	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	6.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Autumn Frost'

Autumn Frost ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Early Butternut ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SE

'Autumn Frost' had a frosty covering on the fruits and an acorn shape. Its fruits were more attractive, its seeds were easy to pull out, and its harder shell suggests it might keep longer. 'Early Butternut' had a normal butternut shape and more squash meat. Ten percent of its fruits split in the field.

Autumn Frost ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Early Butternut ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NC  
 'Early Butternut' did not germinate well and did not produce any ripe fruits.

Autumn Frost ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Early Butternut ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SC  
 'Early Butternut' germinated first, but 'Autumn Frost' was much more vigorous and had five times the yield. 'Autumn Frost' squash were just gorgeous. 'Early Butternut' was what you would expect from a traditional butternut but wasn't nearly as productive. 'Early Butternut' fruits were easier to peel and had a sweeter taste.

Autumn Frost ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Early Butternut ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW  
 'Autumn Frost' produced a higher yield. Its fruits were attractive although they looked more like an acorn squash than a butternut.

Autumn Frost ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🕒  
 Early Butternut ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SW  
 Even though both germinated well, I only got one squash from 'Early Butternut'. 'Autumn Frost' produced 10. I had this trial planted next to my pumpkins which got powdery mildew pretty bad towards the end of the season, but the squash plants seemed to resist it pretty well.

**'Autumn Frost' fruits were beautiful. They had a blocky shape and a frosty covering on the rind.**

**Best butternut winter squash varieties**

**Top choice**

Early Butternut

**Strong performers**

Butter Baby  
 Butterscotch  
 Waltham

## Prefer 'Early Butternut'

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  NE

'Early Butternut' germinated within 2 days. Its vines were healthy and had more fruits and the first fruit. 'Early Butternut' fruits had a nice shape and nice color; they were sweeter and tasted better. 'Autumn Frost' did not grow very well.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  NE

'Early Butternut' had better flavor. Both varieties were very prolific.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  SE

'Early Butternut' had a much higher yield. It has a more refined and smoother taste. That said, if one is looking for a stunningly pretty squash to set on their table, 'Autumn Frost' wins the attractiveness test.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  SE

'Early Butternut' fruits were a bit larger.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  SE

'Autumn Frost' and 'Early Butternut' were very different. Both had a very nice shape and quality. 'Early Butternut' was more productive and easier to peel.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  NC

We thought these still weren't mature at frost, because the outside was hard and had green tint to them, but we harvested and cooked some and they tasted good. 'Early Butternut' had a few more fruits at harvest.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  NC

'Early Butternut' produced nice squash. 'Autumn Frost' did not produce any ripe fruits.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  SC

'Early Butternut' fruits had a smaller seed cavity and were easier to peel. Both varieties germinated well and were very healthy. Their fruits were quite different but both attractive.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  NW

The flesh of 'Early Butternut' was moist. The flesh of 'Autumn Frost' was quite dry; more like a buttercup than a butternut squash.

Autumn Frost    
 Early Butternut  SW

I prefer 'Early Butternut' because there's a lot more "meat" per squash due to size. Both varieties had very healthy plants, but 'Autumn Frost' handled wind better without looking tattered/wilted. Both varieties produced comparable numbers of fruits, but because 'Early Butternut' was larger and had smaller seed cavities, we got a lot more servings of 'Early Butternut'.

## Conclusions

'Early Butternut' has done well in our trials for years, and it grew well this year. Most gardeners preferred it over 'Autumn Frost'. 'Early Butternut' ripened earlier at more sites. Its fruits had the traditional, elongated butternut fruit shape. 'Early Butternut' fruits were easier to peel, had smaller seed cavities, and tastier flesh. 'Autumn Frost' fruits were beautiful. They had a blocky shape and a frosty covering on the rind. These fruits seem to be better used for decorating than for eating. No gardener preferred the taste of 'Autumn Frost' over 'Early Butternut'.

**'Early Butternut' fruits were easier to peel, had smaller seed cavities, and tastier flesh.**

# Swiss Chard, Multicolor (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Five Color Silverbeet'

55 days. Mix of orange, white, red, yellow and purple stems. Tender and delicious. Australian heirloom.

### 'Improved Rainbow'

60 days. Striking blend of colors. Upright habit keeps stems clean and easy to harvest.



## Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	F.C. Silverb.	Impr. Rainb.	Same
Germinated best	31%	13%	<b>56%</b>
Healthier plants	25	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>
Harvested earlier	31	19	<b>50</b>
Higher yields	31	<b>38</b>	31
More attractive	<b>38</b>	31	31
Tasted better	27	20	<b>53</b>
Preference	33	<b>67</b>	
Recommend	94	<b>100</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.88	<b>8.31</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	<b>8.50</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Five Color Silverbeet'

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Improved Rainbow ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Five Color Silverbeet' performed better overall. It tasted better.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Improved Rainbow ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties were good but 'Five Color Silverbeet' was slightly better. The red stalks of 'Five Color Silverbeet' were slightly brighter. There was very little difference in taste between the varieties.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Improved Rainbow ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Five Color Silverbeet' had a higher germination rate, leading to higher yields. 'Improved Rainbow' had holes in its leaves caused by insects; 'Five Color Silverbeet' did not. 'Five Color Silverbeet' bolted faster. 'Improved Rainbow' tasted slightly better as its flavor was stronger.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Improved Rainbow ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Improved Rainbow' wasn't colorful and didn't germinate as well.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Improved Rainbow ★★★★★ 😊 SK

'Five Color Silverbeet' performed slightly better. It produced a higher yield.

## Prefer 'Improved Rainbow'

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Improved Rainbow ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were so colorful and delicious! The plants of 'Improved Rainbow' were slightly larger. Otherwise they were very comparable. I highly recommend growing Swiss chard, especially the multicolored variety. It's just beautiful in the garden and quite tasty too!

**Gardeners gave high ratings to both varieties. The plants were colorful and delicious.**

## Best Swiss chard varieties

**Top choice**  
Bright Lights

**Strong performers**  
Flamingo  
Improved Rainbow  
Lucullus  
Oriole  
Peppermint  
Rhubarb



## Prefer 'Improved Rainbow' (cont.)

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Improved Rainbow' had better flavor. Its plants were bigger. Both varieties had great color! 'Five Color Silverbeet' looked gorgeous and uniform.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Five Color Silverbeet' bolted; 'Improved Rainbow' did not.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were very good producers. I loved the red/green color.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Improved Rainbow' had brighter colors, bigger stalks.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both did amazing! I couldn't believe how long they lasted without bolting—still standing after the first frost.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

They both did well, but 'Five Color Silverbeet' bolted a lot more. 'Improved Rainbow' produced more and tasted better.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties had a lot of leafminer damage. 'Five Color Silverbeet' bolted.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Improved Rainbow' had bigger leaves. We picked it first because it was going to seed. 'Five Color Silverbeet' plants were shorter and had nice leaves. It was more attractive.

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties did well, but they bolted due to lack of rain and high temperatures. We did not get to taste either variety.

## No Preference

Five Color Silverbeet ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Improved Rainbow ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

I could not tell a difference between the varieties. The final product was very colorful!

## Conclusions

Gardeners gave high ratings to both varieties. The plants were colorful and delicious. Most gardeners preferred 'Improved Rainbow'. Its plants were bigger and less prone to bolting during our hot, dry summer. 'Five Color Silverbeet' germinated better, was ready to harvest earlier, and looked more attractive to more gardeners.

**Most gardeners preferred 'Improved Rainbow'. Its plants were bigger and less prone to bolting.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

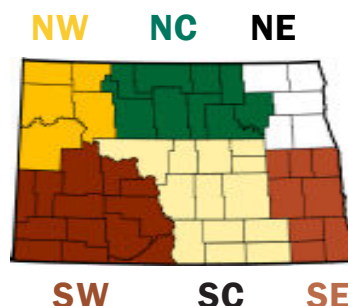
**Comments** →  
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

### Garden types

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### Locations

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# Watermelon, Red (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Crimson Sweet'

82 days. Award winner with juicy red flesh and few seeds. Melons weigh up to 25 pounds.

### 'Sweet Dakota Rose'

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 15 pounds. Reliable.



## Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	Crimson Sweet	S.Dak. Rose	Same
Germinated best	33%	<b>38%</b>	29%
Healthier plants	8	<b>54</b>	38
Matured earlier	24	<b>52</b>	24
Higher yields	24	<b>57</b>	19
More attractive fruits	20	20	<b>60</b>
Tasted better	11	42	<b>47</b>
Preference	40	<b>60</b>	
Recommend (😊)	65	<b>85</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.71	<b>8.10</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	<b>9.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Crimson Sweet'

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😊🏠  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😞MN

'Crimson Sweet' melons had excellent quality, flavor and texture. They were juicier.

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😊🏠  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊SE

'Crimson Sweet' produced more melons. Its melons were larger, more attractive and had better flavor. Both varieties tasted good.

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😞-  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😞SE

Neither variety really produced decent fruits. They were too late maturing to beat the frost. 'Crimson Sweet' germinated better.

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😊🏠  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊SE

Both varieties were productive. We harvested a total of 30 melons! The melons were attractive.

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😊🏠  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😞NC

Both varieties produced nice sized fruits and were good. 'Crimson Sweet' melons tasted better and were bigger.

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😊🏠  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊NC

We had a short growing season due to the early frost. We harvested only one 'Crimson Sweet' melon and it was good. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' never did ripen.

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😊🏠  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊NC

'Crimson Sweet' had 100% germination while 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had 65% germination.

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★😊🏠  
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★😊SC

I never had such good watermelons. Both varieties were very juicy and tasted real sweet. 'Crimson Sweet' ripened first and had a higher yield.

**'Sweet Dakota Rose' ripened earlier, but the yields of both varieties were greatly reduced by the early frost in fall.**

## Best red watermelon varieties

**Top choice**  
Sweet Dakota Rose

**Strong performers**  
Sangria  
Stargazer  
Sugar Baby

## Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Rose'

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  NE

Overall, 'Sweet Dakota Rose' performed better in just about every way. It germinated 2 days earlier. It produced in late August through early September, while 'Crimson Sweet' did not produce until September. I harvested 12 melons of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' and 6 melons of 'Crimson Sweet'. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had larger melons (largest 5.75 pounds), but they were more misshapen. 'Crimson Sweet' had smaller melons (largest 4.13 pounds) but they were rounder and prettier. The flesh of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' was crisp and sweet while the flesh of 'Crimson Sweet' was limpy and not sweet.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  NC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced earlier and a higher yield. Its melons were more attractive. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' is always good for us!

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  NC

Both varieties had wonderful melons. They were super sweet with proper watering. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' tasted especially great.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  NC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced many delicious melons. The melons had a dark red interior with the flesh being firm and sweet. 'Crimson Sweet' never got any melons on soon enough that we were able to harvest. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' is a delicious watermelon for northern gardeners!

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

We had a vine wilt fungus that killed all 'Crimson Sweet' and all but two of the 'Sweet Dakota Rose' plants, and they barely survived. The only watermelons we got were from 'Sweet Dakota Rose', and they were big and really good.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SE

'Sweet Dakota Rose' had better plant growth. It was healthier and produced a higher yield.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

There were many more fruits on the 'Sweet Dakota Rose' vines. They were planted side by side and the 'Sweet Dakota Rose' vines spilled over the raised beds and onto the lawn. The watermelons didn't get very big, but the one we did eat that the deer didn't get was quite sweet, although a wee bit mushy.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

The flesh of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had better taste and color. Its fruits were bigger.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

'Sweet Dakota Rose' is an awesome variety.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SC

The watermelons of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' were not big but very tasty. They were not too sweet.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SW

'Sweet Dakota Rose' germinated quite a bit better. Its melons were closest to being ripe before the early frost. It produced more. The melons of both varieties looked nice.

Crimson Sweet   
Sweet Dakota Rose  SW

I have tried watermelons in the past but never had this much success with them. Both varieties grew well. 'Crimson Sweet' had more uniformly sized melons that all ripened around the same time. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced more melons, but they were varying sizes and ripened gradually. I liked the gradual 3-week supply of melons versus a larger quantity at once. My only complaint is the inconsistent size of 'Sweet Dakota Rose'.

