North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS 2023

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For more information on the North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials Program, go to https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/.

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Introduction

The First Step to Success

The first step in growing a successful garden is to select a superior variety.

Gardeners who sow **superior** varieties can grow plants that yield abundantly, resist diseases, and produce quality food. Gardeners who sow **inferior** varieties are headed for frustrations. No matter how hard they work in the garden they may have disappointing results.

The benefits of selecting superior varieties for gardens are great. The National Gardening Association (NGA) estimates approximately one-third of households in North Dakota grow a vegetable garden.[1] This indicates there are approximately 100,000 households in North Dakota with vegetable gardens.

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

There is an important public health dimension to gardening. Vegetables and fruits are nature's richest source of micronutrients, minerals and dietary fiber. A diet rich in vegetables and fruits is associated with a decreased risk of obesity and certain chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers. Nevertheless, only 7.3% of adults and a lower percentage of children in North Dakota eat the recommended amount of vegetables for a healthy diet.[3,4]

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

Gardeners in North Dakota enjoy healthy diets and save millions of dollars on food expenses.

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.

The Bottom Line

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

Goals

This program has four major goals:

1. Gardeners will be introduced to new varieties.
2. Gardeners will identify superior varieties of vegetables and flowers.

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

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

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

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

3. Gardeners will grow more productive gardens and enjoy healthier diets.
4. Youth will develop skills in science, eat healthier diets, and enjoy increased levels of physical activity.

Selecting Varieties

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

Preparation of Seed Packets

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

Distribution of Seeds

A limited number of onion trials were offered for free in early spring.

Other trials were available in March. Gardeners could choose up to eight of these trials for $1.50 each with a total postage fee of $5.50. A single free trial was offered to many new participants.

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

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

Fig. 1. Gardeners sowing their research plots.

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

Weather in 2023

The growing season began with cold temperatures in April and wet weather in May (Fig. 2) that delayed plantings. On a positive note, the abundant winter snows and spring rains replenished the moisture levels in our soils that were parched due to two years of drought.

In summer, temperatures were slightly above normal and precipitation levels were slightly below normal at most sites. Drought affected gardens near the Canadian border.

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

The first killing frost in fall was scattered, arriving at many gardens by the second week of October (about 1 week later than normal) while many other gardens across the state enjoyed frost-free weather through late October.

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

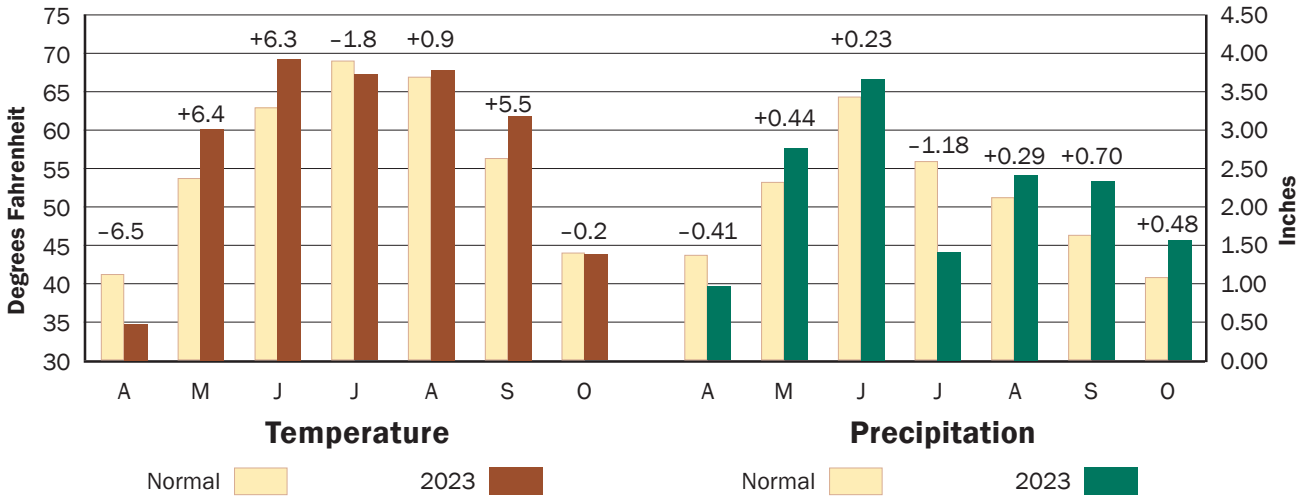


Fig. 2. Statewide monthly temperatures and precipitation amounts in normal years (1901–2000) and 2023. Cold weather in April and rainy conditions in May delayed plantings. In summer, temperatures were slightly warmer than normal and precipitation levels were slightly below normal. Drought affected gardens near the Canadian border. The first killing frost in fall was scattered, arriving at many gardens by the second week of October (about 1 week later than normal) while other gardens did not get frosted until late October. Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information.

Participation in 2023

In 2023, gardeners at 437 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from 1,646 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 49 of the state's 53 counties (Fig. 3). Our trials extended into Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Saskatchewan and South Dakota.

A gardener in Iowa requested a trial. 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.

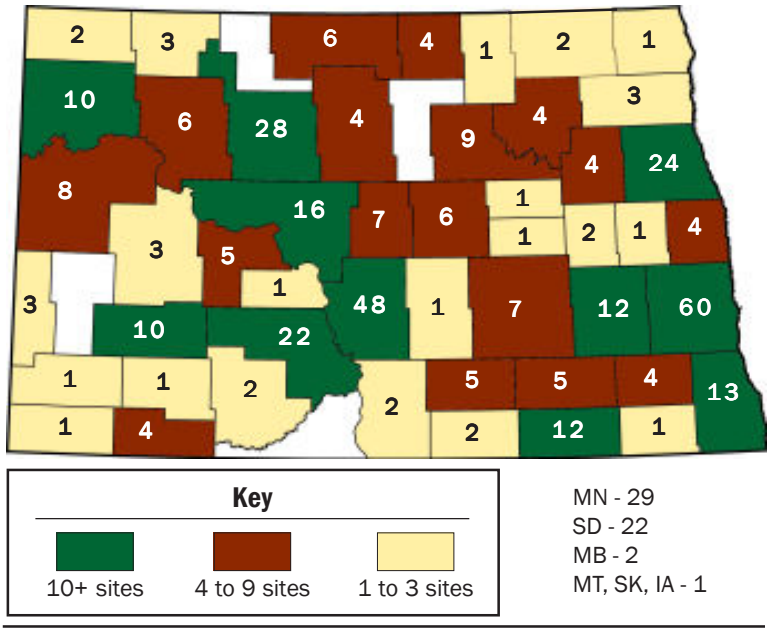


Fig. 3. Gardeners at 437 sites submitted results in 2023. Site numbers are shown above for each county.

Compiling Data

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

Approximately 14% of trials this year were eliminated from our analysis. These trials may have inconsistent data, been damaged extensively from pests or were grown in a manner that one variety received better growing conditions (typically more sun) than the other.

Presentation of Results

Ratings, recommendations and comments of each gardener are presented in this publication. 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 (see illustration below). We start with Minnesota, go to northeast North Dakota, across the central regions of the state to southwest North Dakota, and then include reports from other states and provinces. Regions in North Dakota were identified by considering landforms, soil types, length of growing season and rainfall patterns.

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

We document whether the gardener **recommends** the variety. A positive recommendation is shown by a smiling face and a negative recommendation is shown by a frowning face.

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

Impacts

Evaluations of our project show gardeners in this project are introduced to new varieties and enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets.

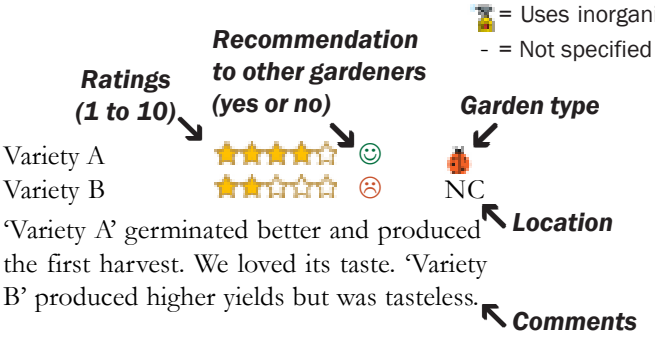
Youth in this project sharpen their skills in science. Youth enjoy healthier diets and increased levels of physical activity.

Impact reports are posted on our website https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/.

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

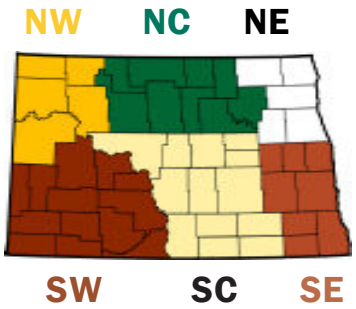
Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



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 = Saskatechewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana
IA = Iowa

Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states/provinces evaluated promising vegetable and cut flower varieties. Gardeners at over 437 sites rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. Reports of 1,646 side-by-side comparisons were submitted.

In each report, they noted which of the two varieties they preferred (Pref) and which of the varieties they would recommend (Rec) to other gardeners. They rated the performance of each variety using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 10 = excellent. The mean rating is presented in this summary.

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

Bean, Green Bush

Homerun was a big hit. It was healthier, earlier maturing and more productive at more sites. Both varieties produced good yields of flavorful beans. *Homerun* beans were attractive as they were darker green, slender and consistently straight.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Caprice	23	63	6.76
Homerun	77	91	8.18

(63 sites)

Bean, Green Bush Organic

Gardeners liked both varieties. The plants of both varieties were healthy and productive. *Red Tail* received very high ratings. Gardeners especially liked its pods, which were dark green, smooth, glossy and straight.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Antigua	47	83	7.79
Red Tail	53	95	8.32

(20 sites)

Bean, Yellow Bush

Both varieties germinated well. Their plants were sturdy and produced delicious, bright yellow pods. *Custard* had healthier plants and earlier harvests at more sites. Gardeners enjoyed the tender, tasty beans of *Gold Rush*.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Custard	56	88	8.12
Gold Rush	44	76	7.64

(28 sites)

Bean, Purple Pole

Both varieties had healthy vines with gorgeous, purple flowers. *Carminat* pods were longer, thinner and more tender. *Purple Podded* vines grew vigorously. *Purple Podded* produced earlier and higher yields. Its pods were thicker and meatier.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Carminat	54	72	6.58
Purple Podded	46	68	6.63

(27 sites)

Beet, Gold

Both varieties grew well. Their roots were beautiful and delicious. *Golden Boy* produced higher yields and had more attractive roots. More gardeners preferred the sweeter taste of *Yellow Sunrise*.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Golden Boy	59	81	7.14
Yellow Sunrise	41	76	7.35

(23 sites)

Beet, Red

These varieties received similar ratings, especially for taste. Gardeners were evenly split on their preferences. *Bresko* had beautiful greens, high yields and sweet roots. *Red Cloud* roots were larger, round, sweet and attractive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bresko	50	78	7.44
Red Cloud	50	81	7.61

(39 sites)

Beet, Red Organic

Both varieties received very high ratings. Gardeners who preferred *Detroit Dark Red* often mentioned its roots were dark red, larger and looked good. Gardeners who preferred *Sweet Dakota Bliss* often thought its roots tasted sweeter.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Detroit Dark Red	50	90	8.30
Swt Dakota Bliss	50	80	8.33

(39 sites)

Broccoli

Many gardeners struggled growing these varieties from seed. *Green Magic* produced higher yields. *Gypsy* has a reputation of performing well under hot conditions, but *Green Magic* did just as well in our summer heat.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Green Magic	50	53	6.60
Gypsy	50	53	6.27

(24 sites)

Carrot Early Nantes

Both varieties grew well and produced good yields of quality carrots. Many gardeners felt *Narvik* roots tasted sweeter while *Naval* roots were better looking (larger, straighter and more uniform). *Naval* produced higher yields at more sites.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Narvik	51	87	7.98
Naval	49	87	8.02

(77 sites)

Carrot, Mainseason Nantes

Gardeners were pleased and gave the varieties similar ratings. Both varieties grew well and produced good yields. Opinions were mixed on which variety looked and tasted better. Gardeners were concerned over misshaped roots.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Jerada	55	79	7.56
Newhall	45	84	7.67

(45 sites)

Carrot, Red

Both varieties received fairly low ratings. Nearly all gardeners felt the tastes of these red carrots were bearable but not delicious. Even the distinctive red color of these carrots did not generate much excitement.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Atomic Red	47	53	5.93
Rubypak	53	53	6.40

(19 sites)

Carrot, Yellow

Gold Nugget was preferred. It germinated better and its roots were sweeter. *Mello Yellow* roots were straight and attractive. Gardeners appreciated the color but not the flavor of these yellow varieties as a complement to orange carrots.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gold Nugget	75	83	7.58
Mello Yellow	25	50	6.58

(13 sites)

Corn, Early Synergistic

Both varieties were healthy and produced good quality corn. *Sweetness* germinated better, grew more vigorously, ripened earlier and produced a higher yield. *Sweetness* has always excelled in our trials. It is an outstanding early corn variety.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Latte	29	63	6.71
Sweetness	71	79	7.58

(31 sites)

Corn, Midseason Super Sweet

Both varieties had healthy, sturdy stalks that produced good yields. Most gardeners preferred *Xtra Tender 274A*. It ripened earlier and produced large ears filled with tender kernels. Gardeners who preferred *Rosie* felt it tasted better.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Rosie	35	54	7.13
Xtra Tender 274A	65	79	7.96

(26 sites)

Corn, Late Super Sweet

Kate grew well but it was overshadowed by the performance of *Troubadour*. *Troubadour* germinated better and ripened earlier. It produced larger ears and higher yields than *Kate*. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Kate	38	71	7.21
Troubadour	62	86	8.07

(21 sites)

Cucumber, Japanese

Gardeners were impressed with the yields and fruit qualities of both varieties. Cucumbers were slender, tasty and free of bitterness. *Sashimi* produced earlier and higher yields at more sites. *Unagi* vines were vigorous and its fruits were smooth.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Sashimi	52	83	7.93
Unagi	48	78	7.83

(50 sites)

Cucumber, Pickling

Many gardeners preferred *Avenger* for its crisp, flavorful cucumbers. *Expedition* vines were vigorous, producing earlier and higher yields at more gardens. Some gardeners expressed dissatisfaction in the taste qualities of *Expedition* cucumbers.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Avenger	65	81	7.54
Expedition	35	58	7.51

(42 sites)

Cucumber, Slicing

Bristol was the better variety. It germinated better, produced earlier and produced a better yield at more sites. More gardeners felt *Bristol* cucumbers were of higher quality. *Diamondback* did not stand out in any particular way.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bristol	68	71	7.58
Diamondback	32	63	6.83

(28 sites)

Cucumber, Snack

Both varieties produced lots of delicious cucumbers. *Green Light* excelled in all traits. Its fruits were sweet, crisp, smooth, slender, straight and flavorful. *Mini-Me* fruits were smaller and less slender. *Mini-Me* vines suffered from diseases.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Green Light	66	87	7.85
Mini-Me	34	56	6.58

(77 sites)

Lettuce, Romaine Organic

Both varieties produced good yields of delicious lettuce. They tolerated the heat and *Bluerock* was particularly resistant to bolting. More gardeners preferred the looks and taste of *Bluerock*. *Coastal Star* produced large, full heads quickly.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Bluerock	58	84	7.92
Coastal Star	42	74	7.42

(46 sites)

Lettuce, Green Summer Crisp Organic

Both varieties grew well, were slow to bolt, and produced tasty heads. More gardeners felt *Nevada* plants were healthier, more productive and more attractive. *Albachiara* was a strong performer but did not excel in any traits.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Albachiara	43	87	7.53
Nevada	57	77	7.53

(35 sites)

Lettuce, Red Summer Crisp Organic

Both varieties were attractive, resisted bolting, produced good yields and tasted delicious. Most gardeners preferred *Magenta*. Its leaves were more colorful and its heads were fuller. *Lovelock* grew quickly and was ready to harvest earlier.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lovelock	36	88	7.54
Magenta	64	81	8.19

(35 sites)

Melon, Cantaloupe Hybrid

Both varieties had healthy vines and produced large melons. More gardeners felt the melons of *Aphrodite* looked better and tasted much better. *Aphrodite* produced earlier and had higher yields at more sites. *Avatar* did not stand out.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Aphrodite	54	69	7.33
Avatar	46	50	6.92

(30 sites)

Melon, Cantaloupe Open-Pollinated

Both varieties grew well and had healthy vines. *Dakota Sisters* melons had superior flavor and a firmer texture. *Minnesota Midget* ripened much earlier and produced lots of small melons. These melons were perfect for single-size servings.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dakota Sisters	59	63	7.09
Minnesota Midget	41	66	6.84

(38 sites)

Okra, Green

Both varieties grew well. Most gardeners preferred *Clemson Spineless 80*. They were impressed with its productivity and the texture of its pods. *Jambalaya* ripened earlier. Gardeners liked its uniformly shaped, glossy, dark green pods.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Clemson Sp. 80	54	86	7.86
Jambalaya	46	79	7.43

(17 sites)

Onion, Red Organic

Red Carpet plants were healthier. Its bulbs were larger and more attractive. *Rossa di Milano* germinated better, matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties but clearly preferred *Rossa di Milano*.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Red Carpet	44	69	6.26
Rossa di Milano	56	77	6.89

(44 sites)

Onion, Yellow Organic

Dakota Tears produced higher yields. *Talon* germinated quickly and was ready to harvest earlier. *Talon* bulbs were more uniform in shape and had smoother skins. Taste preferences were mixed with an edge going to *Dakota Tears*.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dakota Tears	47	58	6.53
Talon	53	68	7.00

(39 sites)

Pea, Snap

Snak Hero, a new award winner with beanlike pods, was a huge disappointment. Its germination was very poor. *Sugar Ann* vines were healthier, faster growing and more productive. Its pods were plumper, juicier and sweeter.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Snak Hero	13	30	5.07
Sugar Ann	87	86	8.00

(93 sites)

Pepper, Large Bell

Both varieties produced good yields of large, blocky, tasty fruits. *Revolution* yields were earlier and higher. *Revolution* also received higher ratings in fruit appearance and taste. *Vanguard* vines were more vigorous.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Revolution	44	70	8.00
Vanguard	56	50	7.80

(19 sites)

Pumpkin, Small Orange

Both varieties germinated well, had healthy vines and were very productive. *Cannon Ball* produced more pumpkins. Its fruits were more attractive and had sturdy stems for kids to carry. *Cannon Ball* consistently performs well in our trials.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Cannon Ball	56	90	8.30
Field Trip	44	60	7.60

(13 sites)

Pumpkin, Midsize Orange

Gardeners liked both of these semi-vine varieties. Both varieties produced dark orange, beautiful pumpkins. *Magic Lantern* produced more pumpkins and ripened earlier. The pumpkins of *Zeus* were larger at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Magic Lantern	43	69	7.50
Zeus	57	77	7.21

(22 sites)

Pumpkin, Large Orange

Their vines were healthy and their yields were similar. *Adonis* pumpkins were bigger and its stems were thick and eye catching. *Aladdin* also received solid ratings. Its pumpkins had an upright shape that was good for carving.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Adonis	64	88	7.93
Aladdin	36	75	7.43

(18 sites)

Pumpkin, Gray

Blue Doll fruits were blocky with deep ribbing. Gardeners preferred those looks over those of *Jarrahdale*, which has a standard globular shape. *Blue Doll* fruits were larger and tasted sweet. *Blue Doll* vines were more productive.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Blue Doll	67	67	6.83
Jarrahdale	33	58	6.33

(16 sites)

Pumpkin Pink

Porcelain Doll fruits had more of a true, light pink color. This along with the uniform color and size of its pumpkins made them attractive. The vines of *Porcelain Doll* were more productive. *Indian Doll* fruits were good for pies and soups.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Indian Doll	21	64	6.93
Porcelain Doll	79	100	8.36

(18 sites)

Pumpkin, Warty

Warty Goblin fruits were uniform and globular in shape. Its fruits had lots of showy, dark green warts and were great for decorations. *Scarface* pumpkins were larger and had a more upright shape. Its warts were less conspicuous.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Scarface	36	82	7.55
Warty Goblin	64	73	7.64

(17 sites)

Squash, Semi-Crookneck

Gardeners liked both varieties. Their plants were healthy and yields were similar. *Gentry* produced the first fruits. *Tempest* produced the better tasting fruits. This was one of our least popular trials and data are limited.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gentry	50	75	8.00
Tempest	50	75	8.25

(5 sites)

Squash, Straightneck

Multipik produced more fruits and its fruits had superior quality. *Smooth Criminal* featured a plant habit with a nearly spineless, central stem to facilitate trellising and harvesting. Gardeners did not notice this. *Smooth Criminal* rated poorly.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Multipik	75	75	6.75
Smooth Criminal	25	25	5.50

(4 sites)

Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

Gardeners were pleased with the quantity and quality of the fruits of these varieties. *Dunja* germinated better, produced earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites. *Black Coral* performed well but was not superior in any trait.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Black Coral	38	60	7.17
Dunja	63	80	7.77

(38 sites)

Squash, Winter Butternut

Both varieties received similar and solid ratings. Their fruits were tasty with small seed cavities. Gardeners liked the yields of *Granite* and its buttery, nutty taste. *Havana* vines were less vigorous, which is good for gardeners with limited space.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Granite	54	76	7.93
Havana	46	79	8.00

(34 sites)

Squash, Winter Kabocha

Speckled Hound had vigorous vines that produced more fruits, larger fruits and prettier fruits. Gardeners liked its distinctive rind, which is orange with green splotches. Gardeners were pleased with the flavor of *Sweet Mama.*

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Speckled Hound	63	79	7.53
Sweet Mama	37	68	7.63

(22 sites)

Squash, Winter Spaghetti

Both varieties germinated well and were healthy. *Primavera* received higher ratings in earliness, productivity, fruit appearance and flavor. *Pinnacle* received decent ratings but was overshadowed by the excellence of *Primavera.*

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Pinnacle	20	63	7.13
Primavera	80	88	7.26

(19 sites)

Tomato, Determinate

Most gardeners preferred *Roadster.* Its vines produced quicker yields. *Roadster* fruits were more flavorful. The fruits of both varieties were beautiful and their overall yields were similar.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
BHN 589	30	55	7.05
Roadster	70	65	7.30

(24 sites)

Tomato, Paste

Granadero produced much earlier and higher yields. Its fruits were better tasting to more gardeners. *Granadero* fruits were plump, oval, meaty (*Roma*-type) and large. *San Marzano* fruits were slimmer, flavorful and had a lower water content.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Granadero	69	92	8.85
San Marzano	31	54	7.31

(17 sites)

Watermelon, Midsize

Both varieties produced tasty melons but *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons were especially sweet, flavorful and crisp. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced earlier and more melons at more sites. *Estrella* produced large melons with a classic, oblong shape.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Estrella	29	48	6.38
Swt Dakota Rose	71	78	7.51

(48 sites)

Sunflower, Bicolor

Shock-O-Lat germinated better, bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers. *Shock-O-Lat* flowers were larger and its stalks were taller and sturdier. *Shock-O-Lat* flowers were gorgeous and unique. *Ring of Fire* lacked vigor.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Ring of Fire	38	54	6.04
Shock-O-Lat	62	81	7.50

(30 sites)

Sunflower, Gold

Most gardeners preferred *Golden Ray*. Its flowers were big and bright. The stalks of *Golden Ray* were taller and sturdier. *Gold Rush* has always done well in our trials. It bloomed earlier and produced more flowers than *Golden Ray.*

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Gold Rush	40	70	6.70
Golden Ray	60	80	7.70

(11 sites)

Sunflower, Bicolor Dwarf

Flowers came in warm shades of gold, copper and red. *Firecracker* bloomed earlier and more abundantly. *Firecracker* had stronger, taller stalks that withstood drought better. *Little Becka* had compact plants with cute, colorful flowers.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Firecracker	53	83	7.54
Little Becka	47	60	6.80

(40 sites)

Sunflower, Orange Dwarf

Several gardeners could not tell the varieties apart from one another. *Orange Hedge* flowers delighted the bees with its pollen. *Orange Hobbit* bloomed earlier at more sites. Its pollenless blooms were well suited for bouquets.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Orange Hedge	55	72	7.29
Orange Hobbit	45	69	7.09

(36 sites)

Sunflower, Yellow Dwarf

Both varieties produced pretty, lemon-yellow flowers. *Lemon Pixie* was strongly preferred. It bloomed much earlier and more prolifically. Its compact, 2-foot-tall plants were filled with flowers. *Lemon Cutie* featured semi-double flowers.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Lemon Cutie	17	63	6.75
Lemon Pixie	83	75	7.38

(8 sites)

Zinnia, Fruit Mixes

These mixes were easy to grow and gardeners loved them. They rated high in germination, health and flower qualities. Plants were sturdy and filled with large, colorful flowers. They attracted pollinators and were great as cut flowers.

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Berry Tart	41	85	8.01
Fruity Beauty	59	87	8.30

(118 sites)

Bean, Green Bush

Varieties

Caprice

56 days. Pods are straight, smooth, delicious and slow to get seedy. Upright plants tolerate heat.

Homerun

58 days. Heavy yields of smooth, long pods. Sturdy plants tolerate multiple harvests and heat stress.

Data

Gardeners at 63 sites submitted information.

Trait	Caprice	Home-run	Same
Germinated best	25%	**45%**	29%
Healthier plants	20	**45**	35
Harvested earlier	28	**46**	26
Higher yields	24	**57**	20
More attractive pods	20	**46**	34
Tasted better	18	31	**51**
Preference	23	**77**	
Recommend (☺)	63	**91**	
Mean score[1]	6.76	**8.18**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**9.00**	

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

Prefer Caprice

Caprice ★★★☆☆ ☺
Homerun ★★½☆☆ ☺ MN

Caprice came up much better. Its plants were healthier and produced more pods. Both varieties had nice, long, straight pods. Their pods tasted the same and were good.

Caprice ★★★★★ ☺
Homerun ★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Germination rates were high for both varieties. There was no damage from insect pests or diseases. *Homerun* produced really long pods. *Caprice* production was greater with a better flavor.

Caprice ★★★★☆ ☺
Homerun ★★★☆☆ ☺ MN

Caprice pods looked better. The pods of both varieties were hard to get off the stem.

Caprice ★★★★½ ☺
Homerun ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Caprice germinated several days sooner, bloomed first, set pods first and produced heavier yields at first. Both varieties produced some very long, straight pods and some that were curved and shorter; maybe this was due to dry conditions. Both varieties tasted good.

Caprice ★★★★☆ ☺
Homerun ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Caprice pods were smooth, tender and good eating. They froze well, too.

Caprice ★★★★½ ☺
Homerun ★★★½☆ ☹ NC

Wow, *Caprice* had a huge yield! *Caprice* pods tasted great! We picked on August 8 and 16. Both varieties had good germination, glossy green leaves, beautiful pods and froze well.

Caprice ★★★½☆ ☺
Homerun ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC

The plants of both varieties were not healthy due to drought. *Caprice* produced more beans and produced longer.

Caprice ★★★☆☆ ☺
Homerun ★★½☆☆ ☺ NC

Caprice yielded more and produced earlier. *Homerun* pods were longer.

Both varieties produced good yields of flavorful beans.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Jade

Strong performers
Annihilator
Antigua
Bush Blue Lake 274
Derby
Espada
Homerun
Lewis
Pike
Provider
Red Tail
Strike

Prefer Caprice (continued)

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☹
SC

Caprice germinated better. Its leaves were shiny. We had a nice, continuous picking of *Caprice* since all of its seeds germinated. *Caprice* pods were nice and long. *Homerun* had a brown disease on some of its leaves.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☹
SC

Caprice produced higher yields, had more attractive pods and tasted better. *Homerun* had a tougher, chewier pod.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☺
-
SC

Caprice germinated better and its plants were bigger. Yields and pod qualities were similar.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☺
NW

Caprice germinated better, had healthier plants, produced earlier and produced higher yields. *Caprice* is better than *Homerun* when eaten fresh or frozen. *Homerun* is better when pickled.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☺
SW

Caprice had really nice, tender pods and produced higher yields.

Prefer Homerun

Caprice ☹
Homerun ☺
MN

Homerun germinated first with 95% germination compared to 60% for *Caprice*. The plants of both varieties were healthy. *Homerun* plants were larger. *Homerun* plants produced twice as much. Its pods had darker green color with no blemishes. I liked the flavor of both varieties.

Caprice ☹
Homerun ☺
MN

More of the *Homerun* plants survived and they produced more.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☺
MN

Both varieties did very well and produced an abundance of beans that were very flavorful. *Homerun* produced beans for a little longer into the season than *Caprice*. I would absolutely recommend both varieties.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☺
MN

Homerun produced better (1,555 pods compared to 1,221 pods for *Caprice*). The fresh pods of *Homerun* were more attractive. *Caprice* pods looked greener when cooked and tasted better. The pods of both varieties tasted good after freezing.

The pods of both varieties were long and attractive.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☺
MN

Homerun beans had superior taste and pod shape.

Caprice ☹
Homerun ☺
NE

Overall, both bean varieties did well. *Homerun* looked better all year and had an excellent taste and texture eating raw right off the plant. *Homerun* is a great name for this green bean!

Caprice ☹
Homerun ☺
NE

Homerun germinated better and had healthier plants. *Homerun* produced twice the number of beans, but its beans tasted more bitter.

Caprice ☹
Homerun ☺
NE

Homerun seemed heartier. It had healthier plants and more attractive pods. *Caprice* matured earlier. I couldn't tell a difference between the varieties in their tastes when they were cooked.

Caprice ☺
Homerun ☺
NE

Homerun was better for all traits. It had straighter beans, making it easier to them for cooking in the air fryer. Both varieties tasted good.

Prefer Homerun (continued)

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Homerun produced for a long time and had better taste. Both varieties were excellent!

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Homerun had better yield. Its pods had a consistent, nice size. *Homerun* plants lasted better through summer. *Caprice* plants withered more in the heat.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Homerun had a bit better production.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Homerun had more plants and produced a higher yield. Its pods were more attractive.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Both varieties were fantastic and had great flavor. *Homerun* produced excellent beans for a longer time.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Homerun beans were dark green, long and straight even through the hot, dry season. *Homerun* continued to produce healthy beans through September.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

I thought both varieties were good and tasted similar.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Caprice was difficult to grow. The plants produced very little. *Homerun* produced multiple times.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Both are very nice varieties for North Dakota. *Homerun* had straight and tasty beans.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Homerun had better taste and higher yields.

Caprice
Homerun
NC

Homerun had healthier plants. *Caprice* did not produce any beans.

Caprice
Homerun
SE

Homerun had a way better yield. It tasted great! *Caprice* didn't produce. Some *Homerun* pods had black dots on them.

Caprice
Homerun
NC

These varieties were very similar and both produced well. *Homerun* had nicer, fuller pods.

Caprice
Homerun
NC

We really enjoyed the flavor of *Homerun*! *Homerun* produced higher yields, and its pods were slender.

Caprice
Homerun
NC

Homerun matured earlier with harvests beginning June 20. It produced 7 to 10 pods per plant compare to 4 to 5 pods per plant with *Caprice*. *Homerun* pods filled out nicer and were straighter. The tastes of the varieties were similar.

Caprice
Homerun
SC

Neither germinated well. Both had rust disease by August. *Homerun* was healthier, earlier maturing, more productive and had more attractive pods.

Caprice
Homerun
SC

The germination and production of *Homerun* made it the clear winner. Only a few of the *Caprice* seeds sprouted and produced beans. The *Caprice* plants were much smaller than the *Homerun* plants, but the beans themselves were very tasty. Both varieties continued to yield beans throughout the summer.

Homerun was a big hit with gardeners.

Prefer Homerun (continued)

Caprice
Homerun
SC

Homerun produced bigger beans and a higher yield. Its pods were a little firmer, which I prefer for canning.

Caprice
Homerun
SC

Homerun plants had slightly more vigor and the grasshoppers didn't bother them as much.

Caprice
Homerun
SC

Both varieties were very productive. *Homerun* pods were longer, so we got more from each pod compared to *Caprice*. Both were excellent varieties.

Caprice
Homerun
SC

Homerun grew well and its beans tasted great. *Caprice* barely sprouted, and I did not get any sort of a meaningful yield.

Caprice
Homerun
SC

Homerun had better germination rates and produced higher yields.

Caprice
Homerun
NW

Both varieties did very well, and I would plant both varieties again. *Homerun* plants were healthier, produced first, and didn't require as much water as *Caprice*. Yields and tastes of the varieties were similar.

Caprice
Homerun
NW

Homerun germinated two times better. Its leaves were larger and its plants were taller. Its plants were loaded with beans and kept producing until frost. *Homerun* produced many more pounds of beans. Both varieties produced beautiful, dark green pods.

Caprice
Homerun
NW

Homerun produced more beans, and I liked its texture better.

Caprice
Homerun
SW

Caprice pods were slender and tasted sweeter. *Homerun* pods were more traditional and beefy. Both had good snap. *Homerun* had a much bigger yield.

Caprice
Homerun
SW

Homerun produced a higher yield.

Caprice
Homerun
SW

Homerun produced a longer, straight pod. Both varieties were equally tasty. Neither was stringy.

Caprice
Homerun
SW

They both did wonderful and had great beans with great flavor. *Homerun* produced more beans. It had healthy plants that lasted longer and kept producing.

Caprice
Homerun
SW

Homerun was the better tasting by the slightest of margins. It was meaty and tender. These two varieties together produced the highest yields I have ever harvested during these trials. It was a good year with abundant rain, so it makes sense.

Caprice
Homerun
SD

The taste of *Homerun* was excellent. I was very impressed with *Homerun* and will be planting this variety next year. This was a winner!

Caprice
Homerun
SD

Homerun beans were awesome. They were long and slender, and there were lots of them. *Homerun* tasted excellent and canned well.

Homerun was healthier, earlier maturing and more productive at more sites.

No Preference

Caprice ★★★★☆ ☺
Homerun ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Caprice germinated better and produced the first beans. *Homerun* produced higher yields. The beans of these varieties tasted similar.

Conclusions

Homerun was a big hit with gardeners. It was healthier, earlier maturing and more productive at more sites. Both *Homerun* and *Caprice* produced good yields of flavorful beans. The beans of *Homerun* were especially attractive as they were darker green, slender and consistently straight.

Homerun pods were darker green, slender and consistently straight.

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 ★★☆☆☆ ☹

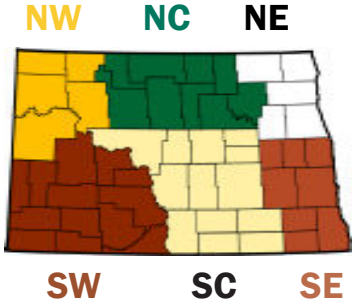
Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

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

Bean, Green Bush Organic

Varieties

Antigua

50 days. Easy to grow and early ripening. Plants tolerate cool soils and harsh climate conditions.

Red Tail

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

Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Antigua	Red Tail	Same
Germinated best	11%	17%	**72%**
Healthier plants	28	17	**56**
Harvested earlier	22	**44**	33
Higher yields	35	**47**	18
More attractive pods	13	**44**	**44**
Tasted better	13	25	**63**
Preference	47	**53**	
Recommend (☺)	83	**95**	
Mean score[1]	7.79	**8.32**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Antigua

Antigua ★★★★★ ☺
Red Tail ★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Antigua plants were more robust overall. *Red Tail* had acceptable performance.

Antigua ★★★★★ ☺
Red Tail ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

I loved both varieties. Their plants were small but their yields were impressive. *Antigua* produced more beans.

Antigua ★★★★★ ☺
Red Tail ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Insects ravaged both varieties but *Antigua* came back. It produced higher yields and had more attractive pods.

Antigua ★★★★☆ ☺
Red Tail ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Antigua plants were healthier and produced more pods. Its pods were more attractive.

Antigua ★★★★☆ ☺
Red Tail ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Antigua plants were darker, 16 inches tall and loaded with blossoms. *Red Tail* plants were shorter without as many blossoms. Critters ate the trial and no pods were harvested.

Antigua ★★★★½ ☺
Red Tail ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties produced abundantly, took a short break and produced until frost. Their pods were attractive, slender and tasted great. *Antigua* pods were a tastier and crunchier.

Antigua ★★★★★ ☺
Red Tail ★★★★½ ☺ SW

I was pleased with both varieties. Both were great producers and were producing into September. *Antigua* beans tasted better; they were more tender than those of *Red Tail* when cooked.

Antigua ★★★★★ ☺
Red Tail ★★★½☆ ☹ SW

Antigua plants stood upright; *Red Tail* plants laid on the ground. *Antigua* produced more beans and was easier to pick.

Gardeners were impressed by the health and yields of both varieties.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Jade

Strong performers
Annihilator
Antigua
Bush Blue Lake 274
Derby
Espada
Homerun
Lewis
Pike
Provider
Red Tail
Strike

Prefer Antigua (continued)

Antigua
Red Tail
SK

Antigua germinated better and produced a higher yield.

Prefer Red Tail

Antigua
Red Tail
MN

Both were great cultivars and are still producing beans as of today [September 12]. *Red Tail* suffered less from mildew.

Antigua
Red Tail
MN

Both varieties grew really well and produced high yields. Very healthy plants! Both were delicious. *Red Tail* had better bean production and slightly healthier plants. Its beans didn't become seedy like others I have planted.

Antigua
Red Tail
NE

Red Tail produced a wonderful amount of beans and tasted good.

Antigua
Red Tail
SE

The dark green pods of *Red Tail* were more appealing. Rust defoliated most of the bean plants this fall.

Antigua
Red Tail
NC

Red Tail had taller, healthier plants. It was more productive and its pods were more attractive. The pods of both varieties tasted good.

Antigua
Red Tail
SC

Red Tail had perfect bean pods. The pods were straight and did not harden. Pods of both varieties tasted good but *Red Tail* pods tasted better.

Antigua
Red Tail
SW

Both varieties germinated well. They had healthy plants that set an abundant crop until they got hailed upon and then attacked by grasshoppers. *Antigua* died but *Red Tail* eventually bounced back and produced again.

Antigua
Red Tail
SW

This trial was a challenge as grasshoppers were awful this summer. The grasshoppers loved eating the bean blossoms of each variety. *Red Tail* had earlier production and more pods overall.

Antigua
Red Tail
SW

Red Tail won all categories from germination to the taste test.

Antigua
Red Tail
MB

Both germinated well under very dry conditions with no supplemental watering and months of hot weather. *Red Tail* plants grew bushier and 2 inches taller and bushier. *Red Tail* had higher yields with 30 to 36 beans/plant at the first picking on August 15. *Red Tail* had long, glossy, cylindrical pods and a slightly more pronounced bean taste. Both varieties produced enough for three more pickings at around 15/plant, 12/plant and 8/plant by September 15. *Red Tail* clusters of beans were easy to pick. These varieties had very little difference in taste.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties and were nearly split on their preferences. The plants of both varieties were healthy and productive. A very high percentage of gardeners recommended *Red Tail,* which indicates it is a consistent performer. *Red Tail* pods were especially attractive. They were dark green, smooth, glossy and straight. *Red Tail* did well in last year's trials as well.

***Red Tail* pods were especially attractive. They were dark green, smooth, glossy and straight.**

Bean, Yellow Bush

Varieties

Custard

55 days. Slender, beautiful, bright yellow pods are produced continuously on upright plants. Delicious.

Gold Rush

55 days. Lemon-yellow pods with green tips. Pods are straight, crisp and flavorful. Easy to pick.

Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Custard	Gold Rush	Same
Germinated best	22%	26%	**52%**
Healthier plants	35	19	**46**
Harvested earlier	**38**	29	33
Higher yields	33	25	**42**
More attractive pods	25	21	**54**
Tasted better	13	25	**63**
Preference	**56**	44	
Recommend (☺)	**88**	76	
Mean score[1]	**8.12**	7.64	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

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

Prefer Custard

Custard ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★½☆☆ ☹ MN

Custard had healthier plants and a larger crop.

Custard ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Custard was ready to pick one week earlier. It produced more beans.

Custard ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

The plants of both varieties were healthy. *Custard* produced slightly more beans.

Custard ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Custard was hands down the most bountiful bush bean I've ever grown! And very tasty!

Custard ★★★★½ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Overall, I feel the *Custard* beans tasted and looked better.

Custard ★★★★½ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Custard plants produced beans 1 week earlier and a higher yield overall. *Custard* beans were tender and delicious. *Gold Rush* plants flopped over when they started producing. The yields of both varieties tapered off early in the season.

Custard ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Both varieties germinated well, grew great and had robust plants. They produced yields at the same time and in large quantities. Their pods looked similar, looked great and tasted fantastic. *Custard* appeared to survive my grasshopper plague longer.

Custard ★★★★½ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★½☆ ☺ NW

Both varieties were very good. They germinated nicely and were ready to harvest the same day. *Custard* had more vigorous, darker green plants and produced a slightly higher yield. I couldn't tell any difference in the taste of the varieties.

Both varieties germinated well. Their plants were sturdy and produced delicious, bright yellow pods.

Best yellow bush bean varieties

Top choice
Custard

Strong performers
Carson
Gold Rush

Prefer Custard (continued)

Custard ☺ NW
Gold Rush ☹

Custard had nice plants and better-looking beans.

Custard ☺ SW
Gold Rush ☺

Custard produced a few days earlier and its pods were more yellow. Both varieties tasted great. *Gold Rush* produced more pods per plant and produced more consistently.

Custard ☺ SW
Gold Rush ☺

We had excellent germination with both varieties. Both varieties produced healthy, sturdy plants that stood up well to very high winds and heavy rains in early June and early July. *Custard* produced the first blossoms on July 7, and on July 18 the first beans were visible. *Gold Rush* was close behind. They were both so good for pod qualities. Yellow beans are my very favorite garden vegetable. I had lots and lots of great meals and froze some for winter time. I have never participated in a trial of two varieties that were so closely matched from start to finish. I give the slight edge to *Custard*. Its beans snapped cleaner and were a bit meatier.

Custard ☺ SW
Gold Rush ☹

Custard yielded much more and was the first to produce even though *Gold Rush* was a bit sweeter. This is the first I planted yellow beans, and we enjoyed the appearance and the flavor.

Custard ☺ SW
Gold Rush ☹

Custard was very hardy, very tasty and very prolific. I liked the way *Gold Rush* came up but the young plants turned brown and withered. They did come back later and produced. Both varieties had lots of beans and were tasty. This trial was grown in a hoophouse.

Custard ☺ SK
Gold Rush ☺

Both varieties were great! *Custard* germinated slightly better.

Prefer Gold Rush

Custard ☹ MN
Gold Rush ☺

When *Custard* was drought stressed, its young pods shriveled up and died. I did not notice this problem on *Gold Rush*. Both varieties endured an infestation of bean leaf beetles early in the season and recovered without any extra help. *Gold Rush* was more flavorful than *Custard*, although *Custard* had a softer texture. Yields were similar.

Custard ☺ -
Gold Rush ☺ NE

Gold Rush had more plants and higher yields. We were pleased with the taste of both varieties, but we preferred *Gold Rush*.

Custard ☺ NE
Gold Rush ☺

Gold Rush produced an earlier harvest.

Custard ☺ NE
Gold Rush ☺

These varieties were a nice addition to our green bean lineup. The grandkids really enjoyed eating pods raw, right alongside the garden peas. *Gold Rush* pods were tender.

Custard ☹ NE
Gold Rush ☺

Gold Rush pods were more tender and tasted better. *Gold Rush* germinated faster and its leaves were lighter in color.

Custard ☺ SE
Gold Rush ☺

Gold Rush had more uniform pods, heavy yields and better tolerance to heat.

Custard had healthier plants and earlier harvests at more sites.

Prefer Gold Rush (continued)

Custard ★★★★☆ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Custard germinated first but *Gold Rush* had a higher germination rate. The plants of both varieties were quite healthy. Some of the lower leaves were yellowing slightly due to heat. Both varieties produced their first yields at the same time. *Gold Rush* outproduced *Custard* but only by a few dozen pods. The pods of both varieties were bright yellow and good looking. *Gold Rush* had a strong, juicy taste, which I prefer. *Custard* tasted milder in flavor and was less juicy.

Custard ★★★★★ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☺ NC

I loved both varieties of these yellow beans. I think from now on I will just plant yellow and forget the green ones. Early in the year they picked up some kind of disease on the leaves. It was a little worse on *Custard*, but both varieties grew out of it. *Gold Rush* pods were slightly longer and stayed slender longer if they didn't get picked right away when they should have.

Custard ★★★★☆ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺ NW

Both varieties grew well. *Gold Rush* plants started off healthier and produced faster.

Custard ★★★★½ ☺
Gold Rush ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Both varieties had beautiful plants and high yields! *Gold Rush* pods were slightly larger and more colorful.

Custard ★★½☆☆ ☹
Gold Rush ★★★★☆ ☺ SD

Custard plants were twisted and hard to pick.

Conclusions

Both varieties germinated well. Their plants were sturdy and produced delicious, bright yellow pods. *Custard* had healthier plants and earlier harvests at more sites. Gardeners enjoyed the tender, tasty beans of *Gold Rush*.

Gardeners enjoyed the tender, tasty beans of *Gold Rush*.

