



# **North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials**

**SUMMARY  
2019**

# 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 220 sites rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. A total of 1,205 side-by-side comparisons were submitted.

In each trial they noted which of the two varieties they preferred (Pref) and which of the varieties they

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

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



## Bean, Green Snap

'Lewis' ripened earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners were especially impressed by its dark green, straight and slender pods. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' plants were bushier and produced a good crop of meaty pods all summer long.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
B. Blue Lake 274	38	67	7.42
Lewis	63	83	8.29
			(29 sites)



## Bean, Green Filet

'Crockett' was truly exceptional. Gardeners raved over its long, slender, straight, dark green pods—the ultimate in quality. 'Crockett' produced heavy, early crops. Both varieties were healthy and produced tasty pods.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Crockett	84	94	8.73
Serengeti	16	67	7.39
			(43 sites)



## Bean, Green Pole

'Monte Cristo' was most impressive. Its vines were healthy and produced higher yields. 'Monte Cristo' pods were bright green, longer and very attractive. 'Kentucky Blue' produced earlier. The pods of both varieties were flavorful.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Kentucky Blue	29	43	5.86
Monte Cristo	71	71	7.71
			(8 sites)



## Bean, Purple Snap

Most gardeners preferred 'Purple Queen Improved' because it produced earlier and higher yields. Plant health and pod qualities of the varieties were similar. Gardeners enjoyed the color and taste of both varieties' pods.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Amethyst	40	56	7.25
Purp. Queen Imp.	60	75	7.69
			(17 sites)



## Bean, Vegetable Soybean

In limited testing, 'Tohya' matured earlier and 'Chiba Green' produced higher yields. 'Tohya' has performed well in previous years. It matures early and produces delicious soybeans. 'Chiba Green' deserves another look.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Chiba Green	50	50	8.00
Tohya	50	50	7.00
			(4 sites)



## Bean, Yellow Snap

Gardeners liked both varieties but most preferred 'Gold Rush'. Its plants were healthy and produced earlier yields. 'Golden Rod' plants were vigorous and productive. Neither variety excelled over the other in pod quality traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gold Rush	57	71	7.57
Golden Rod	43	64	7.29
			(16 sites)



### Beet, Gold

‘Burpee’s Golden’ produced higher yields. The leaves of both varieties were attractive. Gardeners liked the color and flavor of both varieties’ roots. Most gardeners did not recommend ‘Golden Detroit’ due to its low yields.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Burpee’s Golden	60	63	6.63
Golden Detroit	40	25	5.50
			(12 sites)



### Beet, Red

Both varieties germinated well, had healthy plants, and produced bountiful yields at the same time. Gardeners liked the looks and flavors of both varieties. ‘Merlin’ had a slim edge in root appearance and taste qualities.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Kestrel	46	86	7.80
Merlin	54	79	7.67
			(19 sites)



### Beet, Red Canning

‘Cylindra’ was superior. It germinated much better, matured earlier and produced higher yields. More gardeners who had a taste preference chose ‘Cylindra’. ‘Forono’ had healthy plants but was not exceptional in any way.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cylindra	65	76	8.06
Forono	35	47	6.59
			(22 sites)



### Carrot, Garden (Nantes)

Gardeners were pleased with the performance of both varieties. No consistent and significant differences were detected. ‘Goldfinger’ has been a strong performer for many years. ‘Ingot’ deserves further testing.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Goldfinger	52	78	7.80
Ingot	48	73	7.71
			(49 sites)



### Carrot, Large

Both varieties produced flavorful, dark orange roots. Most gardeners preferred ‘Baltimore’, primarily for its looks. ‘New Kuroda’ produced higher yields in more gardens. More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘New Kuroda’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Baltimore	59	76	7.53
New Kuroda	41	82	7.53
			(18 sites)



### Carrot, Long (Imperator)

Both varieties had healthy tops and long, beautiful roots. Gardeners were impressed by the high yields, uniform roots and fresh, mild flavor of ‘Imperator 58’. Some gardeners preferred the performance and taste of ‘Sugarsnax 54’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Imperator 58	61	74	7.35
Sugarsnax 54	39	52	7.17
			(25 sites)



### Corn, Early

‘Sweetness’ ripened quicker and had higher yields at more sites. Its ears were more attractive and tasted sweeter to more gardeners. Most gardeners liked ‘Temptress’, but it did not excel in any traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sweetness	71	85	7.71
Temptress	29	62	6.71
			(17 sites)