**'Sweet Dakota Rose' vines were healthier and more productive. The flesh of its melons was crisp, sweet and delicious.**

## No Preference

Crimson Sweet ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties were excellent. They had juicy and very sweet watermelons. The watermelons of ‘Crimson Sweet’ were larger.

## Conclusions

‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ was developed in North Dakota and it showed its superiority in our state again this year. Its ratings were exceptional for a watermelon. ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ vines were healthier and more productive. Its melons ripened earlier. The flesh of its melons was crisp, sweet and delicious. Some gardeners mentioned ‘Crimson Sweet’ had a more uniform fruit shape, but otherwise it was inferior. The yields of both varieties were greatly reduced by the early frost in fall.

**‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ was developed in North Dakota and it showed its superiority in our state again this year.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)**

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😊

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)**

😊  
 😊

**Garden type**

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

**Location**

NC

**Locations**

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# Watermelon, Red Icebox

## Varieties

### ‘Cherry Grande’

79 days. Melons are 12 inches long with pink flesh and a light-green rind. Early and super sweet.

### ‘Sugar Baby’

78 days. Popular, reliable melon. Deep-red, crisp flesh. Melons grow 8 inches long with dark rinds.



## Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cherry Grande	Sugar Baby	Same
Germinated best	9%	55%	36%
Healthier plants	8	67	25
Matured earlier	8	83	8
Higher yields	25	67	8
More attractive fruits	8	50	42
Tasted better	10	60	30
Preference	9	91	
Recommend (☺)	25	58	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	4.08	6.42	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	4.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer ‘Cherry Grande’

Cherry Grande ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ NC

‘Cherry Grande’ was sweeter—both were good though! I will plant both next summer. We started the plants in a greenhouse, and they germinated really well.

Cherry Grande ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ NW

Both varieties germinated late, but ‘Cherry Grande’ did better. Only two ‘Sugar Baby’ plants started but then died. The melons of ‘Cherry Grande’ were too small to eat. I wish they had time to grow before frost.

### Prefer ‘Sugar Baby’

Cherry Grande ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ MN

‘Sugar Baby’ grew better and produced a higher yield. It produced four melons compared to one for ‘Cherry Grande’. The melons of ‘Sugar Baby’ were small but tasted great. I never got to taste ‘Cherry Grande’.

Cherry Grande ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ SE

I did not care for the flavor of either melon.

Cherry Grande ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ SE

‘Sugar Baby’ was healthier.

Cherry Grande ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☹ NC

‘Sugar Baby’ grew slowly and never produced a mature fruit. ‘Cherry Grande’ plants did not survive when transplanted outdoors.

Cherry Grande ★★★★★ ☺ -  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Both varieties did okay in the dry conditions this summer. Their melons looked different but were attractive in their own right. Overall, ‘Sugar Baby’ had better reviews in my house.

**‘Cherry Grande’ was a big disappointment. It performed poorly for all traits.**

## Best red watermelon varieties

**Top choice**  
 Sweet Dakota  
 Rose

**Strong performers**  
 Sangria  
 Stargazer  
 Sugar Baby



## Prefer 'Sugar Baby' (continued)

Cherry Grande ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🍷  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cherry Grande' was not as grand as 'Sugar Baby'. 'Sugar Baby' produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Cherry Grande ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🍷  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Sugar Baby' had marvelous taste and sweetness for a melon. I'm just excited to find one that will grow and mature here. It matured 2 weeks earlier than 'Cherry Grande'. I got five ripe melons from 'Sugar Baby' and two from 'Cherry Grande'. 'Sugar Baby' melons have a beautiful, dark green rind and a classic shape. They were much sweeter. The vines of both varieties looked equal in size and vigor.

Cherry Grande ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Sugar Baby' produced very nice watermelons, just the right size for our family. Good tasting, it was refreshing to have these homegrown beauties in September. For some reason, no 'Cherry Grande' seeds germinated. This was my first attempt in growing watermelon, and I'd do it again!

Cherry Grande ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🍷  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sugar Baby' produced more fruits, but its flesh was milky and not appealing. 'Cherry Grande' was not productive, and its fruits were very small.

Cherry Grande ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🍷  
 Sugar Baby ★★★★★ 😊 MT

The early frost this year and late dry planting was hard for this trial.

## Conclusions

The new variety 'Cherry Grande' was a big disappointment. It performed poorly for all traits. The old classic 'Sugar Baby' grew better, matured earlier, produced higher yields and tasted better. 'Sugar Baby' was strongly preferred over 'Cherry Grande'. Neither variety received high ratings or sweeping recommendations.

**'Sugar Baby' grew better, produced higher yields and tasted better.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

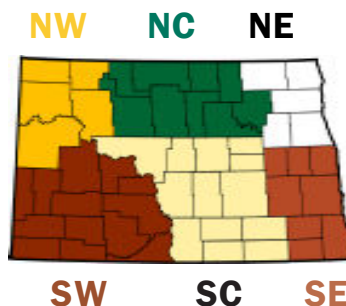
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



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# Watermelon, Yellow (organic)

## Varieties

### 'Early Moonbeam'

78 days. Sweet, early and reliable. Yellow-fleshed melons have a thin rind and weigh 5–8 pounds.

### 'Petite Yellow'

75 days. One of the sweetest, earliest ripening melons. Melons are round and weigh 6 pounds.



## Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early Moonb.	Petite Yellow	Same
Germinated best	17%	0%	<b>83%</b>
Healthier plants	17	0	<b>83</b>
Matured earlier	0	<b>80</b>	20
Higher yields	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	20
More attractive fruits	17	33	<b>50</b>
Tasted better	17	33	<b>50</b>
Preference	<b>60</b>	40	
Recommend (☺)	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.83	<b>8.33</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.50	<b>9.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Early Moonbeam'

Early Moonbeam ★★★★★☺ 🐞  
 Petite Yellow ★★★★★☹ NE

The yellow color of the flesh for both varieties was off-putting. Neither variety was as sweet as expected. 'Early Moonbeam' had more melons and they were bigger. Only one plant germinated for 'Petite Yellow'; maybe one-third to half germinated for 'Early Moonbeam'.

Early Moonbeam ★★★★★☺ 🐞  
 Petite Yellow ★★★★★☺ NC

'Early Moonbeam' melons were a little bigger.

Early Moonbeam ★★★★★☺ 🐞  
 Petite Yellow ★★★★★☹ NC

'Early Moonbeam' was very sweet! Delicious! 'Petite Yellow' was good. I started the plants in a greenhouse.

### Prefer 'Petite Yellow'

Early Moonbeam ★★★★★☹ 🏠  
 Petite Yellow ★★★★★☺ SE

'Petite Yellow' has a thin rind, few seeds and ripens early. Its melons were ripe in late July, which was 2 weeks before 'Early Moonbeam' ripened. I harvested 16 'Petite Yellow' melons compared to 5 for 'Early Moonbeam'. The average weights of melons for both varieties were 5.6 pounds.

Early Moonbeam ★★★★★☹ 🐞  
 Petite Yellow ★★★★★☺ SC

'Petite Yellow' produced higher yields. Its melons were tastier.

### No Preference

Early Moonbeam ★★★★★☺ 🐞  
 Petite Yellow ★★★★★☺ SC

We liked both varieties.

### Conclusions

'Early Moonbeam' and 'Petite Yellow' received high ratings for watermelon varieties. 'Petite Yellow' had a thin rind, few seeds and ripened very early. It has been a reliable producer for North Dakota. Data in this trial are limited, but the yields and fruit quality ratings for the varieties were similar.

**'Petite Yellow' matured earlier and was a more reliable producer.**

**Best yellow watermelon varieties**

**Top choice**  
 Yellow Doll

**Strong performers**  
 Early Moonbeam  
 Petite Yellow

# Basil (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Prospera'

73 days. Long, glossy leaves with classic Genovese flavor. Plants resist downy mildew and Fusarium.

### 'Rutgers Devotion'

75 days. Aromatic, sweet Genovese type. Ideal for pesto. Resists downy mildew.



## Data

Gardeners at 37 sites submitted information.

Trait	Rutgers		
	Prospera	Devot.	Same
Germinated best	46%	25%	29%
Healthier plants	35	23	42
Harvested earlier	42	15	42
Higher yields	38	27	35
More attractive	44	26	30
Tasted better	48	11	41
Preference	75	25	
Recommend	86	72	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.11	7.29	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	7.50	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Prospera'

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion MN

'Prospera' was healthier and produced more. Both varieties were productive.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion NE

Both varieties germinated well, were healthy, and were ready to harvest on the same day. 'Prospera' looked and tasted to me exactly what I expect from basil. 'Rutgers Devotion' leaves had deeper creases and looked "sharp."

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion NE

'Prospera' plants were almost twice as big through most of the season. It had a better, more robust taste. 'Rutgers Devotion' may be okay if you don't like a strong basil taste.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SE

Both varieties grew well at the same pace and produced heavy yields. The leaves of 'Prospera' were brighter, greener, glossier and had a better fragrance.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SE

'Prospera' had a nice taste and pretty plants. Both varieties were good!

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SE

Both varieties were very pleasant. I preferred 'Prospera' for its taste, but 'Rutgers Devotion' looked better.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

Both varieties germinated at about 90%. 'Prospera' was healthier. 'Rutgers Devotion' ended up with bigger plants. The taste of 'Prospera' won me over. It had a smoother taste.

**'Prospera'**  
**leaves were deep green and glossy with the classic Genovese flavor.**

## Best Italian basil varieties

Top choice  
 Genovese

Strong performers  
 Amethyst  
 Improved  
 Prospera

## Prefer 'Prospera' (continued)

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Prospera' had better germination and produced 10 times the yield.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Prospera' had healthier and tastier plants. It had more leaves.

Prospera -   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Prospera' had taller plants, higher yields and provided a good second cutting. Both varieties had healthy leaves for dehydrating.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Prospera' looked and tasted better. It produced longer without bolting. Its leaves had a vibrant color. 'Rutgers Devotion' plants were taller.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Prospera' grew better.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Rutgers Devotion' had broader leaves that looked more appealing though the flavor of 'Prospera' was better. I never knew how easy it would be to grow basil.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Prospera' plants were a little taller and I liked the taste of pesto made with it. I will plant both kinds again next year.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

'Prospera' was slightly better.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

Both varieties did well but I feel 'Prospera' was more tender and sweet like I would look for in an Italian basil.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

I liked the look of 'Prospera' better.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SC

Both varieties performed well and were prolific. Both were good in salads, but 'Prospera' was better in pesto.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion NW

'Prospera' germinated better and grew taller. Both varieties grew well in garden pots. Both were pleasing in looks and tasted good.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion NW

At first 'Rutgers Devotion' did best, but 'Prospera' ultimately pulled it out and was a clear winner. 'Prospera' was more productive.

Prospera -   
 Rutgers Devotion SW

'Prospera' was overall better in all traits.

Prospera -   
 Rutgers Devotion PA

'Prospera' grew better and had a milder taste. It had a higher yield although its leaves were smaller.

## Prefer 'Rutgers Devotion'

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion MN

Both varieties were nice, but 'Rutgers Devotion' was the overall winner. It had a mild taste, which I prefer for making pesto. Its plants were fuller with larger leaves and slower to flower. It is still beautiful on September 17.

Prospera   
 Rutgers Devotion SE

'Rutgers Devotion' grew better at both of my test sites. It was healthier and produced the first yield. Yields between the varieties were similar.

**'Prospera' rated higher for all traits and was preferred by the vast majority of gardeners.**

## Prefer 'Rutgers Devotion' (continued)

Prospera ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛  
Rutgers Devotion ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Prospera' plants were so much smaller.

Prospera ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Rutgers Devotion ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties grew well and tasted great. I used them fresh and for pesto. 'Rutgers Devotion' leaves were more attractive.