Key to Site Reports

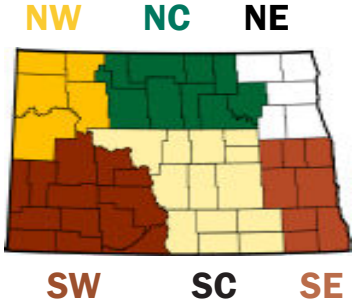
(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★½☆☆ ☹ ← ***Garden type*** NC ← ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ← ***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 = Saskatechewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana
IA = Iowa

Bean, Purple Pole

Varieties

Carminat

62 days. Velvety purple, 8-inch pods are slender, tender and slightly sweet. Attractive green and purple vines grow 8 feet.

Purple Podded

70 days. Vigorous, 7-foot vines produce bright purple pods. Introduced from the Ozarks in the 1930s. Lilac blooms.

Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Carminat	Purple Podded	Same
Germinated best	8%	36%	**56**%
Healthier plants	21	**46**	33
Harvested earlier	26	**70**	4
Higher yields	33	**50**	17
More attractive pods	38	**50**	13
Tasted better	38	21	**42**
Preference	**54**	46	
Recommend (☺)	**72**	68	
Mean score[1]	6.58	**6.63**	
Median score[1]	**7.00**	**7.00**	

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

Prefer Carminat

Carminat ★★★½☆ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★☆☆ ☺ NE

I loved the pods of *Carminat* for their looks and flavor.

Carminat ★★★★½ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

We enjoyed the taste of *Carminat* more. Both varieties were high producers.

Carminat ★★★★½ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Carminat was better tasting and had better texture compared to *Purple Podded* when cooked.

Carminat ★★★★½ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

I lost all the sprouts to rabbits but replanted. *Carminat* produced a higher yield and kept producing longer. *Purple Podded* pods were more attractive.

Carminat ★★★☆☆ ☺
Purple Podded ★★½☆☆ ☹ NC

Carminat plants were healthier and produced the first yield. The plants in this trial were very decorative on a trellis, but I prefer the flavor and texture of bush beans.

Carminat ★★½☆☆ ☹ -
Purple Podded ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Purple Podded produced far higher yields, but its pods were less attractive and less tender. I don't want higher yields but sacrifice flavor. Rust disease was a problem for both.

Carminat ★★★☆☆ ☺
Purple Podded ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

All seeds germinated and the plants of both varieties were bushy and grew tall on a trellis. *Purple Podded* pods were ready to harvest 1 week earlier, but they had speckled green spots. *Carminat* pods were thinner and longer, didn't get big too fast and had great taste, but they were not as straight as I like beans to be.

Carminat ★★★★½ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

Carminat was a better climber. I liked the look of the plant. It produced more pods but they had spots. I liked the taste of *Carminat* while my husband liked *Purple Podded*.

The vines of both varieties were healthy and had gorgeous, purple flowers.

Best purple pole bean varieties

Top choice
Carminat

Strong performer
Purple Podded

Prefer Carminat (continued)

Carminat ☺
Purple Podded ☹
SC

After *Purple Podded* flowered, the vines dried up and were gone in less than a week. *Carminat* vines were beautiful. *Carminat* pods were deep purple, long and thick. Grasshoppers enjoyed the first set of leaves.

Carminat ☺
Purple Podded ☺
SC

We are fans of purple-pod pole beans now. We never grew them before, but they will be a part of our garden now. Their vines had fabulous growth and gorgeous purple flowers. *Carminat* had longer, thinner pods for a longer time. Both varieties had good flavor and canned perfectly. We pulled the plants in the high tunnel on October 21 while they both were still blooming and healthy.

Carminat ☺
Purple Podded ☺
NW

Carminat pods were longer, thinner and less lumpy. They tasted better both fresh and cooked. *Carminat* vines produced longer through the season.

Carminat ☺
Purple Podded ☹
SW

Carminat had pretty, tender, long pods. *Purple Podded* got fat and woody very fast and didn't taste as good.

Carminat ☺
Purple Podded ☹
SD

Carminat produced a better yield.

Prefer Purple Podded

Carminat ☺
Purple Podded ☺
NE

Purple Podded had nicer beans.

Carminat ☹
Purple Podded ☺
SE

Carminat pods were stringless and a bit more tender, but they were less fleshy. *Purple Podded* pods were string beans. As long as you removed the strings when snapping off the end, its pods were every bit as delicious as those of *Carminat*. *Purple Podded* vines were clearly more robust and productive. They bore pods sooner and seemed to stand up to the heat better.

Carminat ☹
Purple Podded ☹
NC

Germination was bad [approximately 10% of seeds germinated]. We did experience a drought this past summer. However, I planted green and yellow string beans on either side of this trial, watered all, and the yellow and green beans had great yields.

Carminat ☹
Purple Podded ☺
SC

Purple Podded tasted better and grew faster.

Carminat ☹
Purple Podded ☺
SC

Purple Podded was amazing! Its production, hardiness and taste were superb! They even had a second season! I was picking 10 pounds every couple days! While *Purple Podded* was the hands-down winner, I really enjoyed how long the *Carminat* pods were: 10 to 11 inches was the standard!

Carminat ☹
Purple Podded ☺
NW

Purple Podded had the best plants and taste.

Carminat ☺
Purple Podded ☺
SW

Purple Podded vines were more vigorous and fuller. They were more productive and bore earlier with larger pods.

Carminat pods were longer, thinner and more tender.

Prefer Purple Podded (continued)

Carminat ★★★½☆ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Purple Podded produced more yield. I didn't think the pods of either variety tasted all that great. The plants were grown in deck planters right next to each other in a very shady spot (probably would have done better with more sun). I got a small yield from both (maybe a total of 30 to 40 beans).

Carminat ★★★½☆ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★★½ ☺ SW

These varieties were very similar and good.

Carminat ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Purple Podded ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Purple Podded plants grew and produced well. The pod was a traditional pod that was uniform throughout the length. The only complaint I had with the pods is they had a string. *Carminat* had long pods (one grew over 6 inches). Its plants were leggier with fewer leaves.

Carminat ★★★★½ ☺
Purple Podded ★★★★★ ☺ SK

Purple Podded germinated better, had healthier plants and produced earlier. *Purple Podded* had thicker pods, which I preferred.

Conclusions

The vines of both varieties were healthy and had gorgeous, purple flowers. *Carminat* pods were longer, thinner and more tender. The vines of *Purple Podded* grew vigorously. *Purple Podded* produced earlier and higher yields. Its pods were thicker and meatier.

The vines of *Purple Podded* grew vigorously. They produced earlier and higher yields. Its pods were thicker and meatier.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

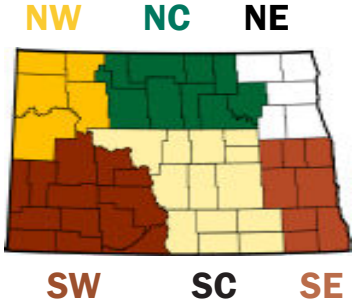
Variety A ★★★★½ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***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 = Saskatechewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana
IA = Iowa

Beet, Gold

Varieties

Golden Boy

60 days. Bright yellow, globe-shaped roots with high sugar contents. Light-green leaves grow upright, staying clean.

Yellow Sunrise

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

Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Golden Boy	Yellow Sunrise	Same
Germinated best	30%	30%	**40%**
Healthier plants	32	21	**47**
Harvested earlier	**42**	16	**42**
Higher yields	**42**	26	32
More attractive roots	**42**	16	**42**
Tasted better	21	37	**42**
Preference	**59**	41	
Recommend (☺)	**81**	76	
Mean score[1]	7.14	**7.35**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Golden Boy

Golden Boy ★★★★★ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★★★★½ ☹ NE

Both varieties germinated at the same time. *Golden Boy* had bigger, healthier leaves and produced many more beets. Its beets were larger in size. *Golden Boy* beets tasted sweeter than *Yellow Sunrise* beets when stir fried.

Golden Boy ★★★★★ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Overall, *Golden Boy* produced better.

Golden Boy ★★★★★ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★★★½ ☹ SE

The roots of both varieties were large. *Golden Boy* was healthier, produced higher yields and was a more consistent beet.

Golden Boy ★★★★½ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★★★★½ ☺ SE

I will grow more of both varieties next year. They were beautiful and delicious. The roots of *Golden Boy* grew a little bigger.

Golden Boy ★★½☆☆ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

I don't know if we didn't start these early enough [sowed May 24], but we did not have great luck with either variety. We dug some up today and both varieties were only about 1.5 inches in diameter. *Golden Boy* germinated better and had better looking plants.

Golden Boy ★★★★★ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★★★★½ ☺ NC

After cooking, *Golden Boy* roots kept a bright golden color while some of the *Yellow Sunrise* roots grayed a bit. *Golden Boy* roots were sweeter. The skins of the *Yellow Sunrise* roots peeled easier.

Golden Boy ★★★½☆ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SC

I planted the beets in a raised bed which is about waist high. *Yellow Sunrise* seedlings emerged first but there were fewer of them. Both varieties tasted excellent and very sweet.

Golden Boy ★★★★★ ☺
Yellow Sunrise ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Deer got into my garden so only one beet of each variety made it. *Golden Boy* had a nice balanced flavor when cooked. *Yellow Sunrise* had a stronger flavor and was not as pleasant.

Golden Boy produced higher yields and had more attractive roots.

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
Boldor

Strong performers
Burpee's Golden
Golden Boy
Touchstone Gold
Yellow Sunrise

Prefer Golden Boy (continued)

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ SC

Golden Boy plants were more vigorous. They were more adaptable to crowding and produced a higher yield.

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ SC

Golden Boy roots stayed smaller longer and did not have quite the pronounced rings of color when cut open as *Yellow Sunrise*. Both varieties tasted good.

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ SW

We liked both varieties. *Golden Boy* had larger, better looking plants and better yields. The roots of both varieties were tender and very sweet.

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☹ SW

Golden Boy grew better in my heavy, clay soil.

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ SK

Golden Boy had slightly better germination. I loved both varieties.

Prefer Yellow Sunrise

Golden Boy ☹ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ NE

Golden Boy grew better but its roots were too earthy tasting.

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ NE

Both varieties were good but *Yellow Sunrise* roots were sweeter.

Golden Boy ☺ -
Yellow Sunrise ☺ SC

Neither variety had great germination, but I don't usually have good luck with beets. *Golden Boy* produced 5.90 pounds and *Yellow Sunrise* produced 5.75 pounds. *Yellow Sunrise* tasted better, had healthier plants and higher germination, though as you can see from the yields, I sucked at growing both!

Golden Boy ☹
Yellow Sunrise ☺ NW

Yellow Sunrise had 95% germination and high yield. Most of the *Golden Boy* seeds did not germinate even though I replanted.

Golden Boy ☹
Yellow Sunrise ☺ NW

Yellow Sunrise had larger roots, better yields and better taste.

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ NW

Yellow Sunrise germinated better and produced higher yields. I don't prefer golden beets over red beets, but both of these varieties were nice.

Golden Boy ☹ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ NW

Yellow Sunrise had more production and bigger beets.

Golden Boy ☺ 
Yellow Sunrise ☺ SD

Both varieties grew really well with minimal effort on my part. We are still harvesting them over 3 months after planting. They are the size of softballs but still have good texture. The only difference is in taste—*Yellow Sunrise* is a bit sweeter, which we prefer.

No Preference

Golden Boy ☹ 
Yellow Sunrise ☹ NE

Neither variety grew well.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well. Their roots were beautiful and delicious. *Golden Boy* produced higher yields and had more attractive roots. More gardeners preferred the sweeter taste of *Yellow Sunrise.*

More gardeners preferred the sweeter taste of *Yellow Sunrise.*

Beet, Red

Varieties

Bresko

60 days. A very dependable beet with great flavor. Uniform, smooth roots. Tops are glossy green, sturdy and upright.

Red Cloud

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

Data

Gardeners at 39 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bresko	Red Cloud	Same
Germinated best	19%	23%	**58**%
Healthier plants	28	22	**50**
Harvested earlier	35	23	**42**
Higher yields	**35**	29	**35**
More attractive roots	31	**38**	31
Tasted better	13	19	**68**
Preference	**50**	**50**	
Recommend (☺)	78	**81**	
Mean score[1]	7.44	**7.61**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Bresko

Bresko ★★★★☆ ☺
Red Cloud ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

Red Cloud produced higher yields but *Bresko* roots looked better. Ladies liked the taste of *Red Cloud* while men preferred *Bresko*.

Bresko ★★★★★ ☺
Red Cloud ★★★★☆ ☺ NE

These were solid varieties with good quality beets for fresh eating and pickling. They did not get woody when they were harvested on time. *Bresko* had healthier plants.

Bresko ★★★★☆ ☺
Red Cloud ★★½☆☆ ☺ SE

Bresko produced more.

Bresko ★★★★☆ ☺ -
Red Cloud ★★★☆☆ ☹ SE

Bresko had beautiful greens, higher yields and tasted sweeter. The roots of both varieties were small.

Bresko ★★★★★ ☺
Red Cloud ★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Bresko beets were smoother and looked better. *Red Cloud* had slightly more beets; there were a lot of beets in the 10-foot row. They tasted the same.

Bresko ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Red Cloud ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ NC

Bresko had very little yield; *Red Cloud* had no yield. *Bresko* plants were healthier.

Bresko ★★★½☆ ☺
Red Cloud ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

Bresko produced higher yields.

Bresko ★★★★☆ ☺
Red Cloud ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties had healthy plants. Yields were similar. *Bresko* was a bit sweeter/tastier.

Bresko ★★☆☆☆ ☹
Red Cloud ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Bresko produced larger and more roots, but I am not a fan of either variety. Both had bitter leaves and they were not the best producers. I have grown much better varieties in the past.

These varieties received similar ratings, especially for taste.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
- Red Cloud

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

Prefer Bresko (continued)

Bresko ☺ SC
Red Cloud ☹

Bresko had better germination, more yield, bigger and healthier plants, and higher yields. I liked the taste of *Red Cloud* better. This trial was grown in a raised bed.

Bresko ☺ SC
Red Cloud ☺

These were nice beets and had a good size for canning. I thinned the plants a few times and got good results. *Bresko* produced a higher yield.

Bresko ☺ NW
Red Cloud ☺

Bresko produced higher yields. *Red Cloud* had more attractive, round roots. The leaves of both varieties were strong, and both varieties made great pickles. I love all beets!

Bresko ☺ NW
Red Cloud ☺

Both varieties were very good. *Bresko* beets were more uniform in size.

Bresko ☺ SW
Red Cloud ☹

Bresko produced higher yields and I preferred its taste. I prefer *Detroit Supreme* to both of these varieties; its taste is very sweet.

Bresko ☺ SW
Red Cloud ☺

Both varieties tasted great. *Bresko* had more produce and great flavor.

Bresko ☺ SW
Red Cloud ☹

Bresko grew better in my heavy, clay soil.

Bresko ☺ SW
Red Cloud ☺

Bresko roots were more consistent in size.

Prefer Red Cloud

Bresko ☺ MN
Red Cloud ☺

Red Cloud produced better. We made lots of beet pickles.

Bresko ☹ MN
Red Cloud ☺

Red Cloud was sweeter and tasted better.

Bresko ☺ NE
Red Cloud ☺

Red Cloud had larger beets when harvested.

Bresko ☹ SE
Red Cloud ☺

Red Cloud was fuller in size and grew best.

Bresko ☹ SE
Red Cloud ☺

On June 27, they were golf ball size; on July 14, they were baseball size. *Red Cloud* beets had a nice, round shape and were better looking overall.

Bresko ☺ SE
Red Cloud ☺

Even though both tasted great, I think *Red Cloud* tasted a little better. Both beet varieties grew very large if not harvested, but they still tasted good and were not woody. My husband and I both felt these varieties were harder to digest than other beets we have grown over the years.

Bresko ☹ SE
Red Cloud ☺

Our first planting was not successful due to a hard rain that fell when the seedlings were emerging followed by hot, dry conditions. In our second planting, *Red Cloud* was the clear winner. Its plants were more numerous, uniform and healthier. *Red Cloud* roots had fewer bumps. Our taste testers preferred the taste of *Red Cloud* by 3:1 margin. *Bresko* grew faster in the second planting and won the county fair.

Bresko had beautiful greens, high yields and sweet roots.

Prefer Red Cloud (continued)

Bresko
Red Cloud — SE

I like big beets. *Red Cloud* beets grew a little bigger than *Bresko* beets.

Bresko
Red Cloud — SE

Red Cloud produced a higher yield and its roots kept better. The roots of both varieties had great flavor!

Bresko
Red Cloud — SE

Red Cloud produced bigger roots and a higher yield.

Bresko
Red Cloud — NC

Red Cloud had larger beets and good flavor. *Bresko* was ready to harvest earlier.

Bresko
Red Cloud — NC

I preferred the finer grain, firm texture, dark burgundy color, and sweeter flavor of *Red Cloud*. *Red Cloud* retained its color when canned and made beautiful pickled beets. *Bresko* grew faster. I harvested it at 40 days after sowing, 1 week before *Red Cloud*. *Bresko* produced 47 pounds compared to 31 pounds for *Red Cloud*. Both varieties were healthy and free of diseases and insect pests. I prefer both of these varieties over my personal favorites *Detroit Dark Red* and *Merlin*.

Bresko
Red Cloud — SC

I had much better luck with *Red Cloud*. *Red Cloud* had more yield and its plants looked better. I could not detect any taste differences between the varieties.

Bresko
Red Cloud — SC

Red Cloud had higher germination and yield.

Bresko
Red Cloud — SC

Red Cloud matured consistently. That made it easier for harvesting at one time, which is what I needed to do for preservation purposes. *Bresko* germinated a few days sooner. Some of its roots were tiny while other roots were large. Both varieties were very tasty! There was no woodiness even when large.

Bresko
Red Cloud — NW

I wait until end of season to pull any beets. *Red Cloud* had better yield and larger beets.

No Preference

Bresko
Red Cloud — SC

Both varieties produced great tasting beets.

Bresko
Red Cloud — NW

These varieties were very similar in all traits.

Bresko
Red Cloud — SW

We could not distinguish a difference in these two varieties.

Conclusions

These varieties received similar ratings, especially for taste. Gardeners were evenly split on their preferred variety. *Bresko* had beautiful greens, high yields and sweet roots. *Red Cloud* roots were larger, round, sweet and attractive.

Red Cloud roots were large, round, sweet and attractive.

Beet, Red Organic

Varieties

Detroit Dark Red

65 days. Popular heirloom. Beets are globe-shaped, solid, dark red and flavorful. Dark green tops. Great for canning and storage.

Sweet Dakota Bliss

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

Data

Gardeners at 39 sites submitted information.

Trait	Detroit D.R.	Swt. Dak.Bliss	Same
Germinated best	41%	3%	**55%**
Healthier plants	22	11	**67**
Harvested earlier	29	7	**64**
Higher yields	33	22	**44**
More attractive roots	**37**	33	30
Tasted better	22	26	**52**
Preference	**50**	**50**	
Recommend (☺)	**90**	80	
Mean score[1]	8.30	**8.33**	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	**9.00**	

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

Prefer Detroit Dark Red

Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Detroit Dark Red germinated at nearly 100%; *Sweet Dakota Bliss* germinated at 50% and was later. This led to a far and away better yield for *Detroit Dark Red*. The quality of *Detroit Dark Red* is always very good—sweet with no rings—even when they grow too large. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* roots were more prone to split after they got pretty big. *Detroit Dark Red* seemed to hold its sweet flavor a little better in storage.

Detroit Dark Red ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★★½ ☺ NC

The roots of *Detroit Dark Red* were more attractive and tasted better. Our clients want dark red beets more than striped beets. The roots of both varieties tasted the same.

Detroit Dark Red ★★★★½ ☺ 🏠
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Detroit Dark Red germinated first and produced a huge yield. Its roots were good looking, more uniform in size, and had better taste. Both varieties had great greens and their roots were ready to harvest at the same time.

Detroit Dark Red ★★½☆☆ ☺ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

The plants of *Detroit Dark Red* were bigger and darker in color. It produced a lot more beets. The roots of *Detroit Dark Red* were way bigger, but the roots of *Sweet Dakota Bliss* were sweeter and had better flavor.

Detroit Dark Red ★★★½☆ ☺ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

Detroit Dark Red was better in germination and growth.

Detroit Dark Red ★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Bliss ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

Detroit Dark Red produced larger roots.

Gardeners gave very high ratings to both varieties.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
- Red Cloud

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

Prefer Detroit Dark Red (continued)

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☹ SC

Detroit Dark Red plants were better overall. It grew pretty quick. It tasted great!

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☹ SC

Detroit Dark Red produced higher yields. Its roots were cleaner, more attractive and tasted better.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☹ SC

I much preferred the taste of the *Detroit Dark Red* beets.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ NW

The beets of *Detroit Dark Red* had more round, attractive shapes.

Detroit Dark Red ☺ -
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☹ NW

Detroit Dark Red beets were bright, dark-red/purple and tasted the best.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ NW

Both varieties produced a nice crop and were delicious. *Detroit Dark Red* filled out nicer.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ SW

Both varieties grew very well. Healthy, vigorous plants. *Detroit Dark Red* had better-sized beets when harvested late.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ MB

Germination was spotty as dry and hot conditions persisted. Due to their larger distance apart in the row, the beets grew very big, yet neither variety was tough. Both varieties tasted great; I could not tell any difference in taste between them. My personal preference is *Detroit Dark Red*, probably only due to the striking coloration. The dark leaves are attractive in the garden.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ SK

Detroit Dark Red had slightly better germination. It grew slightly faster, producing a better first yield. Both varieties tasted great!

Prefer Sweet Dakota Bliss

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ NE

Sweet Dakota Bliss roots looked better and had a slightly better flavor. *Detroit Dark Red* roots had white rings within the beet making it look less attractive.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ NE

Both had a wonderful flavor. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* was just a little sweeter, which I liked.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ SE

Sweet Dakota Bliss roots had better flavor, uniform color when cooked, and better texture.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ SC

I think both varieties grew well. We were happy with our yield. The tops were a little more robust on *Sweet Dakota Bliss*.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ SE

Sweet Dakota Bliss had bigger leaves, but *Detroit Dark Red* had higher production. I love *Detroit Dark Red* for pickles, but I prefer *Sweet Dakota Bliss* because its taste is a little sweeter.

Detroit Dark Red ☺
Sweet Dakota Bliss ☺ SE

Both varieties produced nice beets and had good leafy greens. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* plants were a little better looking and had slightly better yields. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* roots had nicer color and skin appearance. Both varieties were very good tasting.

Gardeners who preferred *Detroit Dark Red* often mentioned its roots were dark red, larger and looked good.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Bliss (continued)

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — NC

I liked the sweeter taste of *Sweet Dakota Bliss*. However, it was softer than *Detroit Dark Red*; therefore, *Detroit Dark Red* made better, firmer beet pickles. The plants of both varieties were nice and healthy.

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — NC

Sweet Dakota Bliss produced bigger, more attractive roots.

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — NC

Sweet Dakota Bliss was fun to try. It had good germination, good flavor. Both varieties tasted yummy!

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — SC

I preferred the size of the *Sweet Dakota Bliss* roots, particularly with the end-of-season harvest. The roots of *Detroit Dark Red* were enormous—almost too large. The roots of both varieties tasted fine.

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — SC

Sweet Dakota Bliss roots were more attractive and definitely sweet.

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — SC

Sweet Dakota Bliss roots had sweeter taste.

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — SW

Sweet Dakota Bliss produced higher yields. Half of the *Detroit Dark Red* roots were eaten by voles. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* was 2 feet away and suffered no damage.

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — SW

Both varieties had some split roots. We had several more inches of rain than normal and perhaps that was the cause. There were some scabs found on *Detroit Dark Red* roots. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* was ready to harvest earlier and had less splitting of roots. The roots of both varieties grew big and remained sweet and tender.

Detroit Dark Red
Sweet Dakota Bliss — SW

Sweet Dakota Bliss roots had better size, color and yield.

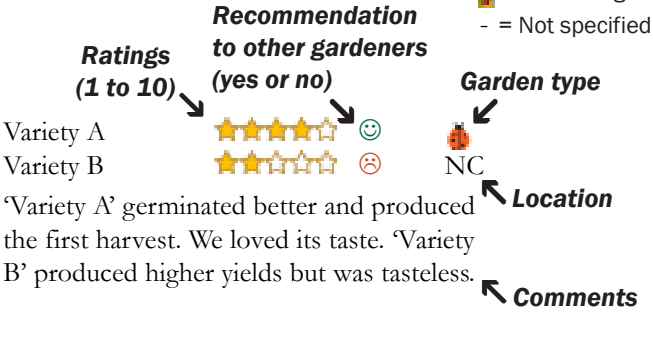
Conclusions

Both varieties received very high and similar ratings. Gardeners who preferred *Detroit Dark Red* often mentioned its roots were dark red, larger and looked good. Gardeners who preferred *Sweet Dakota Bliss* often thought its roots tasted sweeter.

Gardeners who preferred *Sweet Dakota Bliss* often thought its roots tasted sweeter.

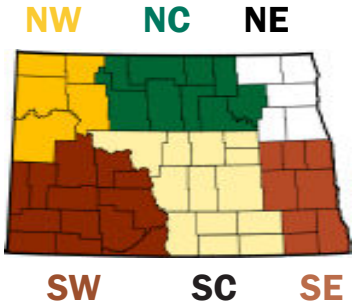
Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

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

Broccoli

Varieties

Green Magic

68 days. Heads are bright green, well-domed and attractive. Compact plants tolerate heat.

Gypsy

63 days. Vigorous plants produce reliably even under heat and other stresses. Heads are smooth, well-domed and flavorful.

Data

Gardeners at 24 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green Magic	Gypsy	Same
Germinated best	31%	**38%**	31%
Healthier plants	19	31	**50**
Harvested earlier	**50**	43	7
Higher yields	**64**	29	7
More attractive pods	21	36	**43**
Tasted better	21	21	**57**
Preference	**50**	**50**	
Recommend (☺)	**53**	**53**	
Mean score[1]	**6.60**	6.27	
Median score[1]	**7.00**	6.00	

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

Prefer Green Magic

Green Magic ★★☆☆☆ ☹
Gypsy ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ MN

I tried growing broccoli for the first time and it didn't go very well. It took forever for the seeds to germinate. The plants weren't very healthy. The heads were very small and went to "broccolini" very quickly. *Green Magic* had healthier plants and did produce a few small heads.

Green Magic ★★★☆☆ ☹
Gypsy ★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Both varieties were okay, and *Green Magic* had better side shoot production. One negative aspect of both varieties is the stalks and undersides of the florets did not turn green; they were either yellow or very pale green.

This was aesthetically unappealing and made me wonder about their nutritional value as well. I also grew my standard variety, which is Burpee's *Sun King*. This variety colored up much better with a very deep, uniform green color throughout.

Green Magic ★★★★★ ☺
Gypsy ★★½☆☆ ☹ NC

We had a super late spring and did not plant until June 2. We suffered through hot, very dry weather in early June and a hailstorm on June 20. *Green Magic* was super hardy. It survived and produced a little broccoli.

Green Magic ★★★☆☆ ☺
Gypsy ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

Green Magic produced larger heads and higher yields. Neither variety germinated well. Broccoli is a waste of space for what you get.

Green Magic ★★★★½ ☺
Gypsy ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Green Magic had great side shoots.

Green Magic ★★★★☆ ☺
Gypsy ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

Green Magic did the best. It had high germination rates, healthy large plants and less bugs. Both varieties tasted good.

***Green Magic* produced higher yields.**

Best broccoli varieties

Top choice
Green Magic

Strong performer
Gypsy

Prefer Green Magic (continued)

Green Magic ★★★★★½ ☺
Gypsy ★★★½☆ ☹ NW

The black flea beetles devastated this crop this year. I was able to keep them at bay with neem oil, but they took over in late August to where I had to move to chemical pesticides to preserve the plant and others that they were starting to infest. In late summer and early fall, the broccoli plants started to flourish better. *Green Magic* was the only variety that produced heads.

Green Magic ★★★★★½ ☺
Gypsy ★★★★☆ ☺ SD

I had excellent results with both varieties. The plants were very healthy. I thought they would never flower, but we had a very hot, dry summer. Once they started, they were fantastic! Both had very attractive heads and great flavor. *Green Magic* was ready to harvest first and continued to produce until I pulled the plants. It's been awhile since I've had such good broccoli that kept producing!

Prefer Gypsy

Green Magic ★★★½☆ ☹
Gypsy ★★★★★½ ☺ MN

More *Gypsy* plants survived, leading to higher yields.

Green Magic ★★★½☆ ☹
Gypsy ★★★★★½ ☺ SE

Both varieties handled the heat well. *Gypsy* had more flavor both raw and when cooked. It also lasted longer after it was picked.

Green Magic ★★★☆☆ ☺
Gypsy ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Gypsy heads were more tender and had deeper green color. *Gypsy* produced earlier but *Green Magic* produced higher yields.

Green Magic ★★★½☆ ☺
Gypsy ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Gypsy had a better taste, at least raw. It germinated quicker and fuller. *Green Magic* grew better and produced twice as much yield. I was disappointed that neither variety gave a second harvest off any plant.

Green Magic ★★½☆☆ ☹
Gypsy ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Gypsy germinated first and had more seedlings. It was significantly more productive than *Green Magic*.

Green Magic ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Gypsy ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC

Gypsy was the only variety that produced a head.

Green Magic ★★☆☆☆ ☹
Gypsy ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

Gypsy plants grew larger and looked much healthier, but neither performed well. It was too hot even though the plants were watered early on. Flea beetles moved in later, and plants did not bear until mid-August. Heads were not nice and were somewhat bitter. I think I may stick with getting bedding plants rather than directly sowing seed.

Conclusions

Many gardeners struggled growing these varieties from seed. *Green Magic* produced higher yields. *Gypsy* has a reputation of performing well under hot conditions, but *Green Magic* did just as well in our summer heat.

Gypsy has a reputation of performing well under hot conditions, but *Green Magic* did just as well in our summer heat.

Carrot, Early Nantes

Varieties

Narvik

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

Naval

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

Data

Gardeners at 77 sites submitted information.

Trait	Narvik	Naval	Same
Germinated best	20%	25%	**55%**
Healthier plants	8	19	**73**
Harvested earlier	12	24	**64**
Higher yields	17	39	**44**
More attractive roots	32	**42**	26
Tasted better	34	16	**50**
Preference	**51**	49	
Recommend (☺)	**87**	**87**	
Mean score[1]	7.98	**8.02**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Narvik

Narvik ★★★★½ ☺
Naval ★★★★☆ ☺ MN

These varieties were very similar. *Narvik* roots were more uniform.

Narvik ★★★★★ ☺
Naval ★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Both varieties were very tasty both raw and cooked. I highly recommend planting both! They will not disappoint! The production of *Narvik* was slightly earlier than *Naval*.

Narvik ★★★★½ ☺
Naval ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

My preference for *Narvik* is based strictly on taste, which is most important to me.

Narvik ★★★½☆ ☺
Naval ★★★☆☆ ☺ MN

Narvik germinated more uniformly. Some in our house preferred the taste of *Naval*, but more preferred the taste of *Narvik*. *Narvik* tasted better when eaten out of the garden while *Naval* had superior taste after refrigeration.

Narvik ★★★★★ ☺
Naval ★★★★½ ☺ NE

My family and I really enjoyed both of these varieties, so I don't think you would wrong with either variety. *Narvik* roots were more attractive.

Narvik ★★★★½ ☺
Naval ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Narvik roots were more attractive and tasted better. Sweet.

Narvik ★★★★½ ☺
Naval ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Yields were very good for both varieties. Cool weather helped sweeten the taste, as earlier in the season they were kind of bland due to heat and dry weather. *Narvik* had a very nicely formed carrot and slightly better germination.

Narvik ★★★½☆ ☺
Naval ★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Naval produced higher yields, but *Narvik* tasted sweeter. The carrots of both varieties have been in the ground through several freezes and I am still harvesting.

Both varieties grew well and produced good yields of quality carrots.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers
Laguna
Mokum
Napoli
Naval
Negovia

Prefer Narvik (continued)

Narvik ☺ -
Naval ☺ SE

I prefer *Narvik* because it tasted noticeably better, and it wasn't that far behind in every other category. *Naval* germinated at a higher rate, grew faster, produced a higher yield, and had roots that were straighter and better looking.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ SE

Narvik produced a higher yield and was tastier.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ SE

Narvik had better flavor.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ SE

I preferred *Narvik* because its taste will get me to eat my carrots. Although it had a lot of misshaped roots, *Narvik* tasted much better than *Naval*. *Naval* had a better stand and produced a better yield. *Naval* roots were straight and uniform.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ NC

These varieties were similar and deserve high ratings. I tasted *Narvik* right out the garden and it was great.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ NC

The carrots of both varieties were crispy, sweet and delicious. Both had very nice yield and quality. *Narvik* carrots were a bit longer.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ NC

I loved both of these varieties. Both had nice-looking carrots. *Narvik* carrots looked nicer.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ NC

Narvik roots had an even shape; longer and slender. They had a rich carrot taste. *Naval* produced more and larger carrots.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ NC

Narvik had longer and straighter roots. Both varieties had good germination and grew well despite the heat and inconsistent watering. My kids and I couldn't taste any difference between the varieties. Both varieties tasted excellent and were fun to grow.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☹ SC

Narvik grew better despite the weeds trying to choke it out. Its flavor was sweeter.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ SC

Both varieties were very good. They had nice green tops and dark orange roots. Their roots were the same shape, size and color. *Naval* produced a few more carrots. Its roots had more carrot flavor but *Narvik* roots were a lot sweeter.

Narvik ☺ -
Naval ☹ SC

Narvik produced higher yields and its roots were more attractive. *Narvik* tasted sweeter while *Naval* tasted like soap.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☹ SC

Narvik carrots were sweeter and more consistent in size and shape than the *Naval* carrots were. I harvested both varieties on August 28. *Naval* carrots had a lot of fine root hairs growing from the carrot, which made them harder to clean.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ SC

Both varieties were very similar and produced well. The deciding factor was *Narvik* tasting better both raw and cooked. It was sweeter with better flavor.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺ SC

Narvik germinated slightly better.

Many gardeners felt *Narvik* roots tasted sweeter.

Prefer Narvik (continued)

Narvik ☺
Naval ☹
NW

Naval roots were larger, but *Narvik* roots were more attractive and sweeter.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☹
SW

Narvik was healthier. It produced more carrots, and its carrots looked better.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
SW

Narvik tasted a little better. Both varieties germinated well, grew well and produced very good amounts. They were drought tolerant, too.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
SW

Narvik roots were deep orange in color, big and tasty.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
SW

Narvik germinated better.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☹
SW

They both took longer to germinate than I expected and their yields were less than expected. *Narvik* had better flavor and a bit longer carrot.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
SW

Narvik had sweeter carrots.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☹
SD

Narvik roots were shorter and fatter. They had a nice size and more flavor.

Prefer Naval

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
MN

Naval plants were a bit taller and fuller. Roots of both varieties were uniform and good eating.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
MN

Naval was a nicer looking carrot.

Narvik ☹
Naval ☺
NE

More *Naval* plants germinated and survived to maturity. This led to higher yields.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
NE

Naval tasted sweeter.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
NE

Both performed very well. These are great carrot varieties. *Naval* plants were healthier and their roots were more attractive.

Narvik ☹
Naval ☺
NE

Neither variety produced a high yield, but *Naval* produced more. The roots of both varieties tasted earthy.

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
SE

Naval seeds were bigger and easier to sow! *Naval* seedlings germinated faster, but within a week or two their stands were very similar. I did not thin them, and both varieties had good shape/uniformity despite crowding. I had a great yield of delicious carrots!

Narvik ☺
Naval ☺
SE

Naval yielded the most and tasted better to me than *Narvik*. The germination of *Naval* was poorer, but it compensated for yield. I also liked the straightness and smoothness of *Naval* roots.

***Naval* plants grew vigorously and produced higher yields at more sites.**

Prefer Naval (continued)

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SE

Narvik had a few split roots; *Naval* had no split roots.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SE

Both varieties were nice. They tasted pretty similar. *Narvik* roots weren't as nice and straight.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SE

Naval produced almost double the yield of *Narvik*. *Naval* roots tasted a little better (not as watery tasting). *Narvik* germinated better and its plants were healthier. Our carrot crop did okay in this year's garden but not as well as in previous years.

Narvik ☹ 
Naval ☺ SE

Naval plants were bigger and more vigorous. *Naval* roots were ready to be harvested earlier. *Naval* produced a better yield. The shoulders of *Narvik* roots turned purple.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SE

Naval produced a larger carrot, so its yields were better.

Narvik ☹ 
Naval ☺ NC

Naval had larger, more uniform roots. At the final harvest, many *Naval* roots were 5 to 6 inches long while *Narvik* roots were 3 to 4 inches long.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ NC

Both varieties germinated well using the burlap method and produced well. *Naval* roots were bigger in circumference; *Narvik* roots were skinny but longer. The roots of both varieties tasted great. I preferred the uniform, "baby carrot" shape of *Naval* as they were the perfect size for pickling and freezing whole. Both varieties grew well in a garden spot that received partial sun/shade.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ NC

Both varieties were healthy and produced similar yields. *Naval* roots grew quicker, larger, longer, straighter and cleaner.

Narvik ☹ 
Naval ☺ SC

Naval roots were slightly bigger and tasted sweeter earlier in the season. The roots of both varieties were nicely shaped and tasted good.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SC

The plants of both varieties grew abundantly and were heavy producers. *Naval* roots were straight, less hairy and tasted amazing.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SC

Naval produced slightly larger roots. I never thinned the carrots and voles overtook some of the crop.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SC

Both carrots were similar and grew well. We got the biggest carrots from *Naval*, but yields were similar. Neither variety produced large carrots; most were on the skinny side and 6 inches long or shorter.

Narvik ☹ 
Naval ☺ SC

I liked the germination of both varieties but preferred the taste of *Naval*.

Narvik ☹ 
Naval ☺ SC

Naval roots had better taste and a more consistent shape. Both varieties had excellent yields.

Narvik ☺ 
Naval ☺ SC

While I liked both varieties, *Naval* tasted a little bit sweeter.

Naval roots were larger, straighter, more uniform and better looking.

Prefer Naval (continued)

Narvik ☺ 🐞
Naval ☺ SC

Naval tasted sweeter. *Narvik* roots were much smaller.

Narvik ☺ 🐞
Naval ☺ SC

Only a few of each variety came up. What did was colorful, sweet and healthy. *Naval* roots were larger and brighter in color.

Narvik ☺ 🐞
Naval ☺ NW

More of the *Narvik* roots had odd shapes.

Narvik ☹ -
Naval ☺ NW

Naval produced higher yields and tasted better. The roots of both varieties were hairy.

Narvik ☺ 🐞
Naval ☺ NW

Naval is a nice carrot.

Narvik ☺ 🏠
Naval ☺ SW

Naval produced more uniform roots. You can't go wrong with either variety.

Narvik ☺ 🐞
Naval ☺ SW

These varieties were so good.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well and produced good yields of quality carrots. Many gardeners felt *Narvik* roots tasted sweeter while *Naval* roots were better looking. *Naval* roots were larger, straighter and more uniform. *Naval* plants grew vigorously and produced higher yields at more sites. *Naval* has been a strong performer in previous trials.

***Naval* has been a strong performer in previous trials.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type***

Variety A ☺ NC ← ***Location***
Variety B ☹

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

Garden types
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🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
⏳ = Uses inorganic pesticides
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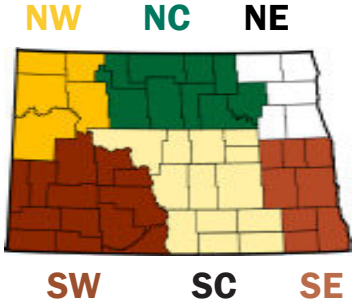

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Carrot, Mainseason Nantes

Varieties

Jerada

80 days. High yields of uniform, straight, flavorful roots. Strong tops allow for easy harvesting.

Newhall

80 days. Large carrots with deep orange color and classic carrot flavor. Strong tops. Stores well.

Data

Gardeners at 45 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jerada	Newhall	Same
Germinated best	21%	24%	**55%**
Healthier plants	16	21	**63**
Harvested earlier	25	15	**60**
Higher yields	30	33	**38**
More attractive roots	**33**	**33**	**33**
Tasted better	18	26	**56**
Preference	**55**	45	
Recommend (☺)	79	**84**	
Mean score[1]	7.56	**7.67**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Jerada

Jerada ★★★★★ ☺
Newhall ★★★★½ ☺ MN

These varieties were very similar.

Jerada ★★★★☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★½☆ ☺ NE

Jerada tasted sweeter. *Newhall* germinated better, had bigger and taller tops, and bigger carrots. *Newhall* roots were smoother; there was no need to use a peeler.

Jerada ★★★★☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Jerada tasted better. *Newhall* roots looked more attractive.

Jerada ★★½☆☆ ☹
Newhall ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SE

These varieties were okay but not great. *Jerada* had poor germination but its carrots were more attractive and uniform.

Jerada ★★★★☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Hands down, *Jerada* tasted better. I did not like the bland taste of *Newhall*. *Newhall* produced twice as many carrots. They both had uniform, straight carrots.

Jerada ★★★½☆ ☺ -
Newhall ★★½☆☆ ☺ NC

Jerada produced higher yields. It had larger, longer carrots.

Jerada ★★★★★ ☺
Newhall ★★★★½ ☹ NC

Jerada roots were more attractive. *Newhall* roots produced more appendages.

Jerada ★★★★☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Jerada yielded better in both my raised bed and regular garden. We did not have any problem with germination on either variety like we did with the red varieties. Both varieties produced uniform, 6- to 8-inch roots, 1 inch in diameter.

Jerada ★★★½☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

Jerada produced higher yields and its roots were more attractive.

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

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers
Laguna
Mokum
Napoli
Naval
Negovia

Prefer Jerada (continued)

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☹ SC

Seedlings emerged on June 7, but germination was slow and scanty. I did replant on June 19 with better results. *Jerada* produced more carrots and showed more vigorous growth.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ SC

Rabbits were a problem this gardening season. Once I finally eliminated them, the plants were able to produce tops again. I harvested after the first frost. *Newhall* had higher yields while *Jerada* had more attractive roots.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☹ SC

Jerada was more vigorous. It had a higher germination rate, thick and healthy plants, and awesome yield. Some of its carrots were over a foot long. *Jerada* carrots were crunchy, earthy and bright orange.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☹ SC

Jerada roots were smooth, tasty and had a consistent shape.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ SC

Jerada germinated slightly better and produced a higher yield.

Jerada ☹
Newhall ☹ SC

The overall appearance of *Jerada* was better, but neither variety had attractive roots. There were many growing tips (legs) and no uniformity.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☹ SC

Jerada grew better and produced a higher yield.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ NW

Jerada produced larger carrots to preserve and cook with. *Newhall* had a much sweeter taste that was preferred by the tasters. The tasters reported an aftertaste with *Jerada*.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ SW

Jerada carrots were straighter and longer. *Jerada* produced larger yields. *Newhall* carrots tasted good, but had side shoots and were very wonky shaped.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ SW

Jerada roots were more attractive. About one-eighth of *Newhall* roots were hairy.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ SW

Both varieties had attractive roots and were very good raw or cooked. *Jerada* carrots were a lighter color and *Newhall* carrots were a brighter orange. *Jerada* carrots were sweeter and earthier in taste.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ SW

Jerada had better germination and therefore better production. Both varieties had some misshapen roots.

Jerada ☺
Newhall ☺ SD

I always have trouble getting carrots to germinate, but *Jerada* germinated best and produced the first crop. These varieties have similar flavor.

Both varieties grew well and produced good yields.

Prefer Newhall

Jerada ☺ MN
Newhall ☺

Both my wife and I preferred the taste of *Newhall*. Both varieties had nice roots; *Jerada* roots were more uniform.

Jerada ☺ MN
Newhall ☺

I did a taste test of raw carrots with a group of Master Gardeners. Nineteen preferred *Jerada* and 13 preferred *Newhall*. They said *Jerada* was sweeter while *Newhall* was oranger and crisper. *Newhall* had brighter orange color when cooked.

Jerada ☹ MN
Newhall ☺

The germination rate on *Jerada* was poor. *Newhall* carrots were fairly consistent in size. The carrots of both varieties were sweet but *Newhall* had better flavor.

Jerada ☹ NE
Newhall ☺

Jerada carrots were slightly larger, but *Newhall* carrots were far sweeter. The roots of both varieties have been good for cooking.

Jerada ☹ SE
Newhall ☺

Newhall germinated slightly better. Its plants were taller and fuller. Its carrots were smoother, larger and sweeter with very few split roots.

Jerada ☹ SE
Newhall ☺

Struggled with germination in the spring due to heat and dry conditions. Did not have a real good stand until June when we finally had rain. *Newhall* had the better germination and yield.

Jerada ☺ NC
Newhall ☺

Newhall germinated better and produced higher yields.

Jerada ☹ NC
Newhall ☺

Newhall excelled in all categories.

Jerada ☺ NC
Newhall ☺

Newhall produced an early, tasty crop for marketing. It had strong, healthy tops and sturdy, single-stemmed roots. *Newhall* tended to develop purple shoulders with age. Both varieties were healthy and free of disease. We preferred the taste of *Newhall* in raw form. *Jerada* had a stronger carrot flavor with an earthy undertone. *Jerada* was preferred over *Newhall* when both were cooked. I still prefer *Yaya*, *Bolero* and *Nash* over these varieties.

Jerada ☺ SC
Newhall ☺

I rated *Newhall* higher because I had higher germination rates with it. Both were excellent carrots. My kids ate them all within 2 weeks of harvesting.

Jerada ☹ SC
Newhall ☺

Newhall carrots looked and tasted better.