### Corn, Early Super Sweet

Both varieties grew well, but neither distinguished itself. Gardeners were split on their preferences. More gardeners recommended ‘Anthem XR’, often due to higher yields. ‘Anthem XR’ has performed well in trials of previous years.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Anthem XR	50	79	7.58
Raquel	50	58	7.16
			(20 sites)



### Corn, Late Super Sweet

'American Dream' ripened earlier and produced higher yields at most sites. Many gardeners noted 'American Dream' ears were of superior quality. 'Obsession' germinated better at more sites but was otherwise unremarkable.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
American Dream	67	69	7.92
Obsession	33	62	7.85
			(13 sites)



### Cucumber, Burpless

Gardeners were impressed with the quality and yields of both varieties. Their fruits were thin-skinned and never bitter. 'Summer Dance' produced earlier and produced more cucumbers. Its fruits were straight, uniform and attractive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Summer Dance	58	80	7.85
Summer Top	42	75	7.23
			(46 sites)



### Cucumber, Pickling

Both varieties produced lots of quality cucumbers for pickling. 'Homemade Pickles' is a proven performer and was preferred by most gardeners again this year. Its cucumbers were crisp, small-seeded, and blocky—perfect for pickling.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Calypso	42	81	7.88
Home. Pickles	58	81	8.15
			(31 sites)



### Cucumber, Slicing

'Bristol' got off to a quick start and produced the first cucumbers at more sites. 'Talladega' produced higher yields in more gardens; many gardeners preferred 'Talladega' for that reason. Fruit quality was good for both varieties.

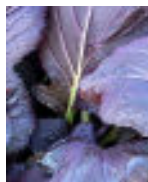
Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bristol	39	67	7.59
Talladega	61	78	7.65
			(20 sites)



### Greens, Loosehead Cabbage (Fall)

Gardeners tried loosehead cabbage for the first time, and they enjoyed both varieties. They liked the ruffled leaves and higher yields of 'Tokyo Bekana'. Those who preferred 'Maruba Santoh' were especially pleased with its taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Maruba Santoh	44	70	6.40
Tokyo Bekana	56	80	7.40
			(16 sites)



### Greens, Purple (Fall)

Both varieties struggled under the cold, wet conditions. 'Red Kingdom' germinated better, was healthier and produced higher yields. Gardeners who succeeded in harvesting a crop of 'Red Kingdom' enjoyed its mild, mustard flavor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Purple Choi	33	50	5.17
Red Kingdom	67	67	5.00
			(8 sites)



### Greens, Pac Choi (Fall)

'Win-Win Choi' got off to a faster start and grew much better under harsh conditions. 'Win-Win Choi' plants were more vigorous, healthier and more productive. Gardeners enjoyed its crunchy texture and pleasant taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Asian Delight	10	40	3.70
Win-Win Choi	90	90	6.20
			(15 sites)



### Lettuce, Green Butterhead

Gardeners loved the looks, taste and crunch of 'Buttercrunch'. This proven winner was very dependable and resisted bolting; it was preferred by most gardeners. 'Milagro' resisted bolting better at more sites and produced good yields.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Buttercrunch	59	89	7.71
Milagro	41	61	7.41
			(21 sites)



### Lettuce, Red Butterhead

‘Cervanek’ excelled in all traits: germination, health, earliness, resistance to bolting, yields, looks and taste. Gardeners enjoyed eating its dark red, flavorful heads all summer. ‘Grandpa Admire’s’ was judged acceptable at best.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cervanek	88	88	8.38
Grandpa Admire’s	13	38	5.00
			(8 sites)



### Lettuce, Green Leaf

Most gardeners preferred ‘Jebousek’. These gardeners felt ‘Jebousek’ was more productive, attractive and better tasting. ‘Deer Tongue’ is a rugged heirloom and it resisted bolting better at more sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Deer Tongue	33	71	6.57
Jebousek	67	71	7.43
			(7 sites)



### Lettuce, Red Leaf

Both ‘Merlot’ and ‘Beleah Rose’ were healthy and very good producers of quality lettuce. Gardeners rated both varieties highly. ‘Merlot’ matched or exceeded ‘Beleah Rose’ in all traits and was rated especially high for its flavor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Beleah Rose	38	75	7.75
Merlot	63	88	8.25
			(9 sites)



### Lettuce, Red Lollo

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ was outstanding. It germinated better, grew faster, was healthier, produced higher yields and tasted better than ‘Revolution’. Both varieties resisted bolting well. ‘Revolution’ did not germinate well in several gardens.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dk. Red L. Rossa	78	78	7.89
Revolution	22	44	6.44
			(9 sites)



