North Dakota
Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS FOR 2017

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The First Step to Success

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

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

The benefits of selecting superior varieties for gardens are great. The National Gardening Association (NGA) estimates approximately one-third of households in North Dakota grow a vegetable garden.\(^1\) This indicates there are approximately 93,000 households in North Dakota with vegetable gardens.

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

There is an important public health dimension to gardening. Vegetables and fruits are nature’s richest source of micronutrients, minerals and dietary fiber. A diet rich in vegetables and fruits is associated with a decreased risk of obesity and certain chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers. Nevertheless, only 25% of adults and 8% of children in North Dakota eat enough vegetables for a healthy diet.\(^3\)

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

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

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

The Bottom Line

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

Goals

This program has three major goals:

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

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\(^1\) 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.

2. Gardeners will identify superior varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers.

3. Youth will develop skills in science, eat a healthier diet, and enjoy increased levels of physical activity.

**Selecting Varieties**

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

**Preparation of Seed Packets**

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

**Distribution of Seeds**

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

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

Besides seeds, growers receive row labels to mark rows, and a string to help them lay out the 10-foot-long plots. Gardeners receive simple, yet detailed instructions on laying out their plots (Appendix 1). We encourage a 10-foot plot length to be minimal at getting quality data but container gardening is allowed.

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

**Weather in 2017: Drought!**

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

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

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

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

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**Fig. 1. Drought severity and percentage of area in state affected. Source: Drought Monitor.**
Fig. 2. Monthly air temperatures and precipitation amounts in 2017 and normal (1901–2000). Temperatures were warmer than normal, and crops suffered through a drought in spring and summer. Many rainfed gardens failed. Rains in autumn were scattered and too late to make much of a difference. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### Quantity and Quality of Participation

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

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

### Compiling Data

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

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

Approximately 15% of reports this year were eliminated from our analysis and report. In most cases, these reports documented total crop failures of both varieties due to drought. There were a few instances of extensive damage caused by wildlife (deer and rabbits) and a few reports with inconsistent data that were eliminated.
Presentation of Results

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

Reports are categorized by the 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 region going from east to west (Fig. 5). We start with Minnesota, go to northeast North Dakota, across the central regions of the state to southwest North Dakota, and then include reports from South Dakota and Montana. Regions were identified by considering landforms, soil types, length of growing season and rainfall patterns.

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

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

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

Sharing the Final Results

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

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

Impacts

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

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

Fig. 5. Regional breakdown used in this report.
Summary of Results

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

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

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

### Bean, Green

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B Blue Lake 274</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>7.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspiration</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>7.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(28 sites)

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

### Bean, Green Slim-Pod

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crockett</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>8.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>8.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(37 sites)

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

### Bean, Purple

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purple Qn Imp</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Burgundy</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(12 sites)

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

### Bean, Yellow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carson</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>7.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Rush</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>7.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(21 sites)

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

### Bean, Green Pole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Blue</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte Cristo</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(9 sites)

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

### Bean, Vegetable Soybean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envy</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>7.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tohya</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>6.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(10 sites)

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boldor</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touchstone Gold</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(20 sites)

**Beet, Red**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merlin</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>8.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Ace</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>7.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(34 sites)

**Carrot, Chantenay**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hercules</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Chantenay</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(11 sites)

**Carrot, Early Nantes**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goldfinger</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>6.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mokum</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>7.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(52 sites)

**Carrot, Mainseason Nantes**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolero</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>6.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuroda</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>7.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(14 sites)

**Carrot, Yellow**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chablis Yellow</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar Yellow</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>5.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(20 sites)

**Corn, Bicolor**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambrosia</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>6.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaches &amp; Cream</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>6.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(21 sites)

**Corn, Bicolor Super Sweet**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthem XR</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>7.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xtra-Tender 274A</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(16 sites)
**Corn, Yellow**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bodacious RM</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>8.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inferno</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(12 sites)

**Corn, Early Ornamental**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiesta</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>6.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted Mountain</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(8 sites)

**Corn, Full-Season Ornamental**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autumn Expl’n</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass Gem</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(8 sites)

**Corn, Strawberry**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Berry</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberry</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(9 sites)

**Cucumber, Burpless**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Dance</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>8.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Slice</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>7.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(41 sites)

**Cucumber, Pickling**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home. Pickles</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regal</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>7.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(29 sites)

**Cucumber, Slicing**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Lee</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>8.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonewall</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>7.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(7 sites)

**Cucumber, Snack**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>7.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muncher</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>6.97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(40 sites)
Cucumber, White

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

Greens, Mizuna

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

Greens, Tatsoi

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

Lettuce, Butterhead

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

Lettuce, Leaf

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

Lettuce, Romaine

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

Lettuce, Summer Crisp

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

Melon, Cantaloupe

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Gordo</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solstice</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Melon, Galia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arava</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomat</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Red Okra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>6.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>5.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Pea, Shell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>8.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sienna</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>6.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Pea, Snap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Magnolia</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>6.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Sugar Snap</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>7.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Pumpkin, Small

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Scream</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>6.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neon</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>7.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Pumpkin, Medium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early King</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>7.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howden</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>6.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Pumpkin, Large

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Giant</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>7.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howden Biggie</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>6.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Radish, Red (Fall)

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

Spinach, Savoy Leaf (Fall)

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

Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

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

Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

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

Squash, Straightneck

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

Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

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

Squash, Green Zucchini

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amethyst</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>6.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacchus</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>7.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rover</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>7.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roxanne</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>7.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emperor</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>6.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflect</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>6.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olympia</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>6.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>7.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazelle</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>6.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kitten</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>6.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortune</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multipik</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>7.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunja</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raven</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>7.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payload</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>7.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spineless Perf’n</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>7.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Swiss Chard, White

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barese</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>6.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverado</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>8.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(11 sites)

Watermelon, Red

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sangria</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>6.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swt Dakota Rose</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(22 sites)

Watermelon, Red Icebox

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jade Star</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Baby</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>5.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(15 sites)

Watermelon, Yellow

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold in Gold</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon Krush</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(10 sites)

Basil, Italian

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eleonora</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>6.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genovese</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>7.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(27 sites)

Basil, Thai

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>7.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siam Queen</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>5.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(8 sites)

Cilantro

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calypso</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>7.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruiser</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>6.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(13 sites)

Cosmos, Novelty

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Pref (%)</th>
<th>Rec (%)</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cupcakes</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>7.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Click</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>8.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(27 sites)
Sunflower, Gold Cutting

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

Zinnia, Scarlet

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

Varieties

‘Bush Blue Lake 274’
56 days. The standard for yield and quality. Dark green, stringless pods. Dependable.

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

Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>B.B. Lake</th>
<th>Inspiration</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive pods</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommend (☺)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean score¹</td>
<td>7.59</td>
<td>7.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Bush Blue Lake 274’

Bush Blue Lake 274 ☺ ☺ MN
I prefer the length and color of the ‘Bush Blue Lake 274’ pods.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Bush Blue Lake 274

Strong performers
Derby
Espada
Greencrop
Inspiration
Jade
Pike
Provider
Strike

NORTH DAKOTA HOME GARDEN VARIETY TRIALS – 2017
Prefer ‘B. B. Lake 274’ (continued)

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
Inspiration ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

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

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
Inspiration ★★★★☆ ☺ SW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
Inspiration ★★★★☆ ☺ SC

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

‘Inspiration’ produced first. Its pods were long, straight and more attractive.
Prefer ‘Inspiration’ (continued)

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

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

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

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ ☺
Inspiration ★★★★★ ☺ SW
The pods of ‘Inspiration’ were smooth—beautiful green color—easy to miss when picking.

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

Key to Site Reports
(reports are presented from east to west)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Ratings (1 to 10)</th>
<th>Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Variety A</td>
<td>★★★★ ★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variety B</td>
<td>★★★★ ★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
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‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Both varieties produced well under dry conditions. Heat-tolerant ‘Inspiration’ showed remarkable consistency across sites.
Bean, Green Slim-Pod

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 37 sites submitted information.

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<th>Trait</th>
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<th>Pike</th>
<th>Same</th>
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1Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Crockett’

Crockett  ★★★★★ ☇
Pike      ★★★★★ ☇

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

Crockett  ★★★★★ ☇
Pike      ★★★★★ ☇

‘Crockett’ plants were healthier. Both varieties were excellent!

Crockett  ★★★★★ ☇
Pike      ★★★★★ ☇

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

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

References

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

Best green filet bean varieties

Top choice
Crockett

Strong performers
Maxibel
Serengeti

NDSU Extension
**Prefer ‘Crockett’ (continued)**

*Crockett* *Pike*  
SE

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
SE

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
NC

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
NC

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
NC

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
SC

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
SC

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
SC

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
NW

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
NW

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

**Prefer ‘Pike’**

*Crockett* *Pike*  
MN

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

*Crockett* *Pike*  
SE

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

The pods of ‘Crockett’ were glossy, dark green and delicious. Its vines were very productive.
Prefer ‘Pike’ (continued)

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

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

Crockett ★★★★★ ☹
Pike ★★★★★ ☹ SE
Both varieties had near 100% germination, grew healthy, had attractive pods and produced similar yields. ‘Pike’ tasted best.

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

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

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

Crockett ★★★★★ ☹
Pike ★★★★★ ☹ SC
Both varieties did well. ‘Pike’ produced edible pods 4–5 days earlier. I liked the smooth, mild flavor of both varieties.

Crockett ★★★★★ ☹
Pike ★★★★★ ☹ SW
‘Pike’ pods were longer and easy to clean. ‘Crockett’ pods were slow to get seedy.

Crockett ★★★★★ ☹
Pike ★★★★★ ☹ SW
The pod of ‘Pike’ was just as its name implied—a “pike”—long and straight—like a pencil. Very uniform and beautiful, deep dark green.

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

Conclusions

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

Varieties

‘Purple Queen Improved’
55 days. Dark purple blooms with colorful red stems. Delicious pods turn green when cooked.

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

Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

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

Prefer ‘Purple Queen Improved’

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

Purple Queen Imp. 🍅🍅🍅🍅😊
Royal Burgundy 🍅🍅🍅🍅😊
No comments.

Purple Queen Imp. 🍅🍅🍅🍅😊
Royal Burgundy 🍅🍅🍅🍅😊
‘Purple Queen Improved’ showed better germination and early growth. No yield from either variety.

Purple Queen Imp. 🍅🍅🍅🍅😊
Royal Burgundy 🍅🍅🍅🍅😊
‘Royal Burgundy’ may not have had as many pods but they were more attractive and tasted much better, sweeter.

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

Best purple bush bean varieties

Top choice
Purple Queen Improved

Strong performer
Royal Burgundy
**Prefer ‘R. Burgundy’ (continued)**

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

‘Royal Burgundy’ was far better. It had healthier plants with big pods. I don’t know what was “improved” in the ‘Purple Queen Improved’. The plants were smaller and the stems were easier to damage/break. The pods of both varieties were fun to use in salads because of the color.

**Other**

Purple Queen Imp.        ★★★★★  ☀
Royal Burgundy            ★★★★★  ☀  MN

Both tasted really good but were about half as productive as our green beans.

**Conclusions**

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

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

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\(^1\)Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Carson

Carson ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺
Gold Rush ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺

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

Carson ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺
Gold Rush ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺

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

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

Best yellow bush bean varieties
Top choice Carson
Strong performer Gold Rush
Prefer Gold Rush

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other

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

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

Conclusions

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

**Varieties**

*‘Kentucky Blue’*

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

**Data**

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

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

**Prefer Kentucky Blue**

Kentucky Blue ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️
Monte Cristo ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️ NE

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

Kentucky Blue ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️
Monte Cristo ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️ NC

‘Kentucky Blue’ bloomed earlier.

**Prefer Monte Cristo**

Kentucky Blue ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️
Monte Cristo ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️ SC

‘Monte Cristo’ had bigger plants but lower yields. ‘Kentucky Blue’ was very good tasting and had a lot of beans.

Kentucky Blue ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️
Monte Cristo ☺️️️️️️️️ ☺️ SC

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

**Best green pole bean varieties**

Top choice
Fortex

Strong performers
Kentucky Blue
Monte Cristo
Orient
Wonder
Stringless Blue
Lake S-7
The vines of ‘Monte Cristo’ were vigorous and often produced higher yields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Blue</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☻</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte Cristo</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☻</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Monte Cristo’ won in taste and yield. We will be saving seeds from both varieties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Blue</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☻</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte Cristo</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☻</td>
<td>SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Kentucky Blue’ did not germinate.

Conclusions

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

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety A</th>
<th>Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☻</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety B</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★★★★★</td>
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MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana
Bean, Vegetable Soybean

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Envy</th>
<th>Tohya</th>
<th>Same</th>
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<tr>
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<td>33%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer Envy

Envy ☺ ☻
Tohya ☻ ☻ SE
‘Envy’ produced longer and had longer pods. Both had many 2-seed pods.

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

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

Envy ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻
Tohya ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SC
This is a toss up; however, ‘Envy’ was slightly fuller with pods than ‘Tohya’.

Envy ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻
Tohya ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ NW
More seeds in the pods.

Envy ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻
Tohya ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ NW
The first planting of these was on June 3 but the pheasants at 85% of them so I replanted on June 17 with chicken wire around them. Both came up and produced the same. I had no preference really, as they were both really good. They were nice to snack on. After they had been boiled, we froze in baggies and warmed up in microwave for snacks.

Envy ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻
Tohya ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SW
‘Envy’ germinated better.

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

Best vegetable soybean varieties
Top choice
Tohya
Strong performer
Envy

NORTH DAKOTA HOME GARDEN VARIETY TRIALS – 2017 25
Prefer Tohya

Envy ★★★★★ ☺
Tohya ★★★★★ ☺ SE

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

Envy ★★★★★ ☺
Tohya ★★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Conclusions

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

Varieties

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

‘Touchstone Gold’

Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

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<tr>
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<th>Gold</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

Prefer Boldor

Boldor  ★★★★★ ☺
Touchstone Gold ★★★★ ☺ NE

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

Boldor  ★★★★ ☺
Touchstone Gold ★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Boldor’ had higher germination, higher yield and slightly sweeter taste.

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

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
Boldor

Strong performer
Touchstone Gold
Prefer ‘Touchstone Gold’

Boldor ☑ 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* ☑
Touchstone Gold ☑ 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* SE

The roots of ‘Touchstone Gold’ were bigger and tastier.

Boldor 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* ☑
Touchstone Gold 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* SE

‘Touchstone Gold’ had higher yield.

Boldor 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* ☑
Touchstone Gold 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* SE

‘Touchstone Gold’ had superior flavor and color.

Boldor - ☑
Touchstone Gold - ☑ SE

‘Boldor’ did not come up. I recommend ‘Touchstone Gold’.

Boldor 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* ☑
Touchstone Gold 4* 4* 4* 4* 4* NW

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

Boldor ☑ 5* 5* 5* 5* 5* ☑
Touchstone Gold ☑ 5* 5* 5* 5* 5* SW

‘Boldor’ had very small beets; very little germination.

Boldor ☑ 5* 5* 5* 5* 5* ☑
Touchstone Gold ☑ 5* 5* 5* 5* 5* SW

No comment.

Other

Boldor - ☑
Touchstone Gold - ☑ MN

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

Conclusions

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

Both varieties grew well and had equally good flavor.
Beet, Red

Varieties

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

‘Red Ace’

Data

Gardeners at 34 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Trait</th>
<th>Merlin</th>
<th>Red Ace</th>
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<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>More attractive roots</td>
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<td>Tasted better</td>
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<td>7.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Merlin’

Merlin ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace ★★★★ ☺ MN

‘Red Ace’ did not germinate very well.

Merlin ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace ★★★★★ ☺ NE

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

Merlin ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace ★★★★ ☺ NE

‘Merlin’ produced more beets, but yields of both varieties were low.

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

Merlin ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace ★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Merlin’ grew more vigorously and was taller.

Merlin ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace ★★★★ ☺ SE

Had more plants.

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

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Red Ace

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

NORTH DAKOTA HOME GARDEN VARIETY TRIALS – 2017
Prefer ‘Merlin’ (continued)

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

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

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

Merlin ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace ★★★★★ ☺ SE
‘Merlin’ showed better germination and more production.

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

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

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

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

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

Merlin ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace ★★★★★ ☺ SC
‘Merlin’ was the better performer and tasted amazing.

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

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

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ SW
‘Red Ace’ roots had a “flowery” taste that I did not enjoy.

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ SW
‘Merlin’ had a better germination rate. They tasted the same and both made good pickled beets.

Prefer ‘Red Ace’

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ MN
Both varieties were very good. ‘Red Ace’ won out with its superior flavor.

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

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ MN
‘Red Ace’ had a more uniform, round beet.

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ SE
‘Red Ace’ had healthier plants and its roots were more uniform.

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ NC
‘Merlin’ roots looked better but ‘Red Ace’ roots tasted better.

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

Gardeners liked the uniformity and taste of ‘Red Ace’ roots.

Prefer ‘Red Ace’ (continued)

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

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ NW
‘Red Ace’ produced higher yields. Its plants had more leaves that were larger and bushier.

Merlin  ★★★★★ ☺
Red Ace  ★★★★★ ☺ NW
Liked the dark red beets.

Other

Merlin  - ☺
Red Ace  - ☺ NW
We were unable to get either variety to germinate. We planted another variety in the same area that performed very well.

Conclusions

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

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

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<th>Trait</th>
<th>Royal Hercules</th>
<th>Chant.</th>
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<tbody>
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¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

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

Hercules ☺
Royal Chantenay ☺

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

Hercules ☺
Royal Chantenay ☺

‘Hercules’ had a better stand of carrots.

Hercules ☺
Royal Chantenay ☺

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

Hercules ☺
Royal Chantenay ☺

Best Chantenay carrot varieties
Top choice
Hercules
Strong performers
Caracas
New Kuroda

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

Hercules ☻
Royal Chantenay ☻

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

Hercules ☻
Royal Chantenay ☻

‘Royal Chantenay’ had very poor germination.
Prefer ‘Royal Chantenay’
Hercules  ★★★★★ ☻
Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☻  MN

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

Hercules  ★★★★★ ☻
Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☻  SE

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

Hercules  ★★★★★ ☻
Royal Chantenay ★★★★★ ☻  SC

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

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

‘Royal Chantenay’ struggled from the start. Only a few gardeners recommended it.
Carrot, Early Nantes

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 52 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Goldfinger</th>
<th>Mokum</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>More attractive roots</td>
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</table>

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

Prefer ‘Goldfinger’

Goldfinger

‘Goldfinger’ carrots tasted better.

Goldfinger

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

Goldfinger

‘Goldfinger’ had higher yields. Both varieties had poor germination.