Jerada ☺ SC
Newhall ☺

Both varieties took a while to germinate but *Newhall* took off and had huge tops. Its carrots were ready to harvest in early August. *Newhall* yields were super abundant. *Newhall* roots were often forked but they were large. *Jerada* roots were short and fat.

Jerada ☹ -
Newhall ☺ NW

Newhall tasted better. *Jerada* was ready to harvest earlier, but overall yields were similar. The roots of both varieties were hairy.

Jerada ☺ NW
Newhall ☺

Newhall plants were bigger and healthier.

Jerada ☺ SW
Newhall ☺

Both varieties did great in my raised beds. *Newhall* had slightly bigger and more uniform roots. This was such a great carrot year!

Gardeners had mixed opinions on which variety looked better and tasted better. In general, these carrots tasted good but not great.

Prefer Newhall (continued)

Jerada ★★★★½ ☺
Newhall ★★★★★ ☺ SW

I got plenty of carrots. *Newhall* roots were straighter and had better taste. *Jerada* roots were larger but had round, little bumps that came off the sides of the main root. This made them harder to store.

Jerada ★★½☆☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★½☆ ☺ SW

All *Newhall* seeds germinated; *Jerada* was a little spotty.

Jerada ★★★½☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★★½ ☺ SD

Newhall produced nice-size carrots without getting way too large. I planted too close together and didn't get them thinned so had some funky carrots.

No Preference

Jerada ★★★★½ ☺
Newhall ★★★★½ ☺ NC

These varieties were very equal in germination (using burlap method), taste, size/length and overall production. I grew them in a partial shade/sun location, and harvested 1 week after the first killing frost. The roots had great taste and size.

Jerada ★★★½☆ ☺
Newhall ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties tasted great. The carrots lasted a long time after harvest, and I enjoyed them in Arizona.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with these varieties and gave them similar ratings for all traits. Both varieties grew well and produced good yields. Gardeners had mixed opinions on which variety looked better and tasted better. In general, these carrots tasted good but not great. Several gardeners expressed concerns over misshaped roots.

Several gardeners expressed concerns over misshaped roots.

Key to Site Reports

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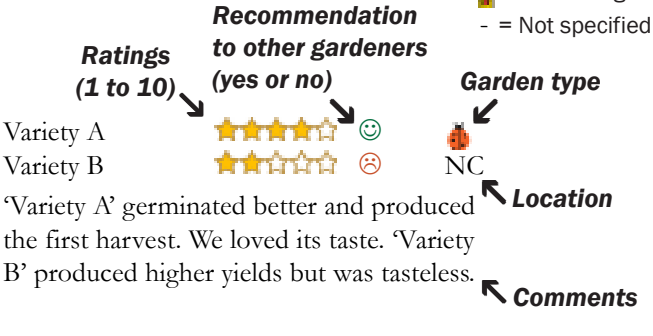

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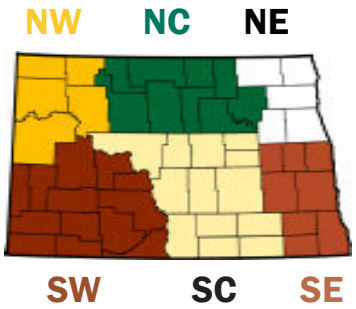

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Carrot, Red

Varieties

Atomic Red

64 days. Crisp roots with mild flavor. High in lycopene. Its red color turns brilliant when cooked.

Rubypak

72 days. Productive and reliable. Resists bolting in spring. Roots brighten when cooked. Strong, healthy tops.

Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Atomic Red	Ruby-pak	Same
Germinated best	15%	31%	**54%**
Healthier plants	17	33	**50**
Harvested earlier	33	8	**58**
Higher yields	33	**50**	17
More attractive roots	33	**50**	17
Tasted better	33	17	**50**
Preference	47	**53**	
Recommend (☺)	**53**	**53**	
Mean score[1]	5.93	**6.40**	
Median score[1]	**6.00**	**6.00**	

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

Prefer Atomic Red

Atomic Red ★★★★★ ☺
Rubypak ★★★½☆ ☹ NE

Atomic Red carrots were bigger and tasted better.

Atomic Red ★★★★★ ☺
Rubypak ★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Atomic Red roots were bigger, more attractive and had better flavor. *Rubypak* produced higher yields but many of its roots were very hairy.

Atomic Red ★★★½☆ ☺
Rubypak ★★★☆☆ ☺ SE

Atomic Red roots tasted a tad better and they were somewhat larger. The roots of neither variety got very big, and both were still a bit bitter but might improve once there's a hard frost. As of October 19, my yard has only gotten a very light frost that didn't kill any plants.

Atomic Red ★★★★½ ☺
Rubypak ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Atomic Red roots were larger but also easier to pull out. Both varieties were easy to grow and delicious.

Atomic Red ★★★☆☆ ☺
Rubypak ★½☆☆☆ ☹ NW

Although *Atomic Red* germinated poorly, it had better production, less splitting of roots and was easier to harvest. *Rubypak* roots split so bad they were completely useless. These varieties taste similarly both fresh and cooked.

Atomic Red ★★★☆☆ ☺
Rubypak ★★½☆☆ ☺ SW

My soil is heavy clay and the yields were low. *Atomic Red* produced higher yields.

Atomic Red ★★★★½ ☺
Rubypak ★★½☆☆ ☹ SD

Atomic Red had great foliage and long, slender carrots.

Both varieties received fairly low ratings.

Best red carrot variety

Top choice
Rubypak

Prefer Rubypak

Atomic Red ☹
Rubypak ☹ SE

Neither variety tasted good at all. *Rubypak* was just slightly more bearable! The roots of both varieties were slender and attractive.

Atomic Red ☹
Rubypak ☺ SE

We did not get large carrots. I don't think we thinned them enough. We pulled a few today [September 7] but will let the rest in the ground for a couple weeks and continue watering to see if they will get any bigger.

Atomic Red ☹
Rubypak ☺ SE

Rubypak roots were larger, tasted better and looked better, but they broke off at the ground easier. *Atomic Red* roots developed ridges that were not appealing to look at.

Atomic Red ☹
Rubypak ☺ SE

I prefer *Rubypak* due to its better emergence, good health, straighter and smoother roots that look better, and a much higher yield. Most of my friends preferred the taste of *Rubypak* over *Atomic Red*.

Atomic Red ☺
Rubypak ☺ SC

Rubypak had beautiful roots—18 inches long in my raised bed. Both varieties did amazing in the raised bed but had a poor showing in the regular garden.

Atomic Red ☹
Rubypak ☹ NW

Rubypak germinated much better, had larger carrots and produced higher yields. Its roots were redder and more beautiful. *Atomic Red* roots were pinker. The roots of both varieties tasted a bit bland and woody.

Atomic Red ☹
Rubypak ☹ SW

I didn't like the taste of either carrot raw. They each had an aftertaste. They tasted fine if you cooked them. *Rubypak* roots were a little more attractive, and they were a very nice color of red.

Atomic Red ☹
Rubypak ☺ SW

Rubypak had better size, color and flavor.

Conclusions

Both varieties received fairly low ratings. Nearly all gardeners felt the tastes of these red carrots were bearable but not delicious. Even the distinctive red color of these carrots did not generate much excitement.

Nearly all gardeners felt the tastes of these red carrots were bearable but not delicious.

Key to Site Reports

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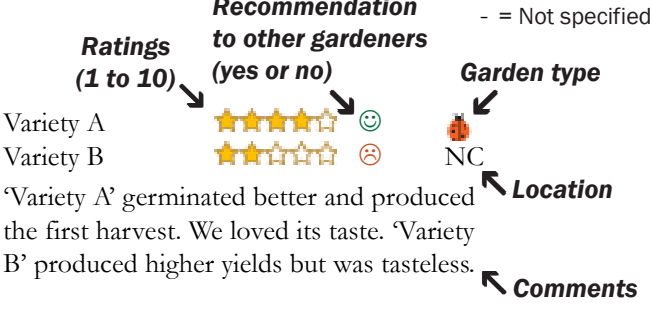

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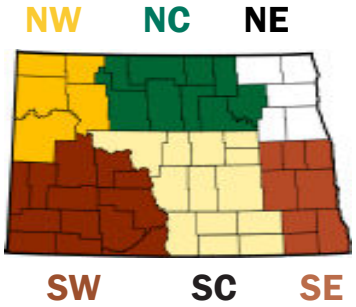

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Carrot, Yellow

Varieties

Gold Nugget

68 days. Deep yellow, uniform, 6-inch roots. Nantes type with small cores and good flavor. Tops are dark green, attractive and grow vigorously.

Mello Yellow

65 days. Bright yellow, 7-inch roots. Nantes type with exceptional flavor. Roots retain their color when cooked.

Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold Nugget	Mello Yellow	Same
Germinated best	**50**%	0%	**50**%
Healthier plants	25	8	**67**
Harvested earlier	8	42	**50**
Higher yields	**42**	**42**	17
More attractive roots	17	**42**	**42**
Tasted better	**50**	17	33
Preference	**75**	25	
Recommend (☺)	83	50	
Mean score[1]	**7.58**	6.58	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

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

Prefer Gold Nugget

Gold Nugget ★★★★½ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★★½ ☺ NE

Gold Nugget roots were sweeter.

Gold Nugget ★★★★½ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★★½ ☹ NE

Gold Nugget had more flavor.

Gold Nugget ★★★★★ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★★★½ ☹ NE

Gold Nugget germinated well; *Mello Yellow* not so much.

Gold Nugget ★★★★½ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★★½ ☹ SE

Gold Nugget had higher production. *Mello Yellow* roots were smaller but straight. The color of these carrots is more gold than yellow.

Gold Nugget ★★★½ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★½ ☺ SC

Gold Nugget germinated better. The tops and roots of both varieties had good size and color. Their roots had a similar size and shape. Yields were similar. Both varieties had good flavor, but *Gold Nugget* was sweeter. The roots of *Mello Yellow* were darker in color.

Gold Nugget ★★★★½ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★½ ☹ SC

Gold Nugget had superior taste and appearance.

Gold Nugget ★★★½ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★½ ☹ NW

Gold Nugget had larger roots at harvest. These roots had a brighter, fresher taste.

Gold Nugget ★★★★½ ☺
Mello Yellow ★★½ ☹ SW

Both varieties germinated well. *Gold Nugget* had a sweeter taste. *Mello Yellow* had higher yields and straighter roots.

Most gardeners preferred *Gold Nugget*. It germinated better and its roots were sweeter.

Best yellow carrot varieties

Top choice
Gold Nugget

Strong performer
Yellowstone

Prefer Mello Yellow

Gold Nugget ☺
Mello Yellow ☺ NE

Mello Yellow produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and tasted better. *Gold Nugget* germinated faster.

Gold Nugget ☹
Mello Yellow ☺ SC

Mello Yellow produced triple the yield of *Gold Nugget*. We did not like the taste of either variety. They were good to add color to dishes but very earthy in taste.

Gold Nugget ☹
Mello Yellow ☺ SW

Mello Yellow had a bigger yield and better flavor. The delay in germination and poor yield of both varieties was not what I expected. The roots of both varieties had a hairy like appearance when harvested. My orange Nantes carrots tasted sweeter and froze better. Yellow carrots do complement orange carrots when served on a dish.

No Preference

Gold Nugget ☺
Mello Yellow ☺ MN

These varieties were very similar.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Gold Nugget*. It germinated better and its roots were sweeter. *Mello Yellow* roots were straight and attractive. Gardeners appreciated the color of these yellow varieties as a visual complement to orange carrots, but they were not impressed with their flavor.

Mello Yellow roots were straight and attractive.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ☺
Variety B ☹ NC ← ***Garden type*** ↙

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

↖ ***Location***

↖ ***Comments***

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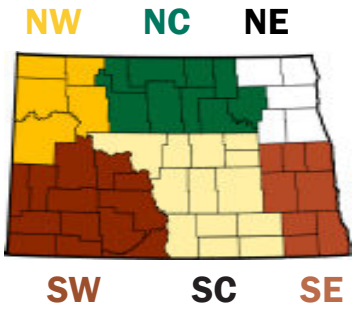

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Corn, Early Synergistic

Varieties

Latte (syn)

68 days. Reliable, early variety that germinates well in cool soils. Sweet, tender kernels. Bird-proof husks.

Sweetness (syn)

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

Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	Latte	Sweetness	Same
Germinated best	16%	**44%**	40%
Healthier plants	8	20	**72**
Harvested earlier	14	**52**	33
Higher yields	19	**43**	38
More attractive ears	14	32	**55**
Tasted better	23	23	**55**
Preference	29	**71**	
Recommend (☺)	63	**79**	
Mean score[1]	6.71	**7.58**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Latte

Latte ★★★★☆ ☺
Sweetness ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

I like eating freshly picked corn raw and *Latte* was the winner for this.

Latte ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Sweetness ½☆☆☆☆ ☹ NC

Neither variety produced any ears I could harvest. Ears were only 3 inches long and had hardly any kernels on the cob. The ears of *Latte* were more numerous. It was a poor year for corn in this area. Local farmers didn't get enough corn to bring to market.

Latte ★★★★☆ ☺
Sweetness ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Sweetness had more sprouts and germinated faster. Both varieties produced ears in the same week. They each produced 10 to 20 ears. Both varieties tasted really good, but *Latte* had a lot more flavor and was not as chewy as *Sweetness*.

Latte ★★★☆☆ ☺
Sweetness ★★½☆☆ ☺ SC

These varieties were about equal. *Latte* produced higher yields.

Latte ★★½☆☆ ☹
Sweetness ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

Latte had better flavor (sweeter), but *Sweetness* had better texture. We didn't love either variety.

Latte ★★½☆☆ ☹
Sweetness ★½☆☆☆ ☹ NW

This was a tough summer. No irrigation and no rain from June 23 to July 31. Ears were short and had blank spots. *Latte* ears were longer and larger. Yields of both varieties were poor, but *Latte* yielded better and tasted better. *Sweetness* ears were quite short.

Latte ★★★½☆ ☺
Sweetness ★★½☆☆ ☹ SD

I had never grown early corn before and was disappointed by the size of cobs. *Latte* performed better overall. Raccoons ate all but two small cobs.

Both varieties were healthy and produced good quality sweet corn.

Best early sweet corn varieties

Top choice
Sweetness

Strong performers
Catalyst
Sugar Buns
Temptation

Prefer Sweetness

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ SE

Nearly every seed germinated. We picked the first ears of *Sweetness* on August 2. *Sweetness* produced the first yield and a higher yield than *Latte*.

Latte ☹
Sweetness ☹ SE

I chose *Sweetness* for better emergence, more and larger ears, better looking ears after husking, and its faster growth. *Latte* ears looked better before harvest with their long ear husks. *Latte* had the best corn flavor, and both varieties can be sweet, but their tastes were worse than the trial we did in 2022 as well as the super sweet corn trial we did this year.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ SE

Both varieties were quite similar. I planted later than planned [May 27] and in the garden where corn typically doesn't do well. The stalks were very short but had surprisingly nice ears.

Latte ☹
Sweetness ☺ NC

Sweetness had bigger ears and sweeter taste.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ NC

Sweetness germinated first. It produced the first yield and a higher yield [36 ears compared to 30 ears for *Latte*]. The stalks of both varieties were healthy. Their ears had uniform kernels that were delicious and super sweet.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ NC

Sweetness had bigger kennels. They were filled with juice and literally popped in your mouth when you bit in. *Sweetness* was more flavorful; earthiness is the way my husband described it.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ NC

These varieties produced well and early. *Sweetness* had slightly bigger cobs.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ NC

The cobs of both varieties filled uniformly. *Sweetness* had better germination. It had heavy-duty husks that helped protect the cob from birds.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ SC

Latte produced two cobs per stalk and had more attractive ears, but *Sweetness* had better flavor.

Latte ☹
Sweetness ☺ SC

Both germinated well and grew at the same rate. There were no disease problems. *Sweetness* tasseled first, produced earlier and produced higher yields. Its ears were more attractive. *Latte* stalks leaned after a storm and continued to lean after every strong wind.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ SC

The stalks of both varieties were healthy. Yields were great. The ears tasted good.

Latte ☺
Sweetness ☺ SC

Both varieties seemed to be slow and somewhat patchy in germination. *Sweetness* was ready a little sooner. Its ears were more consistent in size and fullness among the two ears on each stalk. Both varieties were very delicious.

Latte ☹
Sweetness ☺ SC

Sweetness excelled in every category. It had better and fuller ears.

Latte ☹
Sweetness ☺ SW

Sweetness germinated faster, had better germination, and had larger and more vigorous plants.

Sweetness germinated better, grew more vigorously, ripened earlier and produced a higher yield.

Prefer Sweetness (continued)

Latte ★★½☆☆ ☺ 🐞
Sweetness ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Sweetness had more cobs.

Latte ★★★½☆ ☺ 🏠
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Sweetness had more cobs (two to three) per stalk, and its taste was a little sweeter. *Latte* ripened earlier and had more attractive ears.

Latte ★★★★½ ☹ 🏠
Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ SD

Sweetness was an excellent sweet corn. I highly recommend it for its flavor, health, early maturity and productivity. *Sweetness* ripened about 2 weeks earlier. It was the best tasting corn; sweet just like its name. The plants of both varieties were very healthy.

Conclusions

Both varieties were healthy and produced good quality sweet corn. *Sweetness* germinated better, grew more vigorously, ripened earlier and produced a higher yield. *Sweetness* has always excelled in our trials, and this year it proved again it is an outstanding early sweet corn variety.

Sweetness is an outstanding early sweet corn variety.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ★★★★½ ☺
Variety B ★★½☆☆ ☹

Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

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

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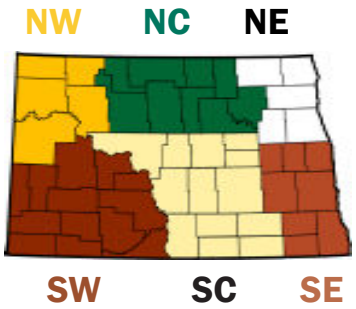

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Corn, Midseason Super Sweet

Varieties

Rosie (shA)

74 days. Beautiful ears with great eating quality. Bright kernels. Sturdy stalks.

Xtra Tender 274A (shA)

74 days. Excellent early-season vigor. Outstanding eating quality and tenderness. Sturdy stalks.

Data

Gardeners at 26 sites submitted information.

Trait	Rosie	XT-274A	Same
Germinated best	19%	10%	**71%**
Healthier plants	10	15	**75**
Harvested earlier	35	**45**	20
Higher yields	29	24	**48**
More attractive ears	30	**40**	30
Tasted better	**37**	32	32
Preference	35	**65**	
Recommend (☺)	54	**79**	
Mean score[1]	7.13	**7.96**	
Median score[1]	7.50	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Rosie

Rosie ★★★★½ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

Rosie was sweeter by far. It produced a better yield, and its ears were more attractive.

Rosie ★★★★☆ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★½☆☆ ☹ NE

Both varieties produced strong and healthy plants. *Rosie* produced 54 ears compared to 47 for *Xtra Tender 274A*. *Rosie* exhibited straight rows, and plump, cream and yellow kernels. The corn was sweet, tender and juicy with a crisp texture. *Xtra Tender 274A* displayed smaller kernels and more ears with curvy rows compared to *Rosie*.

Rosie ★★★★½ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Both varieties produced beautiful and delicious ears of corn. We fed the whole neighborhood. More of the *Rosie* ears were fully formed.

Rosie ★★★★½ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Rosie had more flavor, but *Xtra Tender 274A* was sweeter.

Rosie ★★★★½ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Rosie tasted sweeter.

Rosie ★★★★★ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★★★☆ ☹ SC

We planted these varieties both in rows and in hills in a Three Sisters-type planting. *Rosie* was the best corn I have ever tasted. It was amazing and *Xtra Tender 274A* just wasn't as good.

Rosie ★★★★★ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SW

Rosie excelled in all traits.

Rosie ★★★★½ ☺
Xtra Tender 274A ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

They both grew well. *Rosie* had bigger cobs, and they filled out more than *Xtra Tender 274A*. The varieties tasted equally sweet and tender.

Many of the gardeners who preferred *Rosie* felt it tasted better.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
- American Dream

Strong performers
- Anthem XR
- Catalyst
- Enchanted
- Troubadour
- Xtra-Tender 274A

Prefer Xtra Tender 274A

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SE

Nearly all seeds germinated and emerged on May 24 [sown May 16]. *Xtra Tender 274A* was significantly more productive than *Rosie*. Its ears were larger and tasted better.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SE

Rosie did not germinate.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SE

The kernels of *Xtra Tender 274A* were noticeably more tender and juicy.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SE

Both tasted great! *XtraTender 274A* produced more.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A NC

I was amazed that both of these varieties survived a hailstorm, drought and raccoons. *Xtra Tender 274A* stalks were sturdier and still produced corn even though its stalks were short.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A NC

These varieties were similar.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A NC

Xtra Tender 274A produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SC

Both varieties tasted amazing, but *Xtra Tender 274A* outperformed *Rosie* in every aspect: germination, plant growth, ears produced, and the size of the ears. *Xtra Tender 274A* grew so much better.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SC

These two varieties were very similar in look and taste. *Xtra Tender 274A* produced earlier, but *Rosie* produced a higher yield.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SC

Xtra Tender 274A stalks were healthier and more robust. *Rosie* ears were pretty and uniform but were more susceptible to bugs. Both varieties tasted so good.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SC

Xtra Tender 274A had larger and longer cobs that filled completely. It tasted great. *Rosie* had shorter and stubbier cobs, and some did not completely fill with kernels.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SC

Xtra Tender 274A was better in every trait, especially taste.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A NW

Both varieties were pretty good. *Xtra Tender 274A* had bigger ears.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SW

The ears of *Xtra Tender 274A* lived up to its name. They were extra tender, fuller and bigger overall. This was the best sweet corn I've ever had! The stalks of both varieties were strong, and I couldn't believe their height.

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SD

Xtra Tender 274A was about a week earlier to reach maturity—loved this earlier summer corn. It had fantastic-sized ears; larger and plumper; all pollinated well; lots of filled kernels from bottom to top. The corn itself was very tender, sweet and deliciously rich. The kernels just seemed to melt in your mouth. *Rosie* did not have as good of pollination—many ears lacked kernels across the entire cob. Its ears were smaller. *Rosie* ears were not as tender and didn't have the taste of sweetness or richness.

***Xtra Tender 274A* ripened earlier and produced large ears filled with tender kernels.**

No Preference

Rosie
Xtra Tender 274A SC

Both varieties had troubles. The wind blew many stalks of each variety over—twice. Those plants produced small or no ears. I have had stalks blow over before, but they always recovered. These stalks never got going. I got some corn to eat from the first planting but the ears were smallish. Their flavor was good. On June 28, I planted another sh2 variety called *Honey and Pearl*. That corn did really well.

Conclusions

Both varieties had healthy, sturdy stalks that produced good yields. Most gardeners preferred *Xtra Tender 274A*. It ripened earlier and produced large ears filled with tender kernels. Many of the gardeners who preferred *Rosie* felt it tasted better.

***Xtra Tender 274A* has done well in previous trials.**

Key to Site Reports

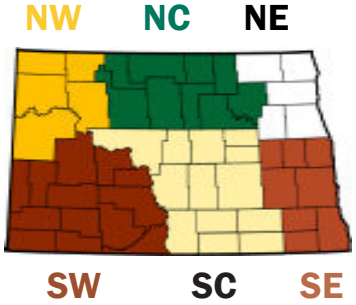
(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type*** ***Location*** ***Comments***

Variety A
Variety B NC

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

Garden types
= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations
MN = Minnesota
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Corn, Late Super Sweet

Varieties

Kate (shA)

77 days. Tender, glossy kernels have exceptional sweetness. Attractive ears.

Troubadour (shA)

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

Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Kate	Troubadour	Same
Germinated best	0%	41%	**59%**
Healthier plants	6	22	**72**
Harvested earlier	14	**57**	29
Higher yields	13	40	**47**
More attractive ears	14	**43**	**43**
Tasted better	27	27	**47**
Preference	38	**62**	
Recommend (☺)	71	**86**	
Mean score[1]	7.21	**8.07**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**8.50**	

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

Prefer Kate

Kate ★★★★½ ☺
Troubadour ★★★☆☆ ☹ MN

I planted late [June 11]. *Kate* grew at a faster rate and survived the first frost in fall. Neither variety produced full ears before the weather got too cold.

Kate ★★★★★½ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★☆ ☺ NE

The kernels of *Kate* were slightly crisper.

Kate ★★★★★ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★★½ ☺ SC

Kate stalks came up quicker and its ears were ready to harvest earlier. *Kate* tasted better. Both varieties had strong stalks and very good yields.

Kate ★★★★★ ☺
Troubadour ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Kate was so much better in size, taste and amount. Some of the best corn I have ever had. *Kate* produced 15 ears; they were big and had lots of kernels. *Troubadour* produced only one full ear; its other ears were half the size or smaller.

Kate ★★★★★ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Kate grew well, had healthy plants and superior flavor. *Kate* may be the sweetest corn we have ever tasted.

Prefer Troubadour

Kate ★★★★½ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★★ ☺ SE

This corn was delicious! We would love to try it again! The ears of *Troubadour* were bigger and longer.

Kate ★★½☆☆ ☹
Troubadour ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Nearly all seeds germinated and emerged on May 24 [sown May 16]. *Troubadour* produced significantly more than *Kate*. Its ears were more attractive, too.

Kate ★★½☆☆ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★½ ☺ SC

The plants of both varieties were healthy and their yields were great. Both tasted good.

Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
American Dream

Strong performers
Anthem XR
Catalyst
Enchanted Troubadour
Xtra-Tender 274A

Prefer Troubadour (continued)

Kate ★★★★☆ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★★ ☺ SC

This was a great year for corn; not a raccoon. *Troubadour* ears looked better and tasted better. My neighbor really liked this variety.

Kate ★★☆☆☆ ☹
Troubadour ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Troubadour had healthy plants, good ear color and sweet taste—almost didn't need butter or salt. *Troubadour* produced large ears and *Kate* produced only tiny ears.

Kate ★★★☆☆ ☹
Troubadour ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Troubadour grew better and produced a higher yield. *Kate* struggled.

Kate ★★★★☆ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Troubadour germinated better. The stalks of both varieties withstood strong winds. The ears filled really nice even though grasshoppers ate the silks. We could not tell any difference in taste; both tasted good.

Kate ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹
Troubadour ★★★★★ ☺ SD

Troubadour germinated much faster and was across the board 100% better. *Kate* ears didn't even fill out all the way.

No Preference

Kate ★½☆☆☆ ☹
Troubadour ★½☆☆☆ ☹ NC

I didn't get any ears on the plants.

Kate ★★★★☆ ☺
Troubadour ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

We planted these varieties in hills using a Three Sisters-type planting as well as in traditional rows. These two varieties performed so similarly for us that we didn't have a preference.

Conclusions

Kate grew well but it was overshadowed by the performance of *Troubadour*. *Troubadour* germinated better and ripened earlier. It produced larger ears and higher yields than *Kate*. This is the second straight year that *Troubadour* has impressed us. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties.

***Troubadour* germinated better and ripened earlier. It produced larger ears and higher yields.**

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 ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

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

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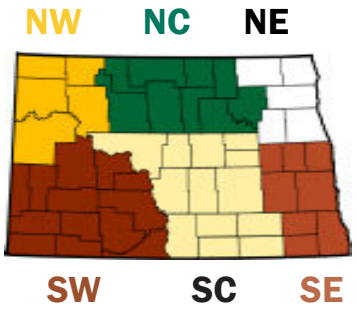

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Cucumber, Japanese

Varieties

Sashimi

50 days. Fruits are dark, glossy and attractive. Sweet flavor and small seed cavities. Resists powdery mildew. Does not require bees.

Unagi

55 days. Glossy, smooth and straight cucumbers with superior quality. Does not require bees.

Data

Gardeners at 50 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sashimi	Unagi	Same
Germinated best	28%	28%	**44%**
Healthier plants	24	29	**47**
Harvested earlier	**53**	32	16
Higher yields	**41**	28	31
More attractive cukes	32	**37**	32
Tasted better	24	26	**50**
Preference	**52**	48	
Recommend (☺)	**83**	78	
Mean score[1]	**7.93**	7.83	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Sashimi

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺
Unagi ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

Sashimi germinated much better. It produced cucumbers 3 weeks earlier. *Sashimi* was very high yielding—had to give away a lot! *Unagi* cucumbers were straighter but tasted slightly bitter. Several *Sashimi* cucumbers curved, but they tasted light and mild with fewer seeds. I love Japanese cucumbers and may never plant the original cucumbers again!

Sashimi ★★★★☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★☆☆ ☹ MN

Yields were similar, but *Sashimi* cucumbers were more attractive and tasted better. *Unagi* cucumbers had more unsightly markings on them.

Sashimi ★★★☆☆ ☺
Unagi ★★½☆☆ ☺ MN

I got the first cukes from *Sashimi*. Both varieties produced some cukes with curling at one end.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

I preferred the nice, slender and consistent form of the *Sashimi* cukes. Both had healthy plants. *Unagi* plants handled the really hot weather better.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Sashimi was more productive. Its cucumbers were bigger, straighter, and slightly darker compared to *Unagi*.

Sashimi ★★★★☆ ☺
Unagi ★★½☆☆ ☺ SE

Sashimi was yummier. *Unagi* grew better. Its vines were healthier, produced earlier and produced more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were more attractive.

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺
Unagi ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Sashimi germinated first, produced early and more cucumbers, and was better tasting.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Sashimi produced more.

Gardeners were impressed with the yields and fruit qualities of both varieties.

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice
- Summer Dance

Strong performers
- Nokya Orient Express II
- Sashimi
- Sweet Slice
- Sweet Success
- Tasty Green
- Unagi

Prefer Sashimi (continued)

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Both varieties were good, but they did not exceed S*ummer Dance* for production. *Sashimi* germinated earlier and produced the first fruit.

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺
Unagi ★★★½☆ ☹ NC

I watered quite a bit and got very good results with *Sashimi*. *Sashimi* had way better production.

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Both varieties were very good. *Sashimi* cucumbers were a little bigger.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

I loved both of these Japanese cukes! Their fruits had a very nice size. *Sashimi* cucumbers were long and skinny.

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺ -
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Sashimi cucumbers were amazing in taste and yield! It began producing early and was still producing in late September. We harvested more than 500 pounds of *Sashimi* and approximately 200 pounds of *Unagi*. *Sashimi* cucumbers were very straight and slim.

Sashimi ★★★★☆ ☺
Unagi ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Sashimi cucumbers were long, uniform and very attractive. They were good for cucumber salads. *Sashimi* produced very high yields throughout the season. *Unagi* vines were more susceptible to disease and its cucumbers curled more.

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☹ SW

Sashimi germinated better and produced a higher yield. *Unagi* did not come up the first time I planted them, and I had to replant them.

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Sashimi matured earlier and tasted better. *Unagi* cucumbers had very smooth skin. The cucumbers of both varieties were very tasty, very uniform and never bitter. This trial was grown in a hoophouse.

Sashimi ★★★★☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★½☆ ☺ SW

Sashimi germinated 50% better. It flowered first and produced first. *Unagi* quickly caught up and matched *Sashimi* for overall yields. *Sashimi* produced a cucumber with a drier taste, which worked great for cucumber salad. *Unagi* cucumbers had a moister taste.

Sashimi ★★★★☆ ☺ -
Unagi ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SW

Sashimi showed better growth and higher yields.

Sashimi ★★½☆☆ ☹
Unagi ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SD

Sashimi had better plants and long, slender cukes. As the season went on, both varieties developed issues with their cukes becoming yellow and mushy.

Sashimi ★★★★★ ☺
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☺ SD

Sashimi performed stronger, but I would plant both again. Both varieties readily germinated, had almost identical plants and tasted similar. *Sashimi* kept me busy picking. Its fruits were very slender, had very little seeds, tasted great and had no bitterness.

Prefer Unagi

Sashimi ★★★½☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ NE

Unagi got off to a good start and kept producing. I liked both of these varieties for their longer, slender, less seedy fruits.

Sashimi ★★★½☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Both varieties germinated at about 85%. *Unagi* had more attractive, smoother cukes and produced more yield. *Sashimi* produced first and tasted better.

Sashimi ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites.

Prefer Unagi (continued)

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Unagi vines were slightly healthier and produced first.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Unagi cucumbers were sweeter and had smoother skin. *Sashimi* had 50% higher early production and twice the production overall, but its cucumbers had short spines on them.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SE

They were both excellent. *Unagi* produced earlier.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties produced a lot, but *Unagi* cucumbers tasted better. Despite the hot weather, neither variety had bitter tasting cucumbers.

Sashimi ★★★½☆ ☹
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Sashimi had poor emergence. *Unagi* cucumbers were very attractive with their very smooth, dark green and shiny skin.

Sashimi ★★★☆☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SE

I loved *Unagi*; it was perfect. *Sashimi* cukes were prickly and somewhat watery, but I think gardeners who grow the more common varieties of cukes would like *Sashimi* well enough.

Sashimi ★½☆☆☆ ☹
Unagi ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Unagi tasted better.

Sashimi ★★★½☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SC

I enjoyed both of these varieties much more than cucumbers local to North Dakota and the other Asian varieties that I grow. *Unagi* germinated better and grew faster. It had very long vines that produced double the yield of *Sashimi*. *Unagi* produced cucumbers 15 days earlier. *Unagi* cucumbers were smooth, very crisp and juicy; very delicious! *Sashimi* cucumbers had a few spines. Both varieties are still producing today [September 11].

Sashimi ★★★½☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties germinated at a 100% rate and at the same time. Their vines looked the same and yields were similar. The skins of *Unagi* cucumbers were not as tough but some of its cucumbers were curled. *Unagi* cucumbers held up better on cucumber sandwiches.

Sashimi ★★★½☆ ☹
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Despite a rough start with a disease, the vines of *Unagi* rebounded and grew the favorite cukes I've ever grown! They were beautiful, straight and so tasty!

Sashimi ★★½☆☆ ☹
Unagi ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

Unagi cucumbers had superior taste and shape. *Sashimi* cucumbers were mostly curved.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Unagi produced cucumbers with a smoother skin than *Sashimi*. These Japanese cucumbers were good in salads with no need to peel. I will definitely add Japanese cucumbers to my regular garden rotation.

Sashimi ★★★★½ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Both of these were excellent cucumber varieties. We had to give so many cucumbers away as we couldn't eat them fast enough.

The cucumbers of both varieties were slender, tasty and free of bitterness.

Prefer Unagi (continued)

Sashimi ★★½☆☆ ☹
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Unagi was a "wow" variety—it just kept producing and producing beautiful, tasty, long and thin fruits. We grew both varieties on nets in a high tunnel. Both varieties were still alive on October 21, but *Unagi* was thriving. It had foot-long fruits alongside blossoms at that late date. We will definitely grow *Unagi* again.

Sashimi ★★★½☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Unagi was better from the start. It was very quick to produce little cukes and produced higher yields overall.

Sashimi ★★★★☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Unagi cucumbers had thinner skins and smaller seed cavities.

Sashimi ★★★☆☆ ☹
Unagi ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Unagi cucumbers had superior size and flavor.

Sashimi ★★★★☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Both varieties bore heartily, but *Unagi* had amazing production. I was giving everyone cucumbers and was able to give many grocery bags to the school for lunches. Both varieties were very hearty at first, but after some hail and grasshoppers, *Unagi* was more vigorous.

Sashimi ★★½☆☆ ☺
Unagi ★★★★★ ☺ SD

Sashimi, while being a poor producer, had the better tasting fruits. We loved its fresh, sweet taste. *Unagi* fruits were good but sometimes left a strange, very slight, brief aftertaste in our mouths described by some as a touch of bitterness or mustiness. *Unagi* vines were very vigorous and climbed well on our trellis. It produced 4.5 cucumbers per vine compared to 2.0 cucumbers per vine for *Sashimi*. The cucumbers of both varieties were long, straight and a beautiful, deep green.

Unagi vines were vigorous and its fruits were very smooth.

Conclusions

Gardeners were impressed with the yields and fruit qualities of both varieties. Their cucumbers were slender, tasty and free of bitterness. *Sashimi* ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. *Unagi* vines were vigorous and its fruits were very smooth.

Key to Site Reports

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Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

Garden type ↙ NC ↖ ***Location***

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

↖ ***Comments***

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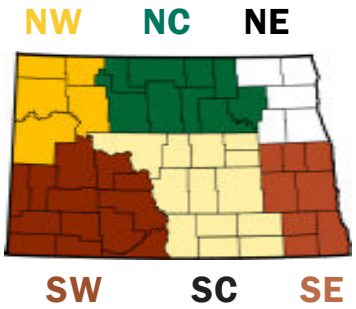

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Cucumber, Pickling

Varieties

Avenger

55 days. Disease-resistant vines produce good yields of dark green, blocky fruits all summer and well into fall.

Expedition

55 days. Fruits are dark green, straight and blocky. Productive vines resist powdery mildew.

Data

Gardeners at 42 sites submitted information.

Trait	Avenger	Expedition	Same
Germinated best	10%	23%	**67%**
Healthier plants	14	24	**62**
Harvested earlier	28	**45**	28
Higher yields	21	36	**43**
More attractive cukes	17	21	**62**
Tasted better	31	14	**55**
Preference	**65**	35	
Recommend (☺)	**81**	58	
Mean score[1]	**7.54**	7.51	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Avenger

Avenger ★★★☆☆ ☺
Expedition ★★☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Germination rates were good for both varieties. Neither had any insect or disease damage. *Avenger* produced more cukes, but neither variety produced an abundance of cukes, maybe due to being a dry year. *Avenger* had a better taste.

Avenger ★★★★☆ ☺
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☹ NE

Avenger produced half as many fruits, but they tasted much better. They were delicious and made good pickles. *Expedition* vines were much more vigorous but its cucumbers were bitter.

Avenger ★★★★½ ☺
Expedition ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Avenger produced better in both my garden and hydroponics system.

Avenger ★★★½☆ ☺
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☺ SE

Avenger produced the first cucumbers. There was poor production of cucumbers this year, and the cucumbers were not very tasty. Maybe it was just the season.

Avenger ★★★★★ ☺
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☹ NC

Avenger had better germination. *Avenger* still produced in September while *Expedition* had quit 6 weeks earlier. *Avenger* produced so many more cukes than *Expedition*. At least three times as many per picking. Everyone liked the taste of *Avenger* over *Expedition*.

Avenger ★★★★½ ☺
Expedition ★★★★☆ ☹ NC

Avenger had better germination and was good tasting. It was a better all-around variety.

Avenger ★★★★½ ☺
Expedition ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties were great, but *Avenger* was consistently producing more cukes that were so tasty. Its vines were loaded—an abundant harvest. *Avenger* fruits were round, plump and juicy. *Expedition* cucumbers sometimes had a strange texture.

Many gardeners preferred *Avenger* for its crisp, flavorful cucumbers.

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
- Homemade Pickles

Strong performers
- Alibi
- Calypso
- Eureka
- H-19 Little Leaf
- Max Pack

Prefer Avenger (continued)

Avenger ★★★☆☆ ☹ 
Expedition ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Neither of the varieties was great. Poor holding qualities. *Avenger* produced earlier and higher yields.

Avenger ★★★★☆ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

These varieties were very similar.

Avenger ★★★★★ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

All seeds for both varieties germinated. *Avenger* vines formed a wider row than *Expedition*. *Avenger* cukes were plumper than *Expedition* cukes, but not too plump for pickling. *Expedition* had a hollow area inside the cucumber that I didn't care for.

Avenger ★★★★★ ☺ -
Expedition ★★★★☆ ☺ NW

Both varieties were extremely prolific. We preferred *Avenger* for the shape and taste of its cucumbers.

Avenger ★★★★☆ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☹ NW

I preferred the taste of *Avenger*. The skin texture of *Expedition* was more chewy.

Avenger ★★★★★ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★★☆ ☹ SW

Avenger germinated better and had the first cukes.

Avenger ★★★★½ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★½☆ ☹ SW

Avenger cucumbers were crisper and had a better flavor. These varieties had similar yields.

Avenger ★★★★☆ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☹ SW

Avenger had more pickling-sized cukes.

Prefer Expedition

Avenger ★★☆☆☆ ☺ 
Expedition ★★½☆☆ ☺ SE

Evidently my late planting [June 15] and the extremely hot weather wasn't conducive to producing cucumbers. Many cucumbers got started but started shriveling on the vine once they were almost an inch long. The vines were short but healthy. There were lots of blossoms but that's about it.

Avenger ★★★★☆ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Expedition produced a bit more fruit than *Avenger*, but they were both really good. We planted them with a cucumber arch/support, and they looked beautiful in our garden. For the first time, we got enough cucumbers to make quite a few batches of pickles from our relatively small bed. We planted them in two rows in a 4-foot x 4-foot raised bed garden and had an excellent yield.

Avenger ★★☆☆☆ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Expedition produced lots of cucumbers.

Avenger ★★★☆☆ ☹ 
Expedition ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Expedition cucumbers had a more uniform shape and fewer seeds.

Avenger ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ 
Expedition ★★★☆☆ ☹ NC

This trial was planted in a new garden spot. We used landscape fabric and a drip irrigation system. *Avenger* vines developed a disease quite early in the season. They become a sickly yellow color. It seemed to spread to both varieties eventually, and all plants were pulled and destroyed in early August. *Expedition* was more productive.

Avenger ★★★★☆ ☺ 
Expedition ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Expedition was a very nice, firm pickler.

***Expedition* vines were vigorous, producing earlier and higher yields at more gardens.**

Prefer Expedition (continued)

Avenger
Expedition — SC

Both varieties were great. *Expedition* produced cucumbers 4 days earlier. *Expedition* cucumbers were more prone to blowing up into giant cucumbers. The yields and tastes of these varieties were similar.

Avenger
Expedition — SC

Both did well when started indoors in April. *Expedition* produced better yields.

Avenger
Expedition — SC

Expedition produced more cukes; its plants were consistently full.

Avenger
Expedition — SC

I grew both varieties on a trellis and they both did great. *Expedition* germinated the earliest and produced cucumbers about a week earlier.

Avenger
Expedition — NW

Expedition vines lasted longer into the fall. Its leaves were larger and its vines were more vigorous and productive. *Avenger* produced cucumbers a week earlier. *Expedition* cucumbers were vibrant green while *Avenger* cucumbers were more of a yellow green.

Avenger
Expedition — NW

These varieties were similar but *Expedition* was earlier.

Avenger
Expedition — NW

Expedition germinated days before and had bigger, healthier plants. Its cucumbers had smaller seeds and tasted better.

Avenger
Expedition — SW

Expedition produced more cucumbers.

Avenger
Expedition — SW

Both varieties were great. *Expedition* cucumbers had smaller seeds.

Avenger
Expedition — SW

The vines of both varieties wanted to take over everything. I pruned them back several times. *Expedition* bore fruit first. Seeds were sown indoors and the trial was grown in a hoophouse.

Avenger
Expedition — SW

Expedition vines were more vigorous and produced cucumbers 4 days earlier.

No Preference

Avenger
Expedition — NC

These varieties were exactly the same.

Avenger
Expedition — SW

Both varieties produced great pickling cucumbers; perfect size and flavor.

Conclusions

Many gardeners preferred *Avenger* for its crisp, flavorful cucumbers. *Expedition* vines were vigorous, producing earlier and higher yields at more gardens. Some gardeners expressed dissatisfaction in the taste qualities of *Expedition* cucumbers.

Some gardeners expressed dissatisfaction in the taste qualities of *Expedition* cucumbers.

Cucumber, Slicing

Varieties

Bristol

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

Diamondback

54 days. Heavy yields and excellent quality. Vines are vigorous. Fruits maintain well in the garden.

Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bristol	Diamond-back	Same
Germinated best	32%	16%	**53%**
Healthier plants	32	11	**58**
Harvested earlier	**58**	21	21
Higher yields	**47**	26	26
More attractive cukes	**42**	21	37
Tasted better	26	11	**63**
Preference	**68**	32	
Recommend (☺)	**71**	63	
Mean score[1]	**7.58**	6.83	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

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

Prefer Bristol

Bristol ★★½☆☆ ☹
Diamondback ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Bristol germinated better, produced cucumbers 9 days earlier, and produced a much better yield. *Bristol* cucumbers were crisper with fewer spines. The summer was very dry, and these conditions particularly affected *Diamondback*.

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★★☆☆ ☹ NC

Bristol produced the first yield and produced a great yield overall. It produced a huge yield—more than 60 pounds! *Bristol* cucumbers tasted great raw and made very good refrigerator pickles. Both varieties produced great looking, very tasty cucumbers.

Bristol ★★★★★ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★☆ ☹ NC

Both varieties had incredibly hardy plants. They withstood a late spring, hot and very dry weather in June, and a hailstorm. It was a pleasure to enjoy cucumbers late into the fall. I liked the flavor of *Bristol* better, and its fruits had fewer spines on them.

Bristol ★★★★½ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

These were very similar.

Bristol ★★★★½ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Bristol had more production at the beginning. We started harvesting July 17. We harvested 650 pounds of *Bristol* and 475 pounds of *Diamondback*. The cucumbers of both varieties were attractive. *Diamondback* cucumbers had nicer, more uniform shapes when picked small; this would be good for pickling. The fruits of both varieties grow fast and should be picked daily if possible. We did not have time to do that.

Bristol ★★★★½ ☺
Diamondback ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

I was very impressed with the uniformity of cucumbers from each variety. *Bristol* produced the first cucumbers. The skin of *Diamondback* cucumbers was unattractive. It was shiny, waxy, very pockmarked and scratched.