### Lettuce, Green Romaine

‘Newham’ was preferred over the standard variety ‘Little Gem’. ‘Newham’ grew more vigorously and produced higher yields. More gardeners felt ‘Newham’ heads looked and tasted better. Both varieties produced crisp, delicious lettuce.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Little Gem	35	50	6.60
Newham	65	75	7.65
			(27 sites)



### Melon, Small Cantaloupe

‘Minnesota Midget’ was a more consistent performer during this cooler than normal growing season. It matured earlier and was more productive at more sites. Yields of both varieties were low due to pests and cool weather.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Minnesota Midget	57	88	6.13
Sugar Cube	43	63	6.25
			(10 sites)



### Melon, Mid-Sized Cantaloupe

‘Athena’ matured earlier, produced higher yields, and its fruits were more attractive compared to those of ‘Sarah’s Choice’. Gardeners loved the taste of both varieties and were split on the variety they preferred.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Athena	50	70	7.30
Sarah’s Choice	50	70	7.10
			(14 sites)



### Melon, Large Cantaloupe

‘Solstice’ was a more reliable performer across sites. ‘Solstice’ had healthier vines, matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners especially liked the looks of ‘Carousel’ melons and enjoyed the flavor of both varieties.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Carousel	33	50	7.00
Solstice	67	67	7.83
			(9 sites)



### Melon, Green Honeydew

‘Earli-Dew’ has been the standard honeydew grown in the north for many years. Although testing is limited, it is exciting to see a new variety outperform it. ‘Honeycomb’ matched ‘Earli-Dew’ for earliness and exceeded it for taste qualities.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Earli-Dew	25	100	7.75
Honeycomb	75	100	8.50
			(5 sites)



### Melon, Orange Honeydew

Testing was limited, but ‘Honey Orange’ looked very promising. Its fruits were delicious, and every gardener recommended the variety. Gardeners did not like the taste of ‘Honey Blonde’. Yields suffered due to cool weather.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Honey Blonde	33	50	5.50
Honey Orange	67	100	7.50
			(6 sites)



### Melon, Korean

‘Sun Jewel’ has performed well in the past and it performed well in 2019. It produced good yields at all sites. Gardeners had mixed feelings about the taste of its distinctive white flesh. All gardeners were disappointed with ‘Torpedo’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sun Jewel	100	67	6.33
Torpedo	0	0	1.00
			(6 sites)



### Pea, Shell

‘Lincoln’ has proven again it is the finest garden pea for ND. It germinated better and produced higher yields. Its pods were attractive and easy to shell. ‘Maestro’ produced the first harvest at more sites; otherwise it performed poorly.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lincoln	92	92	8.79
Maestro	8	38	6.28
			(33 sites)



### Pea, Short-Vine Snap

‘Sugar Ann’ has proven again it is the best snap pea for ND. Gardeners were impressed with its earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste. ‘Cascadia’ was recommended by most gardeners, but it did not excel in any trait.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cascadia	33	67	6.79
Sugar Ann	67	88	8.04
			(28 sites)



### Pea, Tall-Vine Snap

‘Super Sugar Snap’ vines grew more vigorously and produced earlier and higher yields. Gardeners liked the look and taste of its pods. Most gardeners did not recommend ‘PL141’. It was not special in any way.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
PL141	29	36	6.64
Super Sugar Snap	71	86	7.64
			(15 sites)



### Pumpkin, Early

‘Orange Sunrise’ matured earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Its pumpkins were bright orange. ‘Racer Plus’ had darker orange fruits. The vines of ‘Racer Plus’ were compact and well suited for small gardens.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Orange Sunrise	55	82	7.36
Racer Plus	45	73	6.82
			(11 sites)



### Pumpkin, Large

‘Early King’ produced larger pumpkins (19 pounds compared to 15 pounds for ‘Kratos’) and a higher yield at more sites. Gardeners liked the size, shape and sturdy stems on the fruits of both varieties.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Early King	67	68	7.16
Kratos	33	68	7.11
			(23 sites)



### Pumpkin, Cooking

‘Cinderella’s Carriage’ pumpkins ripened earlier at more sites, and its pumpkins were more attractive. ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’ posted higher yields at more sites. Vines of both varieties were vigorous. No taste differences were mentioned.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cinderella’s Carr.	56	89	7.89
Rouge Vif D’Et.	44	78	6.78
			(13 sites)