Prospera ★★★★★ ☹️ -  
Rutgers Devotion ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Rutgers Devotion' outperformed in every category. Its plants were taller, bushier and went to seed later. Both varieties seemed resistant to bugs and diseases.

Prospera ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Rutgers Devotion ★★★★★ 😊 SW  
'Rutgers Devotion' had a slightly better yield.  
Both varieties had good flavor.

Prospera ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛  
Rutgers Devotion ★★★★★ 😊 SW  
'Rutgers Devotion' germinated better and produced more leaves.

**Both varieties were healthy and grew well at most sites.**

## Conclusions

Both varieties were healthy and grew well. 'Prospera' rated higher for all traits and was preferred by the vast majority of gardeners. Its leaves were deep green and glossy with the classic Genovese flavor. 'Rutgers Devotion' was recommended by most gardeners but was not especially remarkable.

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

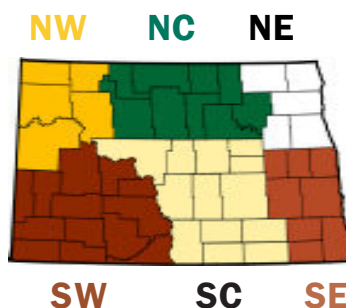
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
Variety A ★★★★★  
Variety B ★★★★★

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

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

**Location** →  
NC

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



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# Cilantro (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Leisure'

55 days. Bright green, feathery leaves. Resists bolting and keeps its quality in the field for a long time.

### 'Santo'

52 days. Popular variety. Grows quickly and resists bolting. Deep green leaves and sturdy stems.



## Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Leisure	Santo	Same
Germinated best	25%	13%	<b>63%</b>
Healthier plants	0	13	<b>88</b>
Harvested earlier	38	13	<b>50</b>
Resisted bolting better	13	25	<b>63</b>
Higher yields	38	13	<b>50</b>
More attractive	13	13	<b>75</b>
Tasted better	0	25	<b>75</b>
Preference	20	<b>80</b>	
Recommend (☺)	88	<b>100</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.11	<b>8.56</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	<b>8.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Leisure'

Leisure ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Leisure' leaves were slightly bigger. Both varieties were slow to get started, probably due to the dry spring.

Leisure ★★★★★ ☺ -  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ PA

'Leisure' grew faster and taller. It produced more.

### Prefer 'Santo'

Leisure ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 🐞  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Leisure' had a typical cilantro flavor. 'Santo' was a bit more minty.

Leisure ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Santo' germinated and grew better. Both varieties bolted fairly fast.

Leisure ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Both varieties were great. I dried a lot of cilantro to use and it tastes wonderful!

Leisure ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Santo' grew better in the hottest portion of summer. Both varieties germinated well, were healthy and looked nice. I could not tell a difference in taste.

### No Preference

Leisure ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ NE

It was hard to tell any difference between the two varieties.

Leisure ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞  
Santo ★★★★★ ☺ NC

These varieties seemed to be exactly the same.

## Conclusions

'Leisure' and 'Santo' were rated similarly for all traits. Some gardeners had difficulties finding any differences between the varieties. Both varieties received high scores. Every gardener recommended 'Santo' and most gardeners preferred it. Comments were remarkably brief for this trial.

**'Leisure' and 'Santo' were rated similarly for all traits. Gardeners gave high scores to both varieties.**

### Best cilantro varieties

Top choice  
Calypso

Strong performer  
Santo

# Dill, Dwarf Leafy (Organic)

## Varieties

### 'Ella'

Sturdy, upright plants with dark-green leaves. Strongly resists bolting. Can be grown in containers.

### 'Greensleeves'

45 days. High yields of dark-green, aromatic leaves. Slow to go to seed. Can be grown in containers.



## Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Ella	Green-sleeves	Same
Germinated best	26%	<b>39%</b>	35%
Healthier plants	13	26	<b>61</b>
Harvested earlier	22	30	<b>48</b>
Higher yields	18	27	<b>55</b>
More attractive	18	23	<b>59</b>
Tasted better	29	19	<b>52</b>
Preference	30	<b>70</b>	
Recommend	74	<b>78</b>	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.78	<b>7.30</b>	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Ella'

Ella   
 Greensleeves MN

'Greensleeves' was an eyesore. It was very large. Even when using in foods it was too large to work with.

Ella   
 Greensleeves SE

These varieties were very similar.

Ella   
 Greensleeves SE

'Ella' was slightly more vigorous. Both varieties grew well and had excellent flavor. I am not fond of dwarf varieties and will stick with standard dill.

Ella -   
 Greensleeves NC   
 Both varieties germinated slowly. 'Ella' had bigger heads.

Ella   
 Greensleeves NC   
 'Ella' came up first and had nice looking heads.

Ella   
 Greensleeves SC   
 'Greensleeves' was slower to get established and bolted almost immediately. 'Ella' was slower to bolt. I grew both varieties in a pot and they clearly did not like it. It appeared to be too hot for them. Their leaves regularly browned and curled in the sun.

Ella   
 Greensleeves NW   
 'Ella' had a more distinct "dill" taste. Both varieties took 1–2 weeks to germinate. 'Greensleeves' produced taller, more vigorous plants and more leaves. Its flower production was better and looked prettier in the garden.

## Prefer 'Greensleeves'

Ella   
 Greensleeves NE

'Greensleeves' had a better, stronger dill taste. It germinated better.

**Both varieties grew well and withstood the brisk winds of North Dakota.**

## Best leafy dill varieties

Top choice  
Hera

Strong performer  
Greensleeves

## Prefer 'Greensleeves' (continued)

Ella NE  
 Greensleeves NE  
 'Greensleeves' germinated better and produced an earlier harvest.

Ella NE  
 Greensleeves NE  
 These varieties were very similar.

Ella SE  
 Greensleeves SE  
 I definitely prefer larger dill. These dwarf varieties are too small and not as fragrant. I do not want to use these for dill pickles. 'Greensleeves' was a little bigger.

Ella SE  
 Greensleeves SE  
 'Greensleeves' was quite a bit taller than 'Ella'. It was more productive but not very "dwarf."

Ella NC  
 Greensleeves NC  
 'Greensleeves' produced more greens, and 'Ella' produced more flowers/seeds. We use more weed than seed, and 'Greensleeves' was weedier and had a stronger dill flavor.

Ella NC  
 Greensleeves NC  
 'Greensleeves' had better germination and more robust plants.

Ella NC  
 Greensleeves NC  
 The seed heads of 'Greensleeves' stayed smaller, which I prefer for pickling.

Ella SC  
 Greensleeves SC  
 'Greensleeves' germinated better. Both varieties grew 4 feet tall and I would not consider them to be dwarf.

Ella SC  
 Greensleeves SC  
 'Greensleeves' germinated better.

Ella SC  
 Greensleeves SC  
 'Greensleeves' grew to about 3 feet, which was 6 inches higher than 'Ella'. I liked the larger and more numerous seed heads of 'Greensleeves'. 'Greensleeves' had thicker stalks, and both varieties withstood the wind.

Ella SC  
 Greensleeves SC  
 'Greensleeves' had a more robust plant. For the gardener looking for the large seed heads of dill instead of the leaves, these would not be recommended. I would say these are best used fresh or dried, but not for canning necessarily. Whereas you might grow normal dill as an isolated plant, these much prefer to be grown in a clump.

Ella NW  
 Greensleeves NW  
 'Greensleeves' grew taller and its color remained longer.

Ella SW  
 Greensleeves SW  
 Both varieties performed well. They resisted both rust and wind. I loved that these compact plants resisted tipping from winds until very late in the season.

Ella SW  
 Greensleeves SW  
 Both varieties produced really well despite the lack of rain. Hopefully, these varieties will reseed themselves for next year.

Ella SK  
 Greensleeves SK  
 I loved both of these! I dried both varieties for use in the winter.

## Conclusions

'Ella' and 'Greensleeves' received similar ratings. Both varieties grew well and withstood the brisk winds of North Dakota. 'Greensleeves' was preferred by most gardeners. It germinated better and grew more vigorously at more sites.

**'Greensleeves' was preferred by most gardeners. It germinated better and grew more vigorously at more sites.**

# Balsam

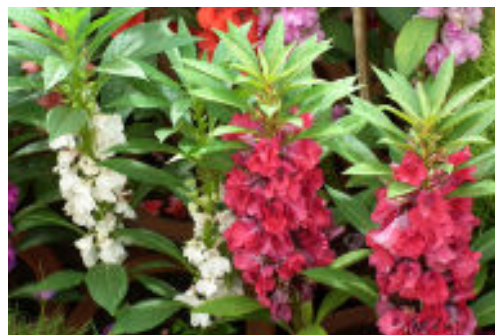
## Varieties

### 'Bush Mix'

65 days. Unique for its multitude of blooms near the top of plant. Good for containers. 12 inches.

### 'Camellia Flower Mix'

65 days. Showy flowers form along its stem. Shades of pink, rose, white and violet. 12 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 34 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bush Mix	Camellia Fl.Mix	Same
Germinated best	22%	22%	56%
Healthier plants	12	19	69
Bloomed earlier	32	32	36
More blooms	12	28	60
Prettier in garden	15	23	62
Better cut flower	14	0	86
Preference	42	58	
Recommend	88	88	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.65	7.96	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Bush Mix'

Bush Mix   
 Camellia Flower Mix MN

This is my first-time growing balsam and I loved it! It was loaded with bees and hummingbirds! I will be adding this flower to my pollinator garden next year! 'Bush Mix' germinated better. It was first to bloom. It had a better mix of colors, more purple, fuchsia and white. Both varieties were very healthy and bloomed like crazy!

Bush Mix   
 Camellia Flower Mix MN

Both varieties performed so well and looked beautiful in the garden. 'Bush Mix' germinated first and had healthier plants.

Bush Mix   
 Camellia Flower Mix MN

I liked the greater mix of colors and taller height of 'Bush Mix'. Both varieties were nice.

Bush Mix   
 Camellia Flower Mix NE

I had never heard of this flower. Very hardy, pretty flower. These were planted in a basket and thinned out in my garden. They were the best flowers I had of all my tests. 'Bush Mix' bloomed first.

Bush Mix   
 Camellia Flower Mix NE

Balsam was a hardy plant that was able to stand the winds in our area. It added interest with small but pretty flowers that are attached directly to the main stem. The foliage was medium green and bushy on 24-inch plants. Both varieties were bushy with many flowers. They were great for fillers in flowerpots and adding interest in the garden. 'Camellia Flower Mix' grew a few inches taller.

Bush Mix   
 Camellia Flower Mix SE

'Bush Mix' had more leaves and grew taller. It had strong stems for a vase arrangement. I had not grown balsam before but will add it in the middle of my plantings. It has a pretty purple shade. Not many flowers have that color. It also held up well in a vase.

**Many gardeners had never heard of balsam before. They loved the flowers and so did the bees.**

### Best balsam varieties

Top choice  
Camellia  
Flower Mix

Strong performer  
Bush Mix

## Prefer 'Bush Mix' (continued)

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Bush Mix' grew slightly better.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😞 SC

'Bush Mix' was taller, and its flowers looked better.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

'Bush Mix' grew taller. Both varieties were excellent pollinators. They really attracted bees.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 🏠  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NW

The plants were bulky and stood up to the weather. The plants grew 24–28 inches tall. The flowers hide so much in the foliage that I barely noticed them. Flea beetles attacked, but the plants recovered after I sprayed them twice with insecticide.

## Prefer 'Camellia Flower Mix'

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE

'Camellia Flower Mix' germinated best.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Camellia Flower Mix' had more vigorous plants.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'Camellia Flower Mix' was stronger and taller. It produced more flowers.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

These varieties were hard to distinguish from each other. 'Camellia Flower Mix' foliage was darker. Overall, both varieties took a long time to bloom but were very pretty and different.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Camellia Flower Mix' had more flowers.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'Camellia Flower Mix' had a wider assortment of colors, but both varieties were pretty. It made me think I was vacationing in Hawaii. This was my first try at planting balsam! It was fun planting something different!