***Bristol* germinated better, produced earlier and produced a better yield at more sites.**

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice
General Lee

Strong performers
Bristol
Dasher II
Raceway
Raider
Straight Eight

Prefer Bristol (continued)

Bristol ★★★★★ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★½ ☺ SC

These are two of the best slicing cucumbers that I have ever grown. *Bristol* had more attractive fruits although it yielded slightly less.

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties were really close in all ways. *Bristol* was tastier.

Bristol ★★★★½ ☺
Diamondback ★★★½☆ ☹ SC

Bristol cucumbers had better quality.

Bristol ★★★½☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Bristol germinated much better. Its plants were healthier and produced higher yields. *Bristol* cucumbers were more attractive.

Bristol ★★★★★ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★½ ☺ SC

I really am not wild about cucumbers. I raise them to give away. Boy, did I give a bunch away. Both varieties went crazy. I picked over 200 cucumbers. I planted twice, the second time on May 25. Three hills of each. I pulled the first batch on August 18 because I was tired of picking them. The second batch was in less sun so they were slower. Both varieties were really great. *Bristol* cucumbers looked better.

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★★☆☆ ☹ NW

These varieties produced very small, round cucumbers that were only about 2 to 3 inches long. *Bristol* produced slightly more cucumbers, and its cucumbers tasted slightly better.

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★★☆☆ ☺ NW

Both varieties produced a lot of cucumbers. I liked the smoother skin of *Bristol* cucumbers.

Bristol ★½☆☆☆ ☹
Diamondback ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹ SW

Bristol was better for all traits, but both varieties were very poor.

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★★½☆ ☺ SW

Both varieties produced lots of great tasting cucumbers. *Bristol* produced more.

Prefer Diamondback

Bristol ★★½☆☆ ☹
Diamondback ★★★½☆ ☺ NE

Diamondback germinated faster. It produced higher yields and had more attractive cucumbers.

Bristol ★★½☆☆ ☹
Diamondback ★★★☆☆ ☺ SE

Bristol produced higher yields, but both varieties produced an abundance of cucumbers. *Bristol* cucumbers seemed to get too big at maturity.

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties produced well and were resistant to disease. Both had excellent flavor even during hot weather and dry conditions. *Diamondback* produced higher yields.

Bristol ★½☆☆☆ ☹
Diamondback ★★★☆☆ ☹ NC

Diamondback vines were healthier and produced better. *Diamondback* cucumbers tasted better although the cucumbers of both varieties seemed fairly bitter.

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☹
Diamondback ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Diamondback had more uniform slicers. Its slicers kept longer in the fridge.

Bristol ★★★½☆ ☹ -
Diamondback ★★★★☆ ☺ NW

Diamondback had a preferred taste and higher yields.

More gardeners felt *Bristol* cucumbers were of higher quality.

Prefer Diamondback (continued)

Bristol ★★★★☆ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★½ ☺ SW

These varieties were wonderful, all-season performers. They produced fruits with no bitter taste into late September. Their vines were trellised and they did so great. I had to reinforce the trellis. *Diamondback* produced higher yields and its cucumbers were more uniform in shape.

No Preference

Bristol ★★★★★ ☺
Diamondback ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Both varieties did extremely well for us this year! I honestly can't say that one did better than the other.

Conclusions

Bristol was the better variety. It germinated better, produced earlier and produced a better yield at more sites. More gardeners felt *Bristol* cucumbers were of higher quality. *Diamondback* did not stand out in any particular way.

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 ★★☆☆☆ ☹

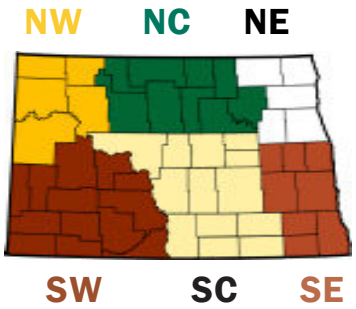
Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

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

Cucumber, Snack

Varieties

Green Light

42 days. Vines produce high yields of 3-inch, seedless and smooth fruits. Very early. Award winner.

Mini-Me

45 days. Fruits are shiny, smooth and juicy. Productive vines do not require bees. Organic.

Data

Gardeners 77 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green Light	Mini-Me	Same
Germinated best	32%	11%	**58%**
Healthier plants	45	6	**49**
Harvested earlier	**54**	26	20
Higher yields	**52**	30	19
More attractive cukes	**47**	24	29
Tasted better	**42**	23	35
Preference	**66**	34	
Recommend (☺)	**87**	56	
Mean score[1]	**7.85**	6.58	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

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

Prefer Green Light

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺
Mini-Me ★★½☆☆ ☹
MN

Green Light was a great mini slicing cucumber! Its fruits were sweet and crisp with lots of flavor, much more than *Mini-Me*. *Green Light* fruits were uniform in shape despite the drought while *Mini-Me* fruits were bell shaped. *Green Light* vines were strong and produced well into September!

Green Light ★★★☆☆ ☺
Mini-Me ★★½☆☆ ☺
MN

Green Light gave me the first cukes; otherwise they were pretty similar. The cucumbers of both varieties were sometimes bell-shaped with narrow tops and fat bottoms.

Green Light ★★★★☆ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★½☆ ☺
MN

I preferred the taste of *Green Light*. It was sweeter with more cucumber flavor, although neither variety had great flavor. *Mini-Me* tasted like a store-bought cucumber; not much flavor. Both varieties germinated well and there were no noticeable differences in the health of their vines. *Mini-Me* was more productive. *Green Light* cucumbers were slightly longer and more slender. *Mini-Me* cucumbers were shorter and blocky.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★★☆ ☺
MN

Green Light had a very good flavor, but both varieties were very good. *Mini-Me* got a blue ribbon at the county fair. Its cucumbers had a nice, consistent size in August. I like the yields of *Mini-Me* in the early season and *Green Light* in the late season.

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★½☆ ☹
MN

Both varieties were prolific producers of tasty cucumbers. *Mini-Me* was susceptible to powdery mildew while *Green Light* was not affected.

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★½☆ ☹
NE

Even with another dry growing season, *Green Light* did a decent job of producing fruit. *Mini-Me* did okay but not as well.

Green Light cucumbers were sweet and crisp with lots of flavor.

Best snacking cucumber varieties

Top choice
Green Light

Strong performers
Mercury
Muncher

Prefer Green Light (continued)

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☹ NE

Green Light cucumbers looked real good; *Mini-Me* cucumbers looked pear shaped. *Green Light* produced almost double the harvest of *Mini-Me*.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☹ NE

Green Light produced more cucumbers over time and had a wonderful, sweet flavor.

Green Light ☺ 🪴
Mini-Me ☺ NE

Green Light tasted better.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☺ SE

We loved both varieties. They produced lots of cucumbers and all tasted great.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☺ SE

We loved both of these varieties. *Green Light* cucumbers had a way better texture. They tasted way better than store-bought cucumbers. *Mini-Me* cucumbers were prickly.

Green Light ☺ 🪴
Mini-Me ☹ SE

Green Light grew faster and healthier. It produced early, often, and right up to the end. *Green Light* produced three times the yield, and its taste was far superior. *Mini-Me* took forever to produce fruit, and it was not a consistently attractive cucumber.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☹ SE

Both were very close in taste with *Green Light* just a little better. Its cukes would grow long and not overly full of seeds. The only downside I found with the snack cucumbers was the short length of time that I could store them after picking. They began to get soft after 2 to 3 days.

Green Light ☺ -
Mini-Me ☺ SE

Both of these varieties had a lot of cucumbers, and with the hot weather they continued to produce all summer without getting bitter. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted good but *Green Light* cucumbers tasted better.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☺ SE

Green Light cucumbers were very uniform and symmetrical with a straight shape. *Mini-Me* was pointed on one end.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☺ NC

Green Light cucumbers were sweeter with thin skins. *Mini-Me* produced smaller cucumbers and produced consistently.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☹ NC

Green Light cucumbers were crisper and tasted much better. *Mini-Me* cucumbers seemed a little soft in the middle. They had too many seeds and were slightly bitter.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☺ NC

My grandkids love the snack cucumbers—no prickles. *Green Light* cucumbers kept a nice, slender shape longer and did better in our droughty summer.

Green Light ☺ 🪴
Mini-Me ☹ NC

These plants did not spread very far and did not produce as many cucumbers as the burpless cucumbers that I planted. The *Mini-Me* vines dried up early and did not produce much fruit. *Green Light* cucumbers grew bigger and did not have hard seeds.

Green Light ☺ 🐞
Mini-Me ☹ NC

Green Light produced more yield and tasted better. I harvested my first cukes on July 10. *Mini-Me* produced only three cukes and died on July 27.

***Green Light* cucumbers were bright green, smooth, slender and straight.**

Prefer Green Light (continued)

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

Overall, I liked the *Green Light* cucumbers. I had to replant *Mini-Me* and it didn't produce as well.

Green Light ★★★★☆ ☺ -
Mini-Me ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

Both are very good varieties. *Green Light* vines were healthier and its cucumbers tasted better.

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

The cucumbers of *Mini-Me* had brown scarring even when young. They tasted more bitter. *Mini-Me* vines were more susceptible to diseases, and their bushier habit made them harder to trellis.

Green Light ★★★½☆ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

Green Light was a high yielding variety with very good flavor. It was easy to grow; its harvest was early and plentiful. The cukes of both varieties tasted good when just washed and eaten with the skin on.

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Green Light produced an earlier harvest and continued to produce delicious cucumbers late into the season. Yum! *Mini-Me* produced a mini yield in comparison. I loved the smooth skin of the cucumbers of both varieties.

Green Light ★★★½☆ ☺
Mini-Me ★★½☆☆ ☺ SC

Green Light had 86% germination versus 56% for *Mini-Me*. *Green Light* had faster growth, more cucumbers and better flavor. *Mini-Me* had a more bitter taste in the skin.

Green Light ★★★★☆ ☺
Mini-Me ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Green Light was by far better. Its cucumbers were much nicer and firmer for snacking. *Mini-Me* cucumbers were too small and got fat fast.

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★½☆ ☹ SC

Green Light emerged first but the vines of both varieties grew about the same into maturity. Some vines dried out due to drought and heat in July and August. *Green Light* produced more. *Mini-Me* cucumbers developed almost a gourd-like shape with a 'neck' in the heat and drought. *Green Light* cucumbers maintained their shape and were snappy and tasty. Both varieties were heavy producers but some vines dried out due to heat and drought.

Green Light ★★★★☆ ☺
Mini-Me ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Green Light vines were hardy in spite of pests and diseases. Regardless of the struggle, *Green Light* produced a moderate amount of cukes!

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Mini-Me had mostly pear-shaped cucumbers. I was not happy with that. Taste was okay on both, but I much preferred *Green Light*.

Green Light ★★★★★ ☺
Mini-Me ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SC

The *Green Light* cukes were extraordinary! They were delicious. Even though I had a hard time keeping up with them, and many of the cukes got quite large, they were never bitter.

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★½☆ ☹ SC

Green Light had stronger, longer vines. Its cucumbers were long and thin for a longer time. You eat with your eyes first and *Green Light* had a prettier fruit. We enjoyed eating *Green Light* more although it probably tasted the same as *Mini-Me*. *Mini-Me* put out multiple arms on each vine.

Green Light ★★★★½ ☺
Mini-Me ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Green Light had awesome yields of crunchy, slender cucumbers with a wonderful, fresh taste. *Green Light* had epic, early cucumbers.

Green Light produced very early in the season and kept producing well until frost.

Prefer Green Light (continued)

Green Light ☺ NW
Mini-Me ☺

Green Light produced more. Its fruits were more uniform and attractive; they had thinner skins and better taste.

Green Light ☺ NW
Mini-Me ☺

Green Light vines stayed healthy until frost and produced higher yields. The cucumbers of both varieties were beautiful, shiny and bright green. They tasted delicious, sweet, crisp, almost nutty in flavor, and by far my favorite tasting cucumbers I've ever grown!

Green Light ☺ NW
Mini-Me ☺

We especially enjoyed these varieties and would gladly plant them again. Our 4-year old great grandson ate them like candy. We preferred *Green Light* for the vibrant color and the crispness of the fruit.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☺

Green Light plants lasted the longest and produced more cucumbers.

Green Light ☹ SW
Mini-Me ☹

Green Light germinated better, had healthier plants and produced more fruit. The cucumbers of both varieties were high in seed content. I now know I am not a snack cucumbers fan. I am sticking with *Summer Dance*.

Green Light ☹ SW
Mini-Me ☹

Green Light did better but neither variety performed great. Even though we had several more inches of rain than normal and I used soaker hoses to supplement water needs, there were few to no fruit on some vines. *Mini-Me* for the most part produced misshaped fruit.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☹

Green Light produced twice the yield of *Mini-Me*.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☺

Green Light cucumbers had superior shape and size.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☹

Mini-Me struggled from the start. It had small plants, small cucumbers and small yields. *Green Light* definitely outperformed it.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☹

The plants were healthy and sturdy even when they got flipped by high winds several times. On July 20, I picked the first *Green Light* cucumbers. Both had high yields; just the slightest edge here for *Mini-Me*. Both varieties tasted excellent, but I gave the advantage to *Green Light* for the smaller seeds and better texture. They are still producing today [August 25]. As the season progressed and we had a little more heat, the differences in the varieties became more apparent. I irrigated with lots of water, but the *Mini-Me* cucumbers would curl and be bulbous on the ends in the heat, while the *Green Light* cucumbers stayed very straight and even. I am sold on snack cucumbers. They are terrific quick snacks when they are small, and they make excellent salad or spears if picked slightly larger.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☹

Mini-Me did not produce as long. I got two decent harvests from its vines before it was spent [August 15] while *Green Light* is still producing [August 2].

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me cucumbers had more seeds; this wasn't desired when eating. A hailstorm on August 1 beat up the plants of both varieties.

Green Light ☺ SD
Mini-Me ☺

The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced a lot of cucumbers. Their cucumbers looked and tasted the same. *Green Light* produced earlier.

***Green Light* excelled in all traits and grew consistently well across our numerous trial sites.**

Prefer Mini-Me

Green Light ☹ MN
Mini-Me ☺

The taste and size of *Mini-Me* cucumbers were perfect! They had a slightly smaller size, fewer or smaller seeds and an overall better taste. Both varieties would occasionally produce an eggplant-shaped cucumber when hanging on my fence.

Green Light ☺ MN
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me produced more.

Green Light ☹ MN
Mini-Me ☹

Both varieties had similar germination rates with no disease or insect damage. *Mini-Me* produced more cukes. I was not impressed with the cucumbers of either variety. I like crisp cukes and neither was very crisp.

Green Light ☺ NE
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me was a good producer all season. I prefer longer, narrower fruits with less seeds. *Mini-Me* cucumbers were perfect for refrigerator pickles all season long.

Green Light ☺ NE
Mini-Me ☺

This was my first attempt growing cucumbers in containers, and there were problems. Leaves were spotted and yellowed even though they had good air flow and were fertilized. *Mini-Me* produced the first cucumbers 2 days earlier than *Green Light*. Neither variety produced well. *Mini-Me* cucumbers were just a touch sweeter. *Green Light* cucumbers were a bit spiny and I had to scrape off the spines before eating them.

Green Light ☺ NE
Mini-Me ☺

Both varieties were great snack cucumbers. They had vigorous, healthy plants that were easy to grow on trellises and prolific producers. The fruit of both varieties were medium dark with thin skins and very little seeds. *Mini-Me* appeared more intriguing in the garden with clustered, uniform fruits. *Mini-Me* won the taste test in our family with sweeter taste and crisp texture.

Green Light ☹ NE
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me cucumbers had thinner skins and smaller seeds. There was a very obvious difference in the tastes of these varieties. All family members preferred *Mini-Me*.

Green Light ☹ SE
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me seemed a little better overall. It produced more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were more attractive and tasted slightly better.

Both varieties produced lots of delicious cucumbers.

Green Light ☺ SE
Mini-Me ☺

Both varieties were prolific producers. Their cucumbers had a large seed center surrounded by a small circle of flesh. *Mini-Me* cucumbers definitely tasted better. *Green Light* cucumbers were slightly bitter.

Green Light ☺ SE
Mini-Me ☺

Green Light was more productive, but I preferred *Mini-Me* for its smaller, less seedy cucumbers.

Green Light ☺ SE
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me was a better producer. Its cucumbers were more attractive.

Green Light ☺ SE
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me cucumbers were less seedy inside and tasted better.

Green Light ☺ NC
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me produced higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive and tasted better.

Green Light ☹ -
Mini-Me ☺ NC

Mini-Me vines were healthier and produced more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were more attractive.

Prefer Mini-Me (continued)

Green Light ☺ NC
Mini-Me ☺

We loved the cucumbers of both varieties for eating right out in the garden. My kids picked and ate all summer. *Green Light* cucumbers were more attractive but *Mini-Me* cucumbers tasted better.

Green Light ☺ SC
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me produced higher yields and its fruits were a better size for our chunk pickles.

Green Light ☺ SC
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me ripened earlier and produced higher yields. Its cucumbers were more attractive. The cucumbers of both varieties were very crisp. I enjoyed them so much! I shared with my neighbor and they asked for more.

Green Light ☺ SC
Mini-Me ☺

Both varieties were very good. *Mini-Me* cucumbers tasted better.

Green Light ☺ SC
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me cucumbers had thinner skins and were a touch sweeter if picked small. They got fat quickly. *Green Light* cucumbers took longer before getting fat allowing more time to pick them. We picked 250 *Mini-Me* and 200 *Green Light* cucumbers until we could not get rid of any more. *Green Light* continued to produce later in the season.

Green Light ☺ SC
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me cucumbers were little and very nice. I had to plant *Mini-Me* a second time because its seedlings died off in the first planting.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me cucumbers were petite, crispy and free of bitterness.

Green Light ☹ SW
Mini-Me ☹

Mini-Me produced more but the yields of both varieties were poor. I would choose a pickler next time.

Green Light ☺ SW
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me was earlier and more productive. I grew these varieties next to *Straight Eight* cucumber. Both of these snack cucumbers were way superior and produced weeks earlier.

Green Light ☺ SK
Mini-Me ☺

Mini-Me had better germination and higher yields. Both varieties were great.

No Preference

Green Light ☹ NE
Mini-Me ☹

The cucumbers of both varieties were light green in color and were not very attractive. They tasted very bitter and had lots of seeds. Although the cucumbers had a great size, they tasted terrible and I wouldn't plant them again.

Green Light ☹ SE
Mini-Me ☹

I was disappointed in both varieties as I expected small cucumbers like I can purchase in a grocery store. These cucumbers grew larger in diameter just like a regular cucumber. I was further disappointed in the yields as I'd trialed an English cucumber before and received an enormous amount of produce; this year, only about 4 cucumbers a week. Overall, my garden did not do well this year.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of delicious cucumbers. *Green Light* excelled in all traits and grew consistently well across our numerous trial sites. *Green Light* cucumbers were sweet and crisp with lots of flavor. Its cucumbers were bright green, smooth, slender and straight. *Mini-Me* cucumbers were smaller and less slender. *Mini-Me* vines were more susceptible to diseases.

***Mini-Me* vines were more susceptible to diseases.**

Lettuce, Romaine Organic

Varieties

Bluerock

65 days. Heads are large, upright and tolerate heat. Beautiful, blistered, medium-green leaves.

Coastal Star

57 days. Longtime favorite that tolerates heat. Large, heavy heads have good flavor.

Data

Gardeners at 46 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blue-rock	Coastal Star	Same
Germinated best	30%	**36%**	33%
Healthier plants	35	23	**42**
Harvested earlier	24	36	**39**
Resisted bolting better	37	17	**47**
Higher yields	28	34	**38**
More attractive	38	19	**44**
Tasted better	27	21	**52**
Preference	**58**	42	
Recommend (☺)	**84**	74	
Mean score[1]	**7.92**	7.42	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Bluerock

Bluerock ★★★★½ ☺
Coastal Star ★★★½☆ ☹ MN

Bluerock tasted better and produced higher yields. *Coastal Star* bolted earlier.

Bluerock ★★★★★ ☺
Coastal Star ★★★★☆ ☹ MN

I had great results with both varieties! They were planted in full sun with a southwest exposure, and they tolerated the heat well. *Bluerock* was very productive, slow to bolt and quite tasty!

Bluerock ★★★★☆ ☺
Coastal Star ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Bluerock had good-size leaves and kept very well for a good, long time.

Bluerock ★★★★☆ ☺
Coastal Star ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Coastal Star leaves were slightly yellow and had a slightly sweeter taste. It was bolting by June 20 while *Bluerock* did not bolt. *Bluerock* allowed harvest over a longer time due to its bolting tolerance.

Bluerock ★★★½☆ ☺
Coastal Star ★★☆☆☆ ☺ SE

Bluerock produced a bigger yield and I preferred its flavor.

Bluerock ★★★★★ ☺
Coastal Star ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Both varieties were great at resisting bolting. *Bluerock* had curled stalks; *Coastal Star* had straight stalks. *Bluerock* had crunchier hearts/leaves. Both varieties were sweet and mild.

Bluerock ★★★★☆ ☺
Coastal Star ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC

Bluerock had better germination and plant growth. It produced a higher yield.

Bluerock ★★★★★ ☺
Coastal Star ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Bluerock produced well and had a milder taste. Both varieties were very hardy and endured our very hot, dry summer. They survived the first frost, and I picked lettuce the first week in October.

Both varieties produced good yields of delicious lettuce.

Best green romaine lettuce varieties

Top choice
Fusion

Strong performers
Bluerock
Crisp Mint
Green Forest
Newham
Starhawk

Prefer Bluerock (continued)

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☹ NC

We had more yield with *Bluerock* and its longer leaves were more attractive. Both varieties had almost a woody taste.

Bluerock ☺
Coastal Star ☹ NC

I got 100% germination with *Bluerock* and 65% with *Coastal Star*. *Bluerock* was all around a nicer-appearing plant.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ SC

These varieties were similar. Both were excellent.

Bluerock ☺
Coastal Star ☺ SC

Both varieties grew nice bunches of lettuce. They tasted the same; not bitter at all. *Bluerock* plants were slightly taller. *Coastal Star* bolted quicker.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ SC

Both varieties were great. They produced well into late August with daily watering. They did not taste bitter until I stopped daily watering during the high heat of late August. *Bluerock* plants were bigger and tastier.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☹ SC

Bluerock was more vigorous and germinated better than *Coastal Star*. *Coastal Star* was smaller. *Bluerock* held the shape of typical romaine found in the store versus *Coastal Star* which had more stalks from the base. *Bluerock* leaves were deeper green and had more intensity in its taste.

Bluerock ☺
Coastal Star ☹ NW

Bluerock heads were more attractive. *Coastal Star* tasted bitter if eaten too early, and it bolted before its heads matured.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ NW

All *Bluerock* plants were robust; some *Coastal Star* plants weren't very vigorous after they germinated. *Bluerock* had larger heads and looked more attractive. *Bluerock* provided an extended harvest, leading to higher yields. We preferred the taste of *Coastal Star* a bit more.

Bluerock ☹
Coastal Star ☹ SW

Coastal Star had poor germination. *Bluerock* was tolerant of hot weather.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ SW

Both varieties suffered from diseases and bugs. *Bluerock* kept better in the refrigerator but still should be used by the next day after harvesting. *Coastal Star* was slightly healthier and produced higher yields.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ SW

Bluerock germinated better.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ SD

Both produced beautiful heads of romaine lettuce. They were similar in many ways, but *Bluerock* handled the heat better and had great flavor.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ SD

Both varieties yielded well and regrew after initial leaves were picked. They had nice leaves. *Bluerock* heads were more compact and seemed to keep better. It bolted 2 weeks later. *Coastal Star* had a little better taste.

Bluerock ☺ 
Coastal Star ☺ SK

Both varieties had great germination and excellent yields. They formed nice heads. *Bluerock* resisted bolting slightly better.

Both varieties tolerated the heat of summer. *Bluerock* was particularly resistant to bolting.

Prefer Coastal Star

Bluerock
Coastal Star
MN

Coastal Star came up a little better and produced more.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
MN

Coastal Star looked better. Deer damaged both varieties in this planting.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
NE

Coastal Star looked attractive and tasty. Both varieties had near 100% germination. *Bluerock* turned yellowish earlier.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SE

Both varieties performed well. They germinated at the same time and rate. I gave a slight advantage to *Coastal Star* because it grew faster, had fuller heads and produced a slightly higher yield. *Bluerock* heads looked more attractive.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SE

Coastal Star was the tastiest. It grew quicker and made a fast path to my salad bowl.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SE

I did not like this style of romaine. It seemed dense and a little bitter.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
NC

These varieties lasted all summer and were excellent. *Coastal Star* germinated better. *Bluerock* won more votes than *Coastal Star* for taste, but both varieties tasted excellent.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SC

I enjoyed them both. *Coastal Star* had better taste and yield.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SC

These varieties were very similar.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SC

Both varieties were good, but *Coastal Star* formed heads earlier and produced a better yield.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SW

Coastal Star had a more uniform row of lettuce. It germinated better and produced higher yields. I was unable to taste any difference between the varieties.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SW

Bluerock leaves were tougher.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SW

This was very tasty lettuce. *Coastal Star* resisted bolting longer and produced longer.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SD

The plants of both varieties looked very healthy. *Coastal Star* was ready to harvest earlier and suffered very little bolting. *Coastal Star* produced nice, big heads of romaine. Both varieties tasted good.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SD

Coastal Star had nicer plants and did not bolt.

Bluerock
Coastal Star
SD

I planted these late in the season [May 14] so that impacted the harvest. They did far better as late-season plants than any other lettuce I planted! I really like these varieties! Their flavors were similar. *Coastal Star* seemed more hardy.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced good yields of delicious lettuce. Both varieties tolerated the heat of summer, and *Bluerock* was particularly resistant to bolting. More gardeners preferred the looks and taste of *Bluerock*. *Coastal Star* produced large, full heads quickly.

Coastal Star produced large, full heads quickly.

Lettuce, Green Summer Crisp Org.

Varieties

Albachiara

52 days. New. Bright green heads with thick leaves. Sweet and crisp. Heads tolerate heat.

Nevada

55 days. Ruffled leaves are glossy green and crunchy. Thick, open heads tolerate heat.

Data

Gardeners at 35 sites submitted information.

Trait	Albachiara	Nevada	Same
Germinated best	27%	**40%**	33%
Healthier plants	23	**54**	23
Harvested earlier	24	24	**52**
Resisted bolting better	11	26	**63**
Higher yields	20	**43**	37
More attractive	28	**41**	31
Tasted better	27	30	**43**
Preference	43	**57**	
Recommend (☺)	**87**	77	
Mean score[1]	**7.53**	**7.53**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**9.00**	

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

Prefer Albachiara

Albachiara ★★★★★ ☺
Nevada ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

I was very happy with both varieties! They had great production, were slow to bolt (especially this very hot summer) and had healthy plants. They were quite tasty as well. *Albachiara* had slightly better production and was a little slower to bolt than *Nevada*.

Albachiara ★★★★½ ☺
Nevada ★★½☆☆ ☺ MN

Both germinated well and had no insect or disease damage. They both started producing the same week. *Nevada* had an aftertaste that I did not like.

Albachiara ★★★½☆ ☺
Nevada ★½☆☆☆ ☹ NE

Albachiara was very healthy and regrew well after picking.

Albachiara ★★★★½ ☺
Nevada ★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Shortly after I planted the seeds, my garden got pounded with rain and only about a third of the seeds came up on both varieties. I felt they both produced well considering the early, hot weather and did not become exceedingly bitter. *Albachiara* tasted a little better. I think I will start planting lettuce like this instead of the leaf lettuce I have always planted before.

Albachiara ★★★★☆ ☺
Nevada ★★★☆☆ ☺ NC

Both varieties came up quickly. The plants grew well and were robust. Both varieties produced well. I had enough for us and to give away. We didn't taste much difference between the varieties; both were mild and good. *Albachiara* was ready to harvest first.

Albachiara ★★★½☆ ☺
Nevada ★½☆☆☆ ☹ NC

The varieties were sown side by side. *Albachiara* came up beautifully but only a few seeds of *Nevada* germinated.

Albachiara ★★★★☆ ☺ -
Nevada ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

I liked the flavor and look of *Albachiara* more. It was more productive. *Nevada* tasted a little more bitter.

Most gardeners preferred *Nevada*, but a very high percentage of gardeners recommended *Albachiara*.

Best green crisphead lettuce varieties

Top choice
Muir

Strong performer
Nevada

Prefer Albachiara (continued)

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ SC

They grew similarly and tasted the same. I was surprised both varieties lasted well so late into the fall. I liked the looks of *Albachiara* better.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ SC

Both varieties did extremely well and produced through the summer. I thought that both tasted equally good, but all three of my kids insisted that *Albachiara* was better. I did like the curlier leaves of *Albachiara*.

Albachiara ☹
Nevada ☹ SC

I wasn't a big fan of either. *Albachiara* tasted better. *Nevada* produced a higher yield.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ NW

The seeds planted in the ground ended up burning, but I put another trial in an aerogarden and both varieties grew the same way. *Albachiara* tasted better.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☹ SW

Albachiara did really good; *Nevada* never germinated. *Albachiara* had a good, fresh taste without becoming strong. It grew most of the summer without bolting.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☹ SD

Nevada produced more lettuce, but *Albachiara* was a better tasting, crisper and tastier lettuce. I liked its ruffled leaves. *Nevada* went bitter around July 18, and I was able to eat *Albachiara* for 2 more weeks.

Prefer Nevada

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ NE

Nevada seeds were white and easier to see when planting. *Albachiara* exhibited a bright green color and crinkled edges that gave an interesting texture in the garden. *Nevada* had a smooth, buttery taste. Both varieties tasted sweet and crisp which made a good mix when blended together. Both varieties resisted bolting well into the hot, dry summer.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ NE

I liked the wider leaf and smooth edges of *Nevada*. *Nevada* germinated better.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ SE

Nevada germinated better and was a better producer.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ SE

Nevada grew bigger, faster and stayed well in the heat. Both varieties produced good quality lettuce, but *Nevada* tasted a little better.

Albachiara ☹
Nevada ☺ SE

Albachiara got one point for germinating; other than that, it did not grow well for me. *Nevada* did very well and tasted just as good. *Nevada* handled the heat just fine.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ SE

Both varieties resisted bolting very well for my late planting [sown June 2] and hot summer. *Nevada* had better germination for me.

Both varieties grew well, were slow to bolt, and produced tasty heads.

Prefer Nevada (continued)

Albachiara ☺ 
Nevada ☺ NC

These are both excellent varieties. They produced plenty of lettuce to share with neighbors and family. *Nevada* was bulkier in appearance and produced higher yields. I preferred the looks of *Albachiara* since it looked more like the leaf lettuce that I'm used to. Both varieties responded well to cutting. Both were tolerant to hot, dry conditions. *Nevada* tasted sweeter and *Albachiara* tasted more bitter.

Albachiara ☺ 
Nevada ☺ NC

Nevada looked and tasted better.

Albachiara ☺ 
Nevada ☺ NC

Nevada was healthier. Deer loved both varieties, and the plants were very short.

Albachiara ☺ 
Nevada ☺ SC

These varieties were similar in their growth and yields. The texture of *Nevada* was a little slippery and less appealing in salads. *Albachiara* had a slightly bitter aftertaste. I enjoyed salads from both varieties in early August—good!

Albachiara ☺ 
Nevada ☺ SC

Nevada was easier to pick and eat as it grew and stayed crisp longer after picking. I grew these in containers. They both did well and produced a long time.

Albachiara ☹ 
Nevada ☹ SC

These are poor varieties. Neither variety resisted bolting. *Nevada* produced earlier and higher yields.

Albachiara ☹ 
Nevada ☺ SC

Albachiara didn't transplant well from pot to ground; they died off early in the season. *Nevada* had healthy, beautiful leaves that were very tasty.

Albachiara ☺ 
Nevada ☺ SW

I think both varieties did very well. I had lettuce into September. *Nevada* produced better at the end. *Nevada* tasted sweeter and crisper.

Albachiara ☺ 
Nevada ☺ SW

These varieties made the best salads and stayed crisp in the fridge for weeks. *Nevada* leaves were healthier and looked more attractive.

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ SW

This was my first-time growing lettuce, and both varieties did extremely well! *Nevada* tasted better.

No Preference

Albachiara ☺
Nevada ☺ NC

I liked them both. They were very heat resistant and were in the sun almost all day. This is the first year I had lettuce all summer. Great production. I would plant them again.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Nevada*, but a very high percentage of gardeners recommended *Albachiara*. Both varieties grew well, were slow to bolt, and produced tasty heads. More gardeners felt *Nevada* plants were healthier, more productive and more attractive. *Albachiara* was a strong performer but did not excel over *Nevada* in any traits.

More gardeners felt *Nevada* plants were healthier, more productive and more attractive.

Lettuce, Red Summer Crisp Org.

Varieties

Lovelock

48 days. Bright green leaves with red tips. Heads are filled with sweet, juicy leaves. Tolerates heat.

Magenta

48 days. Glossy, red-tinged leaves. Heads are flavorful with crunchy, green hearts. Tolerates heat.

Data

Gardeners at 35 sites submitted information.

Trait	Love-lock	Magenta	Same
Germinated best	18%	36%	**46%**
Healthier plants	15	31	**54**
Harvested earlier	**42**	25	33
Resisted bolting better	19	23	**58**
Higher yields	31	31	**38**
More attractive	23	**50**	27
Tasted better	27	27	**46**
Preference	36	**64**	
Recommend (☺)	**88**	81	
Mean score[1]	7.54	**8.19**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**9.00**	

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

Prefer Lovelock

Lovelock ★★★☆☆ ☺
Magenta ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Lovelock produced better and had larger leaves.

Lovelock ★★★★★ ☺
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ NC

These are great varieties of red lettuce. I will plant them again. I preferred *Lovelock* because it didn't bolt as soon, and it retained its taste longer throughout the summer. *Magenta* was such a pretty color with more red than *Lovelock*. *Magenta* also formed nicer heads.

Lovelock ★★★★½ ☺
Magenta ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Lovelock was just a tad earlier and crisper. It produced all summer. These varieties were very similar, and I would plant either again.

Lovelock ★★★★½ ☺
Magenta ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

They were both great. *Lovelock* had better taste and appearance.

Lovelock ★★★★★ ☺
Magenta ★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Lovelock was less affected by grasshoppers and was tastier. *Magenta* plants were twice as tall as *Lovelock* plants and had a bolder red/purple color.

Lovelock ★★★★☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

It was fun to have the red color for salad variety. *Lovelock* had larger plants.

Lovelock ★★★★½ ☺
Magenta ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

I liked everything about *Lovelock*. It really produced a lot. I had to replant most of *Magenta* and still some of it didn't come up.

Both varieties were attractive in color, resisted bolting, produced good yields and tasted delicious.

Best red crisphead lettuce varieties

Top choice
Magenta

Strong performers
Pablo
Sierra

Prefer Lovelock (continued)

Lovelock ★★★★½ ☺
Magenta ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

I loved the bright green with hints of purple and maroon colors of *Lovelock*. It was prettier in salads. I enjoyed its sweeter, earthy flavor. *Lovelock* had no early bolts. *Magenta* had a strong start. It grew thicker and taller as the season went on. Both varieties had nice flavor and crunch.

Lovelock ★★★½☆ ☺
Magenta ★★½☆☆ ☹ SD

Lovelock was crisper and resisted bolting better. *Magenta* leaves seemed heavy and dense, thicker and tougher. *Magenta* germinated better and made fuller heads.

Prefer Magenta

Lovelock ★★★☆☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

Both varieties grew well all summer. Even in the hot summer, they never bolted. *Magenta* had a more attractive leaf and produced longer.

Lovelock ★★★★½ ☺
Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Both varieties were very healthy with nice, shiny foliage. I liked the reddish-tipped foliage of *Magenta*. It had a fresher, more flavorful taste. Both varieties resisted bolting (it was very hot in early summer). I quit cutting in early July due to the stronger flavor of the lettuce.

Lovelock ★★½☆☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

Both varieties were very attractive in color (lots of red). They were very slow to bolt and tasted good. *Magenta* had a better germination rate, produced sooner, resisted bolting into fall, was more attractive and tasted better.

Lovelock ★★★½☆ ☹
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ MN

I loved both for their upright standing. *Magenta* leaves had more body, looked better and tasted a tad better. *Lovelock* grew faster and produced a higher yield. Neither variety bolted, which was surprising for the drought we had. We had unexpected highs in the 90s for a few weeks.

Lovelock ★★★★½ ☺
Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both of these lettuce varieties were awesome, and I would plant them again and again. They were super easy to grow and tasted great. Both planting beds were picture perfect. We used the lettuce in salads and sandwiches.

Lovelock grew quickly and was ready to harvest earlier at more sites.

Lovelock ★★★★☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Both varieties germinated at the same time and rate. *Lovelock* looked better early, but *Magenta* caught up later. *Lovelock* was first to harvest. *Magenta* seemed to tolerate heat a bit better. Both varieties looked good. I couldn't tell a difference in taste; both tasted excellent.

Lovelock ★★★★☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Magenta was superior for color, taste and endurance. It resisted bolting into August and was still tasting great. *Magenta* is so pretty.

Lovelock ★★★☆☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Magenta heads were tighter, looked better and stayed crisp. *Lovelock* heads were loose and floppy.

Lovelock ★★★½☆ ☺ -
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Both were slow to germinate but came up nicely when they did. *Lovelock* plants got fuller faster, but both varieties produced a good amount of lettuce. *Magenta* leaves were redder, but the leaves of both varieties were healthy. Both tasted good, just different. *Magenta* tasted sweeter.

Prefer Magenta (continued)

Lovelock ★★★☆☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Magenta plants had more vigor and were quicker to germinate. A hailstorm drastically set both varieties back in their containers, but they recovered nicely and produced another cutting in fall.

Lovelock ★★☆☆☆ ☹
Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Magenta had firm leaves, was more colorful, and kept producing after the first cutting. It had good flavor even in heat cycles. We really enjoyed the flavor of this lettuce.

Lovelock ★★★★☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ SC

I absolutely love both of these varieties of lettuce. They produced abundantly and had beautiful leaves that were flavorful. *Magenta* didn't bolt nearly as fast as *Lovelock*.

Lovelock ★★★½☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Magenta had better visual appeal.

Lovelock ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ NW

Magenta was better overall including taste.

Lovelock ★★★★☆ ☺
Magenta ★★★★½ ☺ MB

Hot, dry and windy weather caused spotty germination and the need for multiple sowings. Both varieties survived difficult conditions with minimal rainfall, and both looked and tasted good. *Lovelock* bolted sooner.

Lovelock ★★★★½ ☺
Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ SK

Both varieties had great germination and great yields. I liked the darker red color of *Magenta*.

No Preference

Lovelock ★★★★★ ☺
Magenta ★★★★★ ☺ MN

These varieties were very similar. They produced all summer long.

Conclusions

Both varieties received high ratings. They were attractive in color, resisted bolting, produced good yields and tasted delicious. Most gardeners preferred *Magenta*. Its leaves were more colorful and its heads were fuller. *Lovelock* grew quickly and was ready to harvest earlier at more sites. It looks like a very promising variety.

Most gardeners preferred *Magenta*. Its leaves were more colorful and its heads were fuller.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘ ***Garden type*** ↘

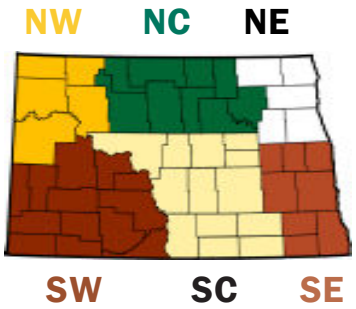
Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺ NC
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

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

↖ ***Location***

↖ ***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
IA = Iowa

Melon, Cantaloupe Hybrid

Varieties

Aphrodite

72 days. Salmon-colored flesh is firm and sweet. Big, 7-pound fruits ripen early. Resists mildew.

Avatar

72 days. Large, 8-pound melons with flavorful flesh high in sugars. Vines resist diseases. Early.

Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Aphrodite	Avatar	Same
Germinated best	35%	26%	**39%**
Healthier plants	35	17	**48**
Harvested earlier	**57**	43	0
Higher yields	**41**	23	36
More attractive	**41**	32	27
Tasted better	**52**	14	33
Preference	**54**	46	
Recommend (☺)	**69**	50	
Mean score[1]	**7.33**	6.92	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Aphrodite

Aphrodite ★★★★½ ☺
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Both varieties had healthy plants and produced large melons. Their melons were sweet and tasty. *Aphrodite* produced earlier and its melons were more attractive.

Aphrodite ★★★★☆ ☺
Avatar ★★★½☆ ☺ MN

Aphrodite ripened earlier and tasted better. *Avatar* produced larger melons.

Aphrodite ★★★★☆ ☺
Avatar ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Aphrodite was the clear winner in my garden.

Aphrodite ★★★½☆ ☺
Avatar ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Aphrodite had more lush, flavorful melons.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☹ NC

Avatar produced about a third of the amount of *Aphrodite*. *Aphrodite* produced fruit earlier and produced larger fruits.

Aphrodite ★★★★½ ☺
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Aphrodite melons were larger and sweeter.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
Avatar ★½☆☆☆ ☹ NW

Aphrodite plants were healthy and lush. Its fruits were twice as large and uniformly webbed. *Aphrodite* melons were so sweet and almost floral in flavor. This exceptional flavor made *Aphrodite* an easy choice, and I will grow it again. The vines of *Avatar* were leggy and a few plants died early. Its melons were ripe 1 to 2 weeks earlier.

Aphrodite ★★★★½ ☺
Avatar ★★½☆☆ ☹ NW

Aphrodite was sweeter and juicier. *Avatar* tasted like a grocery store melon.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☹ SW

I liked the yield and size of both varieties. They took a long time to ripen. *Aphrodite* had better flavor and was sweeter.

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
Avatar ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SD

Aphrodite ripened first and its melons were so delicious. *Aphrodite* had higher yields and bigger melons. *Avatar* melons lacked flavor.

Both varieties had healthy vines and produced large melons.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Dakota Sisters
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Prefer Aphrodite (continued)

Aphrodite ★★★★★ ☺
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☹ SD

Aphrodite produced very large melons with great flavor. *Avatar* was a very good melon and ripened earlier. I would grow both again.

Aphrodite ★★★★☆ ☺
Avatar ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SD

Aphrodite produced more and had nicer melons.

Prefer Avatar

Aphrodite ★★★★☆ ☺
Avatar ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Avatar produced earlier, bigger and more fruits. I took both varieties to a family gathering and their preferences were evenly split. Those that liked a firmer cantaloupe picked *Aphrodite*. We are still eating *Avatar* now in late October.

Aphrodite ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★★★☆☆ ☹ NC

Neither variety produced a ripe melon. *Avatar* vines produced 8 melons that ranged in size from golf balls to 4 inches in diameter. *Aphrodite* vines produced 3 melons that were the size of golf balls.

Aphrodite ★★★★☆ ☺
Avatar ★★★★½ ☺ -
NC

Avatar produced earlier and more melons. Its vines were flowering like crazy for a whole month!

Aphrodite ★★★☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Avatar germinated at 80% compared to 65% for *Aphrodite*. *Aphrodite* produced eight melons while *Avatar* produced three large melons. *Avatar* melons looked like a classic, large melon that you buy at the store. *Aphrodite* melons looked more green.

Aphrodite ★★½☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Avatar produced more and larger melons. I was amazed at the number of melons we were able to grow from both varieties, but each melon was damaged by mice.

Aphrodite ★★★☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Avatar had fewer cantaloupes and ripened slower, but when they did—wow! They were larger and firm; very tasty. *Aphrodite* melons were smaller and went to overripe very fast.

Aphrodite ★★★½☆ ☺
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Avatar ripened first.

Aphrodite ★★½☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Avatar had much better germination and vigor. Its melons were first to ripen and looked more attractive. *Aphrodite* melons tasted better.

Aphrodite ★★★☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Avatar for the win by a country mile! This was the easiest of the trials to judge. *Avatar* had really large, very tasty and sweet melons. Yields of *Avatar* were very good also.

Aphrodite ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Both varieties were disappointing in flavor, texture and quantity of melons. Only *Avatar* produced more than one melon.

Aphrodite ★★★☆☆ ☹
Avatar ★★★★☆ ☺ SD

I directly sowed the seeds. The seeds struggled to germinate, but after a good rain both came up. The vines of both varieties looked healthy and produced a similar amount of melons. *Avatar* ripened quicker and its melons were sweeter. I had only two large melons, but this is the most successful I've ever been in growing cantaloupe.

Conclusions

Both varieties had healthy vines and produced large melons. The quality of its melons gave the edge to *Aphrodite*. More gardeners felt the melons of *Aphrodite* looked better and tasted much better. *Aphrodite* produced earlier and had higher yields at more sites. *Aphrodite* has been a very strong performer in our trials for years. *Avatar* did not stand out in any way.

Many gardeners felt *Aphrodite* melons looked more attractive and tasted much better.

Melon, Cantaloupe Open-Poll.

Varieties

Dakota Sisters

80 days. Deep-orange flesh is sweet, thick and aromatic. Developed in ND. Organic

Minnesota Midget

68 days. Heirloom produces lots of early, mini cantaloupes. Sweet and delicious. Compact vines.

Data

Gardeners at 38 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dakota Sisters	Minn. Midget	Same
Germinated best	27%	9%	**64%**
Healthier plants	33	6	**61**
Harvested earlier	25	**59**	16
Higher yields	29	**52**	19
More attractive	**38**	28	34
Tasted better	**44**	31	25
Preference	**59**	41	
Recommend (☺)	63	**66**	
Mean score[1]	**7.09**	6.84	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

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

Prefer Dakota Sisters

Dakota Sisters ★★☆☆☆ ☹ 🐞
Minnesota Midget ★½☆☆☆ ☹ MN

I was not happy with either variety. Their melons were very small and did not ripen properly. The melons fell off the vines early and were not sweet. *Dakota Sisters* ripened first.