### Pumpkin, Giant White

‘Polar Bear’ pumpkins were whiter and stayed white. ‘New Moon’ pumpkins developed tinges of blue, green and peach. ‘New Moon’ produced more pumpkins at more gardens. Median pumpkin weight of both varieties was 25 pounds.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
New Moon	30	65	6.75
Polar Bear	70	70	7.10
			(21 sites)



### Radish, Bicolor (Fall)

Every gardener recommended ‘French Breakfast’. It had higher yields, more attractive roots and tasted awesome. Most gardeners liked ‘Nelson’, but it could not match the performance of ‘French Breakfast’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
French Breakfast	75	100	8.25
Nelson	25	80	6.25
			(11 sites)



### Radish, Purple (Fall)

Most gardeners preferred ‘Plum Purple’, often citing its taste. ‘Bacchus’ has performed well in our previous trials and it performed well this year. It germinated better, grew more vigorously and produced higher yields at more gardens.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bacchus	40	50	7.40
Plum Purple	60	100	6.80
			(6 sites)



### Radish, Red (Fall)

Both ‘Champion’ and ‘Roxanne’ germinated well, had healthy plants, and produced good yields. The roots of both varieties had a nice round shape and bright red color. Gardeners were split on which variety tasted better.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Champion	44	70	6.80
Roxanne	56	70	6.50
			(11 sites)



### Radish, Red Long (Fall)

Testing was limited, but every gardener preferred ‘Dragon’. It germinated better and grew faster. Its roots were smoother, more attractive and better tasting. ‘Cincinnati Market’ received low ratings at several sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cincinnati Market	0	50	4.40
Dragon	100	83	6.20
			(7 sites)



### Radish, Watermelon (Fall)

Cold autumn weather played havoc with this trial. These radishes require a longer season than most radishes, and they did not receive enough warmth to grow and mature. Neither variety developed a full-sized root. We’ll try again next year.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Red Meat	0	100	2.50
Starburst	100	100	3.50
			(3 sites)



### Radish, White (Fall)

The hybrid ‘Pearl’ showed greater vigor and produced higher yields. Every gardener recommended it. ‘Hailstone’ was a disappointment. This trial was not popular; data are limited; and flea beetles were a major problem as well.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Hailstone	0	0	2.50
Pearl	100	100	7.00
			(4 sites)



### Spinach, Heat Tolerant (Fall)

‘Escalade’ grew more vigorously in the cold, wet weather. Its plants were healthier and produced higher yields at more gardens. Gardeners with a taste preference selected ‘Space’. ‘Space’ has been a strong performer in our trials for years.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Escalade	56	78	7.00
Space	44	67	6.89
			(13 sites)



### Spinach, Savoy Leaf (Fall)

The rounded leaves of ‘Avon’ were more attractive than the pointed leaves of ‘Regiment’. More gardeners preferred the taste of ‘Avon’. ‘Avon’ germinated better. The varieties were healthy and produced similar yields.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Avon	57	88	6.50
Regiment	43	88	6.25
			(12 sites)



### Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

‘Olympia’ germinated better and had healthier plants. Its yields were earlier and higher. Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties. Nearly all gardeners recommended ‘Olympia’, while most gardeners did not recommend ‘Lakeside’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lakeside	20	40	4.80
Olympia	80	90	6.70
			(18 sites)



### Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

‘Space’ produced higher yields and resisted bolting better at more sites. Gardeners liked the rounded leaf shape of ‘Space’ more than the pointed leaf shape of ‘Seaside’. ‘Seaside’ grew well; many gardeners enjoyed its taste.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Seaside	33	61	7.29
Space	67	83	8.00
			(22 sites)



### Squash, Semi-Crookneck

‘Gentry’ and ‘Gold Star’ were very similar varieties, and gardeners were pleased with both of them. Both varieties had healthy plants that produced lots of fruits. ‘Gentry’ produced earlier and higher yields at more sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gentry	50	83	9.17
Gold Star	50	67	8.83
			(6 sites)



### Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

Both varieties were recommended by nearly all gardeners. ‘Raven’ produced earlier crops at more sites, and numerous gardeners felt its fruits were more attractive and tasted better. Both varieties have done well in our trials for years.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Desert	40	90	7.80
Raven	60	90	8.70
			(10 sites)