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

I planted 25 of the seeds in my greenhouse to put in pots. I had close to 100% germination. I had never grown balsam and didn't know what to expect. These plants performed beautifully. The height of the 'Camellia Flower Mix' plants grown in pots were more consistent compared to the plants of 'Bush Mix'. I sowed seeds in my garden and the plants of both varieties were consistent in height. None of the plants developed disease and they bushed out nicely and bloomed for a long period. Both had a nice variety of colors. I'm glad I tried balsam and would grow either variety again.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

'Camellia Flower Mix' was the only one to bloom for me and only two of its plants bloomed.

Bush Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

There were not many differences between the two varieties. 'Camellia Flower Mix' bloomed first and seemed to have more colorful flowers. Neither one was a good cut flower because of the many leaves and stalks. This was my first experience with balsam. Despite the heat and dry summer, both varieties did very well. They were very colorful, 3-foot plants. The seed pods were interesting, and I saved a few to plant next spring. Balsam is a lovely addition to any garden!

**Both varieties grew well and stood up to the weather. They were beautiful additions to gardens.**



## Prefer ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ (continued)

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Camellia Flower Mix’ had more flowers and held up to wind better.

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The flowers of ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ were a little bigger.

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties grew extremely well and were an amazing addition to the garden. Both germinated at near 100% with ‘Bush Mix’ emerging first. ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ seemed to tolerate the heat and very dry conditions we experienced this summer a bit better. Both varieties produced extremely healthy plants with several flowers per stalk. ‘Bush Mix’ grew to about 35 inches and ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ grew a few inches taller. Both made a very impressive floral display both in garden and as cut flowers. The absolute best part—the bees loved both varieties.

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties grew well. ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ had a few more blooms.

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😞 🏠  
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SD

The plants of both varieties were healthy and had nice flowers. Pretty colors. ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ germinated better.

## No Preference

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I could tell no differences among the varieties. Both germinated well. They bloomed for only 1 month, finishing the end of August. They had fun seed pods.

Bush Mix ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Camellia Flower Mix ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were similar. ‘Bush Mix’ bloomed first.

## Conclusions

Many gardeners had never heard of balsam before. They loved the flowers and so did the bees. ‘Bush Mix’ and ‘Camellia Flower Mix’ grew well and became beautiful additions to gardens. Both varieties received high scores and enthusiastic recommendations from gardeners. Most gardeners preferred ‘Camellia Flower Mix’. It grew vigorously and produced more blooms in more gardens.

**Mot gardeners preferred ‘Camellia Flower Mix’. It grew vigorously and produced more blooms in more gardens.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

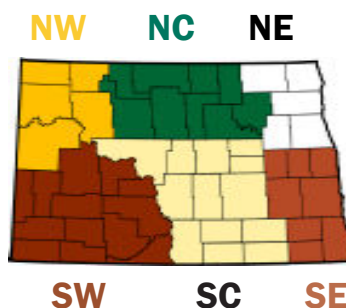
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★  
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



### Locations

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

# Cosmos, Red

## Varieties

### 'Rubenza'

80 days. Cranberry blooms fade to an antique rose. The 42-inch plants bloom early and continuously.

### 'Sonata Red Shades'

80 days. Compact plants are covered with 3-inch flowers all summer. Resists heat. 24 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sonata		
	Rubenza	Red S.	Same
Germinated best	60%	20%	20%
Healthier plants	20	40	40
Bloomed earlier	60	30	10
More blooms	70	30	0
Prettier in garden	10	20	70
Better cut flower	40	20	40
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	60	70	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.90	6.80	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	6.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Rubenza'

Rubenza   
 Sonata Red Shades NE   
 'Rubenza' was a little better in all categories.

Rubenza   
 Sonata Red Shades SE   
 I think they are attractive flowers, but both bloomed very late, after a light frost in September. Now on September 29, 'Sonata Red Shades' is still not in full bloom.

Rubenza   
 Sonata Red Shades SC   
 'Rubenza' came up faster, bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Rubenza   
 Sonata Red Shades SC   
 'Rubenza' grew taller and had more blooms!

Rubenza   
 Sonata Red Shades SC   
 'Rubenza' had nice, sturdy stalks and continuous flowers.

### Prefer 'Sonata Red Shades'

Rubenza   
 Sonata Red Shades MN   
 'Sonata Red Shades' is fuller—more branching. It produced more flowers. You don't have to stake it. It is still blooming as the 'Rubenza' is starting to die back. 'Rubenza' does not hold up well in the wind and needs to be staked.

Rubenza   
 Sonata Red Shades SE   
 I liked the shorter, more compact plants of 'Sonata Red Shades'. They were sturdier with thicker stalks and secondary stems close to the base. They worked well as a border. 'Rubenza' produced more flowers but they didn't last as long as those of 'Sonata Red Shades'. The color wasn't my favorite—both 'Rubenza' and 'Sonata Red Shades' had a lot of faded looking reds that didn't do much as far as enhancing flower bed color. The darker colors didn't show up too well and their blooms didn't seem to last as long as my old garden variety cosmos. I probably wouldn't plant either of these varieties again.

**'Rubenza' germinated better, grew taller, bloomed earlier and produced more blooms.**

### Best cosmos varieties

#### Top choice

Sonata

#### Strong performers

Double Click  
 Picotee  
 Psyche  
 Rubenza

## Prefer 'Sonata Red Shades' (continued)

Rubenza ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Sonata Red Shades ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I loved these cosmos varieties! While the shades of red where a bit different, both looked great in the garden and held up well as cut flowers.

Rubenza ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Sonata Red Shades ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Sonata Red Shades' did fairly well. It bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Rubenza ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Sonata Red Shades ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Sonata Red Shades' were bushier, fuller looking plants.

## Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and were evenly split on which variety they preferred. 'Rubenza' germinated better, grew taller, bloomed earlier and produced more blooms. 'Sonata Red Shades' had a more compact, fuller plant. Both 'Rubenza' and the 'Sonata' series of cosmos have always done well in our trials.

**'Sonata Red Shades' had a more compact, fuller plant.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)** →

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

**Garden type** →

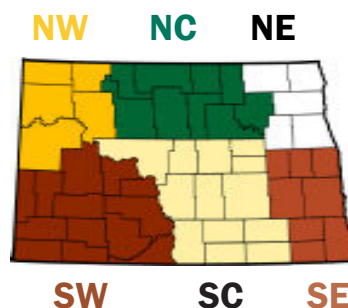
🐞 = Organic  
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers  
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides  
 - = Not specified

**Location** →

NC

**Comments** →

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



### Locations

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

# Cosmos, Striped

## Varieties

### 'Picotee'

Pure-white petals are edged in rosy red. Bushy plants grow 48 inches. A proven performer in ND.

### 'Velouette'

70 days. Striking combination of crimson petals with white stripes. Long stems for bouquets. 30 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Picotee	Velouette	Same
Germinated best	75%	21%	4%
Healthier plants	87	9	4
Bloomed earlier	48	48	5
More blooms	63	21	16
Prettier in garden	60	15	25
Better cut flower	56	22	22
Preference	83	17	
Recommend	76	44	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.13	4.96	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	5.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Picotee'

Picotee   
 Velouette MN

'Picotee' had more blooms and looked more attractive in the garden.

Picotee   
 Velouette NE

'Picotee' produced tall plants with an abundance of blooms that had a very pleasing color range. 'Velouette' plants were stunted and looked like they had a disease or something.

Picotee   
 Velouette NE

'Picotee' was better in all categories.

Picotee -   
 Velouette NE

I prefer the height of 'Picotee'.

Picotee   
 Velouette SE

'Picotee' had much more vigor. It was about 2 feet taller, bushy, and provided a nice wind block in my garden. 'Velouette' was short and not very attractive. Although it bloomed at least 2 weeks earlier, it lodged after an inch of rain and a little wind. Neither variety had flowers that lasted very long.

Picotee   
 Velouette SE

'Velouette' died on June 4 after reaching 6 inches in height. 'Picotee' plants show more green foliage than pink blooms.

Picotee   
 Velouette SE

'Picotee' plants were taller and it had better looking flowers.

Picotee   
 Velouette SE

I liked the color best on 'Picotee'. The variegation was brighter. The stripes on 'Velouette' were pretty, but I didn't care for the color, which seemed muddier. 'Picotee' plants remained upright better than 'Velouette' plants. Both varieties produced a few plants with solid-colored flowers. 'Velouette' germinated at 99% compared to 75% for 'Picotee'. 'Velouette' plants were sturdier with stronger stems.

**'Picotee' grew more vigorously. Its plants were taller, had more flowers, and were beautiful.**

## Best cosmos varieties

### Top choice

Sonata

### Strong performers

Double Click

Picotee

Psyche

Rubenza

## Prefer 'Picotee' (continued)

Picotee    
 Velouette  NC

'Picotee' was larger and healthier all season long. It had very thick, fern-like foliage. 'Picotee' survived the two freezing nights (26 °F) last week and is still looking fantastic. It is worth planting just as an accent plant. If I planted cosmos again, I would go back to a variety with solid-colored blooms—longer lasting and showier.

Picotee    
 Velouette  SC

'Picotee' produced more flowers, but I was expecting more blooms from both varieties.

Picotee    
 Velouette  SC

'Picotee' had healthier plants and more flowers. Both varieties were small and stalky with only a few flowers.

Picotee    
 Velouette  SC

Only four seedlings of 'Velouette' emerged. The better germination of 'Picotee' led to more flowers which supported more bees.

Picotee    
 Velouette  SC

We had some 'Picotee' plants that were nearly 7 feet tall. Overall, it is a stronger, taller plant. 'Velouette' flowers had more color variety, but I liked the color of 'Picotee' flowers better.

Picotee    
 Velouette  NW

'Picotee' germinated best, had a nicer plant and prettier flowers. 'Velouette' looked better at first and bloomed first, but its flowers didn't last long and dried up easily.

Picotee    
 Velouette  NW

'Picotee' had almost 100% germination. It grew taller and had more flowers. 'Velouette' did not germinate well.

Picotee    
 Velouette  SW

Germination was sporadic and there were not many blooms. 'Picotee' germinated better, was healthier, and produced more flowers.

Picotee  -  
 Velouette  SW

'Picotee' plants were more vigorous even after frost.

## Prefer 'Velouette'

Picotee    
 Velouette  MN

'Picotee' germinated a lot better. Its plants were larger, fuller and taller, but its flowers were plain, light pink. I loved the colors of 'Velouette'. It was more of a peppermint striping—unique and colorful. Its smaller, more compact plant was easier to manage. Both were great cut flowers.

Picotee    
 Velouette  SE

'Velouette' blooms were stunning, with a more vibrant color and more variation in the hues (pinks to purple). 'Picotee' blooms were pretty (mostly pale pinks).

Picotee    
 Velouette  NC

'Velouette' bloomed earlier and looked more attractive in the garden. 'Picotee' was healthier and produced more flowers.

Picotee    
 Velouette  SC

'Velouette' had more flowers that lasted forever!

## Conclusions

'Picotee' was the clear winner of this trial. It germinated better, grew more vigorously and was healthier. Its plants were taller, had more blooms, and were beautiful. 'Velouette' had compact plants that bloomed early, but the plants generally lacked health and vigor. Most gardeners did not recommend 'Velouette'.

**'Velouette' had compact plants that bloomed early, but the plants generally lacked health and vigor.**



# Sunflower, Bicolor

## Varieties

### 'Ruby Eclipse'

60 days. Cherry-red petals with lemon tips. Early. Branching habit. Pollenless. Grows 60 inches.

### 'Strawberry Blonde'

55 days. Ruby-red petals with light tips. Easy to grow and great for cutting. Pollenless. 66 inches tall.



## Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Ruby Eclipse	Strawb. Blonde	Same
Germinated best	29%	12%	59%
Healthier plants	29	12	59
Bloomed earlier	50	19	31
More blooms	29	29	41
Prettier in garden	41	18	41
Better cut flower	20	0	71
Preference	56	44	
Recommend	82	76	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.06	7.88	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	9.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Ruby Eclipse'

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MN

The blooms of 'Ruby Eclipse' were more consistent in color. Blooms of 'Strawberry Blonde' varied in shades. Both varieties grew only 4 feet tall.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SE

'Ruby Eclipse' plants were very tall and looked healthy.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

'Ruby Eclipse' had a few more flowers.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NC

'Ruby Eclipse' germinated better and grew better.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Ruby Eclipse' flowers had a brighter color, and 'Strawberry Blonde' flowers were dark.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

They were both very nice and healthy, but I liked the consistent coloring of 'Ruby Eclipse' more. 'Ruby Eclipse' bloomed about 10 days earlier.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

Both varieties were beautiful. We used cut flowers for our Mountrail County Garden Walk in July. Both varieties were displayed. Both were a very nice size, about 6 inches in diameter and lasted about 2 weeks after our event! We are very happy with both varieties. 'Ruby Eclipse' was blooming about a week earlier than 'Strawberry Blonde'. The trial bloomed from July 21 until September 3. They suffered a lot of harsh conditions including hail, drought and wind—and this they stood up well.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

'Ruby Eclipse' flowers were just a little darker than those of 'Strawberry Blonde'.

**'Ruby Eclipse' bloomed earlier at more sites.**

## Best bicolor branching sunflower varieties

**Top choice**  
 Helios Flame

**Strong performers**  
 Ruby Eclipse  
 Strawberry Blonde  
 Ring of Fire

## Prefer 'Ruby Eclipse' (continued)

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 SD  
 'Ruby Eclipse' had a sturdier plant and nicer looking flowers. Some 'Strawberry Blonde' plants had mostly yellow flowers.

## Prefer 'Strawberry Blonde'

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE  
 I liked the color better on 'Strawberry Blonde'.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE  
 'Strawberry Blonde' germinated better and grew faster.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 NC  
 'Strawberry Blonde' had bigger flowers and nicer color.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC  
 'Strawberry Blonde' had a better germination rate and healthier looking plants.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NW  
 'Ruby Eclipse' plants were about 5 feet tall and had 8 to 12 flowers per plant. 'Strawberry Blonde' plants were 6 feet tall and 8 to 15 flowers per plant. Both were beautiful. We enjoyed the nice colors for several weeks.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SW  
 The birds really liked these flowers. I saw them eating the seeds.

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SW  
 'Strawberry Blonde' had hardier plants and more blooms.

## No Preference

Ruby Eclipse ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 Strawberry Blonde ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC  
 The varieties seemed very similar to me.

## Conclusions

Gardeners liked both 'Ruby Eclipse' and 'Strawberry Blonde'. Both varieties were easy to grow. 'Ruby Eclipse' bloomed earlier at more sites. More gardeners felt 'Ruby Eclipse' was prettier in their gardens.

**More gardeners felt 'Ruby Eclipse' was prettier in their gardens.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

**Ratings (1 to 10)** →

Variety A ★★★★★☆

Variety B ★★★★★☆

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

**Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)** →

😊

😞

**Garden type**

🐞

**Location**

NC

**Comments**

**Garden types**

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

**Locations**

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

# Sunflower, Lemon

## Varieties

### 'Buttercream'

55 days. Pale-yellow petals contrast beautifully with dark disks. Early. Pollenless. 53 inches tall.

### 'Lemon Queen'

85 days. Tall stalks bear loads of lemon-yellow flowers with brown disks. Bee friendly. 72 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Butter-cream	Lemon Queen	Same
Germinated best	40%	0%	60%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Bloomed earlier	80	0	20
More blooms	40	0	60
Prettier in garden	80	0	20
Better cut flower	75	0	25
Preference	100	0	
Recommend	100	60	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	9.00	6.60	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	9.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Buttercream'

Buttercream ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Lemon Queen ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Lemon Queen' was just too tall to admire the flowers up close. It would be okay in back of a flower bed against a building. 'Lemon Queen' was the last of all my sunflowers to bloom. It was pretty and bees loved it. It was easier to enjoy 'Buttercream'.

Buttercream ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Lemon Queen ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Buttercream' was bright yellow. It was always healthier looking. Of all my sunflowers, 'Buttercream' was best.

Buttercream ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Lemon Queen ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Buttercream' had better color.

Buttercream ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Lemon Queen ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties have a lovely color. They lasted 10 days as a cut flower in a vase.

'Buttercream' is beautiful as a cut flower.

Buttercream ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Lemon Queen ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Buttercream' sunflowers looked healthier.

### Prefer 'Lemon Queen'

None.

## Conclusions

'Buttercream' has always excelled in our trials. Every gardener who grew 'Buttercream' this year recommended it. It excelled in all traits and received very high scores. Lemon yellow sunflowers are not especially popular, and 'Buttercream' remains an undiscovered jewel among many gardeners.

**'Buttercream' has always excelled in our trials. Every gardener who grew 'Buttercream' recommended it.**

**Best lemon yellow branching sunflower varieties**

Top choice  
Buttercream

# Sunflower, Orange

## Varieties

### 'Gold Rush'

62 days. Classic golden sunflower. Blooms early and abundantly. Pollenless. 60 inches tall.

### 'Soraya'

90 days. Golden-yellow petals with dark disks. Branching habit. All-America Selections Winner. Pollenless. 60 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold		
	Rush	Soraya	Same
Germinated best	67%	17%	17%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Bloomed earlier	100	0	0
More blooms	60	0	40
Prettier in garden	60	0	40
Better cut flower	100	0	0
Preference	100	0	
Recommend	80	60	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.20	4.80	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	6.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

### Prefer 'Gold Rush'

Gold Rush   
 Soraya MN

Planted late (June 10). 'Gold Rush' seedlings came up faster. Both varieties were healthy, but we could have used a longer growing season and more rain. 'Soraya' did not bloom before the frost.

Gold Rush   
 Soraya NC

'Gold Rush' stalks were bushier and had many flowers per stem. Its flowers were really yellow, not orange. The flowers of 'Soraya' were very pretty in color, but the stems were too thick for cut arrangements.

Gold Rush -   
 Soraya SC   
 'Gold Rush' was healthier and bloomed first. I'm not strong on either variety.

Gold Rush   
 Soraya SW   
 'Soraya' did not produce flowers as well.

Gold Rush   
 Soraya SW   
 'Gold Rush' was taller. It had bigger heads and was prettier.

### Prefer 'Soraya'

None.

## Conclusions

Our data are limited, but this trial may be an indication of how ornamental sunflowers have improved in recent years. 'Soraya' was a breakthrough in 2000, the first ornamental sunflower to receive the All-America Selections Award. 'Gold Rush', a recent release, excelled over 'Soraya' in all categories. It germinated better and was healthier. It bloomed much earlier, more abundantly, and was prettier in gardens. Every gardener preferred 'Gold Rush' over 'Soraya'.

**'Gold Rush' excelled in all traits. It bloomed much earlier, more abundantly, and was prettier in gardens.**

**Best orange branching sunflower varieties**

Top choice  
Gold Rush

Strong performer  
Orange  
Hobbit

# Sunflower, Peach

## Varieties

### 'Apricot Daisy'

55 days. Apricot petals with light orange centers. Pollenless blooms. Branching habit. Grows 60 inches.

### 'Peach Passion'

55 days. Small, 3-inch, pollenless blooms with soft-peach color. Plants bloom prolifically. 48 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Apricot Daisy	Peach Passion	Same
Germinated best	20%	0%	80%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Bloomed earlier	40	40	20
More blooms	20	20	60
Prettier in garden	20	60	20
Better cut flower	33	67	0
Preference	20	80	
Recommend	80	80	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.20	7.40	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Apricot Daisy'

Apricot Daisy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Peach Passion ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 SC

'Apricot Daisy' had much larger heads and better overall health. It is a beautiful cut flower. I used it for my daughter's graduation centerpiece. 'Peach Passion' was less healthy, had very small heads, and was a much shorter plant.

## Prefer 'Peach Passion'

Apricot Daisy ★★★★★ 😞 🏠  
 Peach Passion ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Peach Passion' plants were 2 feet shorter but were bushier and had more flowers. 'Apricot Daisy' flowers were bigger but fewer.

Apricot Daisy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Peach Passion ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I loved 'Peach Passion' for its lighter yellow and smaller flowers. Its stalks were bushier and shorter. Its flowers were light lemon in color and more unique. 'Apricot Daisy' germinated much better. Its stalks were much taller and stronger. It looked like a more traditional sunflower. It lasted longer in the season. It had four or more flowers per plant. Both varieties were nice as cut flowers, but the 'Peach Passion' flowers fit better in the vase because of their smaller size.

Apricot Daisy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Peach Passion ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I loved the flower color of 'Peach Passion'. Its plants were a bit shorter but had more leaves and looked fuller. 'Apricot Daisy' lasted much longer in the garden. 'Peach Passion' plants were hanging their heads and looking sad a lot earlier.

Apricot Daisy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Peach Passion ★★★★★ 😊 SW

This was one of the trials that did well despite a lack of rain.

## Conclusions

Gardeners were enchanted by the soft peach color and small size of 'Peach Passion' blooms. 'Apricot Beauty' stalks were taller and healthier. We did this same trial in 2014. Our team of gardeners that year showed a higher appreciation for the superior vigor of 'Apricot Beauty' and strongly preferred it over the more delicate 'Peach Passion'.

**Gardeners were enchanted by the soft peach color and small size of 'Peach Passion' blooms. 'Apricot Beauty' stalks were taller and healthier.**

**Best peach branching sunflower varieties**

**Top choice**  
Apricot Daisy

**Strong performer**  
Peach Passion



# Sunflower, Red

## Varieties

### 'Moulin Rouge'

72 days. Popular variety with burgundy petals and dark discs. Pollenless. Grows 70 inches.

### 'Red Sun'

90 days. Vibrant red petals surround a dark-brown disk. Branching. Bee friendly. 66 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 26 sites submitted information.

Trait	Moulin Rouge	Red Sun	Same
Germinated best	63%	17%	21%
Healthier plants	50	17	33
Bloomed earlier	75	21	4
More blooms	73	18	9
Prettier in garden	55	23	23
Better cut flower	47	29	24
Preference	70	30	
Recommend	74	52	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	6.96	5.87	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	7.00	6.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Moulin Rouge'

Moulin Rouge NE  
Red Sun NE

'Red Sun' didn't hold up well to winds. Most of its stalks blew over in July.

Moulin Rouge   
Red Sun SE

'Moulin Rouge' is a showstopper! It had magnificent blooms that bloomed for 3 weeks! Its blooms had a brownish-burgundy color. 'Red Sun' bloomed 2 weeks later. Its blooms were brownish-gold in color. 'Red Sun' grew 2 feet taller and was not nearly as showy.

Moulin Rouge   
Red Sun SE

The blooms of 'Moulin Rouge' were more abundant, fuller and more attractive.

Moulin Rouge   
Red Sun NC

The flowers of both varieties were stunning. Most of us on our farm preferred the looks of 'Moulin Rouge'.

Moulin Rouge -  
Red Sun NC

'Moulin Rouge' was more vigorous in growth and earlier to bloom. It was more prolific in blooming. 'Red Sun' grew tall but produced fewer flowers.

Moulin Rouge   
Red Sun NC

'Moulin Rouge' had more flowers.

Moulin Rouge   
Red Sun SC

'Moulin Rouge' was superior by far. It excelled in all categories.

Moulin Rouge -  
Red Sun SC

'Moulin Rouge' had earlier and stronger blossoms.

Moulin Rouge   
Red Sun SC

'Moulin Rouge' flowers are very dark red.

**'Moulin Rouge' has been an extraordinary variety in our trials for years. It rated higher than 'Red Sun' for all traits this year.**

**Best red sunflower variety**

**Top choice**  
Moulin Rouge

## Prefer 'Moulin Rouge' (continued)

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SC

'Moulin Rouge' stalks all had the same height. 'Red Sun' stalks got too tall for my liking and were not uniform in height.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SC

Both varieties were wonderful, but 'Moulin Rouge' had more flowers.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SC

'Moulin Rouge' had better germination, multiple flower heads on the plant, and bloomed early. Both varieties were a little taller than I had expected. Some plants cleared a 6-foot fence they were in front of.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun NW

'Moulin Rouge' grew better. Its flowers were almost black in color and not the red I expected.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun NW

'Moulin' Rouge grew up to 6.2 feet with 6 to 9 flowers. Its petals were dark red, almost black, and beautiful! 'Red Sun' grew up to 11.5 feet with up to 25 flowers on a plant. It froze before its lower flowers bloomed.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SW

'Moulin Rouge' flowers were spectacular—big and beautiful! 'Red Sun' flowers were not as nice.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun MT

'Moulin Rouge' was slightly better in all traits.