Dakota Sisters ★★★½☆ ☺ 🌱
Minnesota Midget ★★½☆☆ ☹ MN

Dakota Sisters was a hardier, healthier and more productive variety.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★☆ ☺ 🌱
Minnesota Midget ★★★½☆ ☺ NE

Dakota Sisters tasted better. Its seed cavity was smaller, which made for very easy cutting to serve.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Minnesota Midget ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Dakota Sisters had a higher germination rate, produced first and produced more. Its fruits were the best tasting and best looking.

Dakota Sisters ★★★½☆ ☺ 🌱
Minnesota Midget ★★★☆☆ ☹ SE

Dakota Sisters tasted a lot better.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Minnesota Midget ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Dakota Sisters melons were super fragrant, juicy, sweet and delicious. It produced higher yields.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Minnesota Midget ★★★☆☆ ☹ NC

Dakota Sisters germinated much better, had healthier plants, earlier and higher yields, and more attractive melons. Both varieties had very good taste.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★ ☺ 🌱
Minnesota Midget ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Dakota Sisters melons were sweeter. They were firm and delicious, too.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Minnesota Midget ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Dakota Sisters had a netted rind like cantaloupes in the store, so my customers like that. My customers said *Dakota Sisters* had better cantaloupe flavor. Both varieties produced small melons, which are good for small families.

Both varieties grew well and had healthy vines.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Dakota Sisters
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Prefer Dakota Sisters (continued)

Dakota Sisters ★★★★½ ☺ -
Minnesota Midget ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Dakota Sisters ripened later and produced melons into late September. I enjoyed the small size of *Minnesota Midget*; the melons were ideal for one person/one meal. *Minnesota Midget* ripened earlier but the melons ripened mostly all at once. We had a severe problem with rodents and grasshoppers chewing holes in fruits, which made the melons of both varieties rot before picking. *Dakota Sisters* suffered slightly less rot.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★½ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

It took a while for the bees to find the blossoms apparently as we had lots of flowers and no melons until mid-August. Then melons were everywhere. We have never eaten so many cantaloupes in our lives. *Dakota Sisters* melons had better flavor and texture. The melons that ripened late in the season did not taste as good as the early ones. *Minnesota Midget* vines produced longer.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★☆ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

Dakota Sisters melons were bigger and had a little better flavor. Its vines kept on blooming almost to freeze up.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★☆ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Dakota Sisters had larger, tastier melons. The melons of *Minnesota Midget* spoil so easily in the garden if not picked at the right time. I did not care for the taste of *Minnesota Midget*.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★☆ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SW

Dakota Sisters tasted sweeter.

Dakota Sisters ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Minnesota Midget ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SW

Dakota Sisters had better flavor. Melons of both varieties go from immature to overripe very fast.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★½ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

These varieties were grown in great soil. I didn't provide much care for them besides watering. These were the best fruit/veggie in my garden. I liked the taste of *Dakota Sisters* a little better.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★★★½ ☹ SD

Minnesota Midget ripened earlier and had higher yields. Its melons tasted so good until *Dakota Sisters* ripened, and from then on the *Minnesota Midget* melons were composted. *Dakota Sisters* melons were larger with superior flavor and texture. The plants of both varieties were healthy.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★★½☆ ☺ SD

For a melon-loving family, *Dakota Sisters* melons were fantastic—perfect flavor, texture and size! The size of *Minnesota Midget* melons was a nice surprise, and I think they would be a great variety for a single person. They did seem to go from ripe to overripe very quickly, however, and the texture became mealy.

Dakota Sisters ★★★★★ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★★★½ ☺ MB

I had trouble obtaining germination due to hot, dry conditions. *Dakota Sisters* was a more vigorous plant and had earlier and more melons. The melons of both varieties were extremely juicy and tasty with a smooth texture. The advantage *Minnesota Midget* offers is that it is a nice option to have a small melon for an individual portion.

Most gardeners preferred *Dakota Sisters*. They felt the flesh of *Dakota Sisters* melons had superior flavor and a firmer texture.

Prefer Minnesota Midget

Dakota Sisters ★★½☆☆ ☹
Minnesota Midget ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Minnesota Midget was "creamier" and sweeter with smaller melons. It matured quickly.

Dakota Sisters ★½☆☆☆ ☺
Minnesota Midget ★★★☆☆ ☺ SE

Minnesota Midget melons were more attractive and tasted really good! *Minnesota Midget* ripened first but *Dakota Sisters* produced higher yields.

Prefer Minnesota Midget (continued)

Dakota Sisters ☹ SE
Minnesota Midget ☺ SE

I don't grow melons very well. *Minnesota Midget* produced a higher yield. *Dakota Sisters* melons were very small. *Minnesota Midget* melons were good but still small.

Dakota Sisters ☹
Minnesota Midget ☺ SE

Minnesota Midget ripened earlier and produced more fruit.

Dakota Sisters ☹
Minnesota Midget ☺ SE

Minnesota Midget is the best flavored cantaloupe I've ever had. Amazing flavor. It had higher yields, too.

Dakota Sisters ☺
Minnesota Midget ☺ SE

Minnesota Midget was one of the highlights in the garden. So yummy! It had ripe fruit as early as the end of July. The size of its melons was perfect for two people and the flavor was delicious.

Dakota Sisters ☹
Minnesota Midget ☺ NC

Minnesota Midget ripened earlier.

Dakota Sisters ☹ -
Minnesota Midget ☺ SC

Minnesota Midget melons had much better flavor. *Dakota Sisters* melons were very bland.

Dakota Sisters ☹
Minnesota Midget ☹ SC

All plants failed to grow after germination. At least the *Minnesota Midget* vines grew a little bit before dying.

Dakota Sisters ☹ SE
Minnesota Midget ☺ SC

Minnesota Midget had better taste. It produced a higher yield and its melons were more attractive.

Dakota Sisters ☹ SE
Minnesota Midget ☺ SC

Minnesota Midget produced early and often. The small, softball-sized melons are easier to eat and a nice change from regular-sized cantaloupes. I liked the taste of both varieties but preferred *Minnesota Midget*.

Dakota Sisters ☹
Minnesota Midget ☺ SD

Minnesota Midget germinated better and its plants were bushier. Its vines had a profusion of blossoms and set lots of fruits. Our first harvest was on August 30. If you like cantaloupe, *Minnesota Midget* is for you as it is a prolific producer! Its fruits were beautiful, sweet and juicy. *Minnesota Midget* fruits fell easily off the vine when ripe. We ate softball- and larger-sized fruits every day. I had a hard time knowing when *Dakota Sisters* melons were mature, and they had to be cut off the vine even when mature. Determining when a cantaloupe was mature had never been hard for me before.

Minnesota Midget ripened much earlier and produced lots of small melons.

Dakota Sisters ☺
Minnesota Midget ☺ SD

Both varieties grew well. *Dakota Sisters* ripened 4 days earlier. Yields were similar; *Dakota Sisters* had bigger but fewer melons. I liked the taste of *Minnesota Midget*. The *Minnesota Midget* melons had the tendency to split before they were ripe; this might be heat related. *Dakota Sisters* seemed to attract aphids, but I didn't notice this with *Minnesota Midget*.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well and had healthy vines. Most gardeners preferred *Dakota Sisters*. They felt the flesh of *Dakota Sisters* melons had superior flavor and a firmer texture. *Minnesota Midget* ripened much earlier and produced lots of small melons. *Minnesota Midget* melons were perfect for single-size servings.

Okra, Green

Varieties

Clemson Spineless 80

60 days. Dark green pods stay spineless and non-woody. High yields on 4-foot plants. Popular.

Jambalaya

50 days. Early maturing. High yields of shiny, dark green pods. Compact plants have small leaves and large, edible flowers.

Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Clemson Sp. 80	Jambalaya	Same
Germinated best	7%	7%	**87%**
Healthier plants	29	14	**57**
Harvested earlier	36	**43**	21
Higher yields	29	29	**43**
More attractive pods	23	**46**	31
Tasted better	14	29	**57**
Preference	**54**	46	
Recommend (☺)	**86**	79	
Mean score[1]	**7.86**	7.43	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.50	

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

Prefer Clemson Spineless 80

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Jambalaya ★★★★½ ☺ NE

I loved both! They were immense producers and produced pods at about the same time. *Jambalaya* pods were very attractive because they were large. Both plants had very strong trunks and grew to be about 60 inches in height. We had a very mild spring, so I direct sowed seeds in the garden in late May. I grew them in large, 1.5-foot-deep garden boxes that had organic compost and extra cow manure.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Jambalaya ★★★☆☆ ☹ NE

The plants of *Clemson Spineless 80* were larger. I preferred the smoother texture of *Clemson Spineless 80* pods. I appreciated being able to pick its larger pods and they were still tender.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Jambalaya ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Clemson Spineless 80 had larger plants and was more productive.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★½☆ ☺ 🐞
Jambalaya ★★★☆☆ ☺ SE

Clemson Spineless 80 plants stayed upright and flowered better. Its pods were more attractive. *Jambalaya* plants fell over.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★☆ ☺ 🪴
Jambalaya ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Clemson Spineless 80 was more productive. Its pods were light green in color and good even when they got large. *Jambalaya* pods were dark green and became hard and unusable when they got a little large.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Jambalaya ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Both varieties were prolific, but *Clemson Spineless 80* pods lasted longer before becoming woody. The plants of *Clemson Spineless 80* were larger.

Most gardeners preferred *Clemson Spineless 80.* Gardeners were impressed with its productivity and the texture of its pods.

Best green okra varieties

Top choice
Clemson Spineless 80

Strong performer
Jambalaya

Prefer Clemson Spineless 80 (continued)

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★½ ☺
Jambalaya ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

Clemson Spineless 80 had better yields and was good tasting. *Jambalaya* was very woody tasting even when harvested small.

Prefer Jambalaya

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★☆ ☺
Jambalaya ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Jambalaya was a smaller plant with deeper green, more uniform, straight pods. It was a powerhouse for yield on its small structure. *Clemson Spineless 80* took longer to get rolling with production, but then it matched the yield of *Jambalaya*. *Clemson Spineless 80* had lighter green pods and 15% of them were curled/deformed. I have never had so much okra before!

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★☆ ☺
Jambalaya ★★★★½ ☺ NE

Jambalaya was more productive and had more attractive pods. *Jambalaya* pods were dark green and straight. *Clemson Spineless 80* pods were light green and tended to curve more.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★☆☆ ☺
Jambalaya ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Jambalaya plants were a little healthier. Both of these varieties did okay but neither did as well as my *Cowhorn* okra.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★☆☆ ☹
Jambalaya ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Jambalaya produced far more fully-grown plants with plentiful flowers and fruit. *Clemson Spineless 80* plants were smaller, and its fruits were misshapen.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★★☆ ☺
Jambalaya ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Both varieties had a 100% germination rate. We had a large influx of grasshoppers, but these varieties did not seem to be bothered. Both varieties were very healthy. They produced very well throughout the growing season. Their pods had excellent taste when small. The pods of *Jambalaya* did not get stringy as quickly as those of *Clemson Spineless 80*. *Jambalaya* pods were a little bit better for pickling.

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★★½☆ ☹
Jambalaya ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Jambalaya produced a darker green, slightly narrower, more flavorful pod. This is the best year we've had for okra (started in 2018).

No Preference

Clemson Spineless 80 ★★½☆☆ ☺
Jambalaya ★★½☆☆ ☺ SC

Both are good varieties.

Conclusions

Both varieties of this heat-loving vegetable grew surprisingly well. Most gardeners preferred *Clemson Spineless 80*. Gardeners were impressed with its productivity and the texture of its pods. *Jambalaya* ripened earlier. Gardeners liked its uniformly shaped, glossy, dark green pods.

***Jambalaya* ripened earlier. Gardeners liked its uniformly shaped, glossy, dark green pods.**

Onion, Red Organic

Varieties

Red Carpet

115 days. A red onion with bright magenta interior rings. Medium-sized bulbs with rounded shoulders. Keeps well for long-term storage.

Rossa di Milano

105 days. Shiny pink onions with a tapered, heart shape. Great for cooking with high sugars and pungency. Rock-hard bulbs cure easily and store well.

Data

Gardeners at 44 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red Carpet	Rossa di Milano	Same
Germinated best	10%	**68%**	23%
Healthier plants	**42**	19	38
Harvested earlier	26	**43**	30
Higher yields	33	**42**	25
More attractive bulbs	**46**	29	25
Tasted better	16	**53**	32
Preference	44	**56**	
Recommend (☺)	69	**77**	
Mean score[1]	6.26	**6.89**	
Median score[1]	**7.00**	**7.00**	

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

Prefer Red Carpet

Red Carpet ★★★★★ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★½☆ ☹ — MN

Red Carpet had stronger plants. Its bulbs were larger, more beautiful and tasted great!

Red Carpet ★★★½☆ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★☆☆ ☺ — NE

Red Carpet produced larger, more attractive bulbs. They tasted too mild for my taste even for a red onion. *Red Carpet* bulbs were ready earlier in the season.

Red Carpet ★★★★½ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★★☆ ☺ — NE

This trial was very successful. I had better results starting from own seed than getting onion sets from stores. *Red Carpet* had slightly larger onions.

Red Carpet ★★★½☆ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★½☆☆ ☺ — NE

Red Carpet grew better. Overall, the bulbs of both varieties were very small due to the drought.

Red Carpet ★★★★☆ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★☆☆☆ ☹ — SE

Red Carpet survived transplanting better and had larger bulbs at harvest. *Rossa di Milano* tasted better. I have planted *Rossa di Milano* in other years and had better results.

Red Carpet ★★★★☆ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★½☆ ☹ — SE

Red Carpet had better taste with larger bulbs. *Rossa di Milano* had two times better germination.

Red Carpet ★★★★½ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★★☆ ☺ — SE

Red Carpet produced better overall.

Red Carpet ★★★½☆ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★☆☆ ☹ — NC

Red Carpet had better yield.

***Red Carpet* plants were healthier and more robust. Its bulbs were larger and more attractive.**

Best red onion varieties

Top choice
Rossa di Milano

Strong performer
Red Carpet

Prefer Red Carpet (continued)

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☹ NC

Red Carpet had high germination. Its bulbs were pretty and average in size. They tasted good, better raw than cooked. The bulbs cured well and are storing well for winter. *Rossa di Milano* had a very low germination rate indoors, and I had to replant after a few weeks.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☹ SC

Red Carpet grew better. *Rossa di Milano* produced smaller bulbs and in August they dried down. There was a downpour of rain the day after I transplanted my onion plants and many of the plants washed out.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☹ NW

Red Carpet plants were more robust and produced bulbs more quickly. *Red Carpet* bulbs were much larger and more rounded. *Rossa di Milano* bulbs were squatty in shape and milder in flavor.

Prefer Rossa di Milano

Red Carpet ☹
Rossa di Milano ☺ MN

Rossa di Milano plants were healthier. Its bulbs had a distinctive, heart shape and were not as red as *Red Carpet* (and *Red Wing*). Both *Red Carpet* and *Rossa di Milano* tasted quite pungent.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☺ SE

Both varieties did not produce very large onions. I had a poor stand because it got hot and very windy right after transplanting. I lost most of them. *Rossa di Milano* had a bit better yield, and its skins were a beautiful bronze-pink.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☺ SE

Rossa di Milano had milder flavor. Both varieties grew the same.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☺ NC

Rossa di Milano seemed to grow better. It was very difficult to produce a garden in our extreme drought.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☺ NC

The appearance of *Rossa di Milano* was interesting. Its bulbs had a pink/bronze color and were shaped like a top.

Red Carpet ☹
Rossa di Milano ☺ NC

Rossa di Milano was very productive. It produced very nice-sized onions. I had very poor germination of *Red Carpet*.

Red Carpet ☹
Rossa di Milano ☺ NC

Rossa di Milano onions were larger and milder. *Red Carpet* germinated poorly.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☺ SC

Rossa di Milano onions were more attractive, more uniform in size and tasted better.

Red Carpet ☹
Rossa di Milano ☺ SC

Rossa di Milano had better germination, yield and taste.

Red Carpet ☹
Rossa di Milano ☺ SC

The seedlings of both varieties did not transplant well. This led to small bulbs and small overall yields. *Rossa di Milano* produced healthier plants and sustained the heat and dry conditions better.

Red Carpet ☺
Rossa di Milano ☺ SC

Both tasted great. *Rossa di Milano* had a higher germination rate and produced larger bulbs.

***Rossa di Milano* germinated much better. It matured faster and produced a higher yield at more gardens.**

Prefer Rossa di Milano (continued)

Red Carpet ★★★½☆ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Rossa di Milano germinated significantly better and produced higher yields. *Red Carpet* bulbs were more attractive. Both varieties had excellent flavor. This was our first-time growing onions from seeds, and we would not be afraid to try it again.

Red Carpet ★★★½☆ ☺
Rossa di Milano ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Rossa di Milano had better germination and was easier to grow.

Red Carpet ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Rossa di Milano ★★☆☆☆ ☺ SW

Rossa di Milano had better yield.

Red Carpet ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹
Rossa di Milano ★★☆☆☆ ☺ SW

Our plants did not grow well when we sowed them indoors. Not one *Red Carpet* seed germinated. We grew them under grow lights, heat mats and adequate water.

Red Carpet ★★★☆☆ ☹
Rossa di Milano ★★★★☆ ☺ SD

This was a difficult trial. The seeds germinated in 6 to 8 days, but plants kept dying throughout the growing season. My onions did not get very big. *Rossa di Milano* was first to grow and had fewer plants die.

Conclusions

Red Carpet plants were healthier and more robust. Its bulbs were larger and more attractive. *Rossa di Milano* germinated much better. It matured faster and produced a higher yield at more gardens. Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties but clearly preferred the taste of *Rossa di Milano*. *Rossa di Milano* is famous for its flavor and cooking qualities.

Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties but clearly preferred the taste of *Rossa di Milano*.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

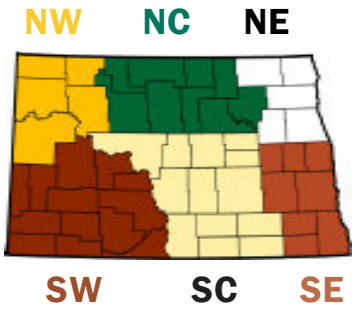
Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

Garden type ↘ NC ↖ ***Location***

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

Onion, Yellow Organic

Varieties

Dakota Tears

112 days. Golden-skinned, hard globes have robust flavor. Bulbs average 12 ounces with no doubles. Stores well. Developed in North Dakota.

Talon

108 days. Golden, blocky globes with bright white interiors. Waxy leaves resist diseases. Great for cooking. Grows well in dry climates.

Data

Gardeners at 39 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dakota Tears	Talon	Same
Germinated best	16%	**42%**	**42%**
Healthier plants	17	33	**50**
Harvested earlier	15	41	**44**
Higher yields	**43**	32	25
More attractive bulbs	32	**43**	25
Tasted better	30	19	**52**
Preference	47	**53**	
Recommend (☺)	58	**68**	
Mean score[1]	6.53	**7.00**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**7.50**	

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

Prefer Dakota Tears

Dakota Tears ★★★☆☆ ☺
Talon ★★½☆☆ ☹ MN

The bulbs of both varieties didn't get very big. *Talon* started out better with more and larger sprouts, but in the end *Dakota Tears* was more productive. *Dakota Tears* bulbs were larger but only about 3 inches in diameter.

Dakota Tears ★★★☆☆ ☺
Talon ★★½☆☆ ☺ SE

Dakota Tears had several more plants.

Dakota Tears ★★★½☆ ☺
Talon ★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

This was my first time starting my own onions. *Dakota Tears* seedlings had more vigor than *Talon*. *Talon* was a more aesthetically pleasing and marketable bulb. *Talon* undeniably produced a more marketable onion, and I would recommend *Talon* if someone was growing for markets. If the goal is seed saving or sustainable homesteading, then I would recommend *Dakota Tears*. I was biased in favor of *Dakota Tears* because it is an open-pollinated and locally sourced variety.

Dakota Tears ★★★★☆ ☺
Talon ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

We liked the shape of the *Dakota Tears* bulbs better. They were more ball-shaped whereas *Talon* bulbs were more oblong. We liked the taste of *Dakota Tears* slightly better.

Dakota Tears ★★★★☆ ☺
Talon ★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Dakota Tears had better disease resistance, which translated into more harvested bulbs. *Talon* had plants dying throughout the season with about one-third dying prior to harvest with numerous rotten roots at harvest.

Dakota Tears ★★★★½ ☺
Talon ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Dakota Tears had slightly better germination.

Dakota Tears produced higher yields at more sites.

Best yellow onion varieties

Top choice
Talon

Strong performer
Patterson

Prefer Dakota Tears (continued)

Dakota Tears ★★★★☆ ☺
Talon ★★½☆☆ ☹ NC

Neither grew very well, but *Dakota Tears* was a little hardier and I got a few onions. My results weren't very good since shortly after I planted the seeds the heater quit in the room I had them. *Dakota Tears* did survive better than *Talon*.

Dakota Tears ★★★½☆ ☺ -
Talon ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

This is the first time I started onions from seed. These bulbs were so much bigger than my onions started from sets. *Dakota Tears* produced a higher yield. Its bulbs were more consistent, larger, more attractive and tasted better.

Dakota Tears ★½☆☆☆ ☹
Talon ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SC

I had a heck of a time getting and keeping the onions to grow and stay alive. Guess I'm not meant to grow onions from seed. *Dakota Tears* grew somewhat better.

Dakota Tears ★★★☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

Dakota Tears had better flavor.

Dakota Tears ★★★★★ ☺ -
Talon ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Both varieties germinated well and grew well. They tasted excellent. *Dakota Tears* plants were larger and more robust. *Dakota Tears* bulbs were larger.

Dakota Tears ★★½☆☆ ☺
Talon ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SW

Both varieties germinated but grew poorly indoors. We used grow lights, heat mats and adequate water. The plants also grew slowly once transplanted outdoors. The transplants of *Dakota Tears* were more hardy, leading to higher yields.

Dakota Tears ★★★★☆ ☺
Talon ★★½☆☆ ☹ SD

Dakota Tears germinated easier, and they did better when transplanted. Its bulbs were bigger, and its yield was higher. The plants of both varieties were healthy.

Dakota Tears ★★★★½ ☺
Talon ★★★½☆ ☹ SD

Both varieties were easy to start and transplanted well. *Dakota Tears* produced larger and more onion bulbs. It had excellent flavor. *Talon* had nice-size bulbs but not as many.

Prefer Talon

Dakota Tears ★★★★½ ☺
Talon ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Talon germinated first but *Dakota Tears* caught up quickly and had more total overall seeds that germinated. *Talon* bulbs were ready for harvest a couple weeks earlier.

Dakota Tears ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★★½☆ ☺ NE

Talon produced a much better yield, and it was easier to handle its plants. *Talon* bulbs were medium in size and larger than *Dakota Tears* bulbs. Most *Dakota Tears* plants died when young.

Dakota Tears ★★½☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Talon grew quicker. It had better roots when transplanting, which led to sturdier plants. *Dakota Tears* were wimpier plants all the way through.

Dakota Tears ★★★☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Talon bulbs are more uniform, last longer in storage, and taste good.

Dakota Tears ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Talon was easy to germinate. It grew up strong and proud looking. All of its bulbs grew large. Most of the *Dakota Tears* bulbs were small. Both varieties had great taste.

Dakota Tears ★★★½☆ ☹
Talon ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Dakota Tears produced a higher yield, but *Talon* bulbs were bigger and more attractive.

Dakota Tears ★★½☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★★☆☆ ☺ NC

Talon bulbs were larger. Yields of both varieties were low due to dry weather.

***Talon* germinated quickly, grew well and was ready to harvest earlier at more sites.**

Prefer Talon (continued)

Dakota Tears ★★½☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★★☆☆ ☺ NC

Talon germinated in 9 days, which was 17 days earlier than *Dakota Tears*. *Talon* had heartier plants.

Dakota Tears ★★★★½ ☺
Talon ★★★★★ ☺ NC

I loved both varieties. Both produced a good yield. Their bulbs looked attractive and were delicious. *Talon* seeds were easier to sow since they had more color. *Dakota Tears* seeds were black and harder to sow in my black soil.

Dakota Tears ★★★★½ ☺
Talon ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Talon bulbs were blocky shaped and more uniform in size. Its skins were smoother. *Dakota Tears* bulbs were variable in size with some very large (almost softball size). *Dakota Tears* produced a higher yield.

Dakota Tears ★★★½☆ ☹ -
Talon ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Dakota Tears germinated 2 days later and did so unevenly, but eventually caught up and looked nearly as good as *Talon*. *Talon* bulbs were harder and easier to cook with when mature.

Dakota Tears ★★★☆☆ ☺
Talon ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties germinated well and were healthy. They produced good onions with nice color—nice skins. Both varieties produced good yields, but *Talon* produced higher yields and larger bulbs in general. The taste of *Talon* was less sharp; *Dakota Tears* tasted more bitter.

Dakota Tears ★★☆☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★★★☆ ☺ NW

Both varieties had a 90% germination rate. The size and appearance of *Talon* bulbs were consistent throughout the planting. *Dakota Tears* had a lot of small bulbs that didn't fill out. *Dakota Tears* had a milder taste.

Dakota Tears ★★★½☆ ☺
Talon ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Talon germinated better and grew larger. The bulbs of both varieties were average in size. Storage was a problem for *Talon*.

Dakota Tears ★★★★½ ☺
Talon ★★★★★ ☺ SW

Yields were very similar. The average bulb weight for each variety was 0.58 pounds, and both varieties produced some jumbo bulbs. *Talon* bulbs were more uniform in shape and had great looking skins. *Dakota Tears* had some split bulbs. *Talon* bulbs had a stronger flavor and retained a rich onion taste through cooking. I made onion rings and those of *Talon* held together better. My neighbor tasted these onions raw, and he felt *Dakota Tears* had a sweeter and milder flavor. When he made onion rings, he preferred *Dakota Tears*. My onions have been cured for 3 weeks; *Talon* bulbs are quite stable but I have found signs of rot in some *Dakota Tears* bulbs already.

Talon bulbs were more uniform in shape and had smoother, more attractive skins.

Dakota Tears ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Talon ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SD

Both varieties germinated poorly. *Talon* germinated better and produced a higher yield.

No Preference

Dakota Tears ★★★★☆ ☺
Talon ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

These varieties were identical. I never would have known they were two different varieties if I didn't plant them myself. Their bulbs didn't get very large, but they were big enough to be worth planting.

Conclusions

Dakota Tears produced higher yields at more sites. *Talon* germinated quickly, grew well and was ready to harvest earlier at more sites. *Talon* bulbs were more uniform in shape and had smoother, more attractive skins. Taste preferences were mixed with a slight edge going to *Dakota Tears*. Most of these gardeners had never grown onions from seed before, and most were successful.

Pea, Snap

Varieties

Snak Hero

65 days. Slender pods look like a bean but have the sweetness of a snap pea. Short, 18–24 inch vines. A new, All-America Selections winner.

Sugar Ann

58 days. Very early and reliable. The 27-inch vines produce sweet, crisp pods. A proven performer.

Data

Gardeners at 93 sites submitted information.

Trait	Snak Hero	Sugar Ann	Same
Germinated best	9%	**73%**	18%
Healthier plants	13	**57**	30
Harvested earlier	13	**77**	10
Higher yields	18	**68**	14
More attractive pods	23	**51**	27
Tasted better	13	**61**	26
Preference	13	**87**	
Recommend (☺)	30	**86**	
Mean score[1]	5.07	**8.00**	
Median score[1]	6.00	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Snak Hero

Snak Hero ★★★★½ ☺
Sugar Ann ★½☆☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Sugar Ann had very poor germination.

Snak Hero ★★★½☆☆ ☺
Sugar Ann ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ NE

Snak Hero grew better and produced higher yields. *Sugar Ann* tasted better.

Snak Hero ★★★★★½ ☺
Sugar Ann ★★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Snak Hero pods were crisper, more flavorful and not stringy. *Snak Hero* pods would split open if the peas were not picked before they became too large.

Snak Hero ★★★★½ ☺
Sugar Ann ★★★½☆☆ ☺ SE

Snak Hero yielded more attractive pods with better texture. Its pods were less stringy. *Sugar Ann* germinated earlier and was ready to harvest 2 weeks earlier.

Snak Hero ★★★★½ ☺
Sugar Ann ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Snak Hero was delicious. *Sugar Ann* tasted okay but had some bitterness. *Sugar Ann* was much more productive.

Snak Hero ★★★★★½ ☺
Sugar Ann ★★★½☆☆ ☹ NC

Both varieties were good. *Snak Hero* tasted best and had higher yields.

Snak Hero ★★★½☆☆ ☺
Sugar Ann ★½☆☆☆☆ ☹ NC

Snak Hero excelled over *Sugar Ann* in all categories.

Snak Hero ★★★★½ ☺
Sugar Ann ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Snak Hero produced earlier and heavier. Its pods had better quality. I planted both in a raised bed that did not get direct sun until about 1:30 PM. I would plant them in more sun next time. The plants didn't get nearly as big as peas that my brother grew. His soil is sandy with total sun. I've never had great success with peas.

This was a very popular trial and *Snak Hero* was a very disappointing variety.

Best snap pea varieties

Top choice
Sugar Ann

Strong performer
Super Sugar Snap

Prefer Snak Hero (continued)

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SC

Snak Hero had a more tender, slender and attractive pod. Its pods were stringless and slower to become overmature. *Sugar Ann* pods were stringy and tougher. I will not plant *Sugar Ann* again.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SD

Snak Hero plants were healthier and more productive. *Sugar Ann* pods were smaller.

Prefer Sugar Ann

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
MN

Snak Hero had a very poor germination rate and only four of its plants survived. The hot, dry year may have affected its growth and production. Both varieties had small pods with an average of five peas per pod. I want a variety that produces more peas per pod.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
MN

Sugar Ann had double the germination. It was better in all categories. *Snak Hero* was good but its pods were very chewy—too much fiber or thick pods.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
MN

Sugar Ann pods tasted and looked better. They were great in stir fries and salads. Yields were comparable (158 pods for *Snak Hero* compared to 153 pods for *Sugar Ann*).

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
MN

All *Sugar Ann* plants survived and produced. *Snak Hero* did not produce any viable plants.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NE

Sugar Ann outperformed *Snak Hero* in all categories. *Sugar Ann* produced healthy, vigorous plants and high yields. *Sugar Ann* snap peas were sweet, crisp and very tasty.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NE

Sugar Ann looked good and tasted good. It was easy to grow and free of diseases and pests. It produced 10 days earlier. *Snak Hero* never did well. In the end, *Snak Hero* was unable to cope with the heat while *Sugar Ann* still produced like a champ. The flavor of *Snak Hero* was meh. The flavor of *Sugar Ann* made my taste buds do a happy dance.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NE

Snak Hero did not germinate well. Its plants were less hearty as many died prematurely. I prefer the normal size of *Sugar Ann* pods.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NE

Snak Hero barely germinated.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SE

Sugar Ann tasted better. *Snak Hero* produced more.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SE

I selected *Sugar Ann* due to its much better germination, higher yields, faster growth and better health early in the growing season. *Snak Hero* was clearly better for taste, lack of strings and resistance to powdery mildew, but its production, shape of seeds and growth is very poor!

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SE

Only one *Snak Hero* plant germinated. The germination for *Sugar Ann* was about 50%. *Sugar Ann* produced the most. *Snak Hero* pods were very long and slender.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SE

Sugar Ann germinated at a better rate, grew faster and produced faster. Since it had a better germination rate, it yielded more. *Sugar Ann* was delicious and tasted better. *Snak Hero* was no slouch, just always a bit behind.

The germination of *Snak Hero* was very poor. Its seeds were cubic (not globular) and shrunken.

Prefer Sugar Ann (continued)

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Both were similar. I did not have much of a yield due to the drought this summer and inconsistent watering. *Sugar Ann* had a little more yield.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

These were very prolific varieties. *Sugar Ann* tasted better.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann vines were healthier and produced more yield. *Snak Hero* tasted better.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann had better yield and bigger pods.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann came up very good and grew into taller, thicker plants. Its vines produced 2 weeks earlier. I harvested *Sugar Ann* four times compared to once for *Snak Hero*. *Sugar Ann* was delicious.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann is a nice pea. *Snak Hero* germinated poorly and was a complete failure.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann had the best production and was very tasty.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann produced an earlier harvest and greater production overall. *Snak Hero* had larger pods and stayed edible longer. This slower pod development of *Snak Hero* allowed eating pods that might have been missed in an earlier picking.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann pods were crisper and had better taste.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann produced better than *Snak Hero*. Both varieties produced very well and tasted great.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann was a better variety all the way around: germination, yield and taste.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann germinated much better than *Snak Hero*, which germinated so poorly I was wondering if it was going to come up at all. *Sugar Ann* also had much healthier plants, and yielded much more and much earlier. Pod taste was good on both varieties. *Sugar Ann* was great. I would not plant *Snak Hero* again.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Snak Hero had terrible germination. *Sugar Ann* was better in all traits but neither variety was as good as *Oregon Sugar Pod 2* and other varieties that were planted in the same area.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann had better germination, healthier plants and higher yields.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Sugar Ann had better germination. Its taste was very good.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SE

Both varieties were great! We loved eating the pods right off the plant. They are way better than store-bought ones.

The pods of *Snak Hero* were distinctive: stringless, dark green, long and slender.

Prefer Sugar Ann (continued)

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Sugar Ann was the best! It had fuller, healthier looking plants and was very tasty too.

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Sugar Ann was sweeter.

Snak Hero ☺ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Both varieties produced well and tasted good. Both varieties were good to eat raw but especially *Sugar Ann*.

Snak Hero ☺ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Seeds were started indoors. Both varieties germinated but *Sugar Ann* had the best success. Both varieties transplanted well. *Sugar Ann* plants grew taller and trellised better. *Sugar Ann* produced a few days earlier, but *Snak Hero* caught up and produced more pods per plant. *Snak Hero* pods were larger, slender and uniform. *Sugar Ann* pods were wide, fat and shorter, which I prefer. Some of *Sugar Ann* pods stayed bent and curled.

Snak Hero ☺ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Sugar Ann germinated much better and grew into a taller, fuller plant. It produced pods 2 weeks earlier. *Sugar Ann* pods were juicer, more flavorful and a bit sweeter. I liked the thinness of the *Snak Hero* pods, and its pods hung further away from the vine so were easier to harvest.

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Sugar Ann plants grew 3 feet tall. They were bushy, healthier and more productive. *Snak Hero* plants grew maybe 1 foot. I want to plant *Sugar Ann* again. It was easy and quick to grow.

Snak Hero ☺ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Sugar Ann pods were sweeter and more tender when eating them fresh.

Snak Hero ☺ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Sugar Ann vines produced a week earlier but turned yellow quicker at the end of the season. *Snak Hero* produced slightly more pods per plant. *Sugar Ann* pods had plumper pods; *Snak Hero* had less splitting and fewer brown spots on the pods. Our kids liked to eat both varieties and no difference in taste was noted.

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ NC

Sugar Ann plants were healthier and produced a great yield. Its pods were beautiful and tastier. *Snak Hero* had smaller plants and smaller pods.

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ SC

Sugar Ann produced higher yields and had more attractive pods. I liked the taste of both varieties but prefer the tenderness of *Sugar Ann* pods.

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ SC

Sugar Ann germinated better. It had healthy plants and more pods.

Snak Hero ☹ -
Sugar Ann ☺ SC

Sugar Ann had better germination and better-looking pods.

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ SC

Sugar Ann germinated better, produced 2 weeks earlier, and produced higher yields.

Snak Hero ☹ 
Sugar Ann ☺ SC

Sugar Ann germinated faster and had twice as many plants. Its vines were tall, thick and greener. *Snak Hero* vines were short and quickly turned dry and crispy during hot weather. *Sugar Ann* produced earlier and gave a really high yield while *Snak Hero* only had two or three pods per plant. *Sugar Ann* pods were wider, lighter green, sweeter and had a nice crunch. *Snak Hero* pods were darker and looked like green beans.

Sugar Ann has been our top-rated snap pea for years, and this year it crushed the new competition.

Prefer Sugar Ann (continued)

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SC

Sugar Ann produced massive amounts of pea pods for a long period—at least a month. *Snak Hero* was a major dud. Only a few seeds germinated and these plants produced no pods.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SC

Sugar Ann produced far better, and kept producing much longer than *Snak Hero*. *Sugar Ann* also tasted better.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SC

Sugar Ann had better germination and yield. *Sugar Ann* pods tasted great and did much better for us overall. *Snak Hero* pods were nicer and longer, but the plants weren't as productive.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SC

Snak Hero had poor germination.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SC

Snak Hero plants were shorter, and I had to replant some.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SC

There was no comparison here. *Snak Hero* did poorly whereas *Sugar Ann* grew wonderfully in my garden. *Sugar Ann* sprouted much better. It grew great, matured earlier and produced much more. *Sugar Ann* pods were delicious. Most pods were eaten in the garden; few made it inside.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NW

Snak Hero had 0% germination, even after replanting. The seeds looked shrunken and terrible. *Sugar Ann* is an overall nice pea.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
-
NW

Sugar Ann pods were tender and tasted better.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NW

We started harvesting *Sugar Ann* a few days earlier. Its pods were more attractive and tasted better. *Snak Hero* produced more but its pods looked like soybean pods.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NW

Sugar Ann outperformed *Snak Hero* in all categories: germination, plant health/vigor, yield, pod appearance and flavor. I preferred the wider, stubbier pods of *Sugar Ann* versus the elongated, slender pods of *Snak Hero*. *Sugar Ann* pods were much sweeter. *Snak Hero* pods had a more grassy flavor.

Sugar Ann vines were healthier, faster growing and more productive.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NW

Sugar Ann produced quite a few pods per plant and tasted good. *Snak Hero* did not germinate.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NW

Sugar Ann vines were much more vigorous. They produced pods 10 days earlier and produced much higher yields. *Snak Hero* pods were thinner and more tender.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NW

Sugar Ann plants were healthier. They started producing first and produced more and longer than *Snak Hero* plants. *Sugar Ann* pods tasted better. *Snak Hero* pods were dark green, small, and resembled a green bean more than a pea.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
NW

Sugar Ann had better plants and taste.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SW

Sugar Ann won all categories. *Snak Hero* was a big loser.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann
SW

Sugar Ann had better germination. Its pods were smaller and plumper.

Prefer Sugar Ann (continued)

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SW

Both varieties had excellent germination and healthy plants. *Sugar Ann* may have produced first, but *Snak Hero* produced higher yields. *Sugar Ann* pods were light green and would get nice and chubby when filled. *Snak Hero* pods were dark green, long and slim with smaller peas when filled. It comes down to taste for me. Even though *Sugar Ann* has more of a string, I still prefer its sweeter taste. *Snak Hero* is definitely a worthy opponent, and if someone is looking for a more tender snap pea with less string, this would be a great choice. I ate these raw as snacks and stir fried them both, and they both held up well to cooking.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SW

Both varieties had small pods. *Sugar Ann* pods were sweeter but neither variety was very sweet.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SW

Sugar Ann germinated better, had healthier and taller plants, more fruit and better flavor. *Snak Hero* is a hard no. I am partial to taller vined peas like *Tall Telephone*.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SW

Sugar Ann produced more peas.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SW

Snak Hero did not emerge at all! *Sugar Ann* grew well and its plants were stunning. They crawled over my 3-foot fence. Its pods were very good.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SW

The pods of both varieties tasted good, but those of *Sugar Ann* tasted the best. *Sugar Ann* vines produced the most pods for the longest time before drying up. *Snak Hero* vines dried up first. Its pods were longer and resembled beans.

Snak Hero
Sugar Ann SD

Sugar Ann pods were sweeter, softer to eat, and more pleasant to snack on. *Snak Hero* pods were a little tougher and not nearly as sweet. Both varieties germinated and grew very well.

Conclusions

Sugar Ann has been our top-rated snap pea for years, and this year it crushed the new competition. *Snak Hero* recently won the All-America Selections Award for its distinctive pods. These pods were stringless, dark green, long and slender. However, the germination of *Snak Hero* was very poor. This may be related to its seeds, which were cubic (not globular) and shrunken. *Sugar Ann* germinated much better. Its vines were healthier, faster growing and more productive. *Sugar Ann* pods were plumper, juicier, sweeter and more flavorful. This was a very popular trial and *Snak Hero* was a very disappointing variety.

Sugar Ann pods were plumper, juicier, sweeter and more flavorful.

Pepper, Large Bell

Varieties

Revolution

72 days. Popular for its outstanding yields of big, 4-lobed fruits. Ripens early and tolerates cool weather.

Vanguard

73 days. Vigorous vines produce a continuous crop of extra-large, blocky fruits. A favorite variety among growers. Resists diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Revolution	Vanguard	Same
Germinated best	22%	22%	**56%**
Healthier plants	22	11	**67**
Harvested earlier	**50**	25	25
Higher yields	**44**	22	33
More attractive fruits	33	11	**56**
Tasted better	33	22	**44**
Preference	44	**56**	
Recommend (☺)	**70**	50	
Mean score[1]	**8.00**	7.80	
Median score[1]	**8.50**	**8.50**	

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

Prefer Revolution

Revolution ★★★★★ ☺
Vanguard ★★★★½ ☹ MN

Revolution was a beautiful looking pepper with great taste! Its yields were earlier and higher. *Revolution* fruits were more consistently shaped like a traditional pepper: large and long. Its fruits were much more flavorful. *Vanguard* fruits were short and chubby. Both varieties had healthy, bushy plants.

Revolution ★★★★★ ☺
Vanguard ★★★★½ ☹ SC

Revolution produced earlier. Its fruits were more attractive and tasted better. The skin of its peppers was not as tough. *Vanguard* produced higher yields, but both varieties were productive. Blossom end rot was a problem for both varieties.

Revolution ★★★★½ ☺
Vanguard ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SC

The plants of both varieties looked nice and healthy. *Revolution* produced peppers a month earlier. I barely got any peppers from *Vanguard*. I wish *Revolution* produced more but I still got a lot more from the variety. Both varieties produced peppers that looked nice and tasted good.

Revolution ★★★★½ ☺
Vanguard ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SD

Revolution had nicer looking peppers. *Vanguard* plants grew okay, but its peppers were more susceptible to sunscald.

Prefer Vanguard

Revolution ★★★½☆ ☹
Vanguard ★★★★½ ☺ MN

Vanguard had taller, more upright plants. Both varieties had a good first flush of fruit, and *Vanguard* had a late season flush of fruit. Both had large, blocky fruits. The hot, dry weather probably affected production. The garden was watered weekly but rain was very limited.

***Revolution* yields were earlier and higher. It received higher ratings in fruit appearance and taste.**

Best green/red bell pepper varieties

Top choice
New Ace

Strong performers
Bell Boy
King of the North
North Star
Red Knight
Revolution

Prefer Vanguard (continued)

Revolution
Vanguard
NE

Vanguard had 100% germination; *Revolution* had 50%. Half the plants of each variety were topped. *Vanguard* benefited from being topped; it made no difference to *Revolution*. *Vanguard* fruits were exceptional in size, quality and taste. They were thick-walled, succulent and surprisingly sweet. *Revolution* produced more fruits, but they were smaller. *Revolution* fruits had thinner walls but were juicy and more savory.

Revolution
Vanguard
SE

Revolution plants had a smaller canopy of leaves resulting in the sunscalding of some fruit. The peppers of both varieties seemed slow to turn red compared to some of our established varieties.

Revolution
Vanguard
SC

Both varieties had large, healthy plants that each produced four to five fruits. *Vanguard* produced earlier. The peppers of both varieties were tasty, but *Vanguard* fruits had a bit better taste.

Revolution
Vanguard
SD

Vanguard plants were stronger and produced a few more peppers. The plants of both varieties were healthy and vigorous, requiring support. The fruits of both varieties were very appealing and had great flavor.

No Preference

Revolution
Vanguard
SC

Both produced a lot of large peppers.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced good yields of large, blocky, tasty fruits. *Revolution* was recommended by more gardeners. Its yields were earlier and higher. *Revolution* also received higher ratings in fruit appearance and taste. *Vanguard* vines were more vigorous.

***Vanguard* vines were more vigorous.**

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

NC

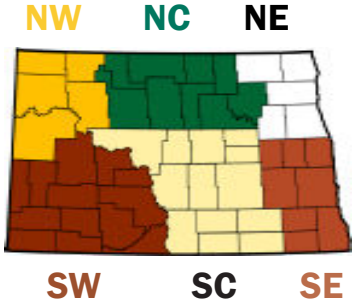
Location

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

Comments

Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



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Pumpkin, Small Orange

Varieties

Cannon Ball

100 days. Round, 5-pound fruits with burnt-orange color. Hard shells provide extended shelf life and are good for painting.

Field Trip

105 days. Popular for school tours. Six-pound pumpkins with deep orange color and long, sturdy handles. Semi-vining plants.

Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cannon Ball	Field Trip	Same
Germinated best	25%	13%	**63%**
Healthier plants	33	0	**67**
Harvested earlier	**33**	**33**	**33**
Higher yields	**56**	44	0
Bigger pumpkins	22	**44**	33
More attractive	**44**	22	33
Preference	**56**	44	
Recommend (☺)	**90**	60	
Mean score[1]	**8.30**	7.60	
Median score[1]	**8.50**	8.00	

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

Prefer Cannon Ball

Cannon Ball ★★★★½ ☺
Field Trip ★★★☆☆ ☹
NC

Cannon Ball had nice, round, small pumpkins.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★ ☺
Field Trip ★★★★☆ ☹
NC

Cannon Ball pumpkins were uniform and had a nice size, especially for children. This variety was more productive, matured quickest and had strong, long stems. *Cannon Ball* produced 27 pumpkins (4.5 pound average) and *Field Trip* produced 12 pumpkins (5.4 pounds average).

Cannon Ball ★★★★½ ☺
Field Trip ★★☆☆☆ ☹
SC

Cannon Ball was the better producer. Its fruits were more attractive and had tough stems for kids to carry.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★ ☺
Field Trip ★★★½☆ ☺
SC

Cannon Ball pumpkins were slightly smaller in size, very nice looking and uniform. Its pumpkins were great for children's hands to paint or carve.

Cannon Ball ★★★★★ ☺
Field Trip ★★★★☆ ☹
SW

We preferred the overall shape and look of *Cannon Ball* pumpkins.

Prefer Field Trip

Cannon Ball ★★★★½ ☺
Field Trip ★★★★★ ☺
NC

Field Trip vines were very productive. Its pumpkins were very nice looking—little pumpkins with sturdy handles.

Cannon Ball ★★☆☆☆ ☹
Field Trip ★★★★½ ☺
-
SC

Both varieties were very productive. *Field Trip* pumpkins were mostly orange at first frost. *Cannon Ball* took longer to mature.

Cannon Ball produced more pumpkins. Its fruits were more attractive and had sturdy stems for kids to carry.

Best small jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
Neon

Strong performer
Cannon Ball

Prefer Cannon Ball (continued)

Cannon Ball ★★★★☆ ☺
Field Trip ★★★★★ ☺ NW

Field Trip had six fruits (two ripe and four green) on September 25, about 120 days after sowing. *Cannon Ball* had three fruits (two ripe and one green) on that date. The flesh of these varieties was super sweet and delicious for pies and baked goods. I will totally grow either of these again.

Cannon Ball ★★★½☆ ☺
Field Trip ★★★★☆ ☺ SD

I really liked both varieties and both yielded well. I preferred the shape of *Field Trip* pumpkins and they were all orange and ripe when I harvested. *Field Trip* produced higher yields and *Cannon Ball* had bigger fruits.

No Preference

Cannon Ball ★★★★½ ☺
Field Trip ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties produced a phenomenal yield.

Conclusions

Both varieties germinated well, had healthy vines and were very productive. The overall performance of *Field Trip* was fine, but *Cannon Ball* was explosively good! *Cannon Ball* produced more pumpkins. Its fruits were more attractive and had sturdy stems for kids to carry. This is the second year we have evaluated *Cannon Ball* and it has blown us away both years. It is an outstanding variety that consistently performs well across locations.

The performance of *Field Trip* was fine, but *Cannon Ball* was explosively good!

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)***

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC

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

Garden type ***Location*** ***Comments***

Garden types
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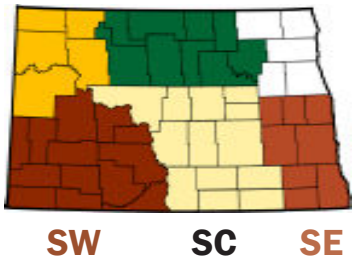

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Pumpkin, Midsize Orange

Varieties

Magic Lantern

115 days. Classic, 20-pound fruits are produced on semi-vine plants. Attractive, dark orange pumpkins. Vines resist powdery mildew.

Zeus

110 days. Dark orange, 18-pound, round pumpkins. Dark green, thick, sturdy handles. Strong, semi-vines resist powdery mildew.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Magic Lantern	Zeus	Same
Germinated best	33%	8%	**58%**
Healthier plants	17	33	**50**
Harvested earlier	**67**	0	33
Higher yields	**67**	17	17
Bigger pumpkins	45	**55**	0
More attractive	25	25	**50**
Preference	43	**57**	
Recommend (☺)	69	**77**	
Mean score[1]	**7.50**	7.21	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Magic Lantern

Magic Lantern ★★★★★ ☺ -
Zeus ★★★★½ ☹ MN

I expected the pumpkins of *Magic Lantern* to be smaller, but they were big and beautiful for decorating.

Magic Lantern ★★★★★ ☺
Zeus ★★★★½ ☺ MN

Both varieties produced pumpkins that looked nice. *Magic Lantern* produced earlier and larger fruits. *Magic Lantern* fruits weighed an average of 19 pounds compared to an average of 15 pounds for *Zeus*.

Magic Lantern ★★★★½ ☺
Zeus ★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Magic Lantern had large, orange pumpkins all over—they were very healthy in size. *Zeus* pumpkins were still green and fairly small when I harvested.

Magic Lantern ★★★½☆ ☺
Zeus ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Magic Lantern was a better producer than *Zeus*. Its pumpkins were larger and more attractive.

Magic Lantern ★★★★★ ☺
Zeus ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Magic Lantern was a very prolific producer. Both varieties produced large pumpkins but *Zeus* pumpkins were bigger.

Magic Lantern ★★★★½ ☺
Zeus ★★½☆☆ ☺ SW

Magic Lantern plants looked beautiful. They produced bigger pumpkins. I am sure that all the rain helped out!

Prefer Zeus

Magic Lantern ★★★★½ ☺
Zeus ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Zeus pumpkins were larger; *Magic Lantern* produced a couple more pumpkins. We were very pleased with both varieties.

Both varieties produced dark orange, beautiful pumpkins.

Best jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
Early King

Strong performers
Autumn Gold
Bellatrix
Cargo
Cronus
Early Dakota Howden
Gladiator
Magic Lantern

Prefer Zeus (continued)

Magic Lantern ☺ 
Zeus ☺ SE

These varieties were pretty much the same. Both were okay. They didn't yield as much as we hoped. The pumpkins didn't get that big. Their small size made them difficult to carve for jack-o'-lanterns, but they were good for décor and pumpkin pie!

Magic Lantern ☹ 
Zeus ☺ NC

Zeus had larger pumpkins, which I like for carving. *Zeus* pumpkins had a better shape. *Magic Lantern* matured earlier.

Magic Lantern ☹ 
Zeus ☺ NC

Zeus fruits had a nicer shape!

Magic Lantern ☹ 
Zeus ☺ NC

Zeus produced more pumpkins. The pumpkins of both varieties had fair-sized handles.

Magic Lantern ☺ 
Zeus ☺ NC

Zeus pumpkins were bigger.

Magic Lantern ☺ 
Zeus ☺ SC

Zeus produced higher yields.

Magic Lantern ☹ 
Zeus ☺ SW

Zeus was healthier and produced more pumpkins.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both of these semi-vine varieties. Both varieties produced dark orange, beautiful pumpkins. *Magic Lantern* produced more pumpkins and ripened earlier. The pumpkins of *Zeus* were larger at more sites.

Magic Lantern produced more pumpkins and ripened earlier. The pumpkins of _Zeus_ were larger.

Pumpkin, Large Orange

Varieties

Adonis

115 days. New. Upright, barrel-shaped pumpkins weigh 25 to 40 pounds. Long, sturdy handles. Resists powdery mildew.

Aladdin

115 days. Vigorous, semi-full vines produce dark orange fruits that weigh 25 to 35 pounds. Upright/round shape. Resists mildew.

Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Adonis	Aladdin	Same
Germinated best	23%	31%	**46%**
Healthier plants	23	15	**62**
Harvested earlier	0	**58**	42
Higher yields	25	25	**50**
Bigger pumpkins	**38**	31	31
More attractive	23	23	**54**
Preference	**64**	36	
Recommend (☺)	**88**	75	
Mean score[1]	**7.93**	7.43	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Adonis

Adonis ★★★★★ ☺
Aladdin ★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Both varieties had very good germination. The plants were healthy and yields were similar. Both varieties had very nice, round fruits with strong stems. I liked the larger size of *Adonis*.

Adonis ★★★☆☆ ☺
Aladdin ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC

Adonis pumpkins were bigger and had a nicer shape. Neither variety produced very big pumpkins.

Adonis ★★★★½ ☺
Aladdin ★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Adonis had 15 out of 15 seeds germinate.

Adonis ★★★★★ ☺ -
Aladdin ★★★★☆ ☹ NC

Both varieties grew well. *Adonis* pumpkins were larger and had large, attractive handles!

Adonis ★★★☆☆ ☺ -
Aladdin ★★½☆☆ ☺ NC

Both varieties produced fruits similar in size.

Adonis ★★★★☆ ☺
Aladdin ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties produced large pumpkins but not many pumpkins.

Adonis ★★★★☆ ☺
Aladdin ★★★½☆ ☹ SC

Adonis produced slightly larger pumpkins. The pumpkins of both varieties were globe shaped, slightly ribbed and had very slim handles. I prefer a variety such as *Howden* with more sturdy handles.

Adonis ★★★★★ ☺
Aladdin ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

I loved the huge stems on the *Adonis* pumpkins—they were massive and cool looking. Both varieties had nice looking plants and fruits.

Both varieties had very good germination. Their vines were healthy and their yields were similar.

Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Big Moose

Strong performers
Dill's Atlantic Giant
Early King
Early Giant
Large Marge
Polar Bear

Adonis ☺ SW
Aladdin ☹

Both varieties produced nice fruits. *Adonis* produced a second growth of fruits that got as large as the earlier fruits. *Adonis* had a heavier stem, deeper ridges, and a darker orange color that made them more attractive for fall decorations.

Prefer Aladdin

Adonis ☹ -
Aladdin ☺ SE

Aladdin had larger and smoother fruits.

Adonis ☺
Aladdin ☺ SC

I would grow both varieties in my garden. *Aladdin* fruits were bigger, taller and slimmer. *Adonis* fruits were shorter but had a nice, round shape.

Adonis ☺
Aladdin ☺ SC

Aladdin had prettier fruits.

Adonis ☹
Aladdin ☺ SC

Aladdin was better in all categories. It had bigger pumpkins.

Adonis ☺
Aladdin ☺ SC

One of the *Aladdin* pumpkins was so large it took both my husband and I to lift it. We ended up with 20 total pumpkins between both varieties, which I think is great for our in-town garden. I also used one of the *Adonis* for pumpkin pies and they turned out great.

Conclusions

Both varieties had very good germination. Their vines were healthy and their yields were similar. The vast majority of gardeners preferred *Adonis*. Its pumpkins were bigger at most sites and its stems were thick and eye catching. This new variety looks promising and warrants further testing. Its late maturity is a concern. *Aladdin* also received solid ratings. Its pumpkins had an upright shape that was good for carving.

Adonis pumpkins were bigger at most sites and its stems were thick and eye catching. _Aladdin_ pumpkins had an upright shape that was good for carving.

Key to Site Reports

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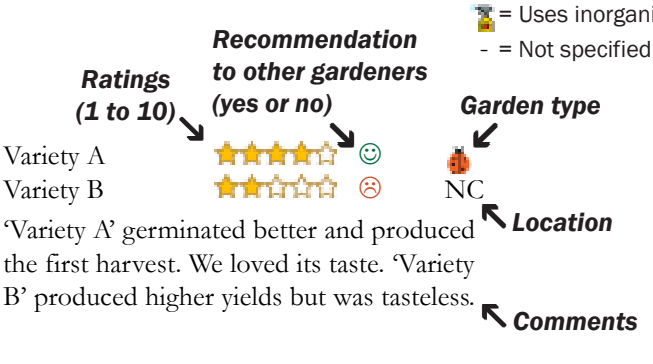

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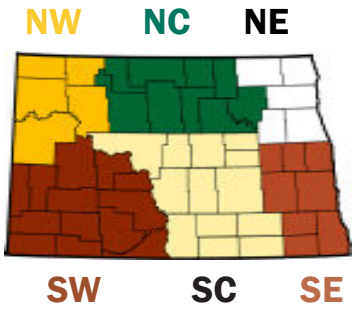

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Pumpkin, Gray

Varieties

Blue Doll

110 days. Blocky, deeply ribbed pumpkins. Large vines produce heavy yields of 15-pound fruits. Sweet flesh for pies and soups.

Jarrahdale

95 days. Blue-gray fruits for eating and decoration. Eight-pound, ribbed fruits have sweet, thick flesh for cooking and stores well.

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blue Doll	Jarrah-dale	Same
Germinated best	25%	**42%**	33%
Healthier plants	25	17	**58**
Harvested earlier	**50**	33	17
Higher yields	**58**	25	17
Bigger pumpkins	**42**	25	33
More attractive	**50**	17	33
Preference	**67**	33	
Recommend (☺)	**67**	58	
Mean score[1]	**6.83**	6.33	
Median score[1]	7.00	**7.50**	

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

Prefer Blue Doll

Blue Doll ★★★★★ ☺
Jarrahdale ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Both varieties produced attractive pumpkins. *Blue Doll* matured earlier and *Jarrahdale* had bigger fruits.

Blue Doll ★★½☆☆ ☺
Jarrahdale ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Blue Doll was the only variety to produce a pumpkin. It tasted very good.

Blue Doll ★★★★★ ☺
Jarrahdale ★★½☆☆ ☹ NC

Blue Doll pumpkins had a more attractive shape.

Blue Doll ★★★½☆ ☺
Jarrahdale ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ NC

As of August 29, we had seven fruits on *Blue Doll* vines and only flowers on *Jarrahdale* vines. *Blue Doll* fruits were abstract looking. They were very bumpy and not your normal round shape. If you want a different pumpkin than your standard pumpkin, pick *Blue Doll*.

Blue Doll ★★★★½ ☺
Jarrahdale ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

These pumpkins were so cool! We used them for stacking. *Blue Doll* produced higher yields.

Blue Doll ★★★☆☆ ☺
Jarrahdale ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Blue Doll vines made two nice, 1-foot-diameter pumpkins per plant. They had good color. *Jarrahdale* vines didn't flower well and struggled to make one pumpkin per plant; its pumpkins didn't look good.

Blue Doll ★★★★½ ☺
Jarrahdale ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

I preferred the shape of *Blue Doll* pumpkins. These are delicious for eating. They have very good, orange flesh inside!

Blue Doll ★★★½☆ ☺
Jarrahdale ★★½☆☆ ☹ SW

Grasshoppers ate most of the plants, but *Blue Doll* produced a couple pumpkins.

Most gardeners preferred *Blue Doll* over *Jarrahdale*, the most widely grown gray pumpkin in the state.

Best gray pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Blue Doll

Strong performer
Jarrahdale

Prefer Jarrahdale

Blue Doll ☆☆½☆☆ ☹
Jarrahdale ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Many of the *Blue Doll* plants stayed quite small. *Jarrahdale* vines produced twice as many pumpkins though several weren't big enough or fully ripe.

Blue Doll ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹
Jarrahdale ★★★★★ ☺ SC

I had 100% germination with *Jarrahdale*, but only one seedling of *Blue Doll* germinated. *Jarrahdale* grew nicely with very pretty fruit (light greenish-gray). Its pumpkins were nice and large with minimal scarring or misshaped fruit. The single *Blue Doll* plant that did grow was healthy and had good fruit.

Blue Doll ★★★☆☆ ☹
Jarrahdale ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Jarrahdale had much higher yields. Its pumpkins were consistently larger. The difference between the two was remarkable. However, in a situation where space is limited, *Blue Doll* might be preferable because its vines took up much less space.

Blue Doll ★★★★☆ ☹
Jarrahdale ★★★★½ ☺ SW

The seeds of both varieties took longer than expected to germinate. Their vines looked very much the same. *Blue Doll* produced the first pumpkin and produced more pumpkins. The flesh of the *Jarrahdale* pumpkins was vibrant orange and thicker but had a similar flavor as the flesh of *Blue Doll* pumpkins.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Blue Doll* over *Jarrahdale*, the most widely grown gray pumpkin in the state. *Blue Doll* fruits were blocky, not globular, with deep ribbing. Gardeners preferred these looks over those of *Jarrahdale*, which has a common, more globular shape and less pronounced ribbing. *Blue Doll* fruits were larger and tasted sweet and delicious. Both varieties had healthy vines but *Blue Doll* vines were more productive.

Blue Doll pumpkins were bigger, more attractive and delicious.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

Garden type ↙

NC

↖ ***Location***

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

↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

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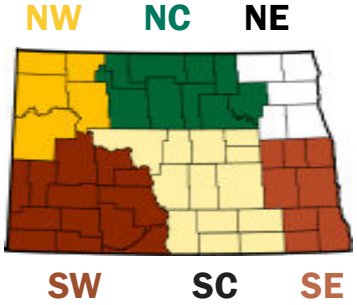

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SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana
IA = Iowa

Pumpkin, Pink

Varieties

Indian Doll

100 days. Flat, 18 to 30-pound fruits with deep ribs. Unique light pink-orange to medium orange. Good for pies and soups.

Porcelain Doll

100 days. Stunning, 18-pound fruits with deep ribs. Thick, orange flesh. Sold to support breast cancer awareness.

Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Indian Doll	Porcel'n Doll	Same
Germinated best	7%	27%	**67%**
Healthier plants	7	14	**79**
Harvested earlier	23	**46**	31
Higher yields	21	**64**	14
Bigger pumpkins	29	**43**	29
More attractive	14	**79**	7
Preference	21	**79**	
Recommend (☺)	64	**100**	
Mean score[1]	6.93	**8.36**	
Median score[1]	7.50	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Indian Doll

Indian Doll ★★★★★ ☺
Porcelain Doll ★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Both varieties were productive and produced many nice pumpkins. I liked the slightly darker pink pumpkins of *Indian Doll*.

Indian Doll ★★★★★ ☺
Porcelain Doll ★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Indian Doll matured earlier. Its pumpkins were bigger and more attractive although I prefer traditional, deep-orange pumpkins.

Indian Doll ★★★★½☆ ☺
Porcelain Doll ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Indian Doll pumpkins were an unusual pink color with a "hidden spider" marking at their bottoms. They were good for pies and soups. *Porcelain Doll* pumpkins were pinkish orange in color. I preferred the shape and color of *Porcelain Doll* pumpkins. *Porcelain Doll* produced more pumpkins per plant.

Prefer Porcelain Doll

Indian Doll ★★★☆☆ ☺
Porcelain Doll ★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Not super high yields for either variety but what did grow was fun. There were some nice variations in color shades. *Porcelain Doll* had a higher yield and earlier maturation.

Indian Doll ★★½☆☆ ☹
Porcelain Doll ★★★★½ ☺ NE

The plants of both varieties were vigorous and healthy. *Porcelain Doll* pumpkins were a nice, light pink. *Indian Doll* pumpkins looked more orange colored than pink.

Indian Doll ★★½☆☆ ☹
Porcelain Doll ★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Porcelain Doll pumpkins were a nicer looking fruit, more pink color and more uniform. *Indian Doll* pumpkins were bigger and lumpier with a more orange-pink color and with some blue-gray spots.

***Porcelain Doll* is the finest pink pumpkin variety. Everyone recommended it.**

Best pink pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Porcelain Doll

Strong performer
Porcelain Princess

Prefer Porcelain Doll (continued)

Indian Doll ☺ -
Porcelain Doll ☺ NE

Porcelain Doll pumpkins had a duller color but were more attractive. These varieties complement each other well as they vary slightly in color.

Indian Doll ☹
Porcelain Doll ☺ NE

Porcelain Doll pumpkins had more color and thicker flesh.

Indian Doll ☹
Porcelain Doll ☺ SE

Porcelain Doll was much better. It was better in every category.

Indian Doll ☺
Porcelain Doll ☺ SE

Both varieties produced attractive pumpkins. If you want the true pink color, *Porcelain Doll* is better.

Indian Doll ☺
Porcelain Doll ☺ SC

Porcelain Doll pumpkins have the perfect size and shape. Its porcelain shade is just beautiful! The vines of both varieties were healthy. Pumpkins of both varieties were ready to harvest well before frost. *Porcelain Doll* grew seven pumpkins; these were all similar in weight (about 10 pounds) and had minimal imperfections. *Indian Doll* grew five pumpkins.

Indian Doll ☺
Porcelain Doll ☺ NW

Porcelain Doll produced a higher yield. Its pumpkins were bigger and better looking.

Indian Doll ☺
Porcelain Doll ☺ SW

Both varieties produced very large, medium and small pumpkins. *Porcelain Doll* produced more pumpkins. Its pumpkins were more uniform in color.

Indian Doll ☹
Porcelain Doll ☺ SW

Porcelain Doll seemed to grow faster. It had nice, large pumpkins with pretty striping. Neither variety produced truly pink pumpkins.

Conclusions

Porcelain Doll is the finest pink pumpkin variety. Everyone recommended it. Our gardeners felt the fruits of *Porcelain Doll* had more of a true, light pink color. This along with the uniform color and size of its pumpkins made them attractive. The vines of *Porcelain Doll* were more productive as well. *Indian Doll* may not be as attractive or productive, but its fruits were good for pies and soups.

The fruits of *Porcelain Doll* had more of a true, light pink color. This along with the uniform color and size of its pumpkins made them attractive.

Key to Site Reports

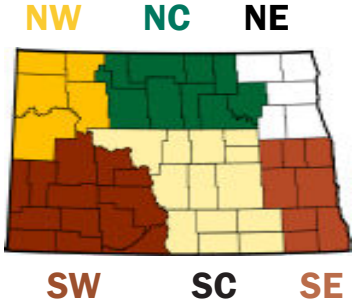
(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type***

Variety A ☺ NC ← ***Location***
Variety B ☹

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

Garden types
= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations
MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
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MT = Montana
IA = Iowa

Pumpkin, Warty

Varieties

Scarface

105 days. New. Larger, 15 to 20-pound, dark orange fruits covered with warts. Upright shape with sturdy handles. Full vines.

Warty Goblin

105 days. Round to slightly tall, 8 to 20-pound fruits have a hard rind covered with green warts. Dark green, sturdy handles. Full vines.

Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Scar-face	Warty Goblin	Same
Germinated best	10%	20%	**70%**
Healthier plants	10	0	**90**
Harvested earlier	30	30	**40**
Higher yields	30	**40**	30
Bigger pumpkins	**60**	30	10
More attractive	40	**60**	0
Preference	36	**64**	
Recommend (☺)	**82**	73	
Mean score[1]	7.55	**7.64**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**9.00**	

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

Prefer Scarface

Scarface ★★★★★½ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ NE

Scarface produced more pumpkins that had an acceptable quality. About half of *Warty Goblin* fruits had defects on the warts and many turned blackish in areas.

Scarface ★★★½☆☆ ☺
Warty Goblin ★½☆☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Scarface grew well and turned a nice, orange color, but I was disappointed in the minimal bumps on the pumpkins. *Scarface* pumpkins were a perfect size for carving. *Warty Goblin* pumpkins were light green in color and had no warts.

Scarface ★★★★★ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★★★½ ☺ SC

I had only one pumpkin of each variety. The *Scarface* pumpkin was significantly bigger and slightly more attractive. My little guy thought these pumpkins were super cool and even took one across the street to show the neighbors!

Scarface ★★★★½ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ NW

Both varieties germinated at near 100%. Their vines were healthy. *Scarface* produced about triple the pumpkins. Its fruits were double the size of *Warty Goblin* pumpkins. *Scarface* pumpkins were bright orange with dark green, more dramatic warts.

Prefer Warty Goblin

Scarface ★★★★½ ☹
Warty Goblin ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Warty Goblin was by far the more attractive of them—super cool pumpkins. The warts of *Warty Goblin* were dark green and stood out much better, whereas the warts of *Scarface* were orange like the remainder of the pumpkin. *Scarface* germinated quicker, but both varieties had all seeds germinate. The vines of both varieties seemed pretty resistant to powdery mildew as I had another variety in the garden suffer from the disease. Both varieties produced the same number of pumpkins per vine. *Scarface* pumpkins were slightly bigger.

Scarface pumpkins were larger but their warts were less conspicuous.

Best warty pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Warty Goblin

Strong performer
Scarface

Prefer Warty Goblin (continued)

Scarface ★★★★☆ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Warty Goblin fruits were more rotund and warty.

Scarface ★★★★½ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★★★★ ☺ NC

The pumpkins of both varieties were good sellers at the farmer's market. I loved *Warty Goblin* as it had a good pumpkin shape. Its warts were not as large this year and took longer to develop. Any warty pumpkin is fun to grow to give away and sell.

Scarface ★★½☆☆ ☹ -
Warty Goblin ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Warty Goblin pumpkins had more warts and a better appearance.

Scarface ★★★★½ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★★★★ ☺ SC

These are my favorite pumpkins.

Scarface ★★★☆☆ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

We loved the variety of pumpkins that *Warty Goblin* provided. Each pumpkin was so neat looking!

Scarface ★★★☆☆ ☺
Warty Goblin ★★★★☆ ☺ NW

Both varieties had a high germination rate. *Warty Goblin* pumpkins were more consistent in shape. I liked the look of its pumpkins, which were shorter, fatter and had lots of warts. *Scarface* produced mostly tall pumpkins but there were a few odd-shaped pumpkins too. The seeds of both varieties were good roasted.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well and received solid ratings. Most gardeners preferred *Warty Goblin*. Its pumpkins had more warts. These warts were dark green and very showy. The uniform size and globular shape of *Warty Goblin* pumpkins made them attractive for use as a decoration. *Scarface* pumpkins were larger and had a more upright shape. Its warts were less conspicuous.

The pumpkins of *Warty Goblin* had more warts. These warts were dark green and very showy.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type***

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC ***Location***

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

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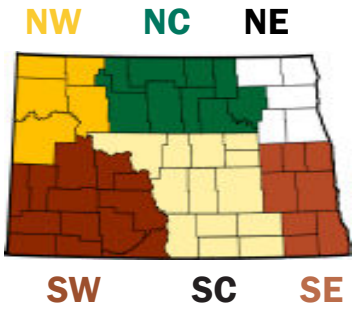

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Squash, Semi-Crookneck

Varieties

Gentry

45 days. Prolific producer of smooth, high-quality squash, even under stressful conditions. Harvest young for best flavor.

Tempest

54 days. Bred for gourmet cooking. Bright fruits have rich, nutty flavor and firm texture.

Data

Gardeners at 5 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gentry	Tempest	Same
Germinated best	25%	0%	**75%**
Healthier plants	25	0	**75**
Harvested earlier	**50**	25	25
Higher yields	25	25	**50**
More attractive fruits	0	25	**75**
Tasted better	0	**50**	**50**
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	**75**	**75**	
Mean score[1]	8.00	**8.25**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Gentry

Gentry ★★★★★ ☺
Tempest ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Gentry was an earlier producer.

Gentry ★★★★½ ☺
Tempest ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Gentry produced a higher yield.

Prefer Tempest

Gentry ★★★½☆ ☹
Tempest ★★★★☆ ☹ MN

They both sprouted the same day. *Tempest* produced the first fruits, but then slowed down midseason before picking up again. The leaves on both varieties became whitish in late August. One *Tempest* plant is still producing slowly [September 21]. I ate both varieties all season and did not notice any difference in their fruits. It wasn't until the end of August that I cooked a few of each of them, and then tasted them side by side. *Tempest* fruits had more flavor. They were easier to cut, too.

Gentry ★★★☆☆ ☺
Tempest ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Tempest was more consistent. It produced higher yields and its fruits were better looking.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. *Gentry* produced the first fruits. *Tempest* produced the better tasting fruits. This was one of our least popular trials and data are limited.

***Gentry* produced the first fruits. *Tempest* produced the better tasting fruits.**

Best semi-crookneck summer squash varieties

Top choice
Gentry

Strong performer
Sundance
Tempest

Squash, Straightneck

Varieties

Multipik

50 days. Vigorous bush plants produce amazing yields of bright yellow fruits.

Smooth Criminal

45 days. Fruits grow along a central, nearly spineless stem. Its unique habit allows for trellising and easy harvesting.

Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Multipik	Smooth Criminal	Same
Germinated best	**50%**	0%	**50%**
Healthier plants	25	0	**75**
Harvested earlier	25	25	**50**
Higher yields	**50**	0	**50**
More attractive fruits	**50**	0	**50**
Tasted better	**50**	0	**50**
Preference	**75**	25	
Recommend	**75**	25	
Mean score[1]	**6.75**	5.50	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	5.50	

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

Prefer Multipik

Multipik ★★★★☆ ☺ F
Smooth Criminal ★★★½☆ ☹ SC

Multipik had a higher yield.

Multipik ★★★★☆ ☺ O
Smooth Criminal ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Smooth Criminal fruits had larger seeds, were less meaty, and had hard/thick skins which made it hard to leave the peel on when steamed/sautéed. The vines of both varieties were healthy and yielded a good quantity.

Multipik ★★★★½ ☺ O
Smooth Criminal ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Multipik had a better germination rate. I had blossom rot issues on my *Smooth Criminal* fruits.

Prefer Smooth Criminal

Multipik ★½☆☆☆ ☹ O
Smooth Criminal ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Neither of these varieties stood out to me. I do love squash, but these varieties were not winners for my household.

Conclusions

Multipik has always impressed us with its productivity. It produced a high quantity of fruits again this year. Gardeners preferred the quality of its fruits as well. *Smooth Criminal* features a unique plant habit with a nearly spineless, central stem. This habit facilitates trellising and harvesting, but our gardeners did not care about it. *Smooth Criminal* rated poorly for all traits. There was minimal interest in this trial and data are limited.

Multipik has always impressed us with its productivity.

Best straightneck summer squash varieties

Top choice
Slick Pik YS 26

Strong performers
Fortune
Multipik
Zephyr

Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

Varieties

Black Coral

46 days. Heavy yields of sleek, dark fruits. Delicious flavor. Compact, open vines are easy to pick. Tolerates mildew.

Dunja

47 days. Disease-resistant vines produce lots of glossy fruits. The open plants are easy to harvest.

Data

Gardeners at 38 sites submitted information.

Trait	Black Coral	Dunja	Same
Germinated best	12%	**44%**	**44%**
Healthier plants	24	27	**48**
Harvested earlier	19	**55**	26
Higher yields	25	**41**	34
More attractive fruits	12	39	**48**
Tasted better	18	23	**59**
Preference	38	**63**	
Recommend (☺)	60	**80**	
Mean score[1]	7.17	**7.77**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Black Coral

Black Coral ★★★★★½ ☺
Dunja ★★½☆☆ ☹ MN

Dunja had smaller plants and produced less.

Black Coral ★★★★☆ ☺
Dunja ★★★½☆ ☹ MN

Black Coral fruits looked much better and tasted better. *Dunja* produced 15 fruits compared to 12 fruits for *Black Coral*.

Black Coral ★★★★★ ☺
Dunja ★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Both varieties performed well. I picked more fruits from *Black Coral* earlier in the season when I was excited to use the squash.

Black Coral ★★★☆☆ ☺
Dunja ★★½☆☆ ☺ NE

Both varieties had 100% germination. *Black Coral* produced the first fruits.

Black Coral ★★★★★ ☺
Dunja ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Both varieties were really good! *Black Coral* plants were sturdier while the branches of *Dunja* bended and sagged.

Black Coral ★★★★½ ☺
Dunja ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Black Coral was good! It was way better than *Dunja*, which was horrible. *Dunja* fruits had skin like leather.

Black Coral ★★★★★ ☺
Dunja ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Black Coral was significantly slower to germinate, although 90% of its seeds germinated. Though slow to start, its plants were strong and healthy and looked beautiful to the very end of the season. *Dunja* plants didn't look very good, a bit wilty, by midsummer. Both varieties were super productive! The fruits of both varieties had a sweet, pleasant flavor even when large.

Black Coral ★★★★★ ☺
Dunja ★★★★½ ☺ SC

Black Coral germinated better and had higher yields.

Gardeners were generally pleased with the quantity and quality of the fruits of these varieties.

Best green zucchini varieties

Top choice
- Green Machine

Strong performers
- Cashflow
- Desert Dunja
- Payload
- Raven
- Spineless Beauty

Prefer Black Coral (continued)

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☺ NW

Like all zucchini, these varieties were very prolific. We fed the neighbors too. *Black Coral* was more productive.

Black Coral ☺ -
Dunja ☺ SW

Black Coral was more productive.

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☹ SW

Black Coral produced a higher yield. Its fruits had a better size and color.

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☹ SW

Black Coral had higher yields. Its fruits were better looking and tasted better. Neither variety was as productive as my semi-crookneck squash.

Prefer Dunja

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☺ MN

Dunja had very pretty foliage and continued to produce later in the season. *Black Coral* had a great (almost nutty) flavor!

Black Coral ☹ 
Dunja ☺ MN

Dunja had higher yield. Its zucchini had a more uniform, cylindrical shape and better taste.

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☺ NE

Dunja germinated better, but these varieties were otherwise similar.

Black Coral ☹ 
Dunja ☺ NE

Even though *Black Coral* produced first, *Dunja* produced more. I liked the speckled fruits of *Dunja* more than the dark, solid color of *Black Coral* fruits. I couldn't taste any difference between the two varieties—I only ate the younger ones raw in salads. The larger will be going into breads in the near future.

Black Coral ☹ 
Dunja ☺ SE

Black Coral fruits were often misshapen where one end was skinny and a bit soft while the other end was more bulbous. Neither variety got powdery mildew ever, which was impressive.

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☺ SE

Dunja was better in all traits including production.

Black Coral ☹ 
Dunja ☺ SE

Both varieties were robust with lots of growth and healthy leaves. *Dunja* was a week earlier in producing squash. Both varieties produced very nice fruit with thin skin that needed no peeling if picked small. Both were very prolific. *Black Coral* got a bit of powdery mildew later in the season.

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☺ SC

Dunja had healthier plants and more attractive fruits. Yields of both varieties were very good.

Black Coral ☺ 
Dunja ☺ SC

Dunja grew faster, produced earlier and produced more fruits. It is a perfect zucchini! Less bolting and smaller seeds.

Black Coral ☹ 
Dunja ☺ SC

Dunja had superior flavor and yield.

Black Coral ☹ 
Dunja ☹ SC

Dunja produced more fruit. *Black Coral* had large seeds; not a fan when steaming or sautéed. We have grown better varieties in the past. I'm not a huge fan of the fruit texture, flavor or yield of these varieties. You should have an abundance of zucchini for sharing; that was not the case with these varieties.

***Black Coral* performed well but was not superior in any trait.**

Prefer Dunja (continued)

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☺ SC

I really loved the look of these *Dunja* fruits; beautiful skin and very good taste!

Black Coral ☺
Dunja ☺ SC

Both varieties produced more fruit than any normal-sized family could possibly eat. I delivered several bags of squash to the local food pantry. *Dunja* produced fruit slightly before *Black Coral*.

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☺ SC

Dunja produced so much fruit. Its fruits had great flavor, were firmer, had a more uniform shape and color, and stored great. *Black Coral* fruits had a stronger smell and had white spots on them.

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☺ NW

Dunja produced more fruits. *Dunja* fruits had softer skin. *Black Coral* fruits had darker, harder skin.

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☺ NW

Black Coral did not do very good in my garden. It took almost a month to germinate, never caught up to *Dunja*, and never produced.

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☺ NW

Black Coral fruits had much thicker skins that made them more unpleasant to eat and shred.

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☺ SW

Dunja was more productive.

Black Coral ☺
Dunja ☺ SW

Dunja produced fruits a bit earlier.

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☺ SD

Dunja fruits were more attractive. *Black Coral* produced higher yields although many of its fruits aborted early in their development.

No Preference

Black Coral ☺
Dunja ☺ SE

Both varieties were good, though they both stopped producing sooner than I hoped. Their fruits had different colors.

Black Coral ☹
Dunja ☹ SC

Both varieties produced few fruits.

Black Coral ☺
Dunja ☺ NW

It was hard to tell the varieties apart. Both germinated at the same time and had high yields.

Conclusions

Gardeners were generally pleased with the quantity and quality of the fruits of these varieties. *Dunja* germinated better, produced earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites. *Dunja* remains our top-rated dark-green zucchini variety. *Black Coral* performed well but was not superior in any trait.

***Dunja* germinated better, produced earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites.**

Squash, Winter Butternut

Varieties

Granite

95 days. Premium quality. Uniform, 3-pound fruits with smooth, tan skin. Fruits have superior flavor and small cavities.

Havana

90 days. Uniform, blocky, midsize fruits. Thick necks with small seed cavities provide lots of nutty flesh. Organic.

Data

Gardeners at 34 sites submitted information.

Trait	Granite	Havana	Same
Germinated best	12%	27%	**62%**
Healthier plants	22	17	**61**
Harvested earlier	**43**	38	19
Higher yields	**40**	**40**	20
More attractive fruits	29	13	**58**
Tasted better	24	12	**65**
Preference	**54**	46	
Recommend	76	**79**	
Mean score[1]	7.93	**8.00**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Granite

Granite ★★★★★ ☺
Havana ★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Granite produced 20 fruits compared to 5 fruits for *Havana*.

Granite ★★★★½ ☺
Havana ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Granite fruits were larger, had a better appearance, and tasted as good as *Havana*. *Granite* produced a higher yield.

Granite ★★★★☆ ☺
Havana ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Granite had larger fruits and a higher yield.

Granite ★★★★½ ☺
Havana ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Havana germinated better. *Granite* produced about twice as many mature fruits. The vines of *Granite* had better health for the entire season. My wife and I preferred the taste of *Granite*. At our Canadian Thanksgiving party, 12 persons preferred the taste of *Granite* and 2 persons preferred *Havana*.

Granite ★★★★½ ☺
Havana ★★★★☆ ☹ SE

The fruit had a definite buttery "nut" flavor to it that was quite delicious. This was the first butternut I have ever had that tasted like butter and nuts. We baked them in the oven before making soup and everyone agreed that *Granite* had more flavor and a smoother texture.

Granite ★★★★☆ ☺ -
Havana ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Granite fruits were bigger and more attractive. Its vines were healthier.

Granite ★★★★☆ ☺
Havana ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

Granite was ready to harvest earlier. *Havana* produced more squash.

Both varieties received similar and solid ratings for all traits. Their fruits were attractive and tasty with small seed cavities.

Best butternut squash varieties

Top choice
Waltham

Strong performers
Butterbaby
Butterscotch
Early Butternut
Granite

Prefer Granite (continued)

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☹ SC

Granite vines were more vigorous and productive. We harvested 432 pounds of *Granite* compared to 112 pounds of *Havana*. *Granite* fruits were larger. The fruits of both varieties were attractive and tasty with small seed cavities.

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ SC

These were amazing plants. They were healthy and took over my garden! The vines were prolific producing over 10 squash per plant. Their fruits were beautiful. *Granite* was especially productive and had more attractive fruits. *Havana* was ready to harvest earlier. I will plant both varieties next year!

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ SC

Granite yielded more, but both varieties produced good yields. *Granite* had bigger fruits. Some *Havana* fruits were only 6 inches long, but they will make nice individual servings for recipes.

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ NW

Granite produced a higher yield.

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ SW

Both varieties were very good. *Granite* fruits were a bit larger.

Granite ☹ 
Havana ☹ SW

The meat of *Granite* was slightly oranger and had better flavor. However, both varieties had low squash flavor. There are varieties with much better flavor out there.

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ SD

Granite fruits were a little smaller (yet heavier) and had a little more of the nutty taste I love. Its flesh was smoother. Both varieties were heavy producers but *Havana* produced more (56 fruits, total 180 pounds, 3.21 pounds per fruit) compared to *Granite* (37 fruits, 136 total pounds, 3.66 pounds per fruit). The fruits of both varieties were attractive. *Granite* vines did not sprawl out as far. I prefer not to have to spend too much time taming plants to keep them in their growing area.

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ SD

Both varieties had amazing yields. Their fruits were large and tasted great. Some fruits split but their skins healed. *Granite* produced large, typical-shaped squash.

Prefer Havana

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ MN

Havana germinated better, was healthier and produced higher yields.

Granite ☹ 
Havana ☺ SE

Both varieties had big plants. A single plant will spread out to a 20-foot x 20-foot area with 15 fruits per plant. *Havana* fruits had a better shape and fewer seeds.

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ SE

Havana had better production.

Granite ☺ 
Havana ☺ SE

Havana produced bigger fruits and a higher yield. Its blossoms were huge—like 8 inches across. If anyone wanted to eat squash blossoms, these might be the ones.

Granite was preferred by more gardeners. These gardeners were impressed with its productivity and its buttery, nutty taste.

Prefer Havana (continued)

Granite ☹
Havana ☺ NC

Havana fruits were larger and had a nicer shape.

Granite ☺
Havana ☺ NC

Granite produced earlier. *Granite* produced 34 fruits (average 2.2 pounds) and *Havana* produced 23 fruits (average 2.6 pounds). *Granite* fruits were blockier, smaller and less peanut-shaped. *Havana* had a more traditional, butternut shape. Both varieties had good flavor, but I preferred the flavor and texture of *Havana*.

Granite ☺
Havana ☺ SC

Havana produced enormous and bountiful squash.

Granite ☹
Havana ☺ SC

Havana had better growth and produced a lot of fruits. Grasshoppers damaged the trial and no fruits of either variety ripened.

Granite ☺
Havana ☺ NW

I slightly preferred the taste of *Havana*. The varieties were virtually the same for all other traits.

Granite ☹
Havana ☺ SW

Havana produced pretty, better looking fruits.

Granite ☹
Havana ☹ SW

Havana had better germination and higher yields.

Granite ☹
Havana ☺ SD

Havana produced almost a dozen fruits on a couple plants. *Granite* did not germinate.

No Preference

Granite ☺
Havana ☺ NE

These varieties were very similar. All seeds germinated.

Granite ☺
Havana ☺ SC

Both varieties produced fruits that were too big for my wife and I. We put those fruits on the excess produce table and they went quickly.

Conclusions

Both varieties received similar and solid ratings for all traits. Their fruits were attractive and tasty with small seed cavities. *Granite* was preferred by more gardeners. These gardeners were impressed with its productivity and its buttery, nutty taste. *Havana* fruits had blocky, thick necks. Its vines were less vigorous, making it a good variety for organic gardeners with limited space.

***Havana* fruits had blocky, thick necks. Its vines were less vigorous, making it a good variety for organic gardeners with limited space.**

Squash, Winter Kabocha

Varieties

Speckled Hound

100 days. Fruit rinds are orange with distinctive, green splotches. Yellow-orange flesh is thick, dense and dry. Vines resist diseases.

Sweet Mama

95 days. Bright yellow flesh tastes sweet and nutty with a dry texture. Semi-bush vines are productive.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Speckled Hound	Sweet Mama	Same
Germinated best	12%	18%	**71%**
Healthier plants	18	18	**65**
Harvested earlier	**59**	24	18
Higher yields	**53**	35	12
More attractive fruits	**59**	12	29
Tasted better	38	**46**	15
Preference	**63**	37	
Recommend	**79**	68	
Mean score[1]	7.53	**7.63**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Speckled Hound

Speckled Hound ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Mama ★★★★☆ ☹ MN

Speckled Hound fruits were uniquely colored and very pretty. Its vines had great production.

Speckled Hound ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Mama ★★★★☆ ☹ NE

Speckled Hound had very vigorous vines growing all over and produced a lot of large squash. Its squash tasted wonderful!

Speckled Hound ★★★½☆ ☹
Sweet Mama ★½☆☆☆ ☹ NE

Speckled Hound had a little more flavor, but neither variety had much flavor.

Speckled Hound ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Mama ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Speckled Hound produced so many squash. They were at least double the size and very tasty. Its fruit had a more unique appearance. The yield of *Sweet Mama* was poor.

Speckled Hound ★★★★½ ☺
Sweet Mama ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Speckled Hound produced more fruits, larger fruits and more attractive fruits. *Sweet Mama* had a deeper, richer squash flavor.

Speckled Hound ★★★★½ ☺
Sweet Mama ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Speckled Hound had a higher yield, larger produce, and more meat on the inside.

Speckled Hound ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Mama ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Speckled Hound had healthier plants and produced more squash. This was the best year we have had for squash. We produced tons of squash. I did fertilize and water quite a bit. *Sweet Mama* was later and seemed to take more water.

Speckled Hound ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Mama ★★★★½ ☺ NC

Both varieties were excellent and tasted wonderful. They grew amazing in our challenging weather. We had a hailstorm in late June that created big holes in the leaves, but the plants came back and flourished. *Speckled Hound* is a more fun-looking squash.

***Speckled Hound* had vigorous vines that produced more fruits, larger fruits and prettier fruits.**

Best kabocha squash varieties

Top choice
Speckled Hound

Strong performers
Delica
Red Kuri
Sunshine
Sweet Mama

Prefer Speckled Hound (continued)

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SC

Both varieties had great germination rates. Both produced fantastic yields and were delicious. *Sweet Mama* was ripe the earliest. Its skin was edible and tasty, so there was no need to peel. *Speckled Hound* fruits were so pretty with their pink and orange coloration.

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SC

The rind of *Speckled Hound* turned orange right away. I was confused on when it would be ready. I felt neither variety was what I was expecting. I like a drier flesh like the buttercup when I eat it. Both of these were quite moist/watery when I baked them. I probably wouldn't grow this type of squash again.

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SW

Speckled Hound produced three times the amount of squash. Its fruits are definitely a better storage squash as the skin is more like a shell. These varieties produced lots of squash.

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ MB

Both varieties grew exceptionally well even though no water was applied after germination. Both varieties had large, sprawling plants that produced multiple squash. *Speckled Hound* had beautiful coloration and its fruit was larger. It produced about eight squash per plant while Sweet Mama had more, but smaller fruit, which can be a convenience. The taste of *Speckled Hound* was more pronounced.