### Squash, Green Zucchini

Both varieties produced attractive, delicious fruits. Most gardeners preferred ‘Cashflow’; its vines were healthier. Yields were comparable. Several gardeners noted the earliness of ‘Spineless Beauty’, a proven performer in ND.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cashflow	64	73	7.64
Spineless Beauty	36	55	6.91
			(15 sites)



### Squash, Winter Multicolor Acorn

‘Carnival’ was preferred and recommended by all gardeners. ‘Carnival’ was easy to grow, healthy, and produced higher yields. Gardeners loved the green, gold and yellow flecks on its rind; it was pretty enough to use as a decoration.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Carnival	100	100	7.50
Celebration	0	50	5.50
			(7 sites)





### Squash, Winter Tan Acorn

The hybrid ‘Baked Potatoes’ germinated better, grew vigorously and produced larger fruits. The heirloom ‘Thelma Sanders’ had more flavorful flesh. Gardeners were pleased with the yields of both varieties.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Baked Potatoes	50	100	8.00
Thelma Sanders	50	100	8.00
			(2 sites)



### Squash, Winter Buttercup

‘Bonbon’ ripened earlier and was more productive in most gardens. ‘Autumn Cup’ was satisfactory to most gardeners, but it did not excel in any traits. Both varieties had healthy vines, and their fruits had sweet, delicious flesh.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Autumn Cup	41	53	6.71
Bonbon	59	71	7.41
			(18 sites)



### Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

‘Butter Baby’ vines were bushier, more vigorous and more productive. Its fruits were slightly smaller, which many gardeners preferred. Gardeners liked the taste of both. This trial was more popular than the standard butternut trial.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Butter Baby	67	60	7.07
Butterscotch	33	60	6.80
			(17 sites)



### Squash, Winter Butternut

‘Early Butternut’ has done well in our trials for years, and it grew well this year. Most gardeners preferred it over ‘Atlas’, and more gardeners recommended it. These varieties were rated very similarly for all traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Atlas	33	50	7.50
Early Butternut	67	75	7.75
			(5 sites)



### Squash, Winter Orange Hubbard

‘Red Kuri’ germinated better and its vines were healthier and more productive. ‘Red Kuri’ was a more consistent performer across sites. Fruits of both varieties were beautiful and delicious. Their vines were notably vigorous.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lakota	33	67	6.00
Red Kuri	67	92	7.58
			(15 sites)



### Swiss Chard, Multicolor

Gardeners liked both varieties. ‘Bright Lights’ and ‘Northern Lights’ were rated similarly for most traits including yields and taste. The colors of ‘Bright Lights’ were more vibrant; this led to a vast majority of gardeners preferring it.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bright Lights	77	86	8.54
Northern Lights	23	86	7.92
			(15 sites)



### Turnip, Purple Top (Fall)

Both varieties struggled in the cold, wet autumn to develop full-sized roots. The limited data available showed a strong preference for ‘Purple Prince’ over ‘Purple Top White Globe’. It grew quicker and produced higher yields.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Purple Prince	100	100	9.50
Purp. Top W. G.	0	100	7.50
			(6 sites)



### Turnip, Red (Fall)

Data are limited in this trial. Neither variety produced full-sized roots under the cold, wet conditions. ‘Tsugaru Scarlet’ showed more vigor, leading to higher yields. All gardeners preferred it over ‘Scarlet Queen’.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Scarlet Queen	0	0	4.00
Tsugaru Scarlet	100	100	7.00
			(3 sites)



### Turnip, White (Fall)

The very cold, wet autumn prevented both varieties from developing full-sized roots. ‘Hakurei’ germinated better, had healthier plants and produced higher yields at more sites. Data are very limited in this trial.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Hakurei	75	75	6.00
Tokyo Cross	25	75	5.00
			(4 sites)



### Watermelon, Red Allsweet

‘Sangria’ and ‘Stargazer’ yields were low. ‘Stargazer’ produced more ripe melons at more sites. More gardeners liked the looks and taste of ‘Stargazer’ melons as well. Gardeners were evenly split on which variety they preferred.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sangria	50	63	6.38
Stargazer	50	75	7.13
			(9 sites)



### Watermelon, Red Early

‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ was developed in ND and it showed its superiority here this summer. Gardeners were pleased with the taste and appearance of its melons. Yields of both varieties were low, but ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ produced more.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Shiny Boy	35	59	5.88
Sweet Dak. Rose	65	71	8.35
			(23 sites)