## Prefer 'Red Sun'

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SE

'Red Sun' was gorgeous when it bloomed. It bloomed early in the season and was dark red in color. 'Moulin Rouge' made a ton of flowers, but they were stunted and not red.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SE

'Red Sun' had a larger, much stronger plant and larger flowers.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun NC

'Red Sun' germinated better, grew better, was healthier and looked prettier.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SC

'Red Sun' stalks were thicker. Its flowers were larger and had more color. There were multiple flowers on its stalks. Neither variety was very attractive—they looked sickly.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SC

'Moulin Rouge' flowers were beautiful, but they were heavy, hung down and were hard to see. It bloomed a good month before 'Red Sun'. I was impressed to see how tall the stalks of 'Red Sun' got, over 11 feet tall. Its flowers looked yellow, not red. All of the 'Red Sun' stalks snapped off at the ground due to high winds. That was too bad as that was the first day they bloomed.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun SC

The flowers of both varieties were small. Their petals were very underwhelming. The red color of 'Red Sun' was very cool. Neither variety impressed us.

Moulin Rouge   
 Red Sun NW

Flowers of both varieties were very attractive. 'Red Sun' stalks grew much taller and had more flowers. 'Moulin Rouge' had some beautiful, maroon-colored flowers, but its flowers were much smaller.

## Conclusions

'Moulin Rouge' has been an extraordinary variety in our trials for years. Every year we look for a better red sunflower but fail to find one. 'Moulin Rouge' germinated better and was healthier than 'Red Sun'. 'Moulin Rouge' bloomed earlier and more abundantly. Its burgundy flowers were stunning.

**'Moulin Rouge' bloomed earlier and more abundantly. Its burgundy flowers were stunning.**

# Zinnia, Cactus Mix

## Varieties

### 'Burpeeanna Giants'

80 days. Immense, 6-inch-wide flowers with pointed petals. Bold colors. Grows 24 inches tall.

### 'Cactus Bright Jewel'

75 days. Giant, ruffled blooms look like mums. Shades of scarlet, orange, pink and yellow. 36 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 35 sites submitted information.

Trait	Burp. Giants	C. Bright Jewel	Same
Germinated best	38%	24%	38%
Healthier plants	22	22	56
Bloomed earlier	33	33	33
More blooms	36	18	45
Prettier in garden	24	27	48
Better cut flower	24	6	71
Preference	41	59	
Recommend	88	85	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.29	8.53	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	9.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Burpeeanna Giants'

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😞 MN

Both varieties had a good mix of colors, but 'Burpeeanna Giants' had a better mix of bold and pastel colors. There was a light peach color that was unique and beautiful. 'Burpeeanna Giants' plants grew faster and were taller.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 -  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Burpeeanna Giants' was taller.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Every seed must have come up. 'Burpeeanna Giants' had big, sturdy plants loaded with huge blooms. I want this one in my garden every year!

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😞 SE

These zinnias were so much fun to grow! They really attract the pollinators! 'Burpeeanna Giants' looked more attractive in the garden and was a better cut flower. 'Cactus Bright Jewel' had 28 plants while 'Burpeeanna Giants' had 27. Both varieties had very healthy plants. 'Cactus Bright Jewel' had about 145 flowers while 'Burpeeanna Giants' had 130. 'Burpeeanna Giants' had a lot of space between the top leaves and the blooms. 'Cactus Bright Jewel' had leaves all the way up to the base of the flower.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Absolutely beautiful zinnias! Such a variety of shapes and gorgeous bright colors. I loved this trial. It definitely brightened up my garden and brought a smile to my face every morning. 'Burpeeanna Giants' was an earlier bloomer plus had more blossoms per plant.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Burpeeanna Giants' had stronger plants and bigger flowers.

**Gardeners loved both varieties. Their flowers were bright and beautiful.**

## Best cactus zinnia varieties

**Top choice**  
Cactus Bright Jewel

**Strong performer**  
Burpeeanna Giants

## Prefer 'Burpeeanna Giants' (continued)

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I loved the blooms and the bright colors.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Burpeeanna Giants' can be seen from a distance better. I had beautiful flowers from both varieties! They were used as cut flowers for bouquets at church. Great for pollinators, too.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 -  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Burpeeanna Giants' had more beautiful flowers and they lasted longer as a cut flower.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 MB

'Burpeeanna Giants' looked healthier all summer. Both varieties looked attractive in arrangements.

## Prefer 'Cactus Bright Jewel'

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 MN

They both did very well in my garden. 'Cactus Bright Jewel' had bigger and more attractive flowers.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties produced beautiful flowers that the deer did not like to eat! 'Cactus Bright Jewel' had bigger flowers, healthier plants.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Cactus Bright Jewel' was bigger. There was poor germination of both varieties in my garden.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated at near 100%. 'Burpeeanna Giants' had an abundance of orange flowers; there was a greater variety of color among 'Cactus Bright Jewel' flowers. 'Burpeeanna Giants' produced more plants with single, regular zinnia blooms. Both varieties were great, and I loved the different textures of the petals.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Burpeeanna Giants' bloomed first (July and August) and was on the downhill before 'Cactus Bright Jewel' was in full bloom (late August and September). 'Burpeeanna Giants' was taller and broke over in the wind or the dogs running through the garden. 'Cactus Bright Jewel' did not break over. Both had lots of blooms.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Cactus Bright Jewel' had more blooms per plant and larger blooms.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 SE

These zinnias created an outstanding display! I preferred the colors of 'Cactus Bright Jewel'.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😞 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Cactus Bright Jewel' had better color selection. Its flowers and plants were more attractive.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked the brightness of the 'Cactus Bright Jewel' flowers better, but both varieties were good. 'Burpeeanna Giants' germinated better.

Burpeeanna Giants ★★★★★ 😞 🏠  
Cactus Bright Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Cactus Bright Jewel' came up first. The plants of both varieties were healthy, but 'Cactus Bright Jewel' had bigger blooms.

**'Cactus Bright Jewel' had big, vibrant blooms. 'Burpeeanna Giants' produced more blooms at more sites.**

## Prefer 'Cactus Bright Jewel' (continued)

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

'Cactus Bright Jewel' had big, vibrant, gorgeous flowers! 'Burpeeanna Giants' definitely had more flowers. I got many compliments on both varieties.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

'Cactus Bright Jewel' bloomed first.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

'Cactus Bright Jewel' plants were taller and had more flowers on them. 'Burpeeanna Giants' flowers had more shades of pink while the 'Cactus Bright Jewel' flowers were more oranges and reds.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

'Cactus Bright Jewel' had a smaller flower size, which is what I was looking for. Both varieties had beautiful plants.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

These varieties had a nice variation of color.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

These varieties both produced beautiful flowers. I didn't have any trouble with mildew with these varieties. The pollinators love these flowers. I took cut flowers to the Farmers Market and gave them to the customers free of charge—they loved them! 'Cactus Bright Jewel' germinated better.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

I liked the shape of the 'Cactus Bright Jewel' flower better.

## No Preference

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

Both varieties were very hardy, long lasting, and essentially self-sufficient.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

They were both beautiful and grew very tall. They attracted bees. I would grow both varieties again.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

You could not tell these were two different varieties. Both came up equally, had healthy plants with a great variety of colors and shapes, and both kept on blooming the entire summer. Both had amazing flowers and nice long, sturdy stems. They were stunning and beautiful! The plants of the varieties were equal in height—about 4-feet tall with a few plants shooting up to 6-feet tall. These were amazing and everyone who came to see my gardens loved the awesome show of color. The butterflies loved them too!

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

I liked both for their variation of height.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

The flowers of both varieties were the same. The flowers lasted a long time in bouquets.

Burpeeanna Giants   
 Cactus Bright Jewel 

I could tell no difference between these varieties. They were both spectacular.

## Conclusions

Gardeners loved both varieties. Their flowers were bright and beautiful. Most gardeners preferred 'Cactus Bright Jewel'. It had big, vibrant blooms. 'Burpeeanna Giants' produced more blooms at more sites. The flowers of both varieties had long, sturdy stems that were great for cut flower arrangements.

**The flowers of both varieties had long, sturdy stems that were great for cut flower arrangements.**



# Zinnia, Dahlia Mix

## Varieties

### 'California Giants'

80 days. Huge, semi-double flowers with rounded petals. Long stems for cutting. Grows 48 inches.

### 'State Fair'

90 days. Jumbo, 5-inch flowers come in a wide range of bright colors. Plants grow 36 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 34 sites submitted information.

Trait	California Giants	State Fair	Same
Germinated best	43%	18%	39%
Healthier plants	29	21	50
Bloomed earlier	37	44	19
More blooms	29	29	43
Prettier in garden	29	32	39
Better cut flower	13	31	56
Preference	40	60	
Recommend	91	88	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.23	8.43	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	8.00	9.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'California Giants'

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were beautiful. They had lovely, large blooms and were continuously blooming.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'California Giants' had more blossoms and bushier plants.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both were good varieties. 'California Giants' blooms were vibrant.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Neither variety germinated well. 'California Giants' grew taller.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'California Giants' plants were taller, and I preferred its blooms.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'California Giants' outperformed 'State Fair' all season long. It has been more robust, bloomed earlier, and is still getting new blooms daily.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 NC

These were attractive flowers.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 -  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'California Giants' produced larger and more flowers making them more appealing in the garden.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'California Giants' had a few more blooms and the colors were really pretty.

California Giants ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 SW

They were pretty similar but 'California Giants' bloomed earlier.

**'California Giants' and State Fair' received high scores for their large, beautiful blooms.**

## Best dahlia zinnia varieties

### Top choice

Benary's Giant

### Strong performers

California Giants

Cut and Come

Again

Giant Dahlia

Oklahoma

State Fair

Uprouse Rose

Zowie! Yellow

Flame

## Prefer 'California Giants' (continued)

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 SW

'California Giants' had more blooms and larger flowers. 'State Fair' flowers had brighter colors.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😞 MT

'California Giants' grew better and was more attractive in the garden.

## Prefer 'State Fair'

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 MN

'State Fair' flowers were more vivid in color. It made a very showy display until the October frost. Both varieties had healthy plants.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 MN

'State Fair' flowers were larger and more vibrant. Both varieties were very healthy and loved by pollinators. Their blooms were stunning in color and size. These flowers held up longer as cut flowers compared to my snapdragons and dahlias.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 NE

'State Fair' was taller.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

These were both great zinnias. They had near 100% germination. The plants were sturdy with multiple buds. They were huge with the largest plants being 68 inches for 'California Giants' and 64 inches for 'State Fair'. Both varieties had lots of blooms and were beautiful. 'California' Giants' flowers came in a wider variety of colors, but 'State Fair' flowers were more vibrant. Butterflies, bees and some birds loved them. Both were great cut flowers.

**Both varieties were healthy and loved by pollinators.**

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE

'State Fair' flowers were bigger. I liked their vivid colors.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC

'State Fair' was lovely and colorful. When cut, its flowers lasted 3 weeks in a vase.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I loved both varieties. 'State Fair' bloomed first and was more attractive in the garden.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
 State Fair ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties grew very well before the early frost.