Drought noticeably affected the germination and yield of both varieties.

Best early Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers
Laguna
Mokum
Nelson
Yaya

The yield of ‘Goldfinger’ was slightly higher. Its roots were less subject to splitting.

‘Mokum’ had more robust carrot flavor; ‘Goldfinger’ was dull and almost tasteless.

No comments.

They did pretty well despite the lack of water. Several carrots grew 12 inches long.

‘Goldfinger’ was really nice.
Prefer ‘Goldfinger’ (continued)

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Both varieties tasted great—never had a chance to cook them because the kids ate them too fast.

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

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ SC
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ SC
I preferred the flavor of ‘Goldfinger’ as a mature carrot.

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

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

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ NW
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ NW
Both varieties were good; only a couple weird roots. These varieties had great flavor. ‘Goldfinger’ looked more attractive.

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ SW
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ SW
‘Goldfinger’ was first to germinate, but both had poor germination. I replanted twice and now I have large and small carrots.

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ SW
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ SW
Very poor germination from both varieties; to the point that I could not compare yields.

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

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ MN
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ MN
‘Mokum’ had much better germination and production.

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ SE
‘Mokum’ tasted better.

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Neither variety germinated very well. ‘Mokum’ roots were smaller but its yields were higher. Both varieties tasted good but ‘Mokum’ was sweeter.

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

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Both varieties were very slow to germinate. The taste of ‘Mokum’ was okay—not great.

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Both germinated very well and grew beautiful tops. ‘Mokum’ roots were straighter and more uniform. When eaten raw, its carrots tasted slightly better. When cooked, its carrots were sweeter and had more “carrot” taste.

Goldfinger  ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Mokum  ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Neither grew well this year for me. I have had ‘Goldfinger’ before and it did better. ‘Mokum’ had larger roots.

‘Goldfinger’ roots were more attractive. They were long, smooth and straight.
Goldfinger
Mokum

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

Goldfinger
Mokum

Very dry conditions contributed to poor (<20%) germination. ‘Mokum’ tasted better.

Goldfinger
Mokum

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

Goldfinger
Mokum

Neither variety came up until mid-June in spite of watering. ‘Mokum’ had 5 times better germination.

Goldfinger
Mokum

Both varieties were good but ‘Mokum’ performed better for me.

Goldfinger
Mokum

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

Goldfinger
Mokum

‘Mokum’ germinated poorly but tasted very good. ‘Goldfinger’ did not germinate.

Goldfinger
Mokum

‘Mokum’ was a better producer. We loved ‘Goldfinger’ last year so we assume weather was a factor. Germination rates were down for both varieties and hardly any ‘Goldfinger’ germinated.

Goldfinger
Mokum

‘Goldfinger’ did not germinate well.

Goldfinger
Mokum

‘Mokum’ tasted good, yielded plenty. The carrots of both varieties became soft if I didn’t eat them right away.

Goldfinger
Mokum

Nice carrots, but I have really nice soil so I usually get beautiful carrots as the soil is loose enough that the roots grow nicely. ‘Mokum’ roots had a little better flavor raw.

Goldfinger
Mokum

‘Mokum’ roots were a little sweeter but they had a tendency to split as they got bigger. Both varieties did well.

Goldfinger
Mokum

Neither variety germinated well. ‘Mokum’ roots had a better shape and flavor.

Goldfinger
Mokum

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

Conclusions

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

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

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

Prefer ‘Bolero’

Bolero 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Kuroda 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊NE
‘Bolero’ was maybe a bit more consistent in size. It tasted better.

Bolero 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Kuroda 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊NC
I thought ‘Bolero’ was a bit sweeter.

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

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

Prefer ‘Kuroda’

Bolero 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Kuroda 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊NE
‘Kuroda’ roots had a better shape (no side shoots). ‘Kuroda’ had a better yield but yields were low for both varieties.

Bolero 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Kuroda 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊SE
‘Kuroda’ roots were better looking, sweeter, and less harsh on the crunch. Both varieties tasted excellent as a fresh garden carrot.

Bolero 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Kuroda 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊SE
‘Kuroda’ carrots had better flavor.

Bolero 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Kuroda 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊SW
Fun to grow.

Bolero 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Kuroda 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊NW
‘Kuroda’ was very tasty.

Best mainseason carrot varieties

Top choice
New Kuroda

Strong performer
Bolero
Romance
Scarlet Nantes

Gardeners liked both varieties. The drought led to spotty germination and low yields in some gardens.
Gardeners who eat raw carrots preferred the taste of ‘Kuroda’.

Prefer ‘Kuroda’ (continued)

Bolero ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺
Kuroda ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NE

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

Bolero ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺
Kuroda ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SW

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

Conclusions

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

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
<th>Recommendation to other gardeners</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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| MN       | ☺☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻☻şe
Carrot, Yellow

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

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<th>Chablis Yellow</th>
<th>Solar Yellow</th>
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<tr>
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¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Chablis Yellow’

Chablis Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓
Solar Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓 MN

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

Chablis Yellow 🌟🌟🌟 🤓
Solar Yellow 🌟🌟🌟 🤓 SE

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

Chablis Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓
Solar Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓 SE

‘Chablis Yellow’ grew better; tasted “way” better. ‘Solar Yellow’ had a noticeable bolting problem.

Chablis Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓
Solar Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓 NC

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

Prefer ‘Solar Yellow’

Chablis Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓
Solar Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓 NW

‘Solar Yellow’ was very tasty raw and cooked.

Chablis Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓
Solar Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓 NW

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

Chablis Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓
Solar Yellow 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🤓 SW

No comments.

Best yellow carrot variety

Top choice
Chablis Yellow
Germination of both varieties was greatly hampered by drought.

Prefer ‘Solar Yellow’ (continued)

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

Other

Chablis Yellow ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⏯️ SE
Solar Yellow ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⏯️ SE
I did not think either variety tasted very good.

Conclusions

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

Varieties

‘Ambrosia’ (se)
75 days. Popular for its delicious flavor, early vigor, and resistance to diseases. Large ears. Sturdy stalks.

‘Peaches & Cream’ (se)
83 days. Two different flavors in each bite. Small, deep kernels are bursting with sweetness.

Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Ambrosia</th>
<th>Cream</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>56</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive ears</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median score †</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Ambrosia’

Ambrosia 🌶️🌶️🌶️🌶️😊 MN
‘Ambrosia’ tasted better and looked better to eat. Both varieties germinated well, but ‘Peaches & Cream’ germinated faster and better.

Ambrosia 🌶️🌶️🌶️🌶️😊 MN
‘Ambrosia’ had the better ears—larger and filled out more consistently. Several ‘Peaches & Cream’ ears did not fill out all the way.

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

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

Ambrosia 🌶️🌶️🌶️🌶️😊 NE
‘Ambrosia’ ripened first and produced large, full ears.

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

Best bicolor se and syn corn varieties

Top choice
Peaches & Cream

Strong performers
Allure
Ambrosia
Cuppa Joe
Delectable
Luscious
Temptation
Prefer ‘Ambrosia’ (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

Prefer ‘Peaches & Cream’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusions

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

Varieties

‘Anthem XR’ (shA)
73 days. Large ears filled with tender, sweet kernels. Easy to harvest. Requires isolation.

‘Xtra-Tender 274A’ (shA)

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Anthem 274A</th>
<th>Xtra-Tender 274A</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive ears</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<td>Median score</td>
<td>8.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Anthem XR’

Anthem XR
Xtra-Tender 274A
‘Anthem XR’ had bigger ears and tasted better.

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

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

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

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

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

Anthem XR
Xtra-Tender 274A
‘Anthem XR’ had good, nice, healthy ears.

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

Best bicolour super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
Xtra-Tender 277A

Strong performers
Anthem XR
SS2742
XTH20173
Xtra-Tender 274A
**Prefer ‘Anthem XR’ (continued)**

Anthem XR
Xtra-Tender 274A
‘Anthem XR’ performed better all around. It germinated a few days earlier and was ready to harvest a few days earlier. It produced a dozen or so more ears. The ears of both varieties tasted very good!

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

**Prefer ‘Xtra-Tender 274A’**

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

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

Anthem XR
Xtra-Tender 274A
Both tasted good but we were extremely disappointed with their very small ears. Neither variety did well even though we watered regularly.

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

**Conclusions**

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

**Varieties**

*‘Bodacious RM’ (se)*

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

*‘Inferno’ (syn)*

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

**Data**

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Bodacious RM</th>
<th>Inferno</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive ears</td>
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<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommend (😊)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mean score\(^1\) 8.40 5.80
Median score\(^1\) 8.50 5.50

\(^1\)Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

**Preferred ‘Bodacious RM’**

*‘Bodacious RM’ outperformed ‘Inferno’ on all traits. Its stalks showed more vigor, grew taller, and were sturdier. ‘Bodacious RM’ matured on Labor Day and was much more productive.*

*‘Bodacious RM’ was sweeter.*

*‘Bodacious RM’ had the best plants and produced the most.*

*‘Bodacious RM’ was the clear winner. It showed more vigor and produced more ears.*

---

**Best yellow se corn variety**

**Top choice**

Bodacious RM

**Strong performer**

Sugar Buns
Prefer ‘Bodacious RM’ (continued)

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

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

Preferred ‘Inferno’

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

Conclusions

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

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

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

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety A</th>
<th>Variety B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corn, Early Ornamental

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Fiesta</th>
<th>Painted Mountain</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best (%)</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants (%)</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>More attractive ears</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Median score</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Fiesta’

‘Fiesta’ had better germination and yield.

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

‘Fiesta’ cobs were “normal” in shape while those of ‘Painted Mountain’ were very long and skinny (not nearly as attractive). ‘Fiesta’ produced a dozen or so more ears.

Prefer ‘Painted Mountain’

‘Painted Mountain’ stalks were fuller and a better plant overall for production. The ears of both varieties were beautiful.

The ears of ‘Painted Mountain’ were more usable and pretty. They had a greater variety of colors. ‘Painted Mountain’ ears were long and narrow while ‘Fiesta’ ears were short and fat.

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

Conclusions

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

Best ornamental corn varieties

Top choice
Fiesta

Strong performers
Autumn Explosion
Cherry Berry
Painted Mountain

NORTH DAKOTA HOME GARDEN VARIETY TRIALS – 2017
Corn, Full-Season Ornamental

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Autumn Explosion</th>
<th>Glass Gem</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best (%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants (%)</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier (%)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields (%)</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive ears (%)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference (%)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommend (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>7.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Autumn Explosion’

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

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

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

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

Prefer ‘Glass Gem’

None.

Conclusions

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

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

Best ornamental corn varieties

Top choice
Fiesta

Strong performers
Autumn Explosion
Cherry Berry
Painted Mountain

NDSU Extension
Corn, Strawberry

Varieties
‘Cherry Berry’
98 days. New variety with larger ears than standard strawberry type. Can be popped.

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

Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Cherry Berry</th>
<th>Strawberry</th>
<th>Same</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive ears</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8.00</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Cherry Berry’

Cherry Berry  🍇🍇🍇🍇😊
Strawberry  🍇🍇🍇🍇😊

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

Cherry Berry 🍇🍇🍇🍇😊
Strawberry  🍇🍇🍇🍇😊

‘Cherry Berry’ did not germinate.

Cherry Berry 🍇🍇🍇🍇😊
Strawberry  🍇🍇🍇🍇😊

‘Cherry Berry’ looked better. Drought was a problem.

Conclusions

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

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

Best ornamental corn varieties

Top choice
Fiesta

Strong performers
Autumn Explosion
Cherry Berry
Painted Mountain

NORTH DAKOTA HOME GARDEN VARIETY TRIALS – 2017
Cucumber, Burpless

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 41 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Summer Dance</th>
<th>Sweet Slice</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
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<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>Higher yields</td>
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<tr>
<td>More attractive cukes</td>
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<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
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<td>Preference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Summer Dance’

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

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice
Summer Dance

Strong performers
Orient
Express II
Sweet Slice
Sweet Success
Tasty Green

Summer Dance ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺
Sweet Slice ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺
NE

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

Summer Dance ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺
Sweet Slice ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺
MN

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

Summer Dance ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺
Sweet Slice ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺
SE
Prefer ‘Summer Dance’ (continued)

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SE

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  NC

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  NC

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SC

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SC

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SC

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SW

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SW

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SW

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

**Summer Dance**  ★★★★★ ☻
**Sweet Slice**  ★★★★★ ☻  SW

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

Gardeners loved ‘Summer Dance’ for its slender, smooth-skinned fruits. It produced well throughout the summer.
Prefer ‘Sweet Slice’

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

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

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Both were very good but ‘Sweet Slice’ was more productive.

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

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺
Sweet Slice ★★★★★ ☺ SE
No comments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusions

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

Varieties

‘Homemade Pickles’
55 days. Vigorous, disease-resistant vines produce loads of crisp cucumbers ideally shaped for pickling.

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

Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Pickles</th>
<th>Regal</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
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<td>Healthier plants</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Homemade Pickles’

Homemade Pickles 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 MN
‘Homemade Pickles’ was hardy and a good early producer. Its cucumbers were yummy—we ate them fresh. Good pickles and very good production. ‘Regal’ picked up yield later in summer.

Homemade Pickles 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SE
Regal 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SE
Both germinated well. ‘Homemade Pickles’ produced first and better. Production was not great due to very dry conditions.

Homemade Pickles 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SE
Regal 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SE
‘Homemade Pickles’ had better germination, near 100%. I liked its vine vigor plus they set the first fruit. Produced five grocery bags full. ‘Regal’ vines dried up in late August/early September while ‘Homemade Pickles’ kept producing.

Homemade Pickles 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 NC
Regal 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 NC
‘Homemade Pickles’ was more uniform and higher yielding. ‘Regal’ cucumbers got large faster.

Homemade Pickles 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 NC
Regal 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 NC
The vines of ‘Homemade Pickles’ looked healthier and needed less help to trellis. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted similar.

Homemade Pickles 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SC
Regal 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SC
‘Homemade Pickles’ cucumbers were straighter. Its first cucumbers came a day after ‘Regal’.

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
Homemade Pickles

Strong performers
Alibi
Calypso
Eureka
H-19 Little Leaf
Prefer ‘Home. Pickles’ (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

‘Homemade Pickles’ produced more fruits.

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

My plants did not thrive on watering like they would have from rain.

Prefer ‘Regal’

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

‘Regal’ had strong, prolific plants. Very easy to grow. My neighbors were jealous.

‘Homemade Pickles’ cukes became bloated whereas ‘Regal’ cukes maintained a nice shape and proportional size.

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

‘Regal’ had better germination. Both varieties produced so many cucumbers.

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

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

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

‘Homemade Pickles’ did not germinate. ‘Regal’ cukes were fat and short, misshaped.

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

Yields were good. ‘Homemade Pickles’ cukes were straighter but got a bit bitter.

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

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

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

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

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

‘Regal’ had better germination; prolific blossoms and fruit; and held up under hot, dry conditions (with watering, of course). Its vines were dense, healthy and compact.

‘Homemade Pickles’ was a slow starter and slow in setting fruit. The hills that finally produced fruit had cukes that were less deformed (curled) compared to ‘Regal’ which had many curled fruit (thick on one end and curved to a narrow end). The shape did not affect taste or pickling.

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

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

Conclusions

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

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>General Lee</th>
<th>Stonewall</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>More attractive cukes</td>
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</table>

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

Prefer ‘General Lee’

General Lee     ★★★★★ ☺
Stonewall       ★★★★ ☺ NC

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

General Lee     ★★★★ ☺
Stonewall       ★★★★ ☺ NC

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

General Lee     ★★★★ ☺
Stonewall       ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

General Lee     ★★★★★ ☺
Stonewall       ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

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

Prefer ‘Stonewall’

General Lee     ★★★★ ☺
Stonewall       ★★★★ ☺ NC

No comments.

Conclusions

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

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

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice General Lee
Strong performers Dasher II Raider Stonewall Straight Eight
Cucumber, Snack

Varieties

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

‘Muncher’

Data

Gardeners at 40 sites submitted information.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Mercury</th>
<th>Muncher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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</table>

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

Prefer ‘Mercury’

‘Mercury’ grew much better.

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

Mercury

Muncher

‘Mercury’ was an overall better plant. More produce. Tasted better.

‘Mercury’ had 100% germination, but we needed to resow ‘Muncher’. ‘Mercury’ plants were better but they wilted under the drought conditions. ‘Muncher’ vines stayed very small and compact.

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

Best snack cucumber varieties

Top choice
Muncher

Strong performer
Diva
Mercury
Prefer ‘Mercury’ (continued)

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

These were a nice size for slicers. Good yield in dry conditions.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Mercury’ germinated better and had more fruits on each picking. These snack cucumbers have a fun shape and similar taste. I loved eating both of them.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Mercury’ produced a lot of cucumbers.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Mercury’ produced more. Good production in August and September.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Mercury’ produced the first cucumbers. We enjoyed the flavor of ‘Mercury’ and used it in pickles.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

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

Prefer ‘Muncher’

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NE

The cucumbers of both varieties had spots that required peeling before eating. Yields were very low. ‘Muncher’ cucumbers had fewer spots and had a better yield.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NE

‘Mercury’ germinated poorly and I had to replant. Then I had a problem getting ‘Mercury’ to grow.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Muncher’ cucumbers were more uniform in shape and tasted better. ‘Mercury’ germinated poorly.

Mercury ★★★★ ☺
Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Muncher’ tasted better. Germination was poor for both varieties (only three plants each) and plants were small.
Many gardeners thought ‘Muncher’ was perfect for snacking. Its cucumbers were flavorful, thin skinned, small seeded, and uniform in shape.

Prefer ‘Muncher’ (continued)

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SE

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

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SE

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

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Muncher’ has good flavor.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NC

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

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NC

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

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NC

‘Muncher’ vines handled the drought better. Its cucukes were straighter. The cucukes of both varieties were delicious and not bitter!

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NC

‘Muncher’ cucumbers had good flavor and nice color; slender with small seeds. Excellent for snacking. ‘Mercury’ cucumbers were softer and it didn’t tolerate the drought well.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ SC

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

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NW

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

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NW

‘Muncher’ was tasteless. ‘Mercury’ was almost tasteless.

Mercury ★★★★★ ☺ Muncher ★★★★ ☺ NW

No comments.

Conclusions

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

Varieties

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

‘Silver Slicer’
62 days. Creamy white, straight cucumbers are 7-inches long, crisp and flavorful. Vines resist disease and produce high yields.

Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Silver Slicer</th>
<th>Same</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>50%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>67</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive cucumbers</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Martini’

Martini 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Silver Slicer 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SC
‘Martini’ was earlier and I preferred its flavor as well.