Prefer Sweet Mama

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SE

Sweet Mama produced more fruit.

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SE

Speckled Hound had bigger vines and leaves. It set fruit quicker. Its fruits were more attractive as they were orange with green splotches. The flesh of *Speckled Hound* was too juicy, too watery and not sweet for me. The flesh of *Sweet Mama* was similar to a buttercup—sweet and drier. My daughter raised some *Speckled Hound*, and hers are really good—not watery and quite tasty. The only downside to *Sweet Mama* is the small yield. Its fruits were also quite small, but it was really dry.

Speckled Hound ☹ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SE

While I loved the outer rind of *Speckled Hound*, *Sweet Mama* produced so much more yield. *Sweet Mama* produced five times more yield than *Speckled Hound*.

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ NC

Sweet Mama produced a higher yield and its fruits were more consistent in size. *Speckled Hound* fruits were more attractive to me and the deer. The deer left *Sweet Mama* alone.

Speckled Hound ☺ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SC

Sweet Mama produced the first fruits, and its fruits were more attractive. *Speckled Hound* produced higher yields.

Speckled Hound ☹ 
Sweet Mama ☹ NW

Yields of both varieties were less than expected. The sizes and shapes of their fruits were not consistent. *Speckled Hound* was tasteless. The plants of both varieties died early but not from bugs.

Speckled Hound ☹ 
Sweet Mama ☺ SW

Speckled Hound had some plants die from stem rot, and its fruits have not kept well.

Conclusions

Speckled Hound had vigorous vines that produced more fruits, larger fruits and prettier fruits. Gardeners liked its distinctive rind, which is orange with green splotches. Gardeners were most pleased with the flavor of *Sweet Mama*. *Sweet Mama* has been a strong performer in our trials in the past. Its semi-bush habit is well suited for small gardens.

Gardeners were most pleased with the flavor of *Sweet Mama*.

Squash, Winter Spaghetti

Varieties

Pinnacle

92 days. Early ripening, scarlet squash from 85 days. Medium-small fruits with a bright yellow rind. Slightly sweet, nutty flavor. Semi-bush vines produce high yields.

Primavera

93 days. Uniform, 3-pound fruits with attractive, canary-yellow skin. Semi-bush vines are productive.

Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Pinnacle	Primavera	Same
Germinated best	8%	23%	**69%**
Healthier plants	8	31	**62**
Harvested earlier	23	**46**	31
Higher yields	25	**50**	25
More attractive fruits	8	**46**	**46**
Tasted better	20	**40**	**40**
Preference	20	**80**	
Recommend	63	**88**	
Mean score[1]	7.13	**7.26**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Pinnacle

Pinnacle ★★★★☆ ☺
Primavera ★★★☆☆ ☺ SE

Pinnacle fruits ripened earlier and were slightly bigger.

Pinnacle ★★★★★ ☺
Primavera ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

Pinnacle was superior in every way. It matured faster. It produced 28 fruits compared to 25 fruits for *Primavera*. *Pinnacle* was the best tasting spaghetti squash ever.

Pinnacle ★★★★☆ ☺
Primavera ★★★½☆ ☺ SC

The only difference I noted was the superior taste of *Pinnacle*. Both varieties grew well and produced good yields. Their vines had some powdery mildew on them late in the season but it didn't seem to affect them.

Prefer Primavera

Pinnacle ★★★★☆ ☹
Primavera ★★★★½ ☺ NE

Primavera had more mature squash at harvest. *Pinnacle* had a few unripe squash at harvest.

Pinnacle ★★★½☆ ☹
Primavera ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Primavera produced better.

Pinnacle ★★½☆☆ ☺
Primavera ★★★☆☆ ☺ SE

These varieties were similar, and I was not really impressed with either. They tasted good but didn't produce as much as in previous years. The skins of the fruits got weird and had white spots.

Pinnacle ★★½☆☆ ☺
Primavera ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Primavera was earlier, more prolific and produced larger fruits.

***Primavera* received higher ratings in earliness, productivity and fruit quality.**

Best spaghetti squash variety

Top choice
Primavera

Prefer Primavera (continued)

Pinnacle
Primavera
NC

Primavera had better taste, produced a harder shell, and its size was good (6 to 8 servings per squash). Its flesh had more orange color, was sweeter, and had a mild butternut flavor. In the market, the size of *Primavera* was chosen more frequently. *Pinnacle* was more productive and set fruit sooner. The size of its fruit was larger (8 to 11 servings per squash). *Pinnacle* produced 44 squash (4.8 pounds on average) and *Primavera* produced 38 squash (3.6 pounds on average).

Pinnacle
Primavera
NC

Primavera was more prolific. It had larger vines.

Pinnacle
Primavera
SC

Primavera had larger fruit and was more productive. We harvested 600 pounds of *Primavera* compared to 250 pounds of *Pinnacle*. The fruits of both varieties were attractive and had good flavor. The vines of both varieties were healthy and *Primavera* vines were more aggressive.

Pinnacle
Primavera
SC

Both varieties germinated at the same time and equally. Their fruits looked basically the same, though *Primavera* produced 25% more weight than *Pinnacle*. *Primavera* vined less.

Pinnacle
Primavera
SC

Primavera flesh had more of a golden color, which I liked. It tasted sweeter. *Pinnacle* produced slightly more fruit.

Pinnacle
Primavera
SC

Both varieties produced a ton! *Primavera* produced larger fruits and a few more fruits.

Pinnacle
Primavera
SC

Primavera produced squash earlier.

Pinnacle
Primavera
SW

Primavera outperformed *Pinnacle* in nearly all aspects.

No Preference

Pinnacle
Primavera
SC

Both varieties performed poorly. We harvested only eight fruits in total. The taste of both varieties was ok but slightly bitter. *Primavera* had more attractive fruits.

Conclusions

Both varieties germinated well and were healthy. Once the fruits began to appear, the superiority of *Primavera* became clear. *Primavera* received higher ratings in earliness, productivity, fruit appearance and flavor. *Pinnacle* received decent ratings but was overshadowed by the excellence of *Primavera*.

***Pinnacle* received decent ratings but was overshadowed by the excellence of *Primavera*.**

Tomato, Determinate

Varieties

BHN 589

74 days. Great flavor. Big yields of crack-resistant fruits. Semi-determinate vines need support.

Roadster

65 days. Early yields of large tomatoes with exceptional taste. Rich red color. Resists diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 24 sites submitted information.

Trait	BHN 589	Roadster	Same
Germinated best	20%	25%	**55%**
Healthier plants	16	21	**63**
Harvested earlier	20	**70**	10
Higher yields	32	32	**37**
More attractive fruits	28	33	**39**
Tasted better	17	**50**	33
Preference	30	**70**	
Recommend	55	**65**	
Mean score[1]	7.05	**7.30**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

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

Prefer BHN 589

BHN 589 ★★★★½ ☺
Roadster ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Both had beautiful fruit. The fruit of *BHN 589* ripened earlier and were slightly larger.

BHN 589 ★★★★★ ☺
Roadster ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Both of these varieties did better than *Celebrity*. There was some blight on *Roadster* vines, and *BHN 589* tasted better and produced more.

BHN 589 ★★★★★ ☺
Roadster ★★★★☆ ☹ SC

BHN 589 had beautiful fruit that tasted great.

BHN 589 ★★★★★ ☺
Roadster ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

The stalks of *BHN 589* plants were unbelievably thick. Its vines were healthier, produced the first tomatoes and produced the higher yields. *BHN 589* tomatoes had very few blemishes and no diseases.

BHN 589 ★★★★½ ☺
Roadster ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

BHN 589 produced better tomatoes. *Roadster* was prone to blossom end rot.

BHN 589 ★★★★☆ ☺
Roadster ★★★☆☆ ☺ SD

BHN 589 produced many great tomatoes. They were medium-sized fruits with no cracks. *Roadster* ripened a little faster. The flavor of both varieties was great. Their vines were healthy.

Prefer Roadster

BHN 589 ★½☆☆☆ ☹
Roadster ★★☆☆☆ ☹ MN

This was the worst tomato crop I ever grew in 40 years. Blossom end rot was a big problem particularly for *BHN 589*.

BHN 589 ★★★☆☆ ☹
Roadster ★★★½☆ ☺ NE

Both varieties were good canning tomatoes. *BHN 589* did not have much flavor as a fresh tomato. *Roadster* tasted better.

The fruits of both varieties were beautiful and their overall yields were similar.

Best determinate, fresh-market tomato varieties

Top choice
- Mountain Fresh Plus

Strong performers
- Bush Early Girl
- Celebrity Plus
- Mountain Merit
- Red Deuce
- Roadster

Prefer Roadster (continued)

BHN 589 ☹ NE
Roadster ☺

Both had 75% germination rates. *Roadster* was slightly susceptible to blight, managed easily by picking off affected leaves. *BHN 589* was disease free. Both varieties seemed unhappy—all plants but one *Roadster* had constantly curled leaves. *Roadster* ripened before *BHN 589*. Both varieties were wildly prolific with huge, meaty fruits. *Roadster* had rich flavor; excellent for salad, slicers or eaten right off the vine like a juicy, messy apple. The heat and rain extremes didn't affect its ability to produce fairly unblemished fruit. *BHN 589* was a bit bland in comparison and tended to split deeply.

BHN 589 ☺ SE
Roadster ☺

Both varieties produced nice tomatoes but *Roadster* had superior flavor.

BHN 589 ☺ SC
Roadster ☺

Both varieties produced at least 200 pounds, but we lost over half the yield due to damage from grasshoppers and gophers. *Roadster* ripened slightly earlier. We had ripe fruit on both varieties on August 1.

BHN 589 ☹ SC
Roadster ☺

Roadster tomatoes ripened a few days earlier. *BHN 589* tomatoes were larger and more uniform—perfect for sandwiches. Both varieties had short vines, which I appreciated. Both varieties produced large yields.

BHN 589 ☺ SC
Roadster ☺

Both varieties produced a lot of tomatoes but *Roadster* yields were massive. *Roadster* ripened earlier and its tomatoes were good tasting.

BHN 589 ☹ SC
Roadster ☺

Roadster was a fantastic tomato. Its yield was outstanding.

BHN 589 ☹ SC
Roadster ☺

We sowed the seeds indoors and were pleased with the germination of both varieties. *Roadster* had a better yield and no blossom end rot.

BHN 589 ☹ SC
Roadster ☺

BHN 589 started slowly and stayed that way. Its fruits were smaller and the plants only produced about two or three per plant. *Roadster* had large and healthy plants, a great yield (some rotted), and tasted very good.

Roadster vines produced quicker yields. Its fruits were more flavorful.

BHN 589 ☹ SW
Roadster ☹

Each plant did not get higher than 2.5 feet and yielded only five to six fruits. *Roadster* was more flavorful.

BHN 589 ☺ SW
Roadster ☺

I started these very early in the house [April 10] to get fruit earlier in the year. This trial was grown in a hoophouse. *Roadster* produced the first fruit. Both varieties had very nice, very tasty, big fruits.

BHN 589 ☹ SD
Roadster ☺

The fruits of *Roadster* were bigger and nicer. Both varieties succumbed early to blight.

BHN 589 ☺ SD
Roadster ☺

Both varieties produced similar-sized fruits. Both were very resistant to blight; other tomato varieties in that raised bed were seriously affected. The flavors of these varieties were a little lackluster, but in terms of producing a reliably sized fruit with beautiful color, these were winners!

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Roadster*. Its vines produced quicker yields. *Roadster* fruits were more flavorful. The fruits of both varieties were beautiful and their overall yields were similar.

Tomato, Paste

Varieties

Granadero

75 days. Prolific yields of blocky, fruits. Resists blossom end rot. Compact, indeterminate vines.

San Marzano

85 days. Classic paste tomato. Later than Roma but has larger fruits. Indeterminate vines.

Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Granadero	San Marzano	Same
Germinated best	7%	14%	**79%**
Healthier plants	31	15	**54**
Harvested earlier	**71**	14	14
Higher yields	**62**	38	0
More attractive fruits	**69**	15	15
Tasted better	**50**	20	30
Preference	**69**	31	
Recommend	**92**	54	
Mean score[1]	**8.85**	7.31	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.50	

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

Prefer Granadero

Granadero ★★★★★ ☺
San Marzano ★★☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Granadero had healthier plants, better looking fruits, and tasted so much better! *Granadero* vines grew taller, bushier and had less leaf blight. Its plants looked healthier all the way to the end. *Granadero* was first to blossom and produce fruit. Its fruits were more uniform in size and shape. They looked like a traditional *Roma*. There were more *San Marzano* fruits, but the fruits were much smaller, oblong, and tasteless in comparison.

Granadero ★★★★★ ☺
San Marzano ★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Granadero had big, plump fruits. *San Marzano* fruits were fancier looking and slimmer. *San Marzano* was much dried inside when sliced open. *Granadero* would absolutely be my pick for canning. It is much better than a generic *Roma*. *San Marzano* was good for canning and would be spectacular for drying.

Granadero ★★★★★ ☺
San Marzano ★★★★☆ ☺ SE

These were both great tomatoes. Absolutely no blossom end rot at all. The plants are still loaded with fruit [September 7]. They were great for making salsa as there is so much firm flesh and very little juice. I couldn't tell the difference between them in flavor. *Granadero* produced the first tomatoes and a bit higher yield.

Granadero ★★★★☆ ☺
San Marzano ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC

The first *San Marzano* tomatoes all had blossom end rot. I tossed them. The remainder were fine but had some blemishes. *Granadero* tomatoes had a somewhat spicy flavor. They were smaller in size.

Granadero ★★★★☆ ☺
San Marzano ★★☆☆☆ ☹ SC

Granadero was first to flower and produce. It produced a good amount of tomatoes. *Granadero* fruits were beautiful, oval, meatier and definitely tasted better. *San Marzano* fruits have too much stem.

Granadero was very impressive. Its vines produced 1 to 2 weeks earlier and produced higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive and better tasting to more gardeners.

Best paste tomato varieties

Top choice
Granadero

Strong performers
Roma VF
Viva Italia

Prefer Granadero (continued)

Granadero ☺ -
San Marzano ☺ SC

Granadero produced a larger tomato that had more juice and pulp than *San Marzano*. *Granadero* fruits were more rounded and evenly shaped. More than 200 pounds of each variety were harvested of each variety. Much of the crop was left in the field due to predation (rodents and grasshoppers) and rot. If drier fruits are desired, choose *San Marzano*.

Granadero ☺
San Marzano ☹ SC

Granadero plants did better; their stalks were very thick and strong. Over half of the *San Marzano* plants died when transplanted outside. The fruits of *Granadero* had a very good size—almost comparable to the size of *Mama Roma* fruits. The fruits of *San Marzano* were oddly shaped.

Granadero ☺
San Marzano ☹ SC

Granadero was a great tomato. It's a definite keeper. Big yields.

Granadero ☺
San Marzano ☹ SD

Granadero had big, meaty tomatoes with lots of flesh for salsa. *San Marzano* tomatoes were smaller and had less flesh for canning. *Granadero* produced the first tomatoes and higher yields. *San Marzano* had a hard time getting fully ripe.

Prefer San Marzano

Granadero ☺
San Marzano ☺ MN

Both varieties had good germination. *Granadero* ripened 7 to 10 days earlier and was more productive than *San Marzano*. *Granadero* had nice, red *Roma*-type fruits. Its fruits were very firm, and it was hard to tell when they were ready ripe. My wife preferred the meaty *San Marzano* for canning.

Granadero ☹
San Marzano ☺ NW

San Marzano was a superb tomato and did not seem prone to bottom rot like some. Both varieties were nice, but *San Marzano* produced more tomatoes and these tomatoes were more attractive.

Granadero ☺
San Marzano ☺ SW

Both varieties produced very well, but *San Marzano* had an extremely high yield for me. *San Marzano* fruits had a very low water content, richer flavor and were great for sauce making. *Granadero* fruits had a little higher water content.

Granadero ☺
San Marzano ☺ SD

San Marzano plants were huge, healthy and produced more. Its fruits tasted better. Both varieties were very nice!

Conclusions

Granadero was very impressive. Its vines produced 1 to 2 weeks earlier and produced higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive and better tasting to more gardeners. *Granadero* fruits were plump, oval, meaty (*Roma*-type) and large. Blossom end rot was not a problem. *San Marzano* fruits were slimmer, flavorful and had a lower water content.

Granadero fruits were plump, oval, meaty (_Roma_-type) and large. Blossom end rot was not a problem. _San Marzano_ fruits were slimmer, flavorful and had a lower water content.

Watermelon, Midsize

Varieties

Estrella

80 days. Uniform, 20-pound melons with exceptional quality. Vigorous vines. Early.

Sweet Dakota Rose

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 15 pounds. Reliable.

Data

Gardeners at 48 sites submitted information.

Trait	Estrella	Swt D. Rose	Same
Germinated best	23%	25%	**53%**
Healthier plants	22	31	**47**
Matured earlier	33	**61**	6
Higher yields	39	**50**	11
More attractive fruits	30	**43**	27
Tasted better	22	**56**	22
Preference	29	**71**	
Recommend (☺)	48	**78**	
Mean score[1]	6.38	**7.51**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Estrella

Estrella ★★★★☆ ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Estrella vines were much more vigorous and produced nice, little melons that tasted good. There was no yield for *Sweet Dakota Rose*.

Estrella ★★★★☆ ☺ -
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Estrella melons were oval-shaped and ripened better. It produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Estrella ★★★☆☆ ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Estrella was the winner here, but neither variety did exceptionally well. The melons were smaller than normal and lacked flavor. *Sweet Dakota Rose* only produced one fruit.

Estrella ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★½☆☆ ☹ SC

The vines of both varieties grew vigorously. *Estrella* produced more fruits and ripened earlier. My grandsons loved the taste of *Estrella* but were ambivalent about *Sweet Dakota Rose*.

Estrella ★★★★½ ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

I prefer *Estrella* because its fruits were more uniform in size.

Estrella ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

This was my first time ever having success with watermelons. Both varieties germinated very well. Their vines were super healthy and vigorous. Both varieties were very productive all season long. I had watermelons to share and then some! *Estrella* melons were beautiful and huge with a classic, oblong shape. They were super sweet! Just amazing! The melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* were round and not all well shaped; they tasted really nice.

Estrella ★★★★½ ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Estrella germinated much better and produced more melons. It was so fun to grow these watermelon varieties. The melons got quite large. I think a slightly longer growing season would result in riper melons, but this was a great experience!

***Estrella* grew vigorously and produced large melons with a classic, oblong shape.**

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sweet Dakota Rose

Strong performers
Sangria
Stargazer
Sugar Baby

Prefer Estrella (continued)

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SW

Estrella had large watermelons with good tasting, crisp meat. I could not believe how big and heavy the *Estrella* melons grew.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SW

Estrella produced a larger, more elongated melon versus the rounder *Sweet Dakota Rose*. Both melons were very tasty and sweet. Both had a lot of small seeds. I have had success with other varieties that were equally sweet but had fewer seeds.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SW

Estrella had healthier vines and a higher yield. Its melons tasted better. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced very small melons.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SD

Both varieties had nice plants. *Sweet Dakota Rose* ripened first but it was a smaller melon. *Estrella* vines produced more and larger melons. *Sweet Dakota Rose* tasted very sweet, but I don't prefer overly sweet things. I preferred the sweetness and flavor of *Estrella*.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
MN

I did not like either variety due to all the seeds. The only reason I will grow a seeded watermelon variety in the future is to pollinate a non-seeded variety. I don't know why there is a need for new seeded varieties.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
NE

Estrella had few blooms and no melons. *Sweet Dakota Rose* grew two very small melons. I am excited to try *Sweet Dakota Rose* again next year but start earlier [this trial was sown on May 30].

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
NE

Both varieties produced small melons and small yields. *Sweet Dakota Rose* had better flavor.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SE

Sweet Dakota Rose was much better. It was superior in every category.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SE

The melons of both varieties were very tasty, juicy and had nice texture even with the hot, dry weather. I preferred *Sweet Dakota Rose* because of the smaller size of its melons and its smaller seeds.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SE

One of the *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons was 19 pounds and extremely sweet and delicious. I had a couple of *Estrella* melons that were fairly large, but they ended up with blossom end rot. *Sweet Dakota Rose* ripened 2 weeks earlier. I will certainly grow *Sweet Dakota Rose* next year.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SE

Sweet Dakota Rose produced melons; however, the production of both varieties wasn't very good overall. The melons were slow to mature.

Estrella
Sweet Dakota Rose
SE

Both varieties germinated well and grew well even during our heat wave. *Sweet Dakota Rose* ripened 1 week earlier. *Estrella* produced more melons but the quality and taste of *Sweet Dakota Rose* was better. Both varieties had more seeds in the flesh than we prefer.

Both varieties produced tasty melons, but the melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* were especially sweet, flavorful and crisp.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose (continued)

Estrella ☺ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SE

Sweet Dakota Rose tasted sweeter. *Estrella* produced higher yields and had slightly larger melons. Its melons weighed 8 to 9 pounds compared to 6 to 7 pounds for *Sweet Dakota Rose*. *Estrella* melons were more attractive. Its flesh was red compared to the light-red flesh of *Sweet Dakota Rose*.

Estrella ☹ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ NC

I definitely prefer *Sweet Dakota Rose*. It had outstanding taste and fewer seeds. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced quite a few more melons. *Estrella* melons had a more traditional, oblong shape and tasted good.

Estrella ☹ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ NC

Sweet Dakota Rose produced the first ripe melons and produced the most melons. Both varieties struggled due to the dry summer even though they were watered well with drip irrigation.

Estrella ☹ -
Sweet Dakota Rose ☹ SC

Neither variety was worth the space they took up in the garden. I will stick to Galia melons; they provide more bang for your buck.

Estrella ☺ -
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SC

Sweet Dakota Rose had healthier vines that produced the first melons and higher yields. Both varieties produced 20-pound fruits. Their fruits were very sweet and crisp. One *Estrella* melon had a very thick and hard rind. It was almost impossible to cut and was hollow inside.

Estrella ☹ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SC

Estrella vines got off to a slow start. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced higher yields and its melons were more attractive. I prefer the taste and texture of the flesh of *Sweet Dakota Rose*.

Estrella ☹ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SC

Only one out of five *Sweet Dakota Rose* plants produced fruit. This plant had five melons and only one ripened before frost. The melon was very sweet and juicy. *Estrella* vines stayed small and never produced fruit.

Estrella ☺ -
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SC

The vines of *Estrella* dried up very early; unsure if it was disease or damage from gophers. We harvested 275 pounds of *Estrella*. We harvested 350 pounds of *Sweet Dakota Rose*; more was left in the field that rotted. We preferred the sweet taste of *Sweet Dakota Rose*. *Estrella* tasted slightly mealy but was very sweet.

Estrella ☹ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Rose ☹ SC

Both varieties germinated well and had healthy looking plants. I only got two melons from *Sweet Dakota Rose* (one fully ripened) and no fruits from *Estrella*. The ripe melon from *Sweet Dakota Rose* was nice looking and round. It had great flavor! Its flesh was sweet but also very seedy.

Estrella ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SC

The sweet and crunchy yet melt-in-your-mouth flavor of *Sweet Dakota Rose* was amazing! *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons tried to be round but those "spider web" scars made them unique. Its flesh was rosy and seedy. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons stored longer. *Estrella* produced big melons earlier. These melons were perfectly oval. The flesh of *Estrella* was yummy and lighter pink in color.

Estrella ☺ 🐞
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SC

This was the longest production of watermelon we have ever had. Both varieties produced well. It was tricky to determine ripeness with *Estrella* and several of its melons were harvested overripe. *Estrella* melons kept their good flavor when overripe. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons got a bit nasty around the seeds when overripe. Women preferred the taste of *Estrella* and men preferred the taste of *Sweet Dakota Rose*.

***Sweet Dakota Rose* produced the first melons and had higher yields at more sites.**

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose (continued)

Estrella ☹ -
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ NW

Estrella did not thrive at all. It produced only two melons; they were unhealthy and small.

Estrella ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SW

Both varieties grew well. *Sweet Dakota Rose* ripened 1 week earlier and tasted sweeter. *Estrella* melons were larger but tasted bland.

Estrella ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SW

Sweet Dakota Rose tasted sweeter.

Estrella ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SW

Sweet Dakota Rose produced store-sized melons and was very delicious. Its flesh was sweet, flavorful and crisp. There were a lot of seeds—actually too many—as you can purchase seedless melons. *Estrella* was a bust. Its melons rotted when they reached 4 inches in diameter.

Estrella ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SD

Sweet Dakota Rose produced more and larger melons. *Estrella* had oblong melons that split.

Estrella ☹ -
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SD

Sweet Dakota Rose was across the board a 10 out of 10. *Estrella* struggled the whole summer.

Estrella ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ SD

Both varieties had healthy vines and grew well. *Estrella* ripened first. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced lots of uniformly sized melons and had smaller seeds. The melons of both varieties were tasty, but *Sweet Dakota Rose* tasted better.

Estrella ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose ☺ MB

Sweet Dakota Rose produced more but smaller melons. It did not germinate initially and had to be resown on June 15. *Estrella* vines were more vigorous and produced very large melons. The gigantic size of the *Estrella* melons made it a difficult fruit to use at a sitting unless one had a huge party.

No Preference

Estrella ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose ☹ NC

Both varieties were poor producers. Their melons were small to just bigger than a football. It was hard to tell when the melons were ripe. The melons tasted very poor.

Conclusions

Sweet Dakota Rose was very impressive again this year. Both varieties produced tasty melons, but the melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* were especially sweet, flavorful and crisp. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced the first melons and had higher yields at more sites. *Estrella* grew vigorously and produced large melons with a classic, oblong shape.

***Sweet Dakota Rose* was very impressive again this year.**

Sunflower, Bicolor

Varieties

Ring of Fire

75 days. An autumn favorite. Blazing red petals with golden tips. Minimal pollen. Grows 45 inches.

Shock-O-Lat

65 days. Chocolate blooms with golden tips. Tall, 66-inch plants produce lots of 5-inch, pollenless blooms for fall bouquets.

Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Ring of Fire	Shock O-Lat	Same
Germinated best	20%	**48%**	32%
Healthier plants	16	**52**	32
Bloomed earlier	20	**60**	20
More blooms	24	**56**	20
Prettier in garden	8	**63**	29
Better cut flower	15	**55**	30
Preference	38	**62**	
Recommend	54	**81**	
Mean score[1]	6.04	**7.50**	
Median score[1]	6.00	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Ring of Fire

Ring of Fire ★★★½☆ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★½☆☆ ☹ NE

Ring of Fire bloomed more and earlier.

Ring of Fire ★★★★½ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Ring of Fire made fresh cuts and lasted longer in the vase.

Ring of Fire ★★★★★ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★★★½ ☺ SE

These varieties performed comparably for me. They were gorgeous! *Ring of Fire* blooms lasted an extra day longer as a cut flower.

Ring of Fire ★★★★½ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

I liked the shorter, neat appearance of *Ring of Fire*. *Shock-O-Lat* had beautiful flowers but was just too tall and did lodge a little. Both varieties were very pretty in a vase.

Ring of Fire ★★★½☆ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★½☆☆ ☹ NC

Ring of Fire had more blossoms and bloomed longer. As a cut flower, *Shock-O-Lat* held its petals longer.

Ring of Fire ★★½☆☆ ☹
Shock-O-Lat ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC

I was not impressed with either. Their petals fell off easily and the plants tipped over easily. Their flowers were not good enough for cut flower arrangements. *Ring of Fire* plants were shorter.

Ring of Fire ★★★★★ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★★☆☆ ☹ NC

Ring of Fire had a higher germination rate and was prettier.

Ring of Fire ★★★★★ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★★★½ ☺ SC

I really liked the inside "circle" of color on the *Ring of Fire* petals.

Ring of Fire ★★★★★ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★★★☆ ☺ NW

Both varieties were good, but *Ring of Fire* just beat *Shock-O-Lat* in all categories.

Shock-O-Lat was superior in all ways, whereas _Ring of Fire_ lacked vigor.

Best tall, bicolor branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Shock-O-Lat

Top Performer
Helios Flame

Prefer Ring of Fire (continued)

Ring of Fire ☺ NW
Shock-O-Lat ☺

These varieties were very similar in my trial. I liked their color.

Prefer Shock-O-Lat

Ring of Fire ☹ NE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Everything was better about *Shock-O-Lat*.

Ring of Fire ☹ NE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

This was a nice trial for my garden border. *Ring of Fire* plants were smaller and unhealthy.

Ring of Fire ☹ SE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Both varieties had germination rates of over 80%. I like to grow tall sunflowers to serve as a backdrop in my garden. *Shock-O-Lat* grew about 6 feet and worked well for that. *Ring of Fire* seemed a bit stunted in comparison. I liked the look of the *Shock-O-Lat* flowers better as well.

Ring of Fire ☹ SE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Shock-O-Lat had beautiful flowers. *Ring of Fire* hardly had flowers and what was there, were very small.

Ring of Fire ☹ SE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

I liked the eye-catching flowers and large stems of *Shock-O-Lat*. It had tons of blooms; these blooms were gorgeous and bigger. *Shock-O-Lat* was perfect on a protected corner edge near our shed. Its stalks grew very tall, and I recommend they have some sort of support or wind break.

Ring of Fire ☹ SE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Shock-O-Lat was a vigorous and more prolific bloomer than *Ring of Fire*. It kept branching and blooming even into early September. Its flowers were 4 to 6 inches across with strong stems. *Ring of Fire* didn't have as many blooms or bloom as long.

Ring of Fire ☺ SE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

The blooms of *Shock-O-Lat* were larger, beautiful and unique. It had chocolate seedheads with brown, maroon and orange petals. *Ring of Fire* had smaller blooms and typical colors (brown seedheads with yellow petals). *Shock-O-Lat* plants were taller and bloomed a week or two before *Ring of Fire*. The flowers of both varieties were beautiful as cut flowers.

Ring of Fire ☹ SE
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Shock-O-Lat stood up much better to the wind and tolerated the heat and dryness better. The *Ring of Fire* flowers lasted longer on the stem.

Ring of Fire ☺ NC
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Shock-O-Lat bloomed earlier and looked more attractive. I had issues with deer eating the leaves and buds off the plants.

Ring of Fire ☹ NC
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Ring of Fire plants never really grew after coming up.

Ring of Fire ☹ SC
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Shock-O-Lat germinated a little earlier. Its stalks were healthier, a lot taller and thicker. *Shock-O-Lat* had a few more flowers on each plant. Its flowers were a lot brighter and more colorful so they stood out better. *Shock-O-Lat* flowers lasted better and longer as a cut flower.

Ring of Fire ☹ SC
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Shock-O-Lat was a quick grower and was definitely the more hardy plant. *Ring of Fire* was reluctant to sprout and struggled for the entire season.

Ring of Fire ☺ NW
Shock-O-Lat ☺

Shock-O-Lat was a prettier cut flower; it had more color. Grasshoppers were terrible this year; *Ring of Fire* suffered more damage.

Shock-O-Lat germinated better, bloomed earlier and produced more blossoms.

Prefer Shock-O-Lat (continued)

Ring of Fire ★★½☆☆ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★★☆☆ ☺ SW

Shock-O-Lat plants were healthier.

Ring of Fire ★★★☆☆ ☺
Shock-O-Lat ★★★★½ ☺ SW

Shock-O-Lat was a darker colored sunflower and grew taller than *Ring of Fire*. *Shock-O-Lat* flowers were gorgeous and more abundant. *Ring of Fire* may have been stunted due to our hailstorm on August 1.

Ring of Fire ★★★☆☆ ☹
Shock-O-Lat ★★★★☆ ☺ SD

I loved the color of *Shock-O-Lat*!

Conclusions

Shock-O-Lat was superior in all ways. It germinated better, bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers. *Shock-O-Lat* flowers were larger and its stalks were taller and sturdier. Gardeners felt its chocolate flowers with golden tips were gorgeous and unique. *Ring of Fire* lacked vigor.

Gardeners felt the chocolate flowers with golden tips of *Shock-O-Lat* were gorgeous and unique.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type***

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺ NC
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

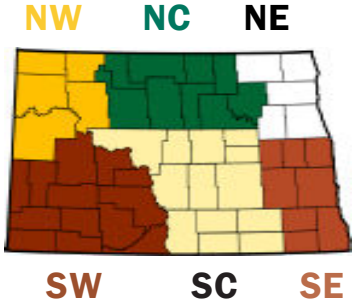
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Location

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
IA = Iowa

Sunflower, Gold

Varieties

Gold Rush

62 days. Classic golden-orange sunflower. Blooms early and abundantly. Pollenless. Grows 60 inches.

Golden Ray

65 days. Instead of blooming on tips of branches, these flowers grow like gladiolus, all along a central stem. Pollenless. Grows 66 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold Rush	Golden Ray	Same
Germinated best	10%	10%	**80%**
Healthier plants	10	30	**60**
Bloomed earlier	**50**	30	20
More blooms	**60**	20	20
Prettier in garden	**40**	**40**	20
Better cut flower	14	**43**	**43**
Preference	40	**60**	
Recommend	70	**80**	
Mean score[1]	6.70	**7.70**	
Median score[1]	7.50	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Gold Rush

Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺
Golden Ray ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Gold Rush had bigger and brighter flowers. Plants of both varieties became leggy and drooped over rather than growing straight and tall.

Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺
Golden Ray ★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Gold Rush had multiple, medium-sized flowers on a stalk rather than one large flower followed by small flowers.

Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺
Golden Ray ★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Golden Ray germinated first and bloomed 3 days earlier. *Golden Ray* had uneven blooms and an unkept look. Its plants were too large and uncontrolled for a home garden. Even the branched flowers were way too wide and long. They should do well in a field without neighboring rows. *Gold Rush* plants were much shorter and had pretty blossoms.

Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺
Golden Ray ★★★½☆ ☺ NC

The seedlings of both varieties came up quickly and got big fast. They were over a foot tall in 3 weeks. The plants grew to be huge. You need to grow them where they have lots of vertical space. *Gold Rush* was great to fill in a large, tall space with plentiful flowers. *Golden Ray* grew almost 7 feet—a bit too tall.

Prefer Golden Ray

Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺
Golden Ray ★★★★★ ☺ NC

I loved them both. They had 100% germination rates and huge, multiple heads. They were very attractive in the garden and a great haven for pollinators. I saved the stalks of both varieties to make garden stakes for next year.

Gold Rush ★★★★½ ☺
Golden Ray ★★★★★ ☺ SC

I recommend both. *Golden Ray* had sturdier stalks. *Gold Rush* produced more flowers.

***Gold Rush* has always done well in our trials. It bloomed earlier and produced more flowers than *Golden Ray*.**

Best tall, gold branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Golden Ray

Strong performer
Gold Rush

Prefer Golden Ray (continued)

Gold Rush ☹ 
Golden Ray ☺ SC

Golden Ray plants were much taller. Its flowers were bigger and much brighter. Both varieties produced a lot of flowers, but *Golden Ray* produced a few more. The varieties bloomed at the same. The flowers of both varieties looked very well as cut flowers and lasted the same amount of time in a vase.

Gold Rush ☹ 
Golden Ray ☺ SC

Golden Ray had bigger heads and stronger stems. *Gold Rush* stems were too thin. Its plants fell over due to the weight of its flowers.

Gold Rush ☺ 
Golden Ray ☺ SW

Both varieties were very nice and healthy. Their stalks touched the top of my hoophouse (13 feet). *Golden Ray* stalks were 2 inches or thicker in diameter, and their flowers were very large.

Gold Rush ☹ 
Golden Ray ☺ SD

Golden Ray had thick, sturdy stalks that stood up to winds and storms. It bloomed early and profusely over a long period of time. I preferred its deep gold color.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Golden Ray*. Its flowers were big and bright. The stalks of *Golden Ray* were taller and sturdier. *Gold Rush* has always done well in our trials. It bloomed earlier and produced more flowers than *Golden Ray*.

***Golden Ray* flowers were big and bright. Its stalks were taller and sturdier.**

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 ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

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

Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
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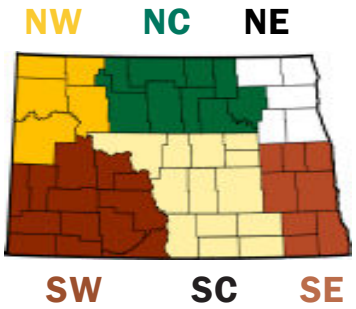
- = Not specified



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Sunflower, Bicolor Dwarf

Varieties

Firecracker

55 days. Compact, branching plants produce a mass of fiery blooms. Pollenless. Grows 42 inches.

Little Becka

60 days. Six-inch, "rudbeckia-like" flowers with stunning red petals with golden tips. Pollenless. Branching, 36-inch plants.

Data

Gardeners at 40 sites submitted information.

Trait	Fire-cracker	Little Becka	Same
Germinated best	21%	24%	**55%**
Healthier plants	**56**	6	38
Bloomed earlier	**61**	24	15
More blooms	**50**	16	34
Prettier in garden	**52**	27	21
Better cut flower	29	29	**41**
Preference	**53**	47	
Recommend	**83**	60	
Mean score[1]	**7.54**	6.80	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Firecracker

Firecracker ★★★★½ ☺
Little Becka ★½☆☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Firecracker had stronger plants and lots of beautiful, bicolor flowers. Both varieties had low germination rates. *Little Becka* had some sort of a leaf disease and only five plants survived; these survivors were short and very sick with short-lived blossoms.

Firecracker ★★★★★ ☺
Little Becka ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ NE

Overall, *Firecracker* was more attractive and stood well. *Little Becka* had very unhealthy plants.

Firecracker ★★★★☆ ☺
Little Becka ★★★☆☆☆ ☹ NE

Firecracker had more blooms and more vigorous plants.

Firecracker ★★★★½ ☺
Little Becka ★★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Firecracker bloomed earlier. Its plants were larger and produced more flowers. The flowers had a nicer appearance: nicer yellow color with a darker center. *Little Becka* just didn't do that well producing flowers in my garden, although it germinated well and its plants seemed healthy enough.

Firecracker ★★★½☆ ☺
Little Becka ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Firecracker thrived better in my garden. Squirrels destroyed my plants in mid-August.

Firecracker ★★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Little Becka ★☆☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Firecracker was the best out of the two varieties but still disappointed. Their flowers were rather blah. I was expecting more colors but there were only very small, yellow flowers.

Firecracker ★★★★☆ ☺
Little Becka ★★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Little Becka wilted under the intensity of the midday sun repeatedly. It could never catch up to *Firecracker*. *Firecracker* had taller plants, fuller flowers and more flowers in total.

These varieties were short in height but big in beauty. Their flowers came in warm shades of gold, copper and red.

Best bicolor dwarf branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Firecracker

Strong performer
Rio Carnival

Prefer Firecracker (continued)

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☺ SE

I thought both of these varieties were gorgeous especially when interplanted with the [non-dwarf] bicolor sunflower trial. These were all stunning. *Firecracker* stood out to me. The contrast in colors on this variety looked better in my eyes.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☺ NC

Firecracker was a healthier looking plant. Its plants had a uniform height leaf/stem structure, and gorgeous purple veining on its leaves. *Little Becka* had a prettier, more colorful flower and held its petals longer.

Firecracker ☺ -
Little Becka ☺ NC

Firecracker had much larger plants. It bloomed sooner and was a prolific bloomer. Both varieties were beautiful and had plentiful flowers.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☹ NC

It was so fun to see these cheerful sunflowers in my garden! They were eye catching. *Firecracker* had larger sunflower heads.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☺ SC

I prefer the color of the *Firecracker* flowers.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☹ SC

Firecracker produced more blooms per plant.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☹ SC

Firecracker stalks grew 6 inches taller and its flowers were bigger in diameter. *Firecracker* blooms were brighter and less brown. Some of its flowers lost the brown color and were all gold colored. *Firecracker* had bigger flowers and shorter stalks than regular sunflowers. *Firecracker* bloomed 4 days earlier. *Little Becka* flowers had a lot of brown and seemed dull. Some *Little Becka* flowers faced north. *Firecracker* blooms lasted 4 days in a vase compared to 3 days for *Little Becka* blooms.

Firecracker bloomed earlier and more abundantly.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☺ SC

I planted these varieties in the garden and they both did well. I planted some in a pot and they didn't do well. I will plant these again next year with the leftover seeds. They were beautiful.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☺ SW

I prefer the color of *Firecracker*.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☹ SD

Little Becka looked more like a wild sunflower—not very pretty!

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☹ SD

Firecracker bloomed faster.

Prefer Little Becka

Firecracker ☹
Little Becka ☹ NE

Pests went after *Little Becka*, leaving holes in the leaves; *Firecracker* did not suffer this problem. *Firecracker* had delightful purple-tinged leaves, but the blooms were just okay. Both varieties were slow to bloom. When *Little Becka* finally decided to bloom, it was quite attractive. Butterflies and bees were not attracted to these varieties.

Prefer Little Becka (continued)

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SE

Little Becka germinated 10 days earlier and showed good vigor. It bloomed 12 days ahead of *Firecracker*. The main heads of *Little Becka* were hidden down low, but its secondary blossoms were tall, upright and numerous. *Little Becka* plants were compact, and its flowers had more intense coloring. *Firecracker* flowers didn't give off much "bang" for its name.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SE

I liked them both. *Little Becka* bloomed earlier.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SE

Little Becka was a sturdy plant with beautiful flowers. It was a bit showier than *Firecracker*. The height of *Firecracker* would be really fun to use in a border garden.

Firecracker ☹ 
Little Becka ☺ SE

Sometime in mid-July deer snacked on many of the *Firecracker* plants, but they left the *Little Becka* plants alone for the most part. I loved the size of the *Little Becka* blooms and its stalks were sturdy. Both varieties were excellent pollinators as bees loved both.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ NC

Both varieties grew roughly the same. They were not targeted in my garden by the deer compared to the other varieties I trialed. I liked the look of the flowers of *Little Becka* more so than *Firecracker*.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ NC

These were pretty cute sunflowers. *Little Becka* plants were a little taller. I liked their coloring better. These may have gotten shorted in the watering department, but they still produced a lot of blooms.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☺ NC

I had some trouble with *Little Becka* germination; the second planting did much better. Both varieties had nice flowers and plants. I preferred the bicolor flowers of *Little Becka* over the all-yellow flowers of *Firecracker*. I liked the size of the dwarf plants because they didn't take up as much room in the garden. Both varieties made for good cut flowers; they lasted long and didn't drop pollen.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ NC

I loved both varieties. They were very similar. Both had good germination, healthy stalks and appealing flowers.

Firecracker ☺
Little Becka ☺ NC

I liked the darker colors of *Little Becka* over the more traditional colors of *Firecracker*. *Little Becka* flowers bloomed longer. *Firecracker* plants were taller. We didn't have much of anything for rain. Both varieties suffered from rust disease.

Firecracker ☹
Little Becka ☺ SC

Both varieties were beautiful and were stunning cut flowers! *Little Becka* had showstopper blooms! I had so many compliments! Unique coloring and just fantastic blooms!

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SC

I thought *Little Becka* was more attractive; it was so pretty and cute. Neither variety lasted long as a cut flower.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SC

Both varieties were pretty, but *Little Becka* stood out more in the garden. Its flowers were brighter. *Little Becka* flowers lasted longer in a vase. *Firecracker* seemed to be drought tolerant. Its leaves never wilted while *Little Becka* leaves drooped in the afternoon sun.

***Firecracker* had stronger, taller stalks that withstood winds and drought better.**

Prefer Little Becka (continued)

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SC

Firecracker plants were taller and its flowers were yellow and not very pretty. *Little Becka* had short, compact plants with more colorful, burnt orange flowers. *Firecracker* heads were smaller and tipped down while *Little Becka* heads were bigger and stood up straight. *Little Becka* heads held their petals longer in a vase. The plants of both varieties were healthy, but *Little Becka* plants seemed stronger. The heads of *Firecracker* were eaten by wildlife in early August and its plants responded by producing multiple small, bright blossoms.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SC

I liked the reddish bloom of *Little Becka*. It was more showy. *Firecracker* plants were more sturdy in the wind.

Firecracker ☺ 
Little Becka ☺ SW

Both varieties had very attractive and healthy plants. They were easy to grow. Their stalks got about 4 feet high in my hoophouse. I loved the coloring of these flowers. *Firecracker* bloomed earlier, and *Little Becka* was a better cut flower.

No Preference

Firecracker ☹ 
Little Becka ☹ SD

Both varieties had small, yellow plants with small heads that did not bloom and open.

Conclusions

These varieties were short in height but big in beauty. Their flowers came in warm shades of gold, copper and red. *Firecracker* bloomed earlier and more abundantly. *Firecracker* had stronger, taller, more vigorous stalks that withstood winds and drought better. *Little Becka* had compact plants with cute, colorful flowers.

***Little Becka* had compact plants with cute, colorful flowers.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘ ***Garden type*** ↙

Variety A ☺ NC
Variety B ☹

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

↖ ***Location***

↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

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= Uses inorganic fertilizers
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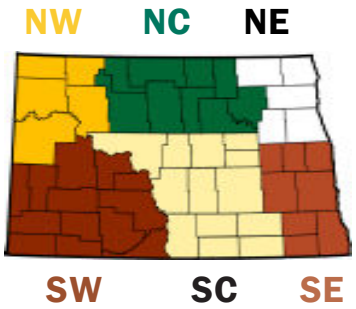
- = Not specified



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Sunflower, Orange Dwarf

Varieties

Orange Hedge

65 days. Branching sunflower with 30-inch stems make a colorful hedge. Flowers have orange petals with dark centers. Pollen for bees.