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

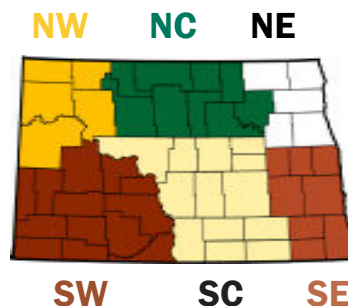
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★☆  
 Variety B ★★★★★☆

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



## Locations

MN = Minnesota  
 NE = Northeast  
 SE = Southeast  
 NC = North Central  
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 CO = Colorado  
 IA = Iowa  
 PA = Pennsylvania

## Prefer 'State Fair' (continued)

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties tolerated the drought well and were prolific. They put on a colorful display. Their cut flowers lasted over a week in bouquets. Pollinators were attracted to both varieties, which bloomed until the first frost. 'State Fair' had slightly larger flowers and more color.

California Giants ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'State Fair' had bigger blooms and more double blooms. Its colors were more exciting.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

'State Fair' had continual blooms, large flowers and sturdy stalks.

California Giants ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

I preferred the shape of 'State Fair' flowers in making bouquets. The flowers of both varieties were absolutely beautiful!

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

'State Fair' had nicer looking plants and bloomed first. Both varieties produced beautiful flowers and the pollinators loved them.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'State Fair' flowers were much bigger and more vibrant in color! I never planted zinnias before, but I will plant them again!

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

I absolutely loved 'State Fair' for its large and beautiful flowers. It produced more flowers, too. Because of its large blooms, 'State Fair' was impressive in the garden and so pretty in the vase—it really stood out.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 -  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'State Fair' flowers had brighter colors.

California Giants ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'State Fair' had taller plants, more flowers and bigger flowers. It bloomed earlier. 'California Giants' dealt with the August heat and drought a lot better. 'State Fair' grew better earlier in summer.

## No Preference

California Giants ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
State Fair ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked both varieties and would plant both again.

## Conclusions

'California Giants' and 'State Fair' received high scores for their large, beautiful blooms. Both varieties were healthy and loved by pollinators. Most gardeners preferred 'State Fair'. Several gardeners noted 'State Fair' flowers were more vibrant in color. Both varieties did well as cut flowers.

**Several gardeners noted 'State Fair' flowers were more vibrant in color.**

# Sunflower, Scarlet Dahlia

## Varieties

### 'Scarlet Flame'

80 days. Brilliant, large, double and semi-double flowers. Good for cut flowers. Grows 36 inches.

### 'Will Rogers'

80 days. Bright-red, double flowers are stunning. Great for cut flowers. Grows 30 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Scarlet Flame	Will Rogers	Same
Germinated best	33%	20%	47%
Healthier plants	27	33	40
Bloomed earlier	67	20	13
More blooms	67	13	20
Prettier in garden	47	20	33
Better cut flower	25	25	50
Preference	60	40	
Recommend	93	80	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	8.53	7.47	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	9.00	8.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Scarlet Flame'

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers NC

'Scarlet Flame' grew taller and had bigger blooms.

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers NC

'Scarlet Flame' bloomed earlier. Both varieties were beautiful.

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers SC

'Scarlet Flame' had beautiful, large blooms with bright, vibrant color. 'Will Rogers' had small blooms and unhealthy plants.

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers SC

These were very beautiful flowers. 'Scarlet Flame' bloomed earlier, and its flowers did not get as spent as quickly as those of 'Will Rogers'.

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers NW

'Scarlet Flame' blossoms were huge and lasted for a very long time as cut flowers. Their stems were strong and stood up to our North Dakota winds. Both varieties were beautiful.

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers NW

'Scarlet Flame' blooms were more uniform and fuller in appearance. The flowers were deeper red, which I like. 'Will Rogers' had a fuller stand, taller and greener plants, but bloomed sporadically.

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers NW

'Scarlet Flame' had better germination and bigger blooms.

Scarlet Flame Will Rogers SW

'Scarlet Flame' had more flowers. They were brighter red.

**'Scarlet Flame' bloomed earlier and had more blooms. Its blooms were big, bright, and long lasting.**

## Best dahlia zinnia varieties

**Top choice**  
Benary's Giant

**Strong performers**

- California Giants
- Cut and Come Again
- Giant Dahlia
- Oklahoma State Fair
- Uprouse Rose
- Zowie! Yellow Flame

## Prefer ‘Scarlet Flame’ (continued)

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Will Rogers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MT

‘Scarlet Flame’ germinated and bloomed a few days earlier. In our short growing season, every few days count. The plants and blooms were damaged by grasshoppers.

## Prefer ‘Will Rogers’

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Will Rogers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE

‘Will Rogers’ blooms were bright. ‘Scarlet Flame’ produced more flowers.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 😞 🐞  
 Will Rogers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NE

‘Will Rogers’ produced more flowers. The trial was partially shaded.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Will Rogers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

I loved them both. Their flowers were a beautiful, dark red. The stems of ‘Will Rogers’ were hardier and stood up better. I would be happy with either variety.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Will Rogers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC  
 ‘Will Rogers’ plants were taller and its flowers were prettier.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Will Rogers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NW  
 I preferred the color of ‘Will Rogers’.

Scarlet Flame ★★★★★ 😊 🐞  
 Will Rogers ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SD

The zinnias were planted in a bed that does not receive supplemental water. We had a week of 90+ °F temperatures and ‘Will Rogers’ withstood the conditions a little better. It was first to germinate and first to bloom.

## Conclusions

Both varieties grew well and were beautiful. Most gardeners recommended both varieties, but they preferred ‘Scarlet Flame’. ‘Scarlet Flame’ bloomed earlier and had more blooms. Its blooms were big, bright, and long lasting. ‘Will Rogers’ was good but not exceptional.

**Both varieties grew well and were beautiful. Most gardeners recommended both varieties, but they preferred ‘Scarlet Flame’.**

## Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

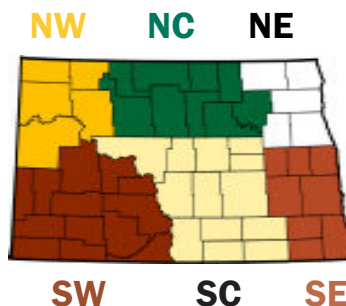
**Ratings (1 to 10)** →  
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊  
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

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

**Location** →  
 NC

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



## Locations

MN = Minnesota  
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# Zinnia, Mexican

## Varieties

### 'Old Mexico'

(Shown) 80 days. Small, mahogany flowers are edged in gold. Sturdy stems for mini bouquets. 15 inches.

### 'Persian Carpet'

80 days. Bushy plants are covered with 2-inch, double flowers. Tolerates heat. Grows 16 inches.



## Data

Gardeners at 26 sites submitted information.

Trait	Old Mexico	Persian Carpet	Same
Germinated best	35%	23%	42%
Healthier plants	27	19	54
Bloomed earlier	23	42	35
More blooms	27	23	50
Prettier in garden	27	23	50
Better cut flower	30	30	40
Preference	58	42	
Recommend	85	69	
Mean score <sup>1</sup>	7.85	7.08	
Median score <sup>1</sup>	9.00	7.00	

<sup>1</sup>Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

## Prefer 'Old Mexico'

Old Mexico   
 Persian Carpet MN

Both varieties had healthy, pretty plants that looked great all summer. 'Old Mexico' had a bit more color.

Old Mexico   
 Persian Carpet MN

We prefer the petal consistency of 'Old Mexico'.

Old Mexico   
 Persian Carpet NE

'Persian Carpet' had mostly single flowers and a few semi-double and double flowers. 'Old Mexico' had more semi-double and double flowers and they were multi-colored.

Old Mexico   
 Persian Carpet SE

I started some of the seeds indoors. 'Persian Carpet' germinated a couple days sooner and tolerated transplanting better. In my garden sowing, 'Persian Carpet' sprouted earlier, grew a little faster and bloomed first. By the end of the season, the plants of both varieties were the same size and were blooming profusely. 'Old Mexico' flowers were slightly larger with a slightly deeper orange/yellow color. The red centers to the 'Old Mexico' blooms were larger and added a little more interest.

Old Mexico   
 Persian Carpet SE

Both were attractive, but I liked 'Old Mexico'. There were mostly yellow flowers within the mix of red/gold, and I liked the variation in blooms. The plants of both varieties had a spreading habit and produced a very full cluster of blooms in my garden. Both varieties produced a lot of flowers. I liked that blooms lasted so long and didn't need frequent deadheading.

Old Mexico   
 Persian Carpet SE

'Persian Carpet' struggled to get started and the plants died in mid-August. 'Old Mexico' plants were right next to it and they were healthy.

**Both varieties had low, spreading habits and bloomed profusely.**

**Best Mexican zinnia varieties**

**Top choice**  
Persian Carpet

**Strong performers**

Jazzy  
Old Mexico

## Prefer 'Old Mexico' (continued)

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated very quickly. These zinnias were a surprise as I was expecting a larger, sturdier looking plant. These zinnias had very small, albeit attractive flowers on delicate stems. They reminded me of the delicate gauras. They need to be planted where they won't be overpowered by other flowers in the garden. They are a beautiful addition to a sunny garden. 'Old Mexico' was slightly more vigorous. Both varieties were attractive, and I would like to plant both again.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties produced flowers that looked very nice! 'Old Mexico' flowers had deeper colors.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Old Mexico' had better colors.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Old Mexico' had bigger flowers.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Old Mexico' produced more flowers and was more attractive.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😞 SC  
 'Old Mexico' was better producing flowers.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I loved both varieties. 'Old Mexico' had way more flowers—gorgeous! It germinated much better. 'Old Mexico' started blooming 2 days earlier and are blooming longer.

Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🏠  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Old Mexico' produced longer and held up better in dry conditions. Both varieties needed a shot of fertilizer to get them started.

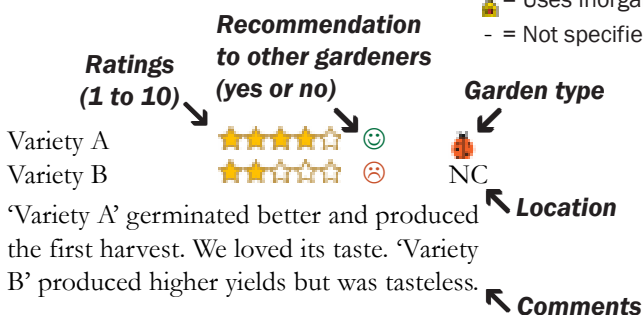
Old Mexico ★★★★★ 😊 🐛  
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Old Mexico' had bushier plants and was hardier in full sun. I had both varieties planted in full sun and part shade. Both did better in the part shade versus full sun. 'Persian Carpet' suffered more in the full sun because they were taller, less bushy plants.

**'Old Mexico' performed well across sites and was preferred by more gardeners. They liked the richness of its colors.**

### Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

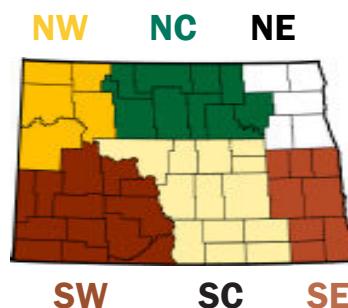


#### Garden types

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

#### Locations

- MN = Minnesota
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## Prefer 'Persian Carpet'

Old Mexico  MN  
 Persian Carpet 


I found them to be very similar; however the plants of 'Persian Carpet' were slightly more substantial than those of 'Old Mexico'. They almost formed a sort of hedge which was a nice border between my gardens. I highly recommend either variety as they were quite lovely. Both produced many flowers and pollinators loved them!

Old Mexico  -  
 Persian Carpet  NE  
 'Persian Carpet' had greater color variety.

Old Mexico  NE  
 Persian Carpet  NE  
 'Persian Carpet' bloomed a little better. Both varieties grew better in my garden than in a basket.

Old Mexico  SE  
 Persian Carpet  SE

I preferred the look of 'Persian Carpet' blooms. The seedlings of both varieties were so small, but they looked great 2 weeks after planting. Slugs, high heat and humidity, and limited sunlight all took its toll. The plants were thin, not so bushy, and had to be supported or they would fall over.

Old Mexico  SC  
 Persian Carpet  SC  
 'Persian Carpet' plants had larger stems and more flowers. 'Old Mexico' plants were much smaller.

Old Mexico  SC  
 Persian Carpet  SC  
 'Persian Carpet' had more flowers that were fuller.