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

Prefer ‘Silver Slicer’

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

Martini 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Silver Slicer 🌟🌟🌟🌟😊 SC
‘Silver Slicer’ was better producing and faster growing. I love white cucumbers—so mild in flavor. It’s almost impossible to raise a bitter one.

Other

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

Conclusions

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

Best white cucumber variety
Top choice Silver Slicer

Gardeners who were willing to grow white cucumbers fell in love with their mild flavor.
Greens, Mizuna (Fall)

Varieties

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

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

Data

Gardeners at 66 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Same</th>
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<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>33</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>31</td>
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</tr>
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<td>More attractive</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Prefer ‘Miz America’

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

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

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

‘Miz America’ had less insect damage and milder flavor.

Best mizuna varieties

Top choice
Miz America

Strong performers
Mizuna (green)
Red Kingdom

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

‘Miz America’ germinated better. It added striking dark red color and mild flavor to salads. It’s been fun to enjoy and discover these greens.
Prefer ‘Miz America’ (continued)

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Both varieties tasted good. The distinction between the two is that ‘Miz America’ has a spicier taste. The spicier flavor adds a nice accent to a salad. This was a great fall trial.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SE
‘Miz America’ was fast growing; excellent yield.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Both varieties germinated well and at the same time. Plants looked very healthy and produced very well. Nice purple color. Both tasted very good. I prefer the leaf shape of ‘Miz America.’

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SE
They germinated in 4 days but many ‘Miz America’ died off after germination. I liked the leaf shape of ‘Miz America’ but ‘Red Kingdom’ looked bushier. I prefer the flavor of ‘Miz America’; it was spicier.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Both were disgusting in flavor! Too bitter! Yuk! I liked the leaf shape of ‘Miz America’. Both had heavy insect damage early on, especially ‘Red Kingdom’. I did not want to “dust” them since I was going to eat the leaves.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SC
‘Miz America’ was a better grower, leafier and prettier. Both varieties tasted bitter.

Miz America ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SC
‘Red Kingdom’ felt leathery on my tongue. It was stronger in taste, like a turnip or radish. Both varieties are fine with a mix of greens but neither one alone. Both were beautiful in color in a salad and in the garden. I loved the leaf shape of ‘Miz America’. I had not done fall planting before and was amazed at the results. Thank you for that.
**Prefer ‘Miz America’ (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miz America</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both germinated and grew very well in pots. They tasted great. Both had a pretty purple color, but ‘Miz America’ had toothy edges and was more attractive. I had not tasted either before and recommend both of them. Thank you for the ability to do the trial. It was a great way to try different varieties and now I might consider planting more crops in the fall.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I liked the serrated leaves of ‘Miz America’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miz America</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ NW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both were very pretty, but ‘Miz America’ was better looking mixed with other greens because it was lacy looking. These are too bitter to eat by themselves. They would only be good if mixed with other fresh greens/lettuce/spinach.

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miz America</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ NW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both varieties germinated quickly. The plants were very healthy and productive. Insects were slightly more interested in ‘Red Kingdom’. I think the darker purple and pointed leaves of ‘Miz America’ were more attractive. I liked the flavor of both varieties but found ‘Miz America’ to be more bitter, not to everyone’s liking. Neither variety was really attacked by flea beetles or cabbage butterflies.

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Miz America’ had a good flavor—stronger than ‘Red Kingdom’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miz America</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Red Kingdom’ germinated in 2 days and ‘Miz America’ germinated 12 hours later. Both were drip irrigated; both grew at the same rate. ‘Red Kingdom’ was slightly better tasting, but I prefer ‘Miz America’ because I’m a sucker for pretty leaves. I love them!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miz America</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Red Kingdom’ was more productive and was ready to harvest earlier. Both varieties were attractive and had similar flavor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miz America</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Kingdom</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺ SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Red Kingdom’ tasted better.

---

**Most gardeners felt ‘Red Kingdom’ was milder in flavor. Its leaves were burgundy red, smooth and easy to clean.**
**Prefer ‘Red Kingdom’ (continued)**

Miz America ★★★★☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★☆ ☺ NC
Both varieties were attacked by an insect and had tiny holes in the leaves. They were both very colorful and attractive and looked great in a salad. I enjoyed doing this trial.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ NC
Neither variety grew very big. ‘Red Kingdom’ tasted better.

Miz America ★★★★☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★★☆ ☺ SC
They both were pretty to have growing in the front yard, but ‘Miz America’ was prettier. ‘Red Kingdom’ had healthier plants and milder taste.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC
‘Red Kingdom’ produced larger leaves and higher yields. Its flavor was milder. I preferred the “green bite” flavor of ‘Miz America’. Both varieties were attacked by cabbage moths and ‘Red Kingdom’ recovered better.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC
‘Miz America’ was more bitter; ‘Red Kingdom’ had a more pleasant flavor. Both varieties were gorgeous!

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC
This was my first experience in growing Asian greens and I enjoyed watching them grow and using them in salads. I prefer the taste of ‘Red Kingdom’.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC
Both germinated very quickly. These varieties produced very well and had good flavor. ‘Red Kingdom’ had better flavor. Salad lovers rejoice! These are easy to grow and tasty.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SC
‘Red Kingdom’ was healthy and grew a little faster.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SW
‘Red Kingdom’ leaves were bigger and easier to clean. ‘Miz America’ had a peppery flavor and a stronger aftertaste.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SW
I did not sauté either variety and probably should have. ‘Miz America’ had a stronger arugula taste than ‘Red Kingdom’ and I didn’t like it as well in salads. A small amount as part of a mixed salad goes a long way. Both varieties were beautiful burgundy/red. They could be part of a flower container garden. ‘Red Kingdom’ had a milder taste and better yield, but it took a bit longer to germinate. I suspect if I had planted a bit later (sowed August 17), after the summer heat, I might have had even higher yield. ‘Red Kingdom’ is still producing this week (October 5).

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SW
‘Red Kingdom’ was tastier.

Miz America ★★★☆☆ ☺
Red Kingdom ★★★☆☆ ☺ SW
‘Red Kingdom’ grew taller and I liked the smooth leaf on the outside. It suffered less damage from insects.

**Conclusions**

Most gardeners had never grown mizuna before. They enjoyed growing it and using the colorful greens in salads. The lacy, serrated leaves of ‘Miz America’ were most attractive. These leaves added beauty and peppery flavor to salads. Most gardeners felt ‘Red Kingdom’ was milder. Its leaves were smoother and easier to clean. Flea beetles and cabbage moths caused significant damage to both varieties in many gardens. About 20% of gardeners reported failure caused by either insect pests or a lack of germination related to the drought.

---

Flea beetles caused significant damage to both varieties at many sites.
Greens, Tatsoi (Fall)

Varieties
‘Koji’
21 days baby, 43 days full size. Dark green, crinkled leaves for salads or stir fries. Hybrid vigor. Mild.

‘Tatsoi’

Data
Gardeners at 58 sites submitted information.

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<tr>
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<th>Koji</th>
<th>Tatsoi</th>
<th>Same</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>56</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Koji’

Koji grew quicker and had higher yields. Koji germinated more quickly and its plants were larger, which made it more desirable for fall being the growing season is short.

Koji grew quicker and had much higher yields.

Not one seed of ‘Tatsoi’ germinated.

‘Koji’ was clearly superior. It germinated better, grew faster and produced much higher yields.

Best tatsoi varieties
Top choice
Koji
Strong performer
Tatsoi

Germination was equal but some ‘Tatsoi’ seedlings died off. ‘Koji’ grew faster. We got two cuttings from it and only one from ‘Tatsoi’. There were more ‘Koji’ plants, which were bushier and had deeper color. ‘Tatsoi’ tasted more like cabbage; ‘Koji’ tasted more like kale.

‘Koji’ had superior germination and much larger plants, although both varieties were vigorous. ‘Koji’ had a very pleasant and mild taste. ‘Tatsoi’ was a little bit bitter. It is great to be introduced to new greens such as these Asian greens through these trials. Not the same old, same old.

Both varieties grew great but ‘Koji’ was a little nicer. I was very happy with ‘Koji’.

Koji ☀️★★★★★ 😊 SE
Tatsoi ☀️★★★★★ 😊 SE

Koji ☀️★★★★★ 😊 NE
Tatsoi ☀️★★★★★ 😊 NE

Koji germinated more quickly and its plants were larger, which made it more desirable for fall being the growing season is short.

‘Koji’ performed better overall. Both varieties took a beating because of an infestation of cabbage looper and flea beetle. ‘Koji’ seemed more robust and despite getting ravaged by pests, was able to recover and give me some nice leaves. Both were treated by picking off loopers by hand and drowning beetles with neem. I enjoyed participating and I learned quite a bit. Thank you for inviting me!

Koji ☀️★★★★★ 😊 MN
Tatsoi ☀️★★★★★ 😊 MN

Koji ☀️★★★★★ 😊 SE
Tatsoi ☀️★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Koji’ had superior germination and much larger plants, although both varieties were vigorous. ‘Koji’ had a very pleasant and mild taste. ‘Tatsoi’ was a little bit bitter. It is great to be introduced to new greens such as these Asian greens through these trials. Not the same old, same old.

Both varieties grew great but ‘Koji’ was a little nicer. I was very happy with ‘Koji’.

Koji ☀️★★★★★ 😊 SE
Tatsoi ☀️★★★★★ 😊 SE
Prefer ‘Koji’ (continued)

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ was delicious flash-sautéed in olive oil with garlic. Very few of ‘Tatsoi’ plants germinated; there was hardly enough ‘Tatsoi’ to taste. ‘Tatsoi’ seemed to wilt more quickly after harvest than ‘Koji’ did. ‘Koji’ did suffer a fair bit of insect damage.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ germinated in 7 days. ‘Tatsoi’ had sparse germination. ‘Koji’ had healthy attractive leaves—excellent addition to salads. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about Asian greens.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ had more robust plants. They germinated a little earlier, grew into larger plants, and were ready to harvest sooner. Both varieties had similar yields; both looked nice and they tasted similar.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ germinated well, within 3 days. Only one-third as many ‘Tatsoi’ seedlings germinated. Both varieties suffered from insect damage early on. I did not like the taste of either—too bitter!

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

Although slow to germinate, ‘Koji’ took off much better than ‘Tatsoi’. Very few ‘Tatsoi’ plants came up. Plants of both varieties were full, deep green, with very few bugs. Once germinated, ‘Koji’ took off like wild, producing multiple cuttings. ‘Tatsoi’ grew very slowly. The taste of ‘Tatsoi’ was more bitter and “woody.”

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ tasted better.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ thrived in spite of my neglect.

The leaves of ‘Koji’ were dark green, attractive and had a pleasing flavor.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ germinated faster; had better plants.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Tatsoi’ germinated 2 days earlier, but ‘Koji’ plants looked sturdier from the beginning. ‘Koji’ grew steadily and its stalk was denser and its leaves more beautiful. It showed great growth and much higher yields. ‘Koji’ tasted better by far—we all agreed. Only two ‘Tatsoi’ plants grew.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ germinated in 3 days, 2 days quicker than ‘Tatsoi’. ‘Koji’ grew to be larger, healthier plants. Good yields. It was better all around. Both varieties were susceptible to bug damage. I have never heard of tatsoi prior to this. Thank you for the introduction to something new that might have to become a yearly planting. I have used tatsoi in recipes, in salads and to make pest and all have been good. I researched tatsoi after I planted and if the articles are correct I will be interested to see how late in the year I will be able to pick and eat it.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

Absolutely gorgeous plant and very nice hardy texture that was great cooked or raw.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ won most categories but ‘Tatsoi’ won taste. The leaves of both varieties were damaged by flea beetles.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

Both had bugs eating on them. ‘Koji’ had beautiful, dark green leaves. I liked the “nutty” flavor of ‘Tatsoi’.

Koji  ★★★★★ ★
Tatsoi  ★★★★     ★ siding

‘Koji’ was a vigorous plant. ‘Tatsoi’ just didn’t grow as well. It had tiny plants with little vigor.
Prefer ‘Koji’ (continued)

Koji ☺ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SC
‘Koji’ had significantly better germination, reached maturity faster, had healthier plants and better yields than ‘Tatsoi’.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SC
The flea beetles were so bad on them that I didn’t get to test them until much later. I dusted with Sevin several times. I like both varieties, but ‘Koji’ is a stronger plant and is richer tasting.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ NW
‘Tatsoi’ did not sprout well. ‘Koji’ grew thickly but was eaten by insects. The pests could not be dissuaded from eating it full of holes—no matter how much insecticidal soap was used. It might be better to plant in early spring.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ NW
‘Koji’ germinated quickly and produced more yields. The plants of both varieties were nearly destroyed by flea beetles. ‘Koji’ withstood the attack better. I liked the taste of ‘Tatsoi’ better.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SW
‘Koji’ had a more pleasant taste. I am still picking both and have made two cuttings so far. Good fall crop.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SW
‘Koji’ germinated first. ‘Tatsoi’ germinated 3 days later and died a week after that. ‘Koji’ kept growing to harvest.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SW
‘Koji’ produced higher yields. Its leaves were bigger and easier to wash. ‘Tatsoi’ tasted better.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ NW
Almost no ‘Tatsoi’ germinated, and the couple seedlings that did germinate didn’t survive.

Prefer ‘Tatsoi’

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SE
‘Tatsoi’ had nice large bunches. Bigger yields. The leaves of ‘Koji’ were smaller.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SE
‘Tatsoi’ had better germination by far. The varieties tasted similar.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ NC
No comments.

Koji ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ ☻ SC
‘Tatsoi’ had better flavor.

The robust growth of ‘Koji’ allowed it to recover after attacks from insect pests.
Prefer ‘Tatsoi’ (continued)

Plants of both varieties were beautiful, but were very much compromised by bugs. ‘Tatsoi’ was somewhat milder. I enjoyed eating this vegetable raw rather than cooked; it was tough when cooked.

There was a bug in my garden that loved both of them. Not much to yield and then it got so hot and dry that I did not have nearly as good a growth as I did last fall.

‘Tatsoi’ had a longer harvest and milder raw taste. I liked the taste of the ‘Tatsoi’ better in salads, especially the small leaves. I stir-fried both varieties and both were very good. I’m still harvesting (October 5). ‘Koji’ has pretty tall heads.

Both varieties produced healthy plants. ‘Tatsoi’ produced a nice yield. Its leaves were bright green with a nice contrasting spine. Its flavor was fresh and had a bit of spice to it but not bitter. Although ‘Koji’ germinated earlier and produced a higher yield, we preferred the flavor and color of ‘Tatsoi’. Both grew well and when mixed together made for a delicious salad.

My children preferred the taste of this over the kale I planted in my own garden. Fun to try different varieties and to be a “research reporter”—good experience for my kids.

Conclusions

‘Koji’ was the clear winner. This hybrid germinated better, grew faster and produced much higher yields. Its leaves were dark green and had a pleasing taste. The robust growth of ‘Koji’ allowed it to recover from insect pest attacks. The standard ‘Tatsoi’ showed relatively little vigor. Its leaves were bright green and had a mild flavor.

‘Tatsoi’ lacked vigor. Its leaves were bright green and had a mild taste.
Lettuce, Butterhead

Varieties

‘Adriana’
50 days. Large, dense heads with good flavor. Dark green leaves. Tolerates heat and resists diseases.

‘Buttercrunch’
66 days. Most popular butterhead. Dark green outer leaves with creamy heart. Slow to bolt.

Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

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<th>Trait</th>
<th>Adriana</th>
<th>Buttercrunch</th>
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</table>

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

Prefer ‘Adriana’

Adriana ☺
Buttercrunch ☺ SE
‘Adriana’ grew faster after germination. Seems a little more buttery tasting. Both varieties had beautiful, large, uniform heads. Both kept well in the fridge.

Adriana ☺
Buttercrunch ☺ SE
Plants were just a little more healthy and resisted bolting much longer than ‘Buttercrunch’. ‘Adriana’ leaves were shiny while ‘Buttercrunch’ leaves were a little dull. ‘Buttercrunch’ was sweeter.

Best green butterhead lettuce variety
Top choice
Buttercrunch

Prefer ‘Buttercrunch’

Adriana ☺
Buttercrunch ☺ SE MN
Both varieties germinated close to 100% and plants were very healthy. ‘Buttercrunch’ had excellent flavor and plants were very slow to bolt. Yield was terrific as well.

Adriana ☺
Buttercrunch ☺ SE
Both were good but ‘Buttercrunch’ stayed better in the heat. More sweet crunch.
Prefer ‘Buttercrunch’ (continued)

‘Buttercrunch’ was a favorite munching snack of the kids into September. ‘Adriana’ just didn’t produce the volume of ‘Buttercrunch’ but it tasted good, what little it produced. Neither variety bolted.

Both had close to 100% germination. Neither bolted until late August. First time ever I have had garden lettuce through August. ‘Buttercrunch’ produced well. It was ready to use a couple weeks earlier. It had very good flavor— a little milder and not bitter.

‘Buttercrunch’ grew bigger and better. More and more leaves. Tasted better. ‘Adriana’ still had not bolted as of the end of August. Its leaves had a less pleasing texture and crunch.

‘Buttercrunch’ had a fuller plant.

‘Adriana’ did not sprout.

‘Buttercrunch’ tasted slightly better and was more tender.

‘Buttercrunch’ had a nice leaf—very buttery tasting—perfect for a sandwich or salad. Rabbits and pheasants ate almost all the lettuce due to drought in the area.

It was a tough year for my lettuce. The cold June weather, hot dry July with winds, and the flocks of pheasants who were looking for anything green just about took care of the lettuce.

Preferred the taste of ‘Buttercrunch’. Was able to pick lettuce through August.

‘Buttercrunch’ is a proven winner. It grew faster and fuller this summer. Gardeners preferred its flavor and crunch.

Conclusions

Both varieties showed remarkable resistance to bolting and produced fresh lettuce all summer. Most gardeners preferred ‘Buttercrunch’. It grew faster and fuller. Gardeners enjoyed its flavor and crunch. ‘Buttercrunch’ is the most popular butterhead in America and a proven performer in North Dakota.
Lettuce, Leaf

Varieties

‘Bergam’s Green’
51 days. Dark green, crumplly leaves. Dense, full-sized heads with good flavor. Slow to bolt.

‘Tropicana’
52 days. Dark green, heavy leaves form a full head. Tolerates heat. Great flavor. Proven performer.

Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

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<th>Trait</th>
<th>Bergam’s Green</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Bergam’s Green’

Bergam’s Green ☀️kehr
Tropicana ☀️kehr SE

Seedlings of both varieties came up at the same time and stayed healthy. Neither variety bolted. ‘Bergam’s Green’ tended to have a fuller plant and this fullness made it more attractive. Both varieties were delicious.