Orange Hobbit

55 days. Bushy plants filled with bright orange blooms with dark centers. Pollenless blooms are well-suited for small bouquets. Grows 24 inches tall.

Data

Gardeners at 36 sites submitted information.

Trait	Orange Hedge	Orange Hobbit	Same
Germinated best	14%	29%	**57%**
Healthier plants	21	6	**74**
Bloomed earlier	29	**37**	34
More blooms	19	13	**69**
Prettier in garden	6	9	**85**
Better cut flower	17	6	**78**
Preference	**55**	45	
Recommend	**72**	69	
Mean score[1]	**7.29**	7.09	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	8.00	

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

Prefer Orange Hedge

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☹
NE

Orange Hedge bloomed earlier. Insect pests went after both varieties but more so on *Orange Hobbit*. *Orange Hobbit* took a week longer to bloom but once it caught up the varieties were impossible to tell apart. Both produced wonderfully! It was such a pleasure to see so many pollinators attracted to them, particularly the volume of honey bees and bumble bees!

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺
NE

Orange Hedge had more attractive flowers. *Orange Hobbit* was a better filler for a table vase.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺
NE

Orange Hedge had more large-sized heads. Both of these varieties were nice but had somewhat droopy blooms.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺
SE

These two varieties were very similar. I preferred *Orange Hedge* because the main head and branched blossoms flowered at the same time and made for a beautiful appearance in the garden. *Orange Hedge* plants looked more uniform. *Orange Hobbit* plants were uneven in height and more subject to lodging.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺
SE

These were both beautiful varieties and were similar in how they performed. They attracted a ton of pollinators and were stunning as a row in my garden. I will be growing these again as I am obsessed. The height is perfect, the color is beautiful, and when they finally opened they were absolutely stunning. *Orange Hedge* germinated better and bloomed earlier.

These varieties were very beautiful and very similar. Several gardeners could not tell the varieties apart from one another.

Best orange dwarf sunflower varieties

Top choice
Orange Hedge

Strong performer
Orange Hobbit

Prefer Orange Hedge (continued)

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺ SE

I preferred the flowers of *Orange Hedge* over those of *Orange Hobbit*.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☹ SE

Orange Hedge bloomed first. It had nicer blooms and was a better cut flower. I was disappointed these flowers weren't orange but rather bright yellow.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺ SE

These varieties were very similar, but the centers of *Orange Hedge* flowers were more attractive.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺ SC

These varieties had nice, small flowers but given their names I thought they would have an orange color. Mine did not. *Orange Hedge* had better germination.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺ SC

The appearance was the same for both varieties. *Orange Hobbit* bloomed earlier.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☹ SC

Orange Hedge had excellent germination, beautiful flowers and strong plants. The smaller flowers that bloomed after the initial large ones had faded were a sweet surprise! *Orange Hobbit* did not germinate.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺ SC

Orange Hedge stalks were taller. Its flowers were dark orange and prettier.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☹ SC

Both varieties were vigorous growers. *Orange Hedge* bloomed earlier. The flowers of these varieties were golden yellow, not orange. I will not plant either one again.

Orange Hedge ☹
Orange Hobbit ☹ NW

I didn't like these dwarf sunflowers. The flowers were pretty but the plants were not very attractive. The blooms on these flowers did not last very long. *Orange Hedge* grew a little taller.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☹ NW

Orange Hedge bloomed earlier. Grasshoppers were hard on both varieties.

Orange Hedge ☹
Orange Hobbit ☹ SD

I was very disappointed in both varieties. I was expecting blossoms all summer long, but the plants bloomed for a week and then their petals dropped off. *Orange Hedge* plants bloomed 4 days earlier, and its blooms held their petals longest. Both varieties were cute and very dwarf. They averaged 12 blossoms per plant.

Prefer Orange Hobbit

Orange Hedge ☹
Orange Hobbit ☺ MN

Orange Hobbit germinated at 100% compared to 80% for *Orange Hedge*. *Orange Hobbit* plants bloomed first and were a bit fuller.

Orange Hedge ☺
Orange Hobbit ☺ MN

I swear these were the same variety. They were both very similar. They grew at the same rate, bloomed at the same time, and had the same number of flowers. Both held up really well in the high heat we had. Their flowers were identical: beautiful yellow with large, brown centers. *Orange Hobbit* had a better germination rate.

Orange Hedge ☹
Orange Hobbit ☺ NE

Both varieties germinated well and were almost indistinguishable. *Orange Hedge* seedlings were lost at a higher rate than *Orange Hobbit*; this may have been caused by rabbits.

Orange Hedge was preferred over _Orange Hobbit_ by a slight margin. Its flowers delighted the bees with its pollen.

Prefer Orange Hobbit (continued)

Orange Hedge ☺ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ NE

They were both lovely in the garden—huge, bushy plants with multiple flowers blooming at a time. They also made excellent bouquets. There was only one thing—they were bright yellow. We loved them anyhow. *Orange Hobbit* had a few more flowers.

Orange Hedge ☹ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ SE

Orange Hobbit seemed a bit more robust. Squirrels destroyed the trial in mid-August.

Orange Hedge ☹ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ SE

Orange Hobbit surpassed *Orange Hedge* in blooms and overall looks. Its multi-branching stems were loaded with 3- to 4-inch blooms. *Orange Hedge* was lackluster in comparison. *Orange Hobbit* was a nicer-looking cut flower.

Orange Hedge ☺ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ NC

Orange Hedge bloomed very early. I loved both varieties. It was fun to see different colors other than the standard yellow for sunflowers.

Orange Hedge ☺ -
Orange Hobbit ☺ NC

Orange Hobbit seedlings came up faster, grew larger sooner, and bloomed first. *Orange Hobbit* had many more blooms. Its plants filled the entire area in blooms. The plants of both varieties were healthy and their flowers were lovely.

Orange Hedge ☺ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ SC

Both varieties were similar and very nice!

Orange Hedge ☹ 
Orange Hobbit ☹ SC

I'm not impressed with either variety. They had weepy leaves, the colors of their flowers were not vibrant, and their flowers did not last long.

Orange Hedge ☺ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ NW

Orange Hobbit bloomed longer.

Orange Hedge ☺ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ SD

Foliage on both varieties filled out nicely, and the plants topped out at no more than 3 feet. They made a great edging for my garden. I had almost 100% germination with *Orange Hobbit*, so I had a beautiful, solid row of plants that looked nice even prior to blooming, which didn't happen until late July.

No Preference

Orange Hedge ☺ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ NE

If I didn't know these were two different varieties, I wouldn't have been able to tell. They looked and acted exactly the same. Both were beautiful. They were amazing and easy to care for. Pollinators liked them.

Orange Hedge ☹ 
Orange Hobbit ☹ SE

If I didn't have it mapped out, I would not know they were different. They grew exactly the same. Half of each got eaten by rabbits exactly the same. They even died on the same day after a 4-inch rainfall event. The plants of both varieties seemed fragile and short lived for the space they take.

Orange Hedge ☺ 
Orange Hobbit ☺ NC

The germination of both varieties was excellent, and the plants grew rapidly. Their flower color was yellow, not orange.

Orange Hedge ☹ 
Orange Hobbit ☹ NC

Both varieties had sturdy stalks and bloomed at the same time. Their blooms never fully opened. The plants turned yellow and dried out.

Orange Hedge ☺ -
Orange Hobbit ☺ NW

These varieties were very similar in all respects. Both had a 100% germination rate.

***Orange Hobbit* bloomed earlier at more sites. Its pollenless blooms were well suited for bouquets.**

Prefer Orange Hobbit (continued)

Orange Hedge ★★★★★ ☺
Orange Hobbit ★★★★★ ☺ NW

Both varieties produced an amazing number of flowers. The plants died off early in the season. *Orange Hobbit* grew 5 inches taller.

Orange Hedge ★☆☆☆☆ ☹
Orange Hobbit ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SD

The plants were short and yellow. Their flowers heads were small and did not open.

Conclusions

These varieties were very beautiful and very similar. Several gardeners could not tell the varieties apart from one another. *Orange Hedge* was preferred over *Orange Hobbit* by a slight margin. Its flowers delighted the bees with its pollen. *Orange Hobbit* bloomed earlier at more sites. Its pollenless blooms were well suited for bouquets, but *Orange Hedge* was equally as good as a cut flower. Some gardeners were disappointed with the gold (not orange) color of the petals. Some gardeners expected the display of flowers to last longer into autumn.

Some gardeners were disappointed with the gold (not orange) color of the petals. Some gardeners expected the display of flowers to last longer into autumn.

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 ↘ NC ↖ ***Location***

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

Garden types
= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
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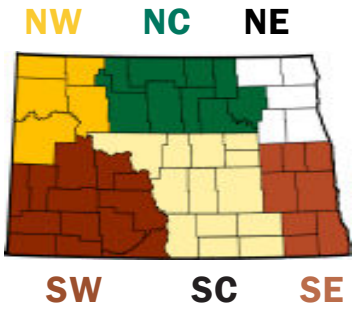

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Sunflower, Yellow Dwarf

Varieties

Lemon Cutie

75 days. Bushy, 3-foot plants are covered with bright, lemon-colored, semi-double blooms. Branching and pollenless. New award winner.

Lemon Pixie

60 days. Lemon-yellow petals and green disks. Branching plants grow 18–24 inches. For pots and flower borders. Pollenless.

Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lemon Cutie	Lemon Pixie	Same
Germinated best	25%	**38%**	**38%**
Healthier plants	13	38	**50**
Bloomed earlier	13	**63**	25
More blooms	29	**57**	14
Prettier in garden	14	14	**71**
Better cut flower	0	20	**80**
Preference	17	**83**	
Recommend	63	**75**	
Mean score[1]	6.75	**7.38**	
Median score[1]	7.50	**9.00**	

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

Prefer Lemon Cutie

Lemon Cutie ☺ SE
Lemon Pixie ☺

I liked *Lemon Cutie* better because of the *Teddy Bear*-type flowers. It was stunning in the garden and vase. Its plants were very, very short. *Lemon Pixie* was very pretty. It germinated 12 days earlier and bloomed 3 weeks earlier. *Lemon Pixie* plants were uneven in height but very compact. *Lemon Pixie* bloomed quickly and its heads closed up so the birds couldn't get to the seeds.

Prefer Lemon Pixie

Lemon Cutie ☺ SE
Lemon Pixie ☺

Lemon Pixie had smoother leaves and a nicer look overall.

Lemon Cutie ☺ NC
Lemon Pixie ☺

It was very exciting to see that *Lemon Pixie* survived our killing frosts. It is literally the only thing other than calendulas still alive in my garden. In fact, they are still producing blooms [October 21]!

Lemon Cutie ☺ NC
Lemon Pixie ☺

Both varieties had great germination and healthy plants. *Lemon Pixie* bloomed first and *Lemon Cutie* produced more flowers. These 24-inch varieties were simply beautiful. There were so many blossoms, and the bees went crazy. The vase life of these varieties was 5 days.

Lemon Cutie ☹ SW
Lemon Pixie ☺

They were both super pretty in the garden. *Lemon Pixie* bloomed much earlier and had twice as many plants! *Lemon Cutie* lasted a smidge longer in the garden than *Lemon Pixie*.

Lemon Cutie ☹ SD
Lemon Pixie ☹

Lemon Pixie flowers were prettier.

***Lemon Cutie* featured semi-double flowers. Although not as popular as *Lemon Pixie*, most gardeners recommended the variety.**

Best yellow dwarf branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Munchkin

Strong performers
Junior
Lemon Pixie

No Preference

Lemon Cutie ★★★★★ ☺ MN
Lemon Pixie ★★★★★ ☺

Lemon Cutie was a bushy little plant that grew to about 2 feet tall and was loaded with buds and flowers. I loved the pointy petals of its blossoms. *Lemon Pixie* bloomed 2 weeks earlier. It had the prettiest, butter-lemon to light-yellow flowers with yellow centers. *Lemon Pixie* plants grew about 3 feet tall and bloomed in about 2 months after planting. Its only negative was that its leaves yellowed and got buggy. I planted these varieties in the front row of my garden, but they would also shine in a mixed garden or flower pot. They were great cut flowers and lasted long in bouquets.

Lemon Cutie ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE
Lemon Pixie ★☆☆☆☆ ☹

Both varieties got downy mildew. They grew to about 12 inches tall and struggled to bloom. Their flowers just drooped.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced pretty, lemon-yellow flowers. *Lemon Pixie* was strongly preferred by gardeners. *Lemon Pixie* bloomed much earlier and more prolifically. Its compact, 2-foot-tall plants were filled with flowers. *Lemon Cutie* featured semi-double flowers. Although not as popular as *Lemon Pixie*, most gardeners recommended the variety.

***Lemon Pixie* bloomed much earlier and more prolifically. Its compact, 2-foot-high plants were filled with flowers.**

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Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

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

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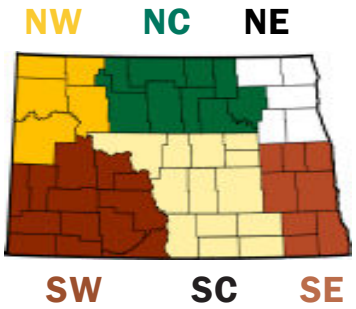

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Zinnia, Fruit Mixes

Varieties

Berry Tart

75 days. A radiant blend of *Cherry Queen*, *Coral Beauty*, *Meteor* and *Scarlet Flame*. Double and semi-double blooms. Height 36 inches.

Fruity Beauty

75 days. A vibrant mix of *Canary Bird*, *Coral Beauty* and *Orange King*. Great for bouquets and attracting butterflies. Height 36 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 118 sites submitted information.

Trait	Berry Tart	Fruity Beauty	Same
Germinated best	17%	31%	**52%**
Healthier plants	14	20	**66**
Bloomed earlier	27	**45**	28
More blooms	21	29	**50**
Prettier in garden	19	33	**47**
Better cut flower	13	14	**73**
Preference	41	**59**	
Recommend	85	**87**	
Mean score[1]	8.01	**8.30**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

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

Prefer Berry Tart

Berry Tart ★★★★★ ☺
Fruity Beauty ★★★★½ ☺ MN

Berry Tart had more flowers.

Berry Tart ★★★★★ ☺
Fruity Beauty ★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Berry Tart was more colorful.

Berry Tart ★★★★★ ☺
Fruity Beauty ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Berry Tart had more vibrant colors. They really stood out in the garden with a lot more intense color. Both varieties grew to 3 feet tall with a lot of blossoms all summer.

Berry Tart ★★★★½ ☺
Fruity Beauty ★★★½☆ ☹ SE

Berry Tart bloomed first and produced more flowers. Its flowers were brighter and longer lasting.

Berry Tart ★★★★★ ☺
Fruity Beauty ★★★★½ ☺ SE

This was a beautiful mix of zinnias that attracted a lot of pollinators. The mixes of colors for both varieties were so pretty. My favorite was a dusty rose pink. Both varieties had double and single blooms.

Berry Tart ★★★★★ ☺
Fruity Beauty ★★★★½ ☺ SE

Both varieties produced profusely. The plants grew over 5 feet tall and yet were incredibly sturdy. The flowers of both varieties repeatedly lasted 2 weeks or more as cut flowers. They both bloomed and attracted pollinators well into October. We liked the pinker tones of *Berry Tart*, but both were amazing bloomers. *Fruity Beauty* is gorgeous, too.

Berry Tart ★★★★☆ ☺
Fruity Beauty ★★★☆☆ ☹ SE

Berry Tart had better overall performance. It produced more flowers but the flowers were smaller. I prefer the colors of *Berry Tart*.

This was the most popular trial ever conducted in our program.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
- Benary's Giant

Strong performers
- Berry Tart
- California Giants
- Cut and Come Again
- Fruity Beauty
- Giant Dahlia
- Oklahoma State Fair

Prefer Berry Tart (continued)

Berry Tart ☺ SE
Fruity Beauty ☺

Overall, both varieties were very similar in germination, growth habit and flower production. I loved the monochromatic tones of *Berry Tart*. The colors complemented each other, whereas *Fruity Beauty* was harsher with its different contrasting colors. These zinnias were amazing this year! I loved the colors!

Berry Tart ☺ SE
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties bloomed well. I prefer the pink and ruby tones of *Berry Tart*. Its flowers were larger and more uniform. Some of the *Fruity Beauty* blooms were stunted and not symmetrical.

Berry Tart ☺ SE
Fruity Beauty ☹

The colors of *Berry Tart* were brighter and more vibrant.

Berry Tart ☺ -
Fruity Beauty ☺ NC

Berry Tart plants stood up better. Neither variety had very large blooms.

Berry Tart ☺ NC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Berry Tart plants were taller and bigger. Its flowers lasted longer.

Berry Tart ☺ NC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Berry Tart bloomed first. Both varieties put on a simply stunning display. The vase life of both varieties was 5 days. I enjoyed them!

Berry Tart ☺ NC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties did well and produced lovely blooms for a long time. They were great as cut flowers. *Berry Tart* produced more flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ NC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Berry Tart germinated better, grew slightly taller and had more blooms that I liked.

Berry Tart ☺ NC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both were disease-free and wonderful. I would plant them again. I preferred the color of *Berry Tart*.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

These varieties were fantastic. They bloomed in the high tunnel well into fall.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☹

Berry Tart did much better in production height and flower growth.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Berry Tart had fuller plants and more blooms.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☹

These varieties were showstoppers. They were gorgeous! They produced many flower arrangements all summer! I also planted seeds in my pollinator garden—bees and butterflies loved it! I had so many compliments on the flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☹

Fruity Beauty germinated first. *Berry Tart* had taller plants; nearly 5 feet tall. The *Berry Tart* flowers were very unique and beautiful. They would stand out in any garden.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

I prefer the colors of *Berry Tart*.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

We liked *Berry Tart* better because we liked its monochromatic red look in the garden. The reds were beautiful. Both varieties attracted a lot of pollinators.

These mixes were outstanding in their germination, health and abundance of blooms.

Prefer Berry Tart (continued)

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both of these produced a very tall zinnia. They were very showy with lots of petals. Good colors.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

I had never grown zinnias before, but they both did amazingly well! The plants were huge! Some even wound up tipping over towards the end because they had grown so tall. They produced big beautiful flowers. I did like some of the colors of *Berry Tart* a little more than *Fruity Beauty*. An added bonus of growing these in my garden this year was they attracted tiger swallowtail butterflies! They were a beautiful addition to the garden for attracting pollinators.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties were beautiful. My favorite was *Berry Tart*. I couldn't get over the hot and deep pinks.

Berry Tart ☺ SC
Fruity Beauty ☺

I liked the vibrant pinks of *Berry Tart*. *Berry Tart* flowers were fuller and the flower petals were wider. The plants of both varieties grew to the same height and were strong and sturdy. It was like pulling out small trees this fall!

Berry Tart ☺ -
Fruity Beauty ☹ NW

Berry Tart had hardier plants and more flowers. *Fruity Beauty* had larger flowers but they did not last as long as the *Berry Tart* flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ NW
Fruity Beauty ☺

I loved the colors of *Berry Tart*. Its plants were hardy and didn't lean.

Berry Tart ☺ NW
Fruity Beauty ☹

Berry Tart was superior in every category.

Berry Tart ☺ NW
Fruity Beauty ☺

Berry Tart was taller so it was easier to use for cut flowers. *Berry Tart* was a little healthier, too. Both varieties produced nice flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ NW
Fruity Beauty ☹

Berry Tart was healthier and produced more flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ NW
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties did great and produced a lot of flowers. Their colors were so pretty. I loved these flowers and when cut and put in water they lasted a good week. I took them to work numerous times and put them on my desk and got so many compliments. I especially loved the brightness of the pinks and reds of *Berry Tart*.

The plants were sturdy and filled with colorful flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ SW
Fruity Beauty ☺

I preferred the overall look of the *Berry Tart* blooms.

Berry Tart ☺ SW
Fruity Beauty ☹

I prefer red versus orange zinnias. Neither variety bloomed profusely.

Berry Tart ☺ SW
Fruity Beauty ☺

The flowers of *Berry Tart* were fuller.

Berry Tart ☺ SW
Fruity Beauty ☺

Very good germination on both. *Berry Tart* might have been a few days behind before flowering, but it quickly won the race for the most flowers. Not that *Fruity Beauty* didn't have lots of flowers, because it did. *Berry Tart* was not quite as tall as *Fruity Beauty*. The colors in these varieties were so pretty together. The colors of *Berry Tart* were very vibrant. They are still blooming today [August 25] and the flowers are very long lasting.

Prefer Berry Tart (continued)

Berry Tart ☺ SW
Fruity Beauty ☺

I loved these flowers. Both were vigorous and plentiful. Both bloomed continuously until freeze in October. Both varieties got to over 5 feet tall in my hoophouse (some were 6 feet tall) I had to use poles and string to keep them upright; next time I will fence them for support. Both had blooms that were 3 to 4 inches in diameter. I really liked the color palette of *Berry Tart*.

Berry Tart ☺ SW
Fruity Beauty ☺

I liked the colors of *Berry Tart* better.

Berry Tart ☺ SD
Fruity Beauty ☺

These were both beautiful varieties with lovely color. Both varieties produced strong stems and blooms that were very similar. I preferred the colors of *Berry Tart*. Its flowers were a little fuller.

Berry Tart ☺ SD
Fruity Beauty ☺

I loved the vibrant red flowers of *Berry Tart*. They were very attractive. *Fruity Beauty* was a prolific producer of flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ SD
Fruity Beauty ☹

Berry Tart flowers were larger and more attractive.

Berry Tart ☹ SD
Fruity Beauty ☹

Berry Tart seemed like it had two different kinds of seeds. One produced a multi-petal bloom that was very vibrant and large. Another seed in the packet produced a single-petal variety in a different more muted color. Neither one of them germinated well. *Fruity Beauty* germinated at 50% and *Berry Tart* germinated at 40%. I was not impressed with either of the varieties in this trial. They only grew to about 18 inches. I was expecting them to be much lusher and taller.

Berry Tart ☺ SD
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties germinated very quickly. Their plants were tall and healthy, and their flowers were beautiful. I loved the colors. I received so many compliments.

Prefer Fruity Beauty

Berry Tart ☺ MN
Fruity Beauty ☺

Fruity Beauty had larger blooms. It was more productive and looked nicer as a cut flower.

Berry Tart ☺ MN
Fruity Beauty ☺

I liked the brighter colors of *Fruity Beauty*—shades of yellow and orange. The colors of *Berry Tart* held up better as the summer went along. I think a mix of the two varieties would be very attractive.

Berry Tart ☺ MN
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties had good germination rates. The plants looked good and were productive. They had long, strong stems and bloomed continuously. I got a lot of cut flowers from both. *Fruity Beauty* flowers were slightly larger. I prefer working with its colors (yellow, orange and salmon) in bouquets compared to the mostly reds and pinks of *Berry Tart*.

Berry Tart ☺ MN
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties were very similar in all categories. *Fruity Beauty* germinated faster, but they both had the same germination rate. They were both about the same height and vigor, with plentiful gorgeous flowers that the butterflies flocked to. They were free of diseases and pests.

Berry Tart ☺ MN
Fruity Beauty ☺

Both varieties grew strong and tall. Both attracted butterflies. I liked the variety of colors in *Fruity Beauty*. *Berry Tart* had pretty pink/reds, but *Fruity Beauty* had a perfect mix of colors.

Some gardeners preferred the bright, monochromatic shades of red in *Berry Tart*.

Prefer Fruity Beauty (continued)

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ MN

I loved these huge zinnias! They added so much to the garden! I had quite a few hummingbirds visiting them which was very fun to watch. Pollinators loved them too. They produced huge blossoms in lovely colors. I hope to plant these again in the future. They can be an awesome border plant along a wall or in the back of a garden (mine grew about 4 feet tall). *Fruity Beauty* produced huge plants and blossoms in a variety of vibrant colors! They were amazing!

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ NE

I was really impressed with both of these zinnias! They were both very wonderful! The butterflies and bees loved them as well. They grew to a nice height and were healthy all summer. *Fruity Beauty* had gorgeous flower colors and beautiful, multi-layered petals.

Berry Tart ☹
Fruity Beauty ☺ NE

From these trials, I have come to absolutely love zinnias! They are both so lovely, and I feel they will last as long as there isn't a frost. They've been blooming since just before the 4th of July. Some are as tall as me (5 feet, 8 inches). *Berry Tart* has a couple plants that are wonky looking, but that's really it for differences. Both look great as cut flowers, lasting up to 2 weeks in the home. *Fruity Beauty* plants have been more vigorous and their blossoms are larger. *Berry Tart* blossoms have beautiful, deep color.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ NE

Both varieties grew very large and bushy. They were both beautiful and thrived in my garden. They brought much joy to everyone who received bouquets. I like being able to see the yellow flowers from far away better than the darker reds.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ NE

Both varieties germinated in 4 days—wow! Both had strong stems and large flowers. Both varieties would be a great choice. I loved the different colors of *Fruity Beauty*. Flowers of different colors always look nice in a vase.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ NE

The two varieties were so similar in hardiness, flower and foliage color, and size that it was very difficult to tell them apart. Both attracted pollinators and the color mixture added interest to the surrounding vegetables. Both varieties withstood a very dry summer and did well overall. The *Fruity Beauty* mix included a deeper pink flower which was a favorite.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ NE

We preferred the blooms on *Fruity Beauty*. They were more round with more petals. Both varieties had healthy, strong-looking flowers.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ NE

Fruity Beauty had healthier and taller plants.

Berry Tart ☹
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Fruity Beauty produced more flowers and had better flower quality—larger, more full blooms. It was a better cut flower.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Fruity Beauty was healthier and produced more flowers. *Berry Tart* bloomed earlier.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Fruity Beauty had earlier blooms and a bigger variety of colors.

Most gardeners preferred the vibrant, contrasting shades of *Fruity Beauty*.

Prefer Fruity Beauty (continued)

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

I liked *Fruity Beauty* for its variety of colors—yellow, orange, dark pink and red. It stood up to the wind and drought, and it flowered for a very long time. It germinated earlier, showed more vigor and bloomed 17 days earlier than *Berry Tart*. *Fruity Beauty* had a large main head with medium and small secondary blossoms. *Berry Tart* was pretty, but it was slow to flower and did not have as many blossoms.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Berry Tart was slower to germinate. *Fruity Beauty* flowers were more abundant in summer. I really liked the deep color of *Fruity Beauty*.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

More *Berry Tart* seeds germinated. *Fruity Beauty* had a better variety of colors (yellow, orange and red) and was prettier. *Berry Tart* flowers were mainly red. Both varieties had good, strong stems and were great cut flowers; the flowers of *Fruity Beauty* lasted longer.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

The plants of both varieties were hardy and sturdy. *Berry Tart* grew taller. The colors of *Fruity Beauty* were varied and vibrant.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

I have a very slight preference for *Fruity Beauty* as the plants were slightly taller. However, these varieties were very comparable and were both beautiful!

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Both varieties were exceptional! Their colors were fantastic! *Berry Tart* bloomed slightly earlier. The colors of *Fruity Beauty* were so vivid and their flowers were very large.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Berry Tart produced various attractive shades of red and fuchsia. So far, *Fruity Beauty* has only produced yellow-gold blossoms. *Fruity Beauty* was more attractive, but would require planting more densely to get the desired bloom effect. *Berry Tart* emerged faster and bloomed earlier.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Fruity Beauty had a more unique zinnia color.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

The colors of these varieties were beautiful. Bees loved both varieties. The blooms of *Fruity Beauty* were large, full and long lasting. *Berry Tart* took about 3 weeks longer to develop blooms.

Their blooms were large and full, some with double petals, and long lasting.

Berry Tart ☹
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

The flowers of *Fruity Beauty* looked a bit fuller.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Even with planting later in the spring, the zinnias took off and grew quickly around the trees and provided a nice accent. I preferred the multiple complementary colors of *Fruity Beauty*.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SE

Similar rates of germination: 90%+ of seeds sprouted. No discernable difference in seedlings. Both plants started blooming within days of each other. The *Berry Tart* plants seemed to do better in my garden, but the *Fruity Beauty* plants that produced were a little taller and had more heads. I really liked the orange flowers of *Fruity Beauty*. The red flowers of *Berry Tart* seemed a bit plain, and the orange flowers of *Fruity Beauty* had more of a color gradient. These varieties looked nice, but they are definitely not the best zinnias that I've planted.

Prefer Fruity Beauty (continued)

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SE

They were very comparable in performance. Both grew very well in my garden and bloomed. *Fruity Beauty* germinated only slightly better. I really liked the bright, cheerful mix of oranges, pinks and yellows in *Fruity Beauty*, but if you were looking for a more red presentation *Berry Tart* was a really nice combination of reds, hot pinks and corals.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — NC

Both varieties were slow to bloom. *Fruity Beauty* had better blooms.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — NC

Both varieties germinated incredibly well, produced a ton of flowers, many with double petals. The foliage and flowers of the varieties were very attractive and lasted a long time before the first killing frost. I preferred the color variety of *Fruity Beauty*.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — NC

Berry Tart was very slow to germinate. I preferred the flower colors of *Fruity Beauty*.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — NC

All of the seeds germinated. They grew quickly and full. I loved both. The variety of colors made a delightful bed of flowers. I loved the colors of *Fruity Beauty*.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — NC

Neither variety had as many blooms as other varieties I've tried. As a cut flower they lasted only 2 to 3 days in a vase. *Fruity Beauty* had a little better variety of color.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — NC

Both looked good in the garden. *Berry Tart* looked better early in the season but *Fruity Beauty* looked just as nice later on. I liked the wider variety of colors on *Fruity Beauty*, especially the orange. *Berry Tart* was just different shades of red.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

Fruity Beauty was more prolific.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

Fruity Beauty colors were more attractive.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

Fruity Beauty had bigger flowers and a greater variety of colors.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

Berry Tart looked boring, and it had poor germination.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

I loved both varieties and would plant them again. The only difference was *Fruity Beauty* bloomed 1 day earlier. Very beautiful!

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

Both varieties had beautiful colors, but *Fruity Beauty* was gorgeous! I preferred its different "fruity" colors!

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

Fruity Beauty did better overall. My daughter grew these and really preferred the larger assortment of colors in *Fruity Beauty*.

Berry Tart
Fruity Beauty — SC

Fruity Beauty bloomed earlier and had more colors. Both varieties grew tall.

These beautiful mixes attracted a lot of pollinators from summer to frost.

Prefer Fruity Beauty (continued)

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

The germination rates of these varieties were excellent. *Fruity Beauty* bloomed 4 days sooner. *Fruity Beauty* had larger blooms and was a better cut flower. The blooms of *Berry Tart* were more delicate.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

Fruity Beauty plants were taller, produced more flowers longer, had a nice-sized flower and a good variety of colors.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

Both varieties were really good. They bloomed about the same time and had the same amounts of flowers. They looked amazing as a cut flower. The plants of *Fruity Beauty* were much taller/thicker and a little healthier; its flowers were thicker. The flowers of both varieties were attractive. *Berry Tart* had more spring colors and *Fruity Beauty* had fall colors.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

Both varieties germinated well, grew well and were pretty. *Fruity Beauty* flowers were more colorful and stood out because of the mix of colors. *Berry Tart* plants were slightly taller.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

I loved both varieties and would like to try again next year. Beautiful! The variety of colors in *Fruity Beauty* was especially beautiful.

Berry Tart ☹ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

Both varieties had tall, very strong stems. Their flowers were very showy and attractive to pollinators and me. *Fruity Beauty* flowers had more color variety and eye appeal.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

I preferred *Fruity Beauty* because I liked its colors the best.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SC

Fruity Beauty germinated more seeds so there were more plants. It produced more flower blooms and was just a little earlier blooming.

Berry Tart ☹ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ NW

They were very close in germination. *Fruity Beauty* grew a little faster, had taller plants and more blooms. *Fruity Beauty* plants were fuller and healthier. Both varieties had beautiful flowers.

Berry Tart ☺ -
Fruity Beauty ☺ NW

Fruity Beauty had more variation of color.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ NW

Fruity Beauty had more colors and many more flowers per plant. I preferred its colors. *Fruity Beauty* plants were a bit taller. Both varieties had strong stems.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ NW

Both varieties had beautiful flowers and were very easy to grow! I liked the variety of colors better in *Fruity Beauty*. *Fruity Beauty* had a few more flowers, too.

Berry Tart ☹ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SW

Fruity Beauty had a larger color range and more flowers. Its plants were stout and healthy. *Berry Tart* plants had more slender stalks and didn't hold up as well.

Berry Tart ☺ 
Fruity Beauty ☺ SW

The flowers were beautiful all summer! They helped bring in bees for my cucumbers, tomatoes and pumpkins. *Fruity Beauty* plants were healthier. They grew taller and were more attractive in the garden.

Both mixes were excellent in cut flower arrangements.

Prefer Fruity Beauty (continued)

Berry Tart ☹
Fruity Beauty ☺ SW

Fruity Beauty was brighter, better producing and more colorful.

Berry Tart ☹
Fruity Beauty ☺ SW

I loved the variety of colors in *Fruity Beauty* but also loved *Berry Tart* for its red shades. *Fruity Beauty* petals were thicker.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SW

Fruity Beauty had better germination and more flowers.

Berry Tart ☹
Fruity Beauty ☺ SW

Fruity Beauty flowers were beautiful and bigger.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SD

The flowers of both varieties were colorful and full. I liked the flowers and colors of *Fruity Beauty* slightly better. The varieties bloomed within 1 day of each other. They did not tolerate the heat well with their lower leaves turning brown due to heat.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SD

Fruity Beauty had deeper colors. Both varieties had full blooms and grew 3+ feet tall. I would prefer a shorter variety because we have strong winds.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ SD

Both varieties did great despite the heat and lack of rain. *Berry Tart* had shades of red including two dark purple blooms which were absolutely gorgeous! *Fruity Beauty* produced more flowers. I loved the riot of colors *Fruity Beauty* had. It was a far greater variety of colors and attracted far more insects/pollinators.

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ IA

We had a very dry, hot summer that might have hindered the growth and production of these varieties. *Fruity Beauty* flowers were bright and more colorful. Both varieties were very pretty for pollinators.

No Preference

Berry Tart ☺
Fruity Beauty ☺ NC

They were excellent. Both varieties had 99% germination, a nice variety of colors, and full (2.5 to 3.0 inch) blooms. I would plant a larger area with both.

Conclusions

This was the most popular trial ever conducted in our program. *Berry Tart* and *Fruity Beauty* were easy to grow and gardeners loved them. These mixes were outstanding in germination, health and flower qualities. The plants were sturdy and filled with colorful flowers. The blooms were large and full, some with double petals, and long lasting. Some gardeners preferred the bright, monochromatic shades of red in *Berry Tart,* but most gardeners preferred the vibrant, contrasting shades of *Fruity Beauty*. These beautiful mixes attracted a lot of pollinators from summer to frost. Both mixes were excellent in cut flower arrangements.

These mixes were easy to grow. Gardeners loved them.

Appendix 1

Welcome Letter

NDSU | EXTENSION

Dear Gardener,

Welcome to our research team! It will be fun to work with you this summer. Enclosed are the seeds you ordered. If you are missing anything, please let me know. Let's go over some key points:

1. Each trial compares two varieties. **You must plant both varieties**.

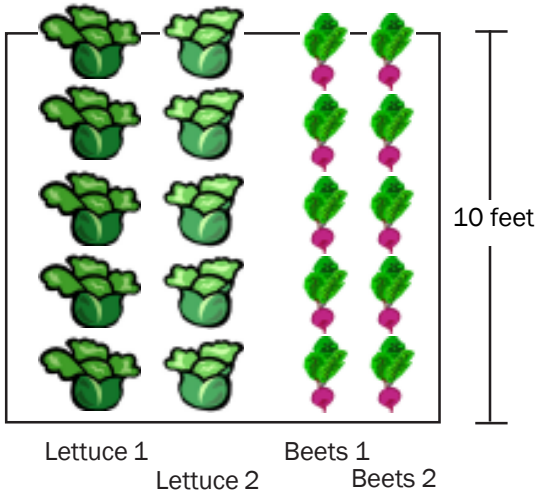
2. To make it a fair comparison, you need to **treat both varieties in the same manner**. They must get the same amount of sunlight and general care (watering and fertilizing).

3. We want to see how these varieties perform under real home garden situations. The packets have instructions on how to sow your seeds, but you may **use your own gardening practices**. For example, I sow my cucumber seeds in a row but you can plant them in hills if you wish. It's up to you.

4. When possible, **grow the varieties for each trial in rows near each other**. Look at the diagram (top right). Notice the varieties being compared in the lettuce and beet trials are grown next to each other. In this way, they are most likely to get the same amount of sunlight and care.

   Cucumber, melon and pumpkin vines can "run" and become intertwined. Try to keep the vines of each variety within the row so you do not get confused when harvesting and evaluating each variety.

5. You have enough seeds to grow at least 10 feet of each variety. It's okay if you don't have enough space for 10-foot rows, but try to get a fair look at both varieties.



6. **Use the plot labels** that are enclosed. This will help you remember which variety is which. I strongly encourage you to **make a plot diagram after you are done planting** for your future reference in case the plot labels get removed accidentally (this happens with kids).

7. An example of a completed evaluation form is enclosed. Use this as a guide to help you when evaluating the varieties.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Kalb, II

Tom Kalb
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Welcome to our research team!

More Info

Go to the ND Home Garden Variety Trials website: www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

Appendix 2

Example of Evaluation Form

2023 Trial #00

Cantaloupe

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?		X		Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor
Had healthier plants?		X		Apollo vines turned gray in fall
Produced the first ripe melons?	X			Three days earlier than Zeus
Produced higher yields?		X		Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6
Had more attractive melons?		X		Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh
Tasted better?		X		Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet

Overall Performance Rating	Apollo	Zeus
Rate each variety on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 5 = good and 10 = excellent. *Don't give both a "10". Be very critical!*	5	9

Preference

Circle the variety you prefer. *Don't circle both—make a choice!* Apollo (Zeus)

Please state the reason(s) for your preference:
Zeus was outstanding. Good yields of large, sweet fruits. The vines looked healthy all summer. Apollo ripened early, but the vines were weak and the melons tasted bland.

Recommendation

Circle the varieties you recommend for North Dakota gardeners:

Apollo (Zeus) Both Neither

Appendix 3

Acknowledgements

Researchers

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Deb Prociw
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Variety Descriptions

This is an academic report published for educational purposes only. No profits are made in this program. The descriptions of varieties in this report were obtained from information in catalogs of numerous companies, including Burpee, Fedco, Harris, High Mowing, Johnny's, Jordan, Jung, Osborne, Prairie Road Organic, Seedway, Stokes, Sunflower Selections, Territorial, Urban Farmer, Veseys, and Whaley. These descriptions are used for educational purposes only.

Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

2024

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:

Selecting an outstanding cultivar can lead to a bountiful garden.

ASPARAGUS. Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Millennium, Purple Passion.

BEAN. ***Bush:*** Annihilator, Antigua, Bush Blue Lake 274, Crockett, Derby, Espada, Homerun, Inspiration, Jade, Lewis, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Red Tail, Royal Burgundy, Serengeti, Strike. ***Dry:*** Arikara Yellow, Great Northern. ***Lima:*** Fordhook 242, Eastland. ***Pole:*** Fortex, Monte Gusto, Orient Wonder, Seychelles, Stringless Blue Lake S-7. ***Soybean:*** Envy, Tohya. ***Wax:*** Borsalino, Carson, Gold Rush.

BEET. ***Red:*** Bull's Blood, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Eagle, Early Wonder Tall Top, Merlin, Red Ace, Red Cloud. ***Gold:*** Boldor, Burpee's Golden, Touchstone Gold.

BROCCOLI. Green Magic, Gypsy.

CABBAGE. ***Chinese:*** Blues. ***Head:*** Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

CARROT. ***Orange:*** Baltimore, Bolero, Candysnax, Cupar, Goldfinger, Hercules, Imperator 58, Laguna, Mokum, Napoli, Naval, Negovia, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes. ***Other:*** Gold Nugget, Purple Haze.

CAULIFLOWER. Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

CORN. ***Super Sweet:*** American Dream, Anthem XR, Catalyst, Enchanted, Icon, Troubadour, Xtra-Tender 274A. ***Sugary enhanced:*** Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Temptation. ***Synergistic:*** Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select, Sweetness. ***Ornamental:*** Fiesta. ***Popcorn:*** Dakota Black.

CUCUMBER. ***Pickling:*** Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf, Max Pack. ***Slicing:*** Bristol, Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Green Light, Mercury, Muncher, Nokya, Orient Express II, Raceway, Raider, Salad Bush, Sashimi, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green, Unagi.

EGGPLANT. Classic, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express, Traviata.

GREENS. Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Komatsuna, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Tokyo Bekana, Vegetable Amaranth, Win-Win Choi.

KALE. Black Magic, Dazzling Blue, Red Russian, Russian Frills, Vates, Winterbor.

KOHLRABI. Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner Improved.

LETTUCE. ***Leaf:*** Bergam's Green, Cervanek, Deer Tongue, Merlot, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Royal Oakleaf, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. ***Butterhead:*** Alkindus, Buttercrunch, Nancy, Red Cross, Skyphos, Sweet Valentine. ***Crisphead:*** Magenta, Muir, Nevada, Pablo, Sierra. ***Romaine:*** Bluerock, Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Newham, Starhawk. ***Lollo:*** Dark Red Lollo Rossa.

MELON. ***Muskmelon:*** Aphrodite, Athena, Dakota Sisters, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. ***Specialty:*** Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan.

Cultivar selection checklist:

- ✓ Early maturity
- ✓ Flavorful
- ✓ Resists diseases
- ✓ Productive
- ✓ Widely adapted (cool soil, dry weather)

OKRA. Candle Fire, Clemson Spineless 80.

ONION. Ailsa Craig, Candy, Patterson, Rossa di Milano, Talon, Walla Walla.

PEA. ***Shell:*** Early Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro Improved, Wando. ***Snap:*** Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap. ***Snow:*** Avalanche, Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sweet Horizon.

PEPPER. ***Bell:*** Bell Boy, Dragonfly, Early Sunsation, King of the North, Lunchbox Mix, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze, Red Knight. ***Frying/Roasting:*** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. ***Hot:*** Cheyenne, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, PS11435807, Tiburon.

POTATO. Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

PUMPKIN. ***Jack-o'-lantern:*** Autumn Gold, Bellatrix, Cargo, Cronus, Early Dakota Howden, Early Giant, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Large Marge, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie, Warty Goblin. ***Giant:*** Big Moose, Dill's Atlantic Giant, Polar Bear. ***Ornamental:*** Blaze, Casperita, Jack Be Little, Blue Doll, Porcelain Doll.

RADISH. Amethyst, Bacchus, Champion, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Red Head, Rover, Roxanne, Sora, White Icicle.

RUTABAGA. American Purple Top.

SPINACH. Avon, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Escalade, Gazelle, Kookaburra, Lizard, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, SV2146VB, Tyee.

SQUASH, SUMMER. ***Crookneck:*** Gentry, Sundance. ***Scallop:*** Flying Saucer, Sunburst. ***Straightneck:*** Fortune, Multipik, Slick Pik YS 26, Zephyr. ***Zucchini:*** Cashflow, Desert, Dunja, Gold Rush, Green Machine, Green Tiger, Payload, Portofino, Raven, Spineless Beauty, Yellowfin.

SQUASH, WINTER. ***Acorn:*** Autumn Delight, Black Bellota, Carnival, Table Ace, Table King. ***Buttercup:*** Bonbon, Burgess, Uncle David's Dakota Dessert. ***Butternut:*** Butterbaby, Butterscotch, Early Butternut, Granite, Waltham. ***Delicata:*** Cornell's Bush Delicata, Zeppelin. ***Other:*** Blue Magic, Delica, Primavera, Red Kuri, Sunshine, Speckled Hound, Sweet Mama.

SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.

SWISS CHARD. Bali, Bright Lights, Charbell, Improved Rainbow, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Ruby Red.

TOMATO. ***Small:*** Juliet, Sungold, SunSugar, Supersweet 100, Fargo Yellow Pear. ***Fresh market:*** Big Beef Plus, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity Plus, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus, Mountain Merit, Red Deuce, Roadster. ***Paste:*** Granadero, Roma VF, Viva Italia. ***Heirloom:*** Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Striped German, Stupice, Wisconsin 55.

TURNIP. Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross.

WATERMELON. ***Seeded:*** Petite Yellow, Sangria, Stargazer, Sugar Baby, Sweet Dakota Rose, Yellow Doll. ***Seedless:*** Millionaire.

Seed Sources

The following is a sample of companies offering seeds. This list is provided for educational purposes only; no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Many offer free seed catalogs.

A.P. Whaley Seed, www.awhaley.com.
Baker Creek Seed, www.rareseeds.com.
Burpee Seed, www.burpee.com.
Fedco Seeds, www.fedcoseeds.com.
Gurney's Seed and Nursery, www.gurneys.com.
Harris Seeds, www.harrisseeds.com.
High Mowing Seeds, www.highmowingseeds.com.
Johnny's Selected Seeds, www.johnnyseeds.com.
Jordan Seeds, www.jordanseeds.com.
Jung Seed, www.jungseed.com.
Osborne Seeds, www.osborneseed.com.
Pinetree Garden Seeds, www.superseeds.com.
Prairie Road Org. Seed, www.prairieroadorganic.co.
Seed Savers Exchange, www.seedsavers.org.
Stokes Seeds, www.stokeseeds.com.
Territorial Seed, www.territorialseed.com.
True Leaf Market Seed, www.trueleafmarket.com.
Vesey's Seeds, www.veseys.com.

All gardeners are invited to join our team of backyard researchers. Go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegarden varietytrials/

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