Old Mexico  SC  
 Persian Carpet 

The flowers of both varieties were so pretty, and the plants were thick. 'Persian Carpet' bloomed earlier.

Old Mexico  SC  
 Persian Carpet 

Both varieties were very pretty. 'Persian Carpet' had a little more color variety. Its plants were taller, and its stems were stronger.

Old Mexico  NW  
 Persian Carpet  NW

'Persian Carpet' grew better in my flowerpots.

Old Mexico  NW  
 Persian Carpet 

'Persian Carpet' germinated better, was healthier, and looked more attractive.

Old Mexico  NW  
 Persian Carpet 

'Persian Carpet' was taller, had larger heads, and filled the border well.

**'Persian' Carpet' had a greater variety of colors. It bloomed earlier at more sites.**

## Conclusions

Many gardeners had not grown Mexican zinnias before and they were delighted. Both varieties had low, spreading habits and bloomed profusely. 'Old Mexico' performed well across sites and was preferred by more gardeners. Gardeners liked the richness of its colors. 'Persian' Carpet' had a greater variety of colors. It bloomed earlier at more sites.

## Appendix 1

# Welcome Letter

NDSU

EXTENSION

Dear Gardener,

Welcome to our research team! It will be fun to work with you this summer. Enclosed are the seeds you ordered. If you are missing anything, please let me know. Let's go over some key points:

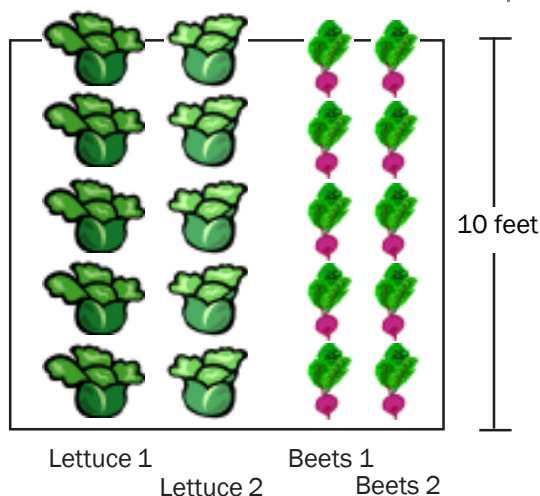
1. Each trial compares two varieties. **You must plant both varieties.**
2. To make it a fair comparison, you need to **treat both varieties in the same manner.** They must get the same amount of sunlight and general care (watering and fertilizing).

3. We want to see how these varieties perform under real home garden situations. The packets have instructions on how to sow your seeds, but you may **use your own gardening practices.** For example, I sow my cucumber seeds in a row but you can plant them in hills if you wish. It's up to you.

4. When possible, **grow the varieties for each trial in rows near each other.** Look at the diagram (top right). Notice the varieties being compared in the lettuce and beet trials are grown next to each other. In this way, they are most likely to get the same amount of sunlight and care.

Cucumber, melon and pumpkin vines can "run" and become intertwined. Try to keep the vines of each variety within the row so you do not get confused when harvesting and evaluating each variety.

5. You have enough seeds to grow at least 10 feet of each variety. 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  
2718 Gateway Ave., Suite 304  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
tom.kalb@ndsu.edu  
701.328.9722

**Welcome  
to our  
research  
team!**

### More Info

Go to the ND Home Garden Variety Trials website: [www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegarden/varietytrials/](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegarden/varietytrials/)

## Appendix 2

# Example of Evaluation Form

<b>2020 Trial #00</b>  <b>Cantaloupe</b>
--

Name: Jenny Gardener

Date Sown: May 30

Did you use a chemical fertilizer (for example, 10–10–10, Miracle-Gro)?  Yes  No

Did you use a pesticide for insects or diseases? Yes  No  
 If yes, was it organic? Yes  No

Which variety:	Apollo	Zeus	Same	Comments
Germinated best?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor
Had healthier plants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apollo vines turned gray in fall
Produced the first ripe melons?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Three days earlier than Zeus
Produced higher yields?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6
Had more attractive melons?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh
Tasted better?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet

Overall Performance Rating	Apollo	Zeus
Rate each variety on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 5 = good and 10 = excellent. <i>Don't give both a "10". Be very critical!</i>	5	9

Preference
Circle the variety you prefer. <i>Don't circle both—make a choice!</i> Apollo <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 10px;">Zeus</span>
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 <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 10px;">Zeus</span> Both      Neither



## Appendix 3

# Acknowledgements

### Researchers

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A team of gardeners conducted observation trials of individual varieties for Asian greens, radish, spinach, turnips and cut sunflowers. This team consisted of many gardeners listed earlier in this appendix as well as the gardeners listed below.

These trials were not highly scientific, and a major emphasis of the trials in fall was getting children involved in gardening. The results of these mini-trials are not presented, but we greatly appreciate and acknowledge the work of this team.

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# Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

## 2021

Selecting an outstanding cultivar can lead to a bountiful garden.

### Cultivar selection checklist:

- ✓ Early maturity
- ✓ Flavorful
- ✓ Resists diseases
- ✓ Productive
- ✓ Widely adapted (cool soil, dry weather)

The finest cultivars will lead to the finest gardens. North Dakota State University and its team of over 200 gardeners evaluate promising cultivars every summer. The following cultivars have excelled in these and other trials in the Midwest:

**ASPARAGUS.** Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Millennium, Purple Passion.

**BEAN. Bush:** Annihilator, Antigua, Bush Blue Lake 274, Crockett, Derby, Espada, Inspiration, Jade II, Lewis, Maxibel, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Royal Burgundy, Serengeti, Strike. **Dry:** Arikara Yellow, Great Northern. **Lima:** Fordhook 242, Eastland. **Pole:** Fortex, Monte Cristo, Orient Wonder, Seychelles, Stringless Blue Lake S-7. **Soybean:** Envy, Tohya. **Wax:** Borsalino, Carson, Gold Rush.

**BEET. Red:** Bull's Blood, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Eagle, Merlin, Red Ace, Sweet Dakota Bliss. **Gold:** Boldor, Burpee's Golden, Touchstone Gold.

**BROCCOLI.** Green Magic, Packman.

**CABBAGE. Chinese:** Blues. **Head:** Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

**CARROT. Orange:** Baltimore, Bolero, Candynax, Cupar, Goldfinger, Hercules, Emperor 58, Laguna, Mokum, Napoli, Naval, Negovia, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes. **Other:** Chablis Yellow, Purple Haze.

**CAULIFLOWER.** Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

**CORN. Super Sweet:** American Dream, Anthem XR, Enchanted, Xtra-Tender 274A. **Sugary enhanced:** Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Temptation. **Synergistic:** Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select, Sweetness. **Ornamental:** Fiesta. **Popcorn:** Dakota Black.



**CUCUMBER. Pickling:** Alibi, Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf. **Slicing:** Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Mercury, Muncher, Orient Express II, Raceway, Raider, Salad Bush, Silver Slicer, Straight Eight, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green.

**EGGPLANT.** Black Beauty, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express.

**GREENS.** Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Komatsuna, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Tokyo Bekana, Vegetable Amaranth, Win-Win Choi.

**KALE.** Black Magic, Dazzling Blue, Red Russian, Vates, White Russian, Winterbor.

**KOHLRABI.** Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner.

**LETTUCE. Leaf:** Bergam's Green, Cervanek, Deer Tongue, Merlot, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Royal Oakleaf, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. **Butterhead:** Alkindus, Buttercrunch, Nancy, Red Cross, Skyphos. **Batavian:** Muir, Nevada, Sierra. **Romaine:** Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Newham, Starhawk. **Lollo:** Dark Red Lollo Rossa.

**MELON. Muskmelon:** Aphrodite, Athena, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. **Specialty:** Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan.

**OKRA.** Candle Fire, Clemson Spineless.

**ONION.** Ailsa Craig, Candy, Copra, Sweet Sandwich, Walla Walla.

**PEA. Shell:** Early Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro Improved, Wando. **Snap:** Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap. **Snow:** Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sweet Horizon.

**PEPPER. Bell:** Bell Boy, Early Sunation, Jupiter, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze. **Frying/Roasting:** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. **Hot:** Cheyenne, Early Jalapeno, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, Tiburon.

**POTATO.** Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

**PUMPKIN. Cooking:** Small Sugar, Cinderella's Carriage. **Jack-o'-lantern:** Autumn Gold, Bellatrix, Cronus, Early Dakota Howden, Early Giant, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Howden Biggie, Large Marge, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie, Warty Goblin. **Giant:** Big Moose, Dill's Atlantic Giant, Polar Bear. **Ornament:** Blaze, Casperita, Jack Be Little.

**RADISH.** Amethyst, Bacchus, Champion, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Red Head, Rover, Roxanne, Sora, White Icicle.

**RUTABAGA.** American Purple Top.

**SPINACH.** Avon, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Escalade, Gazelle, Lizard, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, Tye.

**SQUASH, SUMMER. Crookneck:** Gentry, Sundance. **Scallop:** Flying Saucer, Sunburst. **Straightneck:** Fortune, Multipik, Slick Pik YS 26, Zephyr. **Zucchini:** Cashflow, Desert, Easypick Gold, Gold Rush, Green Machine, Green Tiger, Payload, Portofino, Raven, Spineless Beauty.

**SQUASH, WINTER. Acorn:** Autumn Delight, Black Bellota, Carnival, Table Ace, Table King. **Buttercup:** Bonbon, Burgess. **Butternut:** Butter Baby, Butterscotch, Early

Butternut, Waltham. **Delicata:** Cornell's Bush Delicata, Zeppelin. **Hubbard:** Blue Magic, Red Kuri. **Kabocha:** Sunshine, Sweet Mama.

**SWEET POTATO.** Beauregard.

**SWISS CHARD.** Bright Lights, Flamingo, Improved Rainbow, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Rhubarb.

**TOMATO. Cherry:** Juliet, SunSugar, Supersweet 100, Sweet Baby Girl, Yellow Pear. **Fresh market:** Big Beef, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus. **Paste:** Roma VF, Viva Italia. **Heirloom:** Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Striped German, Stupice, Wisconsin 55.

**TURNIP.** Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross.

**WATERMELON. Seeded:** Petite Yellow, Sangria, Stargazer, Sugar Baby, Sweet Dakota Rose, Yellow Doll. **Seedless:** Millionaire.



## Seed Sources

The following is a sample of companies offering seeds. This list is provided for educational purposes only; no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Many offer free seed catalogs.

A.P. Whaley Seed, [www.awhaley.com](http://www.awhaley.com).  
 Baker Creek Seed, [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com).  
 Burpee Seed, [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com).  
 Fedco Seeds, [www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com).  
 Gurney's Seed and Nursery, [www.gurneys.com](http://www.gurneys.com).  
 Harris Seeds, [www.harriseseeds.com](http://www.harriseseeds.com).  
 High Mowing Seeds, [www.highmowingseeds.com](http://www.highmowingseeds.com).  
 HPS Seed, [www.hpsseed.com](http://www.hpsseed.com).  
 Johnny's Selected Seeds, [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com).  
 Jordan Seeds, [www.jordanseeds.com](http://www.jordanseeds.com).  
 Jung Seed, [www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com).  
 Osborne Seeds, [www.osborneseed.com](http://www.osborneseed.com).  
 Pinetree Garden Seeds, [www.superseeds.com](http://www.superseeds.com).  
 Prairie Road Org. Seed, [www.prairieroadorganic.co](http://www.prairieroadorganic.co).  
 Seed Savers Exchange, [www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org).  
 Siskiyou Seeds, [www.siskiyouseeds.org](http://www.siskiyouseeds.org).  
 Stokes Seeds, [www.stokeseeds.com](http://www.stokeseeds.com).  
 Territorial Seed, [www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com).  
 True Leaf Market Seed, [www.trueleafmarket.com](http://www.trueleafmarket.com).  
 Vesey's Seeds, [www.veseys.com](http://www.veseys.com).

**All gardeners are invited to join our team of backyard researchers. Go to [www.ags.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/](http://www.ags.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/)**

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