Bergam’s Green ☀️kehr SE
Tropicana ☀️kehr SE

‘Bergam’s Green’ produced more. Both varieties tasted good.
Prefer ‘Tropicana’

Bergam’s Green ★★★☆☆ ☺
Tropicana ★★★★★ ☺
‘Tropicana’ did not bolt as soon and therefore produced longer. After picking, ‘Tropicana’ regrew faster.

Bergam’s Green ★★★☆☆ ☺
Tropicana ★★★★★ ☺
Both were very good but ‘Tropicana’ tasted better.

Bergam’s Green - ☺
Tropicana - ☺
‘Tropicana’ had great taste. I would plant it again.

Bergam’s Green ★★★★☆ ☺
Tropicana ★★★★★ ☺
‘Tropicana’ took longer to germinate but had thicker leaves and clumps.

Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed the production and taste of both varieties. Their leafy heads were deep green and full. ‘Bergam’s Green’ was ready to harvest earlier and was more productive overall. Both varieties tolerated the extreme heat, but ‘Tropicana’ showed superior resistance to bolting. ‘Tropicana’ has always performed well in our trials and this year was no exception.

‘Tropicana’ is a proven performer in North Dakota and showed superior resistance to bolting this year too.

Key to Site Reports
(reports are presented from east to west)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety A</th>
<th>Variety B</th>
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<tr>
<td>★★★☆☆ ☺</td>
<td>★★★★☆ ☺</td>
<td>NC</td>
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</table>

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

Varieties

‘Coastal Star’


‘Fusion’

55 days. A cross between leaf and romaine types. Wavy, dark green leaves form a dense, upright head.

Data

Gardeners at 33 sites submitted information.

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<thead>
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</table>

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

‘Coastal Star’ had the shape and flavor of a traditional romaine. It was a reliable producer and mild in flavor.

Prefer ‘Coastal Star’

Coastal Star    ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ..
Prefer ‘Coastal Star’ (continued)

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SW
‘Coastal Star’ showed elongated leaves and heads; ‘Fusion’ resembled leaf lettuce and wasn’t as “heady.” ‘Coastal Star’ had a consistent taste from the top of the leaf to the bottom of the stem. We ate ‘Coastal Star’ up to the end of September. We were very impressed—no bitter taste even considering the hot, dry summer. Kept very well in the fridge. Will definitely grow again.

Prefer ‘Fusion’

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
MN
Both varieties germinated very well—about 80% each. First harvest of ‘Fusion’ was earlier, on July 6. This variety had great flavor and its plants were very healthy. ‘Fusion’ was better all the way around.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
MN
I liked the ruffled leaves of ‘Fusion’ and it resisted bolting better. ‘Coastal Star’ tasted a little milder and its plants were taller.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
MN
Both varieties were good but ‘Fusion’ was especially attractive.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
MN
‘Coastal Star’ was really bitter.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SE
Fusion germinated at 90% compared to 40% for ‘Coastal Star’. ‘Fusion’ was a beautiful plant—added interest to salads. It had a milder flavor—very good—and good texture.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SE
‘Fusion’ produced without bolting for an additional month.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SE
The rabbits ate the plants back to 1 inch and then waited until they grew a few inches before eating them back again. ‘Fusion’ was the only variety that continued to grow despite the rabbits and was good to eat.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SE
No comments.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
NC
‘Fusion’ was interesting—like a romaine lettuce you’d see in the store—wavier leaves, frilly edges. Its plants were very healthy looking. I liked its looks … fun and healthy all in one. Both varieties tasted good; ‘Coastal Star’ was crisper and sweeter.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
NC
Both did fairly well for the year; would like to try again next year. ‘Fusion’ had better flavor and appearance.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SC
The dry spring led to slow germination. Plants were healthy and grew at the same rate. No difference in yield or resistance to bolting. I liked to mix the curly leaves of ‘Fusion’ with the smooth leaves of ‘Coastal Star’. ‘Coastal Star’ was more chewy (tougher) while ‘Fusion’ had a bitter aftertaste.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SC
‘Fusion’ was more attractive and had better flavor. Both varieties got a bit strong in flavor due to the heat and lack of rain.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ★
Fusion ★★★★★ ★
SW
I liked both varieties. We have never planted romaine lettuce but I will in the future. I got more cuttings from ‘Fusion’—even into the fall.

Gardeners marveled at the looks, productivity and mild flavor of ‘Fusion’, a cross between leaf and romaine lettuces. It resisted bolting.
Both varieties grew well in spite of the drought. Both produced good crops of crisp, dark green, delicious lettuce.

**Prefer ‘Fusion’ (continued)**

Coastal Star ★★★☆☆ ☺
Fusion ★★★★☆ ☺ SW
‘Fusion’ has great yield and taste. It works to start plants under grow lites. ‘Fusion’ seed is hard to find in seed catalogs.

Coastal Star ★★★★★ ☺
Fusion ★★★★☆ ☺ SW
I prefer the flavor of ‘Fusion’. I thought its leaf shape was more appealing and noticed its resistance to bolting. This was my favorite trial!

Coastal Star ★★★☆☆ ☺
Fusion ★★★★★ ☺ SW
I liked ‘Coastal Star’ but ‘Fusion’ was better. ‘Fusion’ was crisper in salads and did not get bitter as soon as ‘Coastal Star’.

**Conclusions**

Both varieties grew well in spite of the drought. Both produced good crops of dark green, crisp, delicious lettuce. ‘Coastal Star’ had the shape and flavor of a traditional romaine. Gardeners appreciated its reliability and mild flavor. ‘Fusion’, a cross between leaf and romaine lettuces, was exceptional. Gardeners marveled at the looks, productivity and mild flavor of its wavy leaves. Its resistance to bolting was remarkable. We have tested ‘Fusion’ against popular romaine varieties for 2 years and it was a winner each time.
Lettuce, Summer Crisp

Varieties

‘Muir’
50 days. Extremely tolerant to heat. Light green, wavy, crisp leaves with excellent flavor.

‘Nevada’
48 days. Bright green leaves form heavy, closed heads. Mild flavor. Resists diseases. Very slow to bolt.

Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Muir</th>
<th>Nevada</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resisted bolting better</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommend (☺)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean score</td>
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<td>Median score</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Muir’ germinated better, grew faster and was more productive. Gardeners enjoyed the beauty and taste of its wavy leaves.

‘Muir’ had better taste. ‘Nevada’ had a touch of bitterness. Neither bolted—‘Muir’ dried up quicker.

‘Muir’ plants were consistent in size and shape, and once picked, lasted for quite a few days in the refrigerator. The plants were large, and we could pick the outer leaves and leave the rest of the plant in the ground with no problems. Both varieties grew well in my raised beds.

‘Muir’ had thicker leaves that tasted great but I loved the larger, crispier leaves of ‘Nevada’. Both varieties were healthy. Neither bolted. I was able to harvest throughout summer through the heat, up until end of August! Wow! ‘Nevada’ had larger leaves so its harvest was larger. I loved the color of both—very pretty to look at.

‘Muir’ aced out ‘Nevada’ in all categories.

‘Muir’ had a tighter head and curlier leaf—more attractive—but both varieties were attractive. ‘Muir’ had a slightly better taste.

‘Muir’ had thicker leaves that tasted great but I loved the larger, crispier leaves of ‘Nevada’. Both varieties were healthy. Neither bolted. I was able to harvest throughout summer through the heat, up until end of August! Wow! ‘Nevada’ had larger leaves so its harvest was larger. I loved the color of both—very pretty to look at.

Prefer ‘Muir’

Muir
Nevada
‘Muir’ was very tender. ‘Nevada’ had very poor germination.

Muir
Nevada
I liked both varieties, but ‘Muir’ had healthier plants and was a better producer.

Prefer ‘Nevada’

Muir
Nevada

‘Muir’ germinated better, grew faster and was more productive. Gardeners enjoyed the beauty and taste of its wavy leaves.

Best green summercrisp lettuce varieties

Top choice
Muir
Strong performer
Nevada

NORTH DAKOTA HOME GARDEN VARIETY TRIALS – 2017
‘Nevada’ is a popular summer crisp lettuce and continues to perform well in North Dakota. Gardeners like its reliability and the quality of its lettuce.

**Prefer ‘Nevada’ (continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muir</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☑️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☑️ NC</td>
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</table>

No comments.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Variety</th>
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<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muir</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☑️ NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☑️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Nevada’ leaves were darker green (which I prefer) and a bit crisper. Both varieties produced lots of lettuce and made nice salads.

**Conclusions**

Both varieties grew well and produced lots of lettuce. Both varieties showed remarkable resistance to bolting. ‘Nevada’ is a widely grown summer crisp lettuce and has performed well in our trials for years. Gardeners enjoy its reliability and the taste of its crisp, green leaves. But ‘Muir’ aced out ‘Nevada’ in all categories this year. It germinated better, grew faster and was more productive. Gardeners preferred its taste and liked its wavy leaves. Every gardener recommended ‘Muir’, an amazing accomplishment for a lettuce variety in a summer of extreme drought.
Melon, Cantaloupe

Varieties

‘Aphrodite’
72 days. Melons are 6–8 pounds and ripen early. Firm, salmon flesh is thick and sweet. Good yields.

‘Athena’
75 days. Melons are 5–6 pounds with thick, orange flesh. Most popular cantaloupe in the north.

Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Aphrodite</th>
<th>Athena</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matured earlier</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>28</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive fruits</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median score</td>
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</table>

‘Athena’ had twice as many plants germinate. Its vines were more vigorous and stayed green longer, although the vines of both varieties were healthy. ‘Aphrodite’ ripened 1 week earlier. Most of ‘Athena’ melons ripened in a short period. ‘Aphrodite’ had bigger melons but not as many. ‘Athena’ had more melons of medium size (my personal preference). Both had good looking melons inside and out! ‘Aphrodite’ had large, firm meat; very flavorful; nice bright color—awesome melon. If ‘Aphrodite’ would have germinated better, it would have been rated as a “10.” Its size, appearance and flavor were outstanding. I would definitely start seeds indoors and plant seedlings in my garden.

Prefer ‘Aphrodite’

Aphrodite ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Athena ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

Near 100% germination. The vines of ‘Aphrodite’ looked a bit healthier. It produced the first melons. Its melons were larger (my preference), but ‘Athena’ matched it for overall yield. The melons of both varieties tasted good.

‘Aphrodite’ melons were a lot bigger. ‘Athena’ produced a lot of small fruits but they were still hard when the vines died.

‘Aphrodite’ was sweeter.

‘Aphrodite’ ripened earlier and produced larger melons.

‘Aphrodite’ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Athena ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

Both varieties had 75% germination. ‘Athena’ ripened 2 days earlier but ‘Aphrodite’ melons were bigger. Plants of both varieties averaged 3 melons and they tasted great.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Athena

Strong performers
Aphrodite
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar
Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ NC
Both varieties were healthy. ‘Aphrodite’ had more vigorous vines, set fruit first, and produced more fruit (8 good melons compared to 3 for ‘Athena’).

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ NC
The melons looked gray and dirty; likely drought related. Another 7–10 days and there would have been many more of both varieties. Four ‘Aphrodite’ ripened—and they were delicious! ‘Athena’ needed another week or so. ‘Athena’ produced more melons (22 versus 14), but they were smaller.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
‘Aphrodite’ germinated best; its melons were sweet and juicy.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
I had troubles getting both to grow (the original sowing did not germinate), but I did get to eat a few ‘Aphrodite’ melons. ‘Athena’ never ripened.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ NW
‘Aphrodite’ melons were larger and tastier.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SW
We did not get to eat any. When I pulled the plants last week, there were a few tennis ball sized fruits on. Fruits were set late. The drought had something to do with it.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
It’s wonderful to have such great flavor especially compared to the hard cantaloupe they try to sell you in the store. We have enjoyed melons for over 2 months and still are eating them. I store them in the fridge and cut them as I need them. Yum!

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
‘Aphrodite’ did not fully ripen on the vine.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
Even though it took ‘Athena’ longer to mature, it kept well and had fabulous flavor—very sweet. ‘Athena’ is smaller than ‘Aphrodite’ but tastes better.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
It was nice that ‘Athena’ ripened slightly earlier, produced more melons, and had slightly bigger melons, but its sweeter taste was most important. Both ‘Athena’ and ‘Aphrodite’ are superior to the ‘Superstar’ melons I have been planting.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ NC
Both ‘Aphrodite’ and ‘Athena’ are superior to the ‘Superstar’ melons I have been planting.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ NE
‘Athena’ produced 57 melons compared to 35 for ‘Aphrodite’. ‘Aphrodite’ melons were larger. ‘Athena’ was slightly sweeter and had better texture. ‘Aphrodite’ melons were larger but this made the fruit “woodier.”

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ NC
‘Athena’ tasted a lot better.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ NC
‘Aphrodite’ melons were larger but had a shorter shelf life.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
‘Athena’ was delicious, juicy and productive. ‘Aphrodite’ did not fully ripen on the vine.

Aphrodite ☺ Athenas ☺ SC
It was nice that ‘Athena’ ripened slightly earlier, produced more melons, and had slightly bigger melons, but its sweeter taste was most important. Both ‘Athena’ and ‘Aphrodite’ are superior to the ‘Superstar’ melons I have been planting.

Conclusions
‘Athena’ is popular in the north and has done well in our previous trials. ‘Aphrodite’ was superior this year. It ripened earlier—a very important trait considering our short growing season. ‘Aphrodite’ produced larger melons and higher yields. Gardeners enjoyed the flavor of both varieties and ‘Aphrodite’ was rated slightly higher for taste. ‘Athena’ melons kept well after harvest. We look forward to testing ‘Aphrodite’ again.
Melon, Large Cantaloupe

Varieties

‘El Gordo’

‘Solstice’
76 days. Large, 8-pound melons have deep ribbing and thick netting. Good flavor.

Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>El Gordo</th>
<th>Solstice</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matured earlier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive fruits</td>
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<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer El Gordo

Neither variety did well in my garden. We had squash growing near these plants that did very well, but the melons just looked bad the whole season!

El Gordo ☺
Solstice ☺
MN

Prefer Solstice

‘Solstice’ produced larger melons.

El Gordo ☺
Solstice ☺
SE

I had lots of 5- to 6-pound melons, with nice, rounded shape and good coloring. ‘Solstice’ had vigorous plants, good yield and better taste. I would grow ‘Solstice’ again.

El Gordo ☺
Solstice ☺
NC

Conclusions

This was not a popular trial and neither variety did especially well. Recommendation percentages for both varieties were low. ‘Solstice’ was rated higher for its more attractive fruits. ‘El Gordo’ vines were very healthy and vigorous.

 neither variety did well. ‘Solstice’ was rated higher for its more attractive fruits. ‘El Gordo’ vines were healthy and vigorous.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Athena

Strong performers
Aphrodite
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar
Melon, Galia

Varieties

‘Arava’
77 days. Luscious, green flesh. Reliable yields. Three-pound fruits slip from vines when ripe.

‘Diplomat’
71 days. Early yields on vigorous vines. Green flesh is sweet, thick and aromatic. Fruits slip when ripe.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Arava</th>
<th>Diplomat</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>More attractive fruits</td>
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¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Arava’

Arava ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺
Diplomat ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺ SC

Both varieties had germination rates of 60%. ‘Arava’ matured 5 days earlier. ‘Arava’ melons were a bit sweeter, although the melons of both varieties were very juicy. ‘Diplomat’ had larger melons. Both varieties had trouble with squash bugs even though I powdered them.

Prefer ‘Diplomat’

Arava ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺
Diplomat ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ☺ SC

Only two plants of each variety germinated. Neither variety flourished. Vines were short. We did enjoy the flavor and texture of the few melons that grew.
Prefer ‘Diplomat’ (continued)

Arava ☺
Diplomat ☺ NC

Both varieties were healthy and produced melons of great flavor and texture. ‘Diplomat’ vines were more vigorous, produced melons a few days earlier and produced more melons. Its melons were larger and rounder.

Arava ☺
Diplomat ☺ NC

‘Diplomat’ tasted better.

Arava ☺
Diplomat ☺ NC

‘Diplomat’ tasted better, produced more melons per vine, and was easy to grow. ‘Arava’ melons were bigger. The varieties matured at about the same time.

Other

Arava ☺
Diplomat ☺ SC

Neither variety produced any ripe fruits.

Arava ☺
Diplomat ☺ NW

We could not tell the varieties apart because their vines got mixed together. The melons of both varieties were delicious and ripened on the vine.

Conclusions

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

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

Variety A ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Variety B ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC

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

Neither variety excelled or distinguished itself from the other. Yields were fair and recommendations were lukewarm.

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

Varieties

‘Candle Fire’
60 days. New variety. Bright red pods are smooth, slender and ribless. Productive. Pods turn green when cooked.

‘Carmine Splendor’
51 days. Deep red pods get lighter as they enlarge. Early ripening. Strong yields. Beautiful blooms.

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information. *Candle Carmine*

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<thead>
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<th>Trait</th>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Splendor</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive pods</td>
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<td>Preference</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Candle Fire’

Candle Fire ☺️ Carmine Splendor ☬ MN

They were both very pretty and grew well, but most people that tried them did not care for the texture. They tasted best when fresh picked, and seemed to get fibrous and less tasty over time after picking. We probably will not grow okra again but it was fun to try.

Best okra varieties

Top choice
Clemson Spineless

Strong performer
Candle Fire

Candle Fire ☬ Carmine Splendor ☬ SE

These varieties got tough too quickly. I would not plant them again. ‘Clemson Spineless’ last year was a much better producer and it did not get tough until the pods were over 7 inches long; even ‘Jambalaya’ was better. Among these red varieties, ‘Candle Fire’ had smooth, rounded pods, and did not get tough as quickly as ‘Carmine Splendor’. Yields favored ‘Carmine Splendor’ slightly. On September 25, I harvested 15 pods (all good) of ‘Candle Fire’ and 20 pods (15 good, 5 tough) of ‘Carmine Splendor’. On September 28, I harvested 18 pods (16 good, 2 tough) of ‘Candle Fire’ and 23 pods (17 good, 6 tough) of ‘Carmine Splendor’.

Candle Fire ☬ Carmine Splendor ☬ NC

‘Candle Fire’ plants did way better after thinning stage. ‘Carmine Splendor’ had one pod per plant, where ‘Candle Fire’ had multiple.

Candle Fire ☬ Carmine Splendor ☬ NC

Both had only about 50% germination and grew only about 2–3 feet tall. ‘Candle Fire’ had a better yield and had brighter red pods. I could not tell a difference in taste between the varieties.
### Prefer ‘Candle Fire’ (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It looked like every seed came up. ‘Candle Fire’ grew taller with the pods on top in clusters. ‘Carmine Splendor’ grew faster and during hot days I could harvest almost daily. ‘Candle Fire’ had very smooth cylindrical pods (like a candlestick) unlike traditional okra. The pods of ‘Candle Fire’ didn’t seem to be as tough if they got a bit larger in size before picking. For pickling, they are equal, but for making okra on the grill I preferred ‘Candle Fire’ for its tenderness. The leaves on ‘Candle Fire’ seemed to cause skin rash and itchiness when touched. This wasn’t the case with ‘Carmine Splendor’. Both produced until our hard frost a week ago. Excellent varieties—great yields on both.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Candle Fire’ had beautiful flowers and attractive plants. The pods of both varieties were very tough and had poor taste.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Candle Fire’ plants were a lot taller and were big producers, but I am not a fan of the smooth look of its pods. The pods of both varieties had a good crunch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
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<td>☺</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Candle Fire’ seemed to overall just be better at everything. They got tall, they produced first and last. They looked beautiful! I loved their flowers! Its pods did not get woody. ‘Carmine Splendor’ did poorly. It produced some pods, its plants did not grow very tall and it smelled kind of bad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Carmine Splendor’ had loads of pods. It grew very well. ‘Candle Fire’ had only a few pods.

### Prefer ‘Carmine Splendor’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I think every seed germinated. ‘Carmine Splendor’ matured earlier by a few days and began producing more by late September. Its plants were bigger and healthier. The red pods of these varieties were pretty, but they didn’t seem any better than the ‘Clemson Spineless’ I grew on a whim last year. Actually, I preferred ‘Clemson Spineless’ since it wasn’t so prickly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
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<td>☎ SC</td>
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</table>

We got a late start (sown June 23) and these were so close to producing when it froze. They both struggled with the drought conditions. We tasted three pods of ‘Carmine Splendor’ and they were delicious.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candle Fire</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmine Splendor</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☎ SW</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The red color was interesting. ‘Carmine Splendor’ had loads of pods. It grew very well. ‘Candle Fire’ had only a few pods.

### Conclusions

‘Candle Fire’ grew taller and produced more pods. These bright red, ribless pods were very attractive, tender and slow to become fibrous. Its prickly plants irritated skin when touched. ‘Carmine Splendor’ excelled in no particular trait but was recommended just as often as ‘Candle Fire.’ The plants of both varieties were healthy and beautiful. Two gardeners with experience in growing okra mentioned that green-podded ‘Clemson Spineless’ was superior to both varieties.
Pea, Shell

Varieties

‘Lincoln’
65 days. Good for freezing. Pods are filled with 8–10 tender peas. Excellent flavor. Height 28 inches.

‘Sienna’
55 days. Dark green peas with outstanding flavor. Heavy yields. Height 25 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 38 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>Sienna</th>
<th>Same</th>
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<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Matured earlier</td>
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<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>More attractive pods</td>
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</table>

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

‘Lincoln’ had bigger pods, many more pods, and continued to produce in extreme heat.

‘Lincoln’ had more peas in the pods and they filled the pods completely. Although a bit slower to produce than ‘Sienna’, ‘Lincoln’ surpassed in yield. Both germinated well but ‘Sienna’ emerged a few days sooner and bloomed a week earlier.

Lincoln  ☺  Sienna  ☺  SE

‘Lincoln’ had better germination (95% versus 90% for ‘Sienna’). ‘Lincoln’ had by far healthier plants. Its vines were taller, had more leaves, flowers and pods. It had bigger pods, many more pods and continued to produce in extreme heat. Many of its pods had 9 peas. ‘Lincoln’ vines had three more pickings. It showed greater resistance to white mold and handled the heat. ‘Sienna’ bloomed 7 days earlier and had a 10-day earlier harvest. It had a few pods with 6–7 peas—the smaller pods were harder to shell. ‘Sienna’ was pulled on July 13 with no pods or flowers. It did not handle the heat and dryness. The taste of both varieties was the same—both good!

Best shell pea varieties

Top choice  Lincoln

Strong performers  Early Frosty  Green Arrow  Little Marvel  Maestro  Improved Wando
**Prefer ‘Lincoln’ (continued)**

Lincoln ☃️★★★☆☆ ☀️ SE
Sienna ☃️★★★☆☆ ☀️ SE

‘Sienna’ germinated better and had more vigor early in the season. ‘Sienna’ bloomed earlier and our first harvest was on July 28, 6 days before ‘Lincoln’. ‘Sienna’ had twice the yield; its pods were plumper. I liked the taste of ‘Lincoln’ better. Both varieties suffered from powdery mildew.

Lincoln ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ SC
Sienna ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ SC

‘Lincoln’ germinated a little better and its vines were slightly bigger. It matured a few days earlier. ‘Lincoln’ pods were bigger and had more peas in each pod. ‘Sienna’ kept producing later into the season.

Lincoln ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW
Sienna ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW

‘Sienna’ matured nearly 10 days earlier. ‘Lincoln’ peas were much sweeter and more tender. ‘Lincoln’ pods were bigger with more peas.

Lincoln ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ SC
Sienna ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ SC

‘Lincoln’ was 2 weeks ahead of ‘Sienna’, which made for easier picking and using. ‘Lincoln’ had more peas per pod. My granddaughter did a great job of sowing these seeds.

Lincoln ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW
Sienna ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW

We had quite a time with the peas. The pheasants loved them as they were just emerging from the ground, and also helped themselves to the pods as they were developing. We finally covered the plants with a fine gauze, and did manage to get a few peas, mostly from ‘Lincoln’. It seemed to be a better producer.

Lincoln ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW
Sienna ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW

Rabbits ate most of the plants but what I did get was great.

Lincoln ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW
Sienna ☃️★★★★✩ ☀️ NW

Peas did not do well as far as peas getting large in the pods. Lots of shells. Tasted good.

‘Lincoln’ again proved that it is the best all-purpose garden pea for North Dakota.
Prefer ‘Lincoln’ (continued)

Lincoln  ★★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★ ☺  SW

‘Lincoln’ produced over a week earlier and continued to produce with multiple small pickings through the season. I picked ‘Lincoln’ twice before ‘Sienna’ matured. ‘Sienna’ basically had one huge picking, with almost none before and after. This made it difficult to compare yields, but I think ‘Lincoln’ was slightly higher. Multiple smaller pickings make it better for eating, and if you miss a picking you don’t miss the whole crop. ‘Sienna’ is probably better for preserving because of a single large crop.

Lincoln  ★★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★ ☺  SW

Neither variety had great germination but both gave a good yield. ‘Lincoln’ started earlier so had higher yield overall. ‘Lincoln’ had long pods with thin walls. ‘Sienna’ had big thick-walled pods. I preferred ‘Lincoln’ because I found ‘Sienna’ harder to harvest since the thick-walled pods were hard to determine which ones were ready to harvest. Also ‘Sienna’ pods did not pull free of the vine as easily as ‘Lincoln’ pods.

Lincoln  ★★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★ ☺  SW

‘Lincoln’ survived the drought better than ‘Sienna’. It grew better than all of the vegetable varieties I tested this year.

Prefer ‘Sienna’

Lincoln  ★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★★ ☺  NE

‘Sienna’ flowered and fruited first. Its peas tasted better when they got older. ‘Lincoln’ had a higher yield (6.1 versus 3.6 pounds for ‘Sienna’) and its pods filled out more.

Lincoln  ★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★★ ☺  SE

‘Sienna’ vines were taller and were done producing by July 20; I liked its earliness; the pea harvest was done before the bean harvest started. ‘Lincoln’ started on July 12. If growing to freeze, you might like ‘Lincoln’ since it had more peas per pod (7–8 peas compared to 5–6 for ‘Sienna’).

Lincoln  ★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★★ ☺  SE

‘Sienna’ was better tasting and had higher yield.

Lincoln  ★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★★ ☺  NC

No comments.

Lincoln  ★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★★ ☺  SC

‘Lincoln’ looked healthier at the beginning, but ‘Sienna’ produced a week earlier. By the time of harvest, ‘Lincoln’ vines were almost dying; their pods didn’t fill and tasted overripe. ‘Sienna’ pods were very sweet. ‘Sienna’ was earlier, filled better and had a larger yield. I have raised ‘Lincoln’ before and have been really happy with this variety. Not sure if that affected the trial; maybe disease set into that variety earlier. It also produced later on a dry year, which affected production.

Lincoln  ★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★★ ☺  SC

Both varieties were very good. We chose ‘Sienna’ as it had slightly better germination and it was available to eat before ‘Lincoln’.

Lincoln  ★★★★ ☺
Sienna  ★★★★★ ☺  SC

This trial was grown in pots. ‘Lincoln’ looked sick from the beginning and never produced.

Conclusions

‘Lincoln’ again proved to be the finest all-purpose garden pea for North Dakota. ‘Lincoln’ had bigger pods, many more pods, and continued to produce even during a severe drought. ‘Sienna’ matured a week earlier and had a more concentrated harvest. Its pods were shorter and more difficult to shell. The peas of both varieties were sweet and delicious.
Pea, Snap

Varieties

‘Sugar Magnolia’
70 days. Sweet, dark purple pods with bright green peas. Bicolor purple flowers. Seven-foot vines.

‘Super Sugar Snap’
66 days. Matures earlier and shows improved resistance to mildew compared to ‘Sugar Snap’. Five-foot vines need a trellis.

Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Sugar Magnolia</th>
<th>S. Sugar Snap</th>
<th>Same</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Sugar Magnolia’

Sugar Magnolia ☺
Super Sugar Snap ☺ SE

The purple pods were beautiful in the garden! The plants of ‘Sugar Magnolia’ were way taller and had twice the yield of ‘Super Sugar Snap.’

Sugar Magnolia ☺
Super Sugar Snap ☺ SE

‘Sugar Magnolia’ produced larger yields and bigger pods. Its pods were fuller.

Sugar Magnolia ☺
Super Sugar Snap ☺ NC

My family and I didn't like the taste of either variety. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ had a fairly good yield.

Sugar Magnolia ☺
Super Sugar Snap ☺ SC

Even though ‘Super Sugar Snap’ yielded better, the color of the pods put ‘Sugar Magnolia’ on top. Both were generally poor yielding.

Prefer ‘Super Sugar Snap’

Sugar Magnolia ☺
Super Sugar Snap ☺ MN

‘Super Sugar Snap’ really put on pods. It was good tasting, produced good yields and was easy to pick. Both varieties had great germination.

Sugar Magnolia ☺
Super Sugar Snap ☺ MN

‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted better, was very productive and produced over a long period of time. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ was very pretty but was not as sweet or productive. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ vines needed a little bit more support.

Best snap pea varieties

Top choice
Sugar Ann

Strong performers
Sugar Sprint
Super Sugar Snap
‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted much better. It was very productive and produced over a long period of time.

Prefer ‘S. Sugar Snap’ (continued)

Sugar Magnolia ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☽
Prefer ‘S. Sugar Snap’ (continued)

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ SE

Very dry—germination was not very good. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ didn’t get mildew until late, produced for a long time and wasn’t so tall and gangly. ‘Sugar Magnolia’ was fun!

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ SE

Peas did poorly this year due to lack of moisture. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ performed better under these conditions.

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ NC

Both had near 100% germination. Both had attractive pods. The purple pods of ‘Sugar Magnolia’ were eye-catching and fun to watch. I enjoyed the novelty of the purple-podded ‘Sugar Magnolia’ but the taste of ‘Super Sugar Snap’ was superior.

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ NC

‘Sugar Magnolia’ pods had a stiffer shell; harder to pick and chew.

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ SC

Both varieties produced well considering the conditions, but nobody enjoyed the taste of either variety. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted slightly better.

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ NC

‘Sugar Magnolia’ didn’t produce well or have good flavor. Its pods were tough and tasteless. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ also didn’t produce very good.

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ SW

‘Sugar Magnolia’ was the first to germinate and had a better germination rate. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ had a better taste and the pods were not as stringy. Both varieties grew very tall and needed a fence to grow on. I did not like how tall the vines got.

Sugar Magnolia ☺ Super Sugar Snap ☺ MT

‘Super Sugar Snap’ tasted best.

Conclusions

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

Gardeners preferred ‘Super Sugar Snap’. Its pods were much sweeter, more tender and juicier.
Pumpkin, Small

Varieties

‘Early Scream’
80 days. Orange color shows early and darkens over summer. Fruits weigh up to 15 pounds. Semi-bush vines tolerate mildew.

‘Neon’

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Early Scream</th>
<th>Neon</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bigger pumpkins</td>
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<td>More attractive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median weight (lbs)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Early Scream’

Early Scream  ★★★★★ ☺
Neon          ★★★★★ ☺

‘Early Scream’ produced more pumpkins, and its pumpkins were slightly larger.

Prefer ‘Neon’

Early Scream  ★★★★★ ☺
Neon          ★★★★★ ☺

‘Neon’ survived our storm (June 12) better. Its pumpkins were better looking and its vines were healthier. Both varieties produced nice looking pumpkins.

The vines of both varieties were healthy and productive.
Prefer ‘Neon’ (continued)

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ SE
‘Neon’ seedlings emerged more evenly and showed greater vigor. It set fruit earlier. Instant orange—very bold and attractive. ‘Neon’ produced 6 fruits compared to 2 for ‘Early Scream’. My grandkids harvested them on September 25.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ SE
This was a difficult choice. If one puts early maturity ahead of standard shape, then ‘Early Scream’ would be preferable. If one wants a standard squatty, round shape, then ‘Neon’ would be preferable. Vines produced one fruit on average and their average fruit weights were virtually identical. I did not irrigate regularly.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ SE
‘Neon’ matured earlier and produced higher yields. Both varieties had orange pumpkins by August 1.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ SC
‘Neon’ produced twice as many pumpkins. We loved the bright, neon color of its pumpkins. The vines of ‘Early Scream’ were rich and dark green.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ SC
‘Early Scream’ is a great pumpkin but ‘Neon’ still is my favorite. I love its season-long bright color.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ SC
‘Neon’ produced more.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ NW
Honestly, we did not like the name ‘Early Scream’. They were both excellent varieties to grow.

Early Scream ★★★★★ ☺
Neon ★★★★★ ☺ SW
They were fun to grow. Vines were healthy. ‘Neon’ produced more fruits.

Conclusions

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

Key to Site Reports

(Reports are presented from east to west)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Varieties</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
<th>Recommendation to other gardeners</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Variety A</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Variety A</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Variety A</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
<td>☺</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN = Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE = Northeast</td>
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<td>NC = North Central</td>
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<td>SC = South Central</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT = Montana</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Pumpkin, Medium

Varieties

‘Early King’

‘Howden’
115 days. A very popular pumpkin in the USA. Its classic, 20-pound fruits are dark orange and symmetrical in shape.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Early</th>
<th>King</th>
<th>Howden</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Germinated best</td>
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<td>25%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>Higher yields</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bigger pumpkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median weight (lbs)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Early King’

I appreciate the higher yields of ‘Early King’. ‘Howden’ fruits turned orange earlier. Its fruits were very attractive and larger (45 pounds compared to 25 pounds for ‘Early King’).

‘Early King’ had a slight edge—bigger yields. Its pumpkins averaged 11 pounds; ‘Howden’ pumpkins averaged 8 pounds.

Best jack-o’-lantern varieties

Top choice
Early King

Strong performers
Autumn Gold
Cronus
Early Dakota
Howden
Gladiator
Magic Lantern

‘Early King’ matured earlier and produced more pumpkins. Its pumpkins were bigger and more beautiful.

‘Early King’ had a smoother face without deep creases and wasn’t a burnt orange at maturity. However this is a personal preference as others might like the deep creases and color of ‘Howden’. I also liked that ‘Early King’ was a smaller variety (20 pounds compared to 30 pounds for ‘Howden’) so that I could lift and move the pumpkins without help. Lastly, ‘Early King’ produced much larger yields than ‘Howden’. These were larger than I expected for “medium” pumpkin size although I know really big pumpkins can weigh hundreds of pounds.
Prefer ‘Early King’ (continued)

Early King ★★★★★ ☺
Howden ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Early King’ pumpkins were round and plump. Its vines were better producers. ‘Early King’ pumpkins averaged 22 pounds; ‘Howden’ pumpkins averaged 18 pounds.

Early King ★★★★★ ☺
Howden ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Early King’ germinated better. Its pumpkins were more attractive and uniform in shape. Its largest fruit was 18 pounds; the largest for ‘Howden’ was 11 pounds.

Early King ★★★★★ ☺
Howden ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Only one seed of each variety germinated and each vine produced one pumpkin. The pumpkins were nice in size and had nice flesh. The flesh of ‘Early King’ looked better, cooked down and made nice puree.

Early King ★★★★★ ☺
Howden ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Early King’ had big, beautiful pumpkins.

Early King ★★★★★ ☺
Howden ★★★★★ ☺ NW

‘Howden’ pumpkins were round and similar in size. ‘Early King’ had more pumpkins on the plant and they were bigger and different shaped, more oblong than round. I preferred it because I like pumpkins that have more personality and are bigger. Both were fun to see develop. ‘Early King’ pumpkins are big for being considered “medium.” Their pumpkins ranged in weight from 25 to 38 pounds, compared to ‘Howden’ pumpkins with weights ranging from 15 to 25 pounds. I would like to try the varieties in the large pumpkin trial but I am afraid I couldn’t move them.

‘Howden’ is a popular variety in the USA, but it could not compare to ‘Early King’ in yield or fruit quality traits.

Prefer ‘Howden’

Early King ★★★★★ ☺
Howden ★★★★★ ☺ NC

‘Howden’ pumpkins were huge (15 pounds on average) but somewhat misshaped. If you want a pumpkin variety that produces a lot of large pumpkins, go with ‘Howden’. ‘Early King’ pumpkins were smaller (8 pounds on average), nicely shaped and fewer in number.

Early King ★★★★★ ☺
Howden ★★★★★ ☺ NW

‘Early King’ never even grew; planted in the same way as ‘Howden’ with no results. We waited until May 30, after the last frost in spring to sow the seed.

Conclusions

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

Varieties

‘Early Giant’
95 days. Dark orange, 30-pound, slightly tall pumpkins perfect for carving. Vines resist mildew. Early ripening.

‘Howden Biggie’
115 days. A classic big jack-o’-lantern. Dark orange, 45-pound fruits. Productive, vigorous vines.

Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Early Giant</th>
<th>Howden Biggie</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>More attractive</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Early Giant’

Neither variety was anything to get excited about. I didn’t get any mature pumpkins, just a few green ones.

Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Big Moose

Strong performers
Captain Jack
Early Giant
Howden Biggie

‘Early Giant’ germinated better and produced more pumpkins. Gardeners liked the size and appearance of its fruits.

‘Early Giant’ had higher yields and its pumpkins had a more consistent orange color.

‘Early Giant’ germinated better. Its pumpkins were smaller than expected (largest ‘Early Giant’ was 25 pounds compared to 19 pounds for ‘Howden Biggie’ but the dry weather had something to do with that. ‘Early Giant’ pumpkins looked nicer and were more uniform in shape.

‘Early Giant’ had lots of big, unique looking fruits. Great for a carving pumpkin! Its fruits averaged 45 pounds and its vines were prolific. ‘Howden Biggie’ had near perfect looking fruits. Its fruits averaged at 30 pounds.

Both varieties produced very nice large pumpkins! We were very happy with our pumpkin trials! We preferred ‘Early Giant’ as it had slightly better germination. Both varieties were very good!
Prefer ‘Early Giant’ (continued)

‘Early Giant’ had larger and more pumpkins. Its pumpkins averaged 30 pounds compared to 20 pounds for ‘Howden Biggie’. ‘Early Giant’ pumpkins ripened earlier.

‘Howden Biggie’ did not produce any pumpkins.

Prefer ‘Howden Biggie’

‘Howden Biggie’ pumpkins were so much bigger and more beautiful. Its pumpkins averaged 40 pounds and one was 50 pounds. The pumpkins of ‘Early Giant’ averaged 35 pounds.

‘Howden Biggie’ had larger and stronger vines. They produced larger and more pumpkins. ‘Early Giant’ pumpkins were smaller but more symmetrical. Both matured at the same pace.

Conclusions

‘Early Giant’ germinated better and produced higher yields. Its pumpkins were judged to be more attractive by most gardeners. ‘Howden Biggie’ produced big pumpkins but fewer of them. Its performance was less consistent across sites in our drought-stricken state.

‘Howden Biggie’ produced big pumpkins but fewer of them. Its performance was less consistent across sites.
Radish, Purple (Fall)

Varieties

‘Amethyst’
30 days. Bright purple skin makes a striking contrast with its white flesh. A proven performer in North Dakota.

‘Bacchus’
30 days. Deep purple roots make a nice complement with other radishes. White flesh.

Both varieties grew well and produced flavorful radishes. The contrasting purple skin and white flesh was striking.

Data

Gardeners at 52 sites submitted information.

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

Prefer ‘Amethyst’

‘Amethyst’ plants were larger and produced larger radishes. Either variety would work for ND or MN gardeners. Plants were healthy and radishes had excellent flavor in both cases.

Amethyst ❇❇❇❇❇ ☺
Bacchus ❇❇❇❇❇ ☺

‘Bacchus’ definitely grew better. Both had a rough start because of infestations of cabbage loopers and flea beetles. ‘Bacchus’ recovered somewhat but was never really able to be robust. I prefer ‘Amethyst’ because ‘Bacchus’ was too spicy for me.

Best purple radish varieties

Top choice
Bacchus

Strong performer
Amethyst

Amethyst ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺
Bacchus ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺

They germinated in 2–3 days. I loved the color of ‘Amethyst’. It had a very crisp, snappy taste.

Amethyst ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺
Bacchus ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺

They tasted too strong and hot to me.

Amethyst ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺
Bacchus ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺

My trees grew so much this year and shaded my garden area so roots were pretty small. The greens were excellent on both varieties; wonderful flavor. I would like to try these in my spring garden. ‘Amethyst’ produced a slightly higher yield. I recommend both varieties as suitable for North Dakota gardens.

Amethyst ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺
Bacchus ➕➕➕➕➕ ☺

Both varieties came up at the same time, but ‘Amethyst’ produced harvestable roots first. ‘Amethyst’ had thick, dark green leaves; its root color was rich and consistent. It tasted milder. ‘Bacchus’ yielded more roots but they were smaller. ‘Bacchus’ roots were very strong and more bitter. Both varieties were easy to grow and did well, however my preference for ‘Amethyst’ came down to its flavor.
Amethyst Bacchus

‘Amethyst’ produced the first and highest yields.

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Amethyst’ roots were redder in color and not as hot.

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Amethyst’ has a bit better flavor. Both varieties produced nice, large roots and similar yields.

Amethyst Bacchus

Very few ‘Amethyst’ seedlings emerged while the entire row of ‘Bacchus’ was up in 3 days. The greens of both varieties were smaller than other radishes I’ve seen, but the roots had a nice size. They were ready to harvest on the same day. ‘Bacchus’ roots were larger and dark purple. ‘Amethyst’ roots were lighter and bright; I preferred its milder taste—not too strong.

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Amethyst’ had nice big radishes and they were more bug resistant. ‘Bacchus’ tops were eaten by flea beetles and were located only a hand’s width apart from ‘Amethyst’. I found both varieties to be quite hot to taste, but they were beautiful!

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Bacchus’ roots were deep purple and round. ‘Amethyst’ varied in color from a nice purple to light purple to red and weren’t as uniform in shape. Both have good flavor but ‘Bacchus’ had more roots that were spongy (not sure if this was due to lack of water). Although I liked everything else better for ‘Bacchus’, the texture of ‘Amethyst’ was so much better that I had to choose ‘Amethyst’. It would be interesting to see if consistent watering would change the texture of ‘Bacchus’.

Amethyst Bacchus

I preferred ‘Amethyst’ for its large radishes and nice shape. Both varieties produced nicely despite squirrels digging in the elevated beds.

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Amethyst’ roots had mild flavor and even when they were large they were not woody. Beautiful and brilliant color. Really loved the looks in a salad and we even roasted them on the grill. Excellent flavor.

Amethyst Bacchus

The varieties tasted the same. Caterpillars were found in the plants.

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Bacchus’ had a very slightly better taste, but both were good.

Prefer ‘Bacchus’

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Bacchus’ had exceptional yield. Both varieties were delicious and among the most flavorful radishes we have ever had! Very zippy flavor. I would like more seeds for both varieties for next year if possible!

Amethyst Bacchus

I prefer ‘Bacchus’ for its milder flavor. ‘Amethyst’ cracked early.

Amethyst Bacchus

‘Bacchus’ produced bigger radishes first. It germinated better, although neither variety germinated well.

Amethyst Bacchus

Flea beetles mowed down the ‘Amethyst’. ‘Bacchus’ showed exceptional seedling vigor and half of its plants survived. ‘Bacchus’ produced wonderful roots and great flavor!
Prefer ‘Bacchus’ (continued)

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ NE

‘Amethyst’ germination was about 50%, even after watering, and it produced small globes. ‘Bacchus’ had great germination, grew almost too fast, had nice purple color, and had some heat in its taste. Its roots grew very large, to the size of a crabapple. Neither variety produced woody radishes.

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Bacchus’ grew better and produced higher yields.

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties are outstanding, however ‘Amethyst’ brings with it some heat. The mild flavor of ‘Bacchus’ is very nice and satisfying without any residual heat. Again as in last year’s radish trial I prefer fall plantings of radish to spring plantings. Not only can one use garden space used by a previously harvested vegetable, the outcome is more assured. It is frustrating to use valuable garden space in the spring to plant radish that bolts and doesn’t perform. Fall radish plantings need to be better promoted in the larger gardening community. While spring plantings can bring some of the first produce of the garden, they often disappoint and use garden space that could be put to a better use.

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ SE

I love the color of ‘Bacchus’. The few ‘Amethyst’ that grew were very small.

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Bacchus’ is very resilient. We accidentally ran the hose over the row and I thought the whole row was destroyed, but they bounced back and delivered consistent size, brilliant color radishes. Its radishes were brighter and less spicy compared to ‘Amethyst’.

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ SE

With lack of water, and higher temps in August than I was expecting, both types germinated well, though I would say ‘Bacchus’ slightly better. However, in the end, ‘Amethyst’ was not able to withstand the conditions, and really petered out, dwindling to almost nothing. As temps cooled these last weeks, I was pretty amazed to see how ‘Bacchus’ just picked right back up! As I have been putting my gardens to bed, I was not able to let ‘Bacchus’ fully develop, but enjoyed the greens in our salads, and had several pea- to acorn-sized radishes that had a great concentrated spice to them, as I would have expected for their small size. I will look forward to trying this variety again, perhaps in the spring. Thank you!

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties germinated well and at the same time. Both had healthy plants, nice and green, and looked good. ‘Bacchus’ produced a bigger radish than ‘Amethyst’ and it was ready first to harvest. ‘Bacchus’ was crisp and mild; a little milder than ‘Amethyst’.

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Tasted the same.

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Neither grew very big compared to other varieties I have grown in the past. A couple got normal size but many were very small—not sure if this is due to fall weather? ‘Bacchus’ grew a little larger. (Sown August 16.)

Amethyst ★★★★★ ☺
Bacchus ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Sowed on August 10 and the varieties germinated at the same time. The roots never grew larger than marbles; perhaps should have sown sooner. There were lots of bug holes in the leaves.
Both varieties were brutally attacked by cabbage moths. ‘Bacchus’ recovered better and produced several sizable radishes. These radishes tasted pretty mild (which was disappointing). I preferred the peppery taste of ‘Amethyst’ although many of its plants did not form bulbs.

Both varieties germinated and grew very well in pots. Both were very good tasting; however, a few of ‘Amethyst’ had a “bite.” Both had a unique outside purple radish color and a nice white center ... and both had a few that were red? Both were very big in size and none were hollow. The pesky cabbage moths liked the leaves of both varieties but they didn’t affect the flavor. We enjoyed the trial. It was a great way to try purple radishes and a fall crop.

‘Bacchus’ came up a bit quicker and more of them grew to eating size. They both tasted fairly mild—which is good and surprising—despite the heat. Normally my spring radishes get too hot.

‘Bacchus’ yield was lower but its roots were sweeter and did not get bitter as fast. Its roots were uniformly purple while ‘Amethyst’ had both red and purple roots.

Both were really good.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well in fall and produced flavorful radishes. The contrast between the purple skin and white flesh was beautiful. ‘Bacchus’ germinated well and grew vigorously. It produced higher yields and was ready to harvest earlier. Its roots were deep purple and more consistent in color.

‘Amethyst’ was a redder, more brilliant shade of purple. Many gardeners liked ‘Amethyst’ for its mild flavor.
Radish, Red (Fall)

Varieties
‘Rover’
21 days. Extra early. Very dependable even under heat stress. Roots are dark red, smooth and uniform.

‘Roxanne’
21 days. Big crops of red, round and uniformly shaped radishes. Tolerates heat. This hybrid is reliable and grows vigorously.

Data
Gardeners at 47 sites submitted information.

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

Both varieties were fantastic. They grew well and their roots were beautiful, crisp and tasty.

Prefer ‘Rover’
Rover
Roxanne
I’ve never had radishes grow so big. Planting in fall avoided trouble with bugs.

Rover
Roxanne
I prefer ‘Rover’ because of its milder taste, although ‘Roxanne’ seemed to thrive in spite of the dryness. Both varieties were hurt by flea beetles and drought.

Best red radish varieties
Top choice
Roxanne
Strong performers
Cherry Belle
Rover
Prefer ‘Rover’ (continued)

‘Rover’ and ‘Roxanne’ are truly excellent varieties. Excellent germination. Those seeds we planted with diatomaceous earth were excellent ... those we didn’t were full of rootworms as is the usual with our garden. ‘Rover’ got larger faster than ‘Roxanne’. Both were nice, round, beautiful radishes. We thought ‘Roxanne’ was milder early in the harvest when roots were small. ‘Rover’ was milder later in the season when roots were large.

‘Roxanne’ germinated at less than 10%.

The plants of both varieties looked good. Their roots were similar: bright red, crack-free, solid and crisp, good tasting and not pithy. Late in the season they had an earthy taste but when peeled and sliced tasted good on a vegetable tray and in stir fry. ‘Rover’ had a longer harvest season. ‘Roxanne’ germinated first and more uniformly. Its plants were slightly larger and its roots were ready to harvest earlier and all at once.

Wow. These were both great varieties. In the past when I have grown fall radishes, they get woody. These did not. A close decision on picking a favorite. ‘Rover’ germinated first and produced the first yield so I’m giving it the vote. This was a great test and both varieties performed very well. If you like radishes, these are winners! We are still eating them here in the house (October 9).

‘Rover’ produced higher yields and tasted very good. Both varieties grew better when planted in the ground compared to in pots.

‘Rover’ had greater consistency in taste and better production early in the season. Both were very frost tolerant. I wish I had spaced planting a week apart to even out production (sowed August 25). We have had a couple heavy frosts and both have kept producing without covering plants.

Prefer ‘Roxanne’

Both germinated at the same time. ‘Roxanne’ grew a little faster and produced slightly more yield. Its bulbs seemed to have rounder bottoms and tasted less bitter.

‘Roxanne’ had a little more vigor and larger roots.

‘Roxanne’ did great: good germination, fast growth, nice round radish and good color. ‘Roxanne’ is high quality. ‘Rover’ had poor germination and small radishes.

‘Roxanne’ outshined ‘Rover’ by far. Its roots were bigger and tastier. ‘Rover’ roots were a lot smaller and didn’t have the nice flavor ‘Roxanne’ did. We’d definitely plant ‘Roxanne’ radishes again. Very pleased.
Prefer ‘Roxanne’ (continued)

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SC
Roxanne ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SE
‘Roxanne’ had higher yields and better taste.

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SE
‘Roxanne’ was more robust in growth: bigger plants, faster growth and larger roots. The leaves and roots of both varieties looked nice and were tasty.

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Roxanne ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Both varieties came up in 3 days. Plants were healthy and were ready to harvest at the same time. Yields were similar and their roots were beautiful, red and healthy. We taste-tested them with 3–6th graders and they chose ‘Roxanne’. It had a milder taste. Those who really like radishes would enjoy the taste of ‘Rover’ as well.

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Roxanne ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
‘Roxanne’ produced evenly sized radishes with mild flavor. The roots of both varieties were excellent in taste; not strong; mild.

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Roxanne ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Both varieties grew very well and produced beautiful looking radishes. I enjoyed the flavor of ‘Roxanne’ better because it was a bit milder. ‘Rover’ was also good but too strong for my taste.

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Roxanne ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ NC
Overall better performance.

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SC
Roxanne ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SC
‘Roxanne’ had higher yields and better taste. Both varieties were very good.

Rover ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SC
Roxanne ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ SC
‘Roxanne’ tasted excellent and lasted a long time.

‘Roxanne’ had healthy plants, faster growth and good yields. Its roots were larger and milder.

‘Roxanne’ produced higher yields and was ready to harvest sooner. Harvested on September 7 (sown August 9). The roots of both varieties tasted so much better than radishes grown in the spring.

‘Roxanne’ was superior to ‘Rover’ in all traits. ‘Rover’ had a stronger bite to its taste and the radishes were not as big. ‘Roxanne’ on the other hand had better germination rates, grew faster and bigger and was milder to taste.

Both were very good. Both were red and shiny. They were almost identical but ‘Roxanne’ seemed to get bigger faster.

I prefer the flavor of ‘Roxanne’.

Bigger radishes.

Both radishes were a bright red color which was eye appealing. ‘Roxanne’ roots were uniform in size and larger than ‘Rover’. The flavor of ‘Roxanne’ was earthy, with a little hint of heat but not hot or pungent.

Conclusions

Both varieties were fantastic. They grew well and their roots were bright red, crisp and tasty. ‘Roxanne’ had a little more vigor and often produced higher yields. Its roots were larger and milder. ‘Rover’ roots were uniform in shape and had a classic, peppery kick.
Spinach, Savoy Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

‘Emperor’
37 days. Dark green, semi-savoy leaves. Grows quickly and produces good yields.

‘Reflect’
38 days. Medium green, oval to round leaves. Semi-savoy type suited for autumn.

Data

Gardeners at 44 sites submitted information.

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

Prefer ‘Emperor’

‘Emperor’ germinated much better. Its plants had larger leaves and grew faster. When I harvested it for a meal, it regenerated faster. As for taste, it was hard to tell a difference between the varieties.

I liked the flavor of ‘Emperor’. It tasted like beet greens; ‘Reflect’ had a mellow flavor.

‘Emperor’ was simply superior in every aspect. Both were pest-free and easy to grow. This was my first experience growing in pallets and ‘Emperor’ performed well.

Both varieties took a very long time to germinate … neither produced much for plants. The plants that came up were healthy and relatively bug-free. ‘Emperor’ looked fuller and had slightly better looking leaves. It had a better taste—‘Reflect’ was very bitter. I don’t recommend either.

Both varieties did not germinate well; very sparse. Both did not have a very healthy plant. Both produced about the same, which was not very good. They both had nice green color and tasted good. ‘Emperor’ had a few more plants, but I was disappointed with both of them.

‘Emperor’ germinated first and had beautiful, large leaves; ‘Reflect’ didn’t germinate well and had very small leaves. ‘Emperor’ grew faster and produced more. The yield of ‘Reflect’ was low and slow.

‘Emperor’ stood better after heavy rains. ‘Reflect’ got a bit smooshed. The germination and flavor of both varieties was very good. Spinach is one of my favorites to grow in my garden. I would grow both again.

Germination rates were sometimes disappointing, but plants were healthy and the harvested leaves were delicious.

Best savoy-leaf spinach varieties

Top choice
Emperor

Strong performers
Bloomsdale Long Standing Melody Tyee
Prefer ‘Emperor’ (continued)

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SE
They both grew very well. Overall, I really enjoyed ‘Emperor’ the most. ‘Reflect’ tasted a little bitter.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SE
‘Reflect’ germinated poorly and its seedlings had more bug damage. ‘Emperor’ produced over 90% more.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SE
All around performed best.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ NC
Both grew well and are still growing under row covers now in mid-October. ‘Emperor’ had better flavor; ‘Reflect’ tasted bitter.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SC
‘Emperor’ was somewhat more vigorous, but both varieties were good.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SC
Both germinated within 5 days. ‘Emperor’ started out better and produced the first yield. ‘Reflect’ came on later and caught up. ‘Emperor’ had slightly better yield.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SC
The plants of both varieties were healthy and looked very nice. ‘Emperor’ had better yields and was ready to harvest earlier. Its flavor was mild; great for salads.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SC
‘Emperor’ had higher yield. There was a bug in my garden that loved both varieties. Not much to yield and then it got so hot and dry that I did not have nearly as good a growth as I did the year before.

Prefer ‘Reflect’

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ MN
‘Reflect’ did not produce vigorous plants. ‘Emperor’ really took off!

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SC
‘Emperor’ germinated better but not many plants of either variety. My garden was bad this year.

Emperor 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺
Reflect 🍃🍃🍃🍃 ☺ SC
‘Emperor’ was just a nice plant and good tasting.

‘Emperor’ germinated better, grew quicker and produced more spinach. Gardeners enjoyed its flavor.
**Prefer ‘Reflect’ (continued)**

I grew them in containers. ‘Emperor’ was more productive but ‘Reflect’ had a better physical appearance. This trial was wonderful. Well worth the time. Excellent.

‘Reflect’ was tastier.

The ‘Reflect’ leaf was slightly more tender. It was fun to try these types of spinach. We enjoy spinach as a salad, etc.

Neither variety germinated very well and the plants were slow growing. Both of the varieties tasted great! ‘Reflect’ produced more of the nice, sweet, big leaves.

They germinated the same. Both had dark green leaves. ‘Reflect’ had a larger harvest early in the season and this continued throughout the fall. I did not like the savoy leaf texture, but both varieties tasted okay when cooked. Both varieties had very brittle leaf stems and would break when cutting the whole plant.

‘Reflect’ was very fast coming up and produced well.

‘Reflect’ had a slightly better taste. Neither variety showed much growth or vigor. I planted after a good rain and irrigated my garden when needed. My spinach crop last fall was much better.

I prefer the leaf shape of ‘Reflect’.

Neither of these varieties germinated well, either that or they were getting eaten as they came out of the ground by voles. Only half of the row of ‘Emperor’ came up. About 2/3 of the row of ‘Reflect’ came up. ‘Reflect’ had a larger leaf.

**Conclusions**

Germination is always a challenge in fall spinach production and it was a problem for both varieties this year due to our drought. Most gardeners preferred ‘Emperor’. It germinated better, grew quicker and produced higher yields. ‘Reflect’ excelled in no traits and most gardeners did not recommend it. The plants of both varieties were healthy and delicious.

---

**Key to Site Reports**

(reports are presented from east to west)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety A</th>
<th>Variety B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 ☺</td>
<td>🌱 🌱 🌱 ☺</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ratings (1 to 10)</th>
<th>Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
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<td>☺</td>
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<td>MN</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE = Minnesota</td>
<td>NC = North Central</td>
<td>SC = South Central</td>
<td>NW = Northwest</td>
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Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

Varieties

‘Olympia’
45 days. Yields are quick and abundant. Leaves are smooth and mild in flavor. Plants resist bolting.

‘Space’
45 days. Grows vigorously and is slow to bolt. Medium-green color. Its upright habit keeps the leaves clean.

Data

Gardeners at 34 sites submitted information.

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<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
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<th>Space</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

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

Prefer ‘Olympia’

Olympia 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Space 🌟🌟🌟🌟🎨 MN
‘Olympia’ tasted better, but both varieties tasted really bitter.

Olympia 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Space 🌟🌟🌟🌟🎨 NE
‘Olympia’ germinated better, was healthier and produced better yields. I could not irrigate the trial for 10 days after sowing and yields suffered.

Olympia 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟😊
Space 🌟🌟🌟🌟🎨 NE
‘Olympia’ was easy to grow. It tasted wonderful (raw and cooked) with little to no wilting. It lasted a long time in the fridge.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for spring sowing

Top choice
Space

Strong performer
Olympia

Preferred ‘Olympia’

NE

Both varieties were just fair this year. They both bolted very early and so the harvest period was short.

Neither variety germinated well under the dry conditions. ‘Olympia’ was ready to harvest first.

Both were great producers! We enjoyed both in salads and in making pesto. I hate to choose one over the other. ‘Olympia’ produced more and larger plants. ‘Olympia’ gave just a hint of pepper to the pesto.
Prefer ‘Space’

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ SE
‘Space’ outperformed ‘Olympia’ in almost every area. It had fabulous growth while ‘Olympia’ seemed very slow. ‘Space’ provided a much bigger harvest while ‘Olympia’ leaves never got to a good size. ‘Space’ bolted later—we were harvesting in mid-July. ‘Space’ had a good “spinach” flavor while ‘Olympia’ was bland.

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ SE
‘Olympia’ had 95% germination and grew fast. Plants grew taller but bolted after the first cutting. The stand of ‘Space’ was not as thick. Its plants bushed out and had large leaves. It was cut three times and resisted bolting. It grew back faster after cutting, therefore producing higher yields. Its leaves were larger and greener. Both varieties produced a lot of spinach and both tasted very good with no bitter aftertaste.

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ NC
Both varieties had very healthy plants and produced well. I liked them both for their nice color and smooth leaves that were easy to clean. ‘Space’ was ready to pick just a little sooner and was much slower to bolt. ‘Space’ had crisp texture—nice in sandwiches—and a slightly tangy flavor.

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ SC
Both germinated slowly due to the dry conditions. Plants were healthy and harvesting began in mid-June. Great yields. Equal in appearance and taste. ‘Space’ bolted on July 4, 1 week later than ‘Olympia’.

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ SC
‘Space’ produced more plants with more attractive and bigger leaves. It also went to seed a few weeks later than ‘Olympia’, which made for a longer and more productive harvest.

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ NW
‘Space’ had darker green, tastier leaves.

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ SW
Both germinated well. ‘Olympia’ was ready to harvest earlier. ‘Space’ seemed a little more resistant to leaf miners. This was the first time I had smooth-leaf spinach in my garden. Both varieties were fairly equal and I prefer this type over curled-leaf spinach. There was more overall yield than spinach I’ve tried to grow in the past.

Olympia ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ ☁ SW
These varieties were very similar but ‘Space’ bolted a bit later.

Conclusions

Both varieties did well but most gardeners preferred ‘Space’. It showed remarkable resistance to bolting, leading to higher yields. More gardeners preferred the looks and taste of ‘Space’ leaves. ‘Olympia’ germinated better and was ready to harvest earlier at many sites. ‘Olympia’ has always done well in our spring trials, but it could not match the heat tolerance of ‘Space’.

‘Space’ was productive and showed remarkable resistance to bolting—even during an extreme drought. Gardeners liked the color and flavor of its leaves.
Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

‘Gazelle’
36 days. Dark green, oval leaves. Long stems for bunching. Resists downy mildew.

‘Red Kitten’
34 days. Medium green leaves with distinctive red veins. Colorful addition to salads. Resists diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 62 sites submitted information.

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</table>

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

Prefer ‘Gazelle’

Gazelle 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 MN
Red Kitten 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 MN

I really enjoyed both varieties of spinach. Both are beautiful varieties with large leaf structure. They both tasted great. They handled the 28°F weather we had the other night! Great for northern gardens. ‘Gazelle’ produced more yields. It also handled the extremes much better since going from drought to 6 inches of rain to frozen temperatures. It germinated much better in the arid conditions and it’s still producing with zero plant loss! ‘Red Kitten’ is very attractive. It looks wonderful in a garden as well as on the dinner plate; a very showy spinach.

Both varieties grew well and gardeners enjoyed fresh salads through much of October.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
Olympia

Strong performers
Gazelle
Red Kitten

Gazelle 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 MN
Red Kitten 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 MN

‘Gazelle’ had bigger leaves and healthier plants. ‘Gazelle’ is delicious and such a wonder vegetable. I add it to so many things (spinach on pizza is amazing). ‘Red Kitten’ leaves were rubbery—very attractive but the taste was just not there.

Gazelle 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 MN
Red Kitten 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 MN

‘Red Kitten’ germinated a little better. Both varieties grew to produce leaves but ‘Gazelle’ had larger leaves.

Gazelle 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 NE
Red Kitten 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 NE

Due to the dry spell in August, only some of the seeds came up. Recently the rest of the seeds came up and I have two rows of small spinach seedlings. I preferred ‘Gazelle’. It looked more like traditional spinach and had bigger leaves.

Gazelle 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 NE
Red Kitten 🌟🌟🌟🌟 🍀 NE

‘Gazelle’ was more productive.
Prefer ‘Gazelle’ (continued)

Gazelle ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀  ☀  SE
Red Kitten ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀  ☀  SE
Although ‘Red Kitten’ was beautiful with its red pigmentation, I preferred ‘Gazelle’ as it had a better taste.

‘Gazelle’ appeared slightly more robust. The varieties grew at the same pace but ‘Gazelle’ was more productive. It tasted better. The red veins of ‘Red Kitten’ made it more attractive.

I preferred the look of ‘Gazelle’ and don’t care for the red color of ‘Red Kitten’. The yield was pretty similar between the two. I didn’t have a preference in taste, as they are both mild in flavor.


The row of ‘Gazelle’ was much thicker. It had higher yield and better taste.

‘Gazelle’ came up first but both did very well for a fall crop. Both tasted very good and we made many salads.

No comments.

‘Gazelle’ produced higher yields. I think ‘Gazelle’ is more tolerant of drier soil. My garden is away from home and I didn’t water as much as I should have.

‘Gazelle’ produced higher yields and was ready to harvest sooner. Its leaves were beautiful and large; it matured earlier. ‘Red Kitten’ had small leaves, grew slower and had a great unique taste.

‘Gazelle’ had higher yields and healthier plants.

‘Gazelle’ produced larger leaves, higher yield, and was ready to pick 1 week earlier. ‘Gazelle’ produced a sweeter, less dense leaf that was easier to chew. We liked its bright green color and fresh crispness. We felt ‘Red Kitten’ added nice color to a salad mix but lacked much flavor. We grew ‘Gazelle’ last year and it produced a smaller plant this year, but there was not as much rain this year and we relied on irrigation water versus rain water.

‘Gazelle’ had more flavor. I used it in soups and salads and it was great. ‘Gazelle’ seedlings emerged first, 6 days after the August 9 sowing. Both varieties are still producing as of October 21 even with the cool temps that we have had.
Prefer ‘Gazelle’ (continued)

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★ ☺ NW

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★ ☺ SW
It took 8 days for both to emerge. ‘Gazelle’ had better plant vigor and double the yield. The red stems and veins of ‘Red Kitten’ were attractive.

Prefer ‘Red Kitten’

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★ ☺ MN
Germination could have been better; ‘Red Kitten’ germinated better. Both varieties had a good, mild flavor. I had two cuttings. ‘Red Kitten’ had bigger leaves/plants. I loved its red stems.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★ ☺ MN
I would rather eat ‘Red Kitten’. I like the way it tastes.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★ ☺ MN
I had no flavor preference, but my husband liked ‘Red Kitten’ better. It would look great in a salad with raspberries. We would like to grow ‘Red Kitten’ next year.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★ ☺ NE
‘Red Kitten’ had slightly better taste. It was unique and adds color to salad. Both varieties were very healthy and attractive; shiny full leaves. I would probably use both.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★ ☺ NE
‘Red Kitten’ had the best flavor and best yield. It was tasty while ‘Gazelle’ tasted bitter and “planty.”

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ SE
‘Red Kitten’ leaves were healthier, fuller and thicker.

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ SE
‘Red Kitten’ tasted better.

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ SE
‘Red Kitten’ outperformed ‘Gazelle’.

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ SE
Red Kitten has beautiful leaves and no disease issues. It had excellent germination while ‘Gazelle’ had poor germination. Thank you—it’s great to have a fall crop of spinach!

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ NC
We sowed the seeds in containers and ‘Gazelle’ never germinated. ‘Red Kitten’ germinated and was transplanted to the garden. It was a hearty plant but the yield was small.

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ NC
No comments.

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ SC
I prefer ‘Red Kitten’ because of its red stem. My motto is “Eat your colors.” So I’m attracted to more colorful veggies. ‘Gazelle’ leaves were slightly larger.

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ SC
I loved ‘Red Kitten’. Such a different type of spinach. Love the look, too. Both varieties are perfect for salads.

Gazelle ★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★☆ ☺ SC
I liked the red veins of ‘Red Kitten’. Thank you for introducing me to fall planting. Yields were not as good as spring planting but adequate.

The red veins and stems of ‘Red Kitten’ leaves were unique and added bright color to salads.
**Prefer ‘Red Kitten’ (continued)**

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SC

I liked the presentation of ‘Red Kitten’ with its cool red stems. Its leaves looked like beet leaves. It had better taste, too. ‘Gazelle’ had bigger leaves and greater production.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Red Kitten’ is a beautiful spinach! The color is so attractive in salads and tasted great! I’m impressed with how hardy these varieties are. Even though it has frosted several times, I’m still harvesting!

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Red Kitten’ germinated better. Both varieties exhibited downy mildew: yellowish areas on tops of leaves; smaller, black, fungus looking areas on the undersides. The disease affected the initial leaves once they became larger. It had minimal effect on yields. We are planning to mulch the plants to see if they’ll survive the winter. I do this each year in a little plot on the south side of house. We always enjoy very early spinach.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Red Kitten’ has such interesting coloring and tastes great.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SC

I like the red stem on ‘Red Kitten’. I think it looks a little like a baby beet leaf. Both varieties tasted nice and fresh.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ NW

‘Red Kitten’ had very pretty red stems and veins. It was easier to see and weed around. ‘Gazelle’ grew faster. Both varieties tasted about the same and I liked them whether cooked and fresh.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ NW

Both germinated at the same time. ‘Gazelle’ was healthier. Both varieties were pretty and flavorful, but I prefer the looks and milder flavor of ‘Red Kitten’.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SW

‘Gazelle’ did not germinate. ‘Red Kitten’ germinated well. ‘Red Kitten’ is growing slowly to baby spinach size. Have eaten some—tastes good. I hesitate to recommend ‘Red Kitten’ because I have grown it previously in the spring and was not impressed. I have not had good luck with fall greens but keep trying. I have had better luck with sowing late and the seeds start growing in the spring when they are ready.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SW

‘Red Kitten’ had larger leaves and was sweeter than ‘Gazelle’.

Gazelle ★★★★★ ☺
Red Kitten ★★★★★ ☺ SW

‘Red Kitten’ was very attractive in the garden and had better taste. ‘Gazelle’ produced better.

**Conclusions**

This was a popular trial and both varieties grew well. Gardeners enjoyed fresh salads through much of October. ‘Red Kitten’ generated a lot of excitement. The red veins and stems of its leaves were unique and added bright color to salads. ‘Gazelle’ produced higher yields and was ready to harvest sooner. Its leaves were large, dark green and flavorful. It’s interesting that most gardeners preferred the colorful ‘Red Kitten’ but felt more comfortable recommending ‘Gazelle’, a more productive and traditional spinach.

Most gardeners preferred the colorful ‘Red Kitten’ but felt more comfortable recommending ‘Gazelle’, a more productive and traditional spinach.
Squash, Straightneck

Varieties

‘Fortune’
45 days. Smooth, bright yellow fruits. Sturdy necks. Yellow gene masks green streaking.

‘Multipik’
50 days. Bright yellow fruits. No green streaking. Amazing yields. Great for grilling.

Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

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<th>Trait</th>
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<th>Multipik</th>
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¹Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Fortune’

Fortune

Multipik

‘Fortune’ germinated faster. It had prettier fruits with less tough skin. Also tasted better and seemed less seedy inside. The vines of ‘Multipik’ were darker green. Its fruits had a bumpy skin that looked unattractive.

Prefer ‘Multipik’

Fortune

Multipik

No real difference between the two. They were underwhelming. I got a few more ‘Multipik’ squash. I grew 2 plants of each and got less than 10 squash all together.

Conclusions

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

Varieties
‘Dunja’
47 days. High yields of straight fruits. Open plants and short spines make harvesting easy. Vines resist powdery mildew.

‘Raven’
48 days. Dark green, smooth, glossy fruit. Vines have an open habit. Big yields but its harvest season is short.

Data
Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

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

Prefer ‘Dunja’
Dunja ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⛅ SE
Raven ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⛅ SE
‘Dunja’ produced more.

Prefer ‘Raven’
Dunja ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⛅ SC
Raven ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⛅ NE
‘Raven’ germinated faster and had more vigorous seedlings. It produced the first yields.

Both varieties were good long-term producers. ‘Raven’ fruits were healthier and better. ‘Dunja’ had more curved/twisted fruits.

‘Dunja’ had more curved/twisted fruits.

‘Raven’ had lots more yield.

Conclusions
Most gardeners preferred ‘Raven’. These gardeners reported that ‘Raven’ germinated better and matured faster. They liked its dark, glossy skin and the straightness of its fruits. For years, ‘Raven’ has been unsurpassed at producing a fast crop. This is a valuable trait in North Dakota, where our growing season is cool and short.

Best zucchini varieties
Top choice
Raven
Strong performers
Payload Spineless Beauty

Most gardeners preferred ‘Raven’. They reported it germinated better, matured earlier and produced dark, glossy fruits.

‘Raven’ fruits last longer off the vine and taste better. The fruits have a darker green skin, which I like. Some of the smaller ‘Dunja’ fruits rotted at the blossom end.

These varieties were okay. I got some really nice zukes but the fruits are harder than I like. Yields were moderate.

‘Raven’ fruits rotted at the blossom end.
Squash, Green Zucchini

Varieties

‘Payload’
44 days. Shiny, cylindrical fruits. Vines are open and nearly spineless, making harvesting easy.

‘Spineless Perfection’
45 days. Straight, attractive fruits form on spineless vines. Its resistance to diseases leads to a long and productive harvest.

Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Payload Perfect</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Payload’

‘Payload’ pulled ahead in yield at the end of the year. Both produced well into October! Fruits of both varieties were equally tasty.

‘Spineless Perfection’ vines turned yellow during fruiting stage, while ‘Payload’ vines stayed green throughout multiple harvests. ‘Payload’ produced bigger yields.

‘Spineless Perfection’ produced higher yields and its small fruits were well shaped. Both varieties were strong performers and produced an abundance of zucchini.

Conclusions

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

Most gardeners preferred ‘Payload’ for its outstanding fruit quality. They liked ‘Spineless Perfection’ for its superior germination and plant vigor.

Best zucchini varieties

Top choice
Raven

Strong performers
Payload
Spineless
Beauty
Swiss Chard, White

Varieties

‘Barese’
45 days. Dwarf type can be grown for baby leaves or harvested as a whole plant like celery at 8 inches.

‘Silverado’
60 days. Crinkly, dark green leaves with broad white stems. Flavorful. Slow to bolt.

Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Barese</th>
<th>Silverado</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommend</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Median score(^1)</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Barese’

Barese ★★★★★ ☺
Silverado ★★★★★ ☺ NC

‘Barese’ matured later but kept healthy longer—less insect damage. It kept growing even after our first frost and then deer ate them.

Prefer ‘Silverado’

Barese ★★★★★ ☺
Silverado ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Germination was about 75% for both varieties. Initially it appeared ‘Barese’ plants germinated far better than ‘Silverado’, but ‘Silverado’ rallied and plants looked great after a couple weeks. I absolutely preferred ‘Silverado’ over ‘Barese’. The appearance, flavor and yield of ‘Silverado’ were all significantly better compared to ‘Barese’.

‘Barese’ leaves were thicker, smoother, easier to clean, and resisted insect pests.

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice: Bright Lights
Strong performers: Flamingo, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Rhubarb, Silverado
‘Silverado’ was the clear winner. Gardeners liked its crinkly leaves, superior flavor and higher yields.

'Barese' was pathetic and waxy.

'Silverado' had more tender leaves. 'Barese' resisted insect damage better.

The flat leaves of 'Barese' are nice, but the leaves of 'Silverado' are larger so I picked those most. I sort of liked both varieties but liked 'Silverado' best.

Conclusions

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

Prefer ‘Silverado’ (continued)

Barese ☺ Silverado ☺ SC

‘Silverado’ was abundant, beautiful and crunchy—loved it. The bugs preferred it too. ‘Barese’ was pathetic and waxy.

Barese ☺ Silverado ☺ SW

‘Silverado’ had more tender leaves. ‘Barese’ resisted insect damage better.

Barese ☺ Silverado ☺ SW

The flat leaves of ‘Barese’ are nice, but the leaves of ‘Silverado’ are larger so I picked those most. I sort of liked both varieties but liked ‘Silverado’ best.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Variety A ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☻ ☻ Variety B ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☻ ☻

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

Ratings (1 to 10)

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)

Location

Comments

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

**Varieties**

‘Sangria’
90 days. Very high quality. Deep red flesh is very sweet and refreshing. Melons grow 20 pounds.

‘Sweet Dakota Rose’

**Data**

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Sweet Dakota</th>
<th>Sangria</th>
<th>Rose</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Matured earlier</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive fruits</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommend (☺)</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>Mean score(^3)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median score(^3)</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^3\)Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

**Prefer ‘Sangria’**

Sangria ★★★★★☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☺ MN
We got multiple ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ melons and only one ‘Sangria’ melon—but it was delicious.

Sangria ★★★★★☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☺ SE
These are both excellent watermelons; great taste and large producers. The oblong fruit of ‘Sangria’ fits in the refrigerator better. ‘Sangria’ produced 6 melons with a total weight of 68 pounds while ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ produced 6 melons with a total weight of 96 pounds. I did not irrigate them. I didn’t expect anything in this drought year.

Sangria ★★★★★☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☺ SE
‘Sangria’ melons were larger with good flavor. Germination of the trial was poor due to the weather conditions.

Sangria ★★★★★☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☺ SE
‘Sangria’ showed 85% germination and vigorous seedling growth. Its vines grew faster and vined out more. These vines produced higher yields of larger, mature and fully developed melons. It matured early enough to enjoy throughout late summer and fall. The flesh of ‘Sangria’ was redder with few seeds; the shape of its melons was more uniform and elongated. Superior taste! Best tasting watermelon and best watermelon by far! ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ showed 50% germination and weak seedling vigor. Its vines later came on and looked healthy. The first melon of both varieties ripened on the same date.

Sangria ★★★★★☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☺ SE
‘Sangria’ was very sweet and tasted great. Melons of both varieties had a lot of seeds.

Sangria ★★★★★☺
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★☺ SC
Both varieties were slow to get growing and didn’t produce melons until quite late. There were far more melons of ‘Sangria’ but flavor did lack this year in both. I think our growing season wasn’t favorable to them this year. The melons were not very sweet.
Prefer ‘Sangria’ (continued)

Sangria ☉
Sweet Dakota Rose ☉ ☉ SC
Both varieties produced very nice melons. We chose ‘Sangria’ as best because of better germination (only one seed of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ germinated) and its melons were larger and tasted slightly better. The melons of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ were more round; the melons of ‘Sangria’ were more oblong. We had more melons from ‘Sangria’, but we also had more seeds that had germinated. One drawback on ‘Sangria’ was that it seemed to be more difficult to cut through the rind of this melon. But overall, both were fantastic melons!

Prefer ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’

Sangria ☉
Sweet Dakota Rose ☉ ☉ SC
The melons of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ had a better size and better flavor.

‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ has always done well in our trials. It produced sweet, juicy melons again this year.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred ‘Sangria’. They were especially impressed with its sweet and delicious, deep red flesh. The vines of ‘Sangria’ were more productive and its first melons ripened at the same time as those of ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’. ‘Sweet Dakota Rose’ has always done well in our trials. It produced sweet, juicy melons again this year, but it could not match ‘Sangria’ for yield or fruit quality.
Watermelon, Red Icebox

Varieties

‘Jade Star’
75 days. ‘Sugar Baby’ type with reported higher yields, larger fruits and sweeter flesh.

‘Sugar Baby’

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Jade Star</th>
<th>Sugar Baby</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matured earlier</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive fruits</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommend (😊)</td>
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<td>56</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean score¹</td>
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<td>5.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Jade Star’

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ SC

We had to constantly water due to drought. ‘Jade Star’ melons were more fleshy.

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ SC

‘Jade Star’ had twice as many seedlings. Its vines grew very well and produced soccer ball-sized melons. ‘Sugar Baby’ produced only baseball-sized melons.

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ SC

‘Jade Star’ seedlings looked sickly but they lived while those of ‘Sugar Baby’ died. ‘Jade Star’ plants were very slow to grow. The melons tasted okay, not great.

Prefer ‘Sugar Baby’

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ SE

Both varieties had very small melons.

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ SE

‘Sugar Baby’ did better in all traits but both varieties produced low yields.

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ NC

‘Sugar Baby’ produced first.

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ NC

‘Sugar Baby’ had substantially more melons.

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ SC

‘Sugar Baby’ tasted better.

Jade Star  ★★★★★ ☻
Sugar Baby  ★★★★★ ☻ NW

We watered frequently but both varieties performed poorly. ‘Jade Star’ produced no melons and died early. ‘Sugar Baby’ produced two melons that were very small.

Conclusions

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

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sangria

Strong performers
Sugar Baby
Sweet Dakota
Rose
Watermelon, Yellow

**Varieties**

‘Gold in Gold’
80 days. New award winner with distinctive gold rind. Elongated, 12 pound melons.

‘Lemon Krush’
85 days. Bright yellow flesh is crisp and sweet. Oval, striped melons grow 16 pounds.

**Data**

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Gold in Gold</th>
<th>Lemon Krush</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matured earlier</td>
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<td>Higher yields</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive fruits</td>
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<td>80</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Prefer ‘Lemon Krush’**

‘Lemon Krush’ ripened one week earlier and produced many more big, mature melons. Its green rind, yellow flesh and round shape were attractive! The yellow texture was nice and its rind held up better than other yellow-flesh melons when ripe. Its melons stored well after harvest. I preferred its flavor; maybe had a hint of lemon flavor. ‘Gold in Gold’ germinated slowly; its vines died before melons ripened.

**Prefer ‘Gold in Gold’**

‘Gold in Gold’ germinated better and its vines were more vigorous. The varieties produced the same number of fruits, but the fruits of ‘Gold in Gold’ ripened first and were larger. Both varieties tasted good, but ‘Gold in Gold’ was slightly sweeter.

**Conclusions**

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

Varieties

‘Eleonora’
65 days. Its open habit and slightly cupped leaves reduce mildew problems. Its flavor is slightly spicier than others.

‘Genovese’
70 days. Classic flavor and appearance. Dark green leaves. Height 30 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Eleonora</th>
<th>Genovese</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>More attractive</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Eleonora’

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ SE

‘Eleonora’ had a more compact plant. Both varieties had excellent plants and tasted great.

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ SE

‘Eleonora’ was more productive.

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ SC

‘Eleonora’ was milder for pesto recipes and had a higher yield due to its superior germination. ‘Genovese’ grew faster and its leaves had a dull, earthy flavor. Seeds were sown June 1, germinated on June 23, and the first harvest was on July 22.

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ SC

‘Eleonora’ started slowly but grew well later in the season.

‘Eleonora’ had bushy plants and produced a higher yield. The taste of ‘Genovese’ was stronger and better.

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ SC

‘Eleonora’ had a nicer plant.

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ NW

‘Genovese’ started out leaps and bounds ahead of ‘Eleonora’ with a higher germination rate. My kids all commented that I picked a boring trial this year that it was obvious which one was better. Midway through the summer, ‘Eleonora’ came alive and ended up not quite double the size of ‘Genovese’. ‘Genovese’ didn’t bolt, but it just quit growing. We prefer ‘Eleonora’ because more leaves means more pesto!

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ SW

No comments.

Prefer ‘Genovese’

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ MN

‘Genovese’ germinated better. Its plants were nice and full. Its yields were very prolific early in the season. This is an excellent basil. ‘Eleonora’ grew better later in the season and it was hardly longer. I liked the taste of both varieties.

Eleonora ★★★★★ ☺
Genovese ★★★★ ☻ SC

Best basil varieties

Top choice
Genovese

Strong performers
Mrs. Burns
Lime
Siam Queen
Prefer ‘Genovese’ (continued)

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ MN
I had a beautiful, well producing row of ‘Genovese’ that lasted until frost. I made lots of pesto! Only had a couple plants of ‘Eleonora’. It was very unproductive and blah tasting.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SE
‘Genovese’ had better yield and healthier plants.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SE
‘Genovese’ was beautiful and delicious. It produced much higher yields and its plants were twice times taller. It is just now going to seed. ‘Eleonora’ germinated poorly.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SE
‘Genovese’ had taller, bushier and healthier plants.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SE
I loved the taste and growth of both of these! A few leaves on ‘Genovese’ plants were slightly sunburned during the hottest days of summer. Other than that, both varieties were super healthy! ‘Genovese’ had larger leaves and a classic basil flavor that we love! ‘Eleonora’ was an excellent performer, but we preferred ‘Genovese’. I have always grown my basil in pots but this time I sowed them directly into the garden. Wow! Fabulous growth on both! It is October 24 and both are still lush! I had other basil plants in pots and the cooler temps wiped them out.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SE
I have grown ‘Genovese’ in the past and was pleased to see how it performed compared to another variety.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ NC
‘Genovese’ has always been an excellent producer—love it!

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SC
‘Genovese’ tastes the best.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ NW
Both varieties produced very well in the garden and in containers until the frost. ‘Genovese’ continues to be my basil of choice. The taste is great and the plants produced very well. We just dehydrated some plants for use this winter and the scent when opening the jars is still very fresh.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SW
‘Genovese’ had nicer plants that were more uniform in size and color. Its leaves were full, rounder and dark green. ‘Eleonora’ had narrower leaves that were more yellowish.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SW
‘Genovese’ was a larger, fuller plant. ‘Eleonora’ was a little scraggly.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SW
I had to sow the seeds twice. None germinated the first round; only ‘Genovese’ germinated well in the second round.

Eleonora ☺ Genovese ☺ SW
‘Genovese’ had more plants.

Conclusions

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

Varieties

‘Cardinal’
80 days. Beautiful plant with showy red-purple flowers. Leaves are large with cinnamon/clove scent.

‘Siam Queen’
72 days. Purple flowers adorn plants with bright green leaves. Leaves are licorice scented and very flavorful.

Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Cardinal</th>
<th>Siam</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<td>Recommend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median score¹</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Prefer ‘Siam Queen’

Cardinal 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 ☺️
Siam Queen 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 ☼ ☼ SC
‘Siam Queen’ had a smaller yield but I preferred its milder taste. ‘Cardinal’ grew quicker and taller, but I didn’t care for the dark, woody stems and strong licorice flavor. Seeds were sown June 1, germinated on June 20, and the first harvest was on July 22.

Cardinal 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 ☺️
Siam Queen 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 ☼ ☼ SC
These varieties were comparable in many traits and both were delicious.

Cardinal 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 ☺️
Siam Queen 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 ☼ ☼ SW
‘Siam Queen’ had fuller, bushier plants. Its taste was milder, which I prefer. ‘Cardinal’ had a much stronger, overwhelming taste.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred ‘Siam Queen’ for its milder flavor. ‘Cardinal’ germinated better and grew more vigorously.

Most gardeners preferred ‘Siam Queen’ for its milder flavor. ‘Cardinal’ germinated better and grew more vigorously.

Best basil varieties

Top choice
Genovese
Strong performers
Mrs. Burns
Lime
Siam Queen
Cilantro

Varieties

‘Calypso’
52 days. Easy to grow. Bushy plants and good yields. Slow to bolt. Enhances salsas and curries.

‘Cruiser’
52 days. Upright, bushy plants are extremely slow to bolt. Large leaves and sturdy stems.

Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Calypso</th>
<th>Cruiser</th>
<th>Same</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested earlier</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher yields</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resisted bolting better</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More attractive</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Median score(^1)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Calypso’

Calypso

Cruiser

‘Calypso’ germinated first but ‘Cruiser’ caught up a few days later. ‘Calypso’ grew faster at first but ‘Cruiser’ eventually grew bigger. Both were very healthy and phenomenal at resisting bolting. In a fresh taste test, we preferred the milder flavor of ‘Calypso’ but did not dislike the flavor of ‘Cruiser’. When used in recipes, we could not tell the difference in their flavors.

Calypso

Cruiser

‘Calypso’ did very well even in drought.

Best cilantro variety

Top choice

Calypso

I cannot believe how long ‘Calypso’ lasted. It is just flowering now on some plants. Some have green seeds (September 30, 2017). ‘Cruiser’ showed 25% better germination. It started to bolt in late August—still very good—better than any other variety I’ve grown in the past.
Prefer ‘Cruiser’

Calypso ★★★★☆ ☺
Cruiser ★★★★☆ ☺

Calypso and Cruiser both produced good yields. Their aromas were amazing and strong. I always liked picking it—my hands smelled good! Both varieties produced a long time before either bolted.

Calypso ★★★★☆ ☺
Cruiser ★★★★☆ ☺

Cilantro bolts so quickly; ‘Cruiser’ resisted bolting longer so that is why I prefer it.

Calypso ★★★★☆ ☺
Cruiser ★★★★☆ ☺

‘Cruiser’ outperformed ‘Calypso’ in every way. The yield of ‘Cruiser’ lasted longer. ‘Calypso’ had very poor germination. I got very little of ‘Calypso’ to try.

Conclusions

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

‘Cruiser’ grew well, resisted bolting and produced many flavorful leaves.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★★★☆ ☺

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

Varieties
‘Cupcakes Mix’
95 days. Blooms are light; fluted as cupcake wrappers. Height: 45 in.

‘Double Click Mix’
82 days. Tall (44-inch) plants filled with double and semidouble blooms. Great cut flower.

Data
Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Cupcakes</th>
<th>Double Click</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomed earlier</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More blooms</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prettier in garden</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better cut flower</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommend</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

‘Cupcakes’ had large, long-lasting flowers. Its plants were tall and healthy.
‘Cupcakes’ had nicer flowers and required less maintenance. ‘Double Click’ flowers needed deadheading much more often as they wilted faster. Both varieties had very beautiful flowers and plants.

‘Cupcakes’ outperformed ‘Double Click’ . Its plants stood taller.

Both varieties performed very similar in my garden. Both bloomed very late in the season. ‘Cupcakes’ had a more attractive color.

Seedlings emerged slowly due to the dry weather. Plants were healthy. ‘Cupcakes’ had large numbers of beautiful blooms that were larger. I liked the larger blooms as they were more striking from a distance. ‘Double Click’ bloomed on July 30, 1 week earlier than ‘Cupcakes’. Its blooms were smaller but the double petals were beautiful.

Prefer ‘Cupcakes’

Cupcakes
Double Click
Had nearly 100% germination from ‘Double Click’, about 75% from ‘Cupcakes’. I really liked the large flowers of ‘Cupcakes’. Its plants were very tall which made them fun to have in the garden. ‘Double Click’ plants appeared very healthy. Both varieties were very attractive to bees! Great for pollinators!

Cupcakes
Double Click
No comments.

Best cosmos varieties
Top choice
Sonata
Strong performers
Double Click
Picotee
Psyche
Rubenza

126 NDSU Extension
Prefer ‘Double Click’

‘Double Click’ plants had more branching. I loved its mixed colors and double flower petals. ‘Cupcake’ germinated earlier and at a higher percentage. I will grow both of these again—so pretty! Both looked great in a bouquet and long lasting as a cut flower. I did have to tie the plants up because they started to fall over.

‘Double Click’ had more flowers.

While the germination period on cosmos is quite long, I almost gave up hope on ‘Cupcakes’ making it out of the ground. It lagged behind all summer. ‘Double Click’ became established first and continued to outperform ‘Cupcakes’ throughout the entire growing season. While ‘Cupcakes’ produces some nice blooms, ‘Double Click’ does it better.

‘Double Click’ produced more flowers. ‘Cupcakes’ produced some really beautiful white blooms.

I loved the color of ‘Double Click’ flowers. Its petals were uniquely shaped. Its plants got pretty tall and leggy in the garden.

‘Double Click’ plants were taller and had stronger stems. They bloomed several days earlier. ‘Cupcakes’ germinated better. Its plants had flower buds a long time before blooming.

Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed the beauty of both of these novelty cosmos. Most gardeners preferred ‘Double Click’. It bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers. ‘Double Click’ grew consistently well across sites. ‘Cupcakes’ had larger and long-lasting blooms. Its plants were tall and healthy.

‘Double Click’ bloomed earlier and produced many more flowers.
Sunflower, Gold Cutting

Varieties

‘Pro Cut Gold’
50 days. One bloom per plant; perfect for cutting. Pollenless.

‘Vincent’s Fresh’
60 days. Extra ring of rounded petals makes blooms look fuller. Single bloom per plant; for cutting.

Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Pro Cut</th>
<th>Vincent’s Fresh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomed earlier</td>
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<td>More blooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prettier in garden</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better cut flower</td>
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<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommend</td>
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<td>71</td>
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</table>

Mean score$^1$ | 7.86 | 7.48 |
Median score$^1$ | 8.00 | 8.00 |

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

Prefer ‘ProCut Gold’

ProCut Gold

Vincent’s Fresh

‘ProCut Gold’ flowered a little later but had a stronger plant.

ProCut Gold

Vincent’s Fresh

I loved the vigor and beauty of ‘ProCut Gold’. The only thing that would be better is a dark center. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ flopped due to weak stems. It bloomed earlier. The flowers of ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ were a tad prettier but had some random defects (unsymmetrical flower head, deformed or double flowers).

Best sunflowers for cutting

Top choice
ProCut

Strong performer
Sunrich

I was disappointed as I thought I was getting an ornamental sunflower rather than one that produced seeds. These varieties were great if you wanted sunflower seeds for birds. Birds were on the heads all the time. ‘ProCut Gold’ had bigger heads so it produced more seeds. I used them for fall decorations outdoors. I tied them to several fences and they looked nice for a long time.

The plant and flower of ‘ProCut Gold’ were superior. Its flower lasted longer. Both varieties produced flowers even when the plants were eaten off by deer when heads were being developed.

‘ProCut Gold’ plants were more vigorous early in the season. Its blooms were prettier and more symmetrical. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ had uneven, ragged petals. Some of its plants had multiple flowers.
Prefer ‘ProCut Gold’