### Watermelon, Yellow

‘Petite Yellow’ produced earlier and produced more ripe melons. It was a more reliable performer. Gardeners were split on which variety tasted better, and they recommended both varieties at an equal percentage.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Petite Yellow	75	63	6.38
Yellow Doll	25	63	6.13
			(11 sites)



### Basil, Compact

Gardeners liked both varieties and no clear and consistent differences were detected. Most gardeners preferred ‘Emma’. These gardeners commented that ‘Emma’ had sturdy plants that grew robustly, producing higher yields.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dolce Fresca	38	69	7.62
Emma	62	77	7.69
			(14 sites)



### Basil, Large Leaf

‘Italian Large Leaf’ and ‘Newton’ were rated similarly for all traits. Neither variety showed a particular strength or weakness. Gardeners were pleased with the health, productivity and taste of both varieties.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Italian Large Leaf	67	75	7.33
Newton	33	83	6.67
			(13 sites)



### Parsley, Flat Leaf

‘Giant of Italy’ germinated better, was healthier, grew faster and produced higher yields. Its long stems made it easy to harvest. It was very reliable and was liked by all gardeners. Those who preferred ‘Peione’ often felt it tasted better.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Giant of Italy	50	100	8.33
Peione	50	67	7.83
			(6 sites)



### Cosmos, Rose

Gardeners loved ‘Rubenza’. Its cranberry-red flowers were vibrant when opening, fading to a soft rose. ‘Xsenia’ had a more compact and uniform habit, but gardeners were less fond of its earthy-pink color. Both were prolific bloomers.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Rubenza	81	86	8.33
Xsenia	19	57	6.24
			(25 sites)



### Cosmos, Striped

Gardeners enjoyed the beauty of both varieties. Gardeners liked ‘Capriola’ for its earliness to bloom and more compact habit. ‘Picotee’ had taller plants with more foliage, plus lots of flowers. Both varieties were good for cutting.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Capriola	53	87	7.86
Picotee	47	80	7.86
(16 sites)			



### Cosmos, White

Gardeners liked both varieties and most preferred ‘Afternoon White’. It had larger flowers and bloomed earlier at more gardens. Both varieties were healthy and bloomed prolifically all summer and fall. ‘Purity’ grew a little taller.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Afternoon White	60	60	7.80
Purity	40	60	6.60
(11 sites)			



### Sunflower, Confectionary

Gardeners were generally disappointed. Diseases, deer, squirrels, cold weather and winds prevented most gardeners from harvesting any quality seeds. ‘Titan’ produced more seeds, but most gardeners did not recommend the variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Mongolian Giant	40	55	5.27
Titan	60	27	5.18
(16 sites)			



### Sunflower, Orange

Both ‘Country Roads’ and ‘Gold Rush’ bloomed early and produced lots of flowers. Most gardeners preferred ‘Gold Rush’; this classic golden sunflower bloomed more abundantly in more gardens. Both did well as cut flowers.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Country Roads	43	71	7.57
Gold Rush	57	71	8.14
(7 sites)			



### Sunflower, Red

The stalks of ‘Moulin Rouge’ were healthier, more vigorous and bloomed earlier than those of ‘Chianti’. ‘Moulin Rouge’ flowers were large and stunning. Most gardeners liked ‘Chianti’ but loved ‘Moulin Rouge’, an extraordinary variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Chianti	9	64	6.55
Moulin Rouge	91	100	7.91
(14 sites)			



### Zinnia, Candystripe

‘Peppermint Stick’ germinated better and bloomed earlier. Its plants were taller, bushier and full of flowers. ‘Pop Art’ did not excel in any traits. Gardeners preferred white flowers with red streaking over any yellow or non-streaked blooms.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Peppermint Stick	58	75	7.04
Pop Art	42	71	6.79
(29 sites)			



### Zinnia, Giant Dahlia

‘Benary’s Giant’ flowers were large and showy. Its plants were loaded with flowers. Most gardeners felt ‘Benary’s Giant’ looked prettier than ‘State Fair’ in their garden. ‘State Fair’ bloomed earlier. Both varieties were good for cutting.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Benary’s Giant	67	85	8.41
State Fair	33	81	7.63
(30 sites)			



### Zinnia, Mexican

‘Persian Carpet’ flowers were larger, coming in shades of gold and red. Gardeners liked the compact habit of ‘Jazzy’. Its blooms had a wider variety of colors. More gardeners felt ‘Jazzy’ was prettier than ‘Persian Carpet’ in their garden.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Jazzy	38	76	7.57
Persian Carpet	62	81	8.00
(28 sites)			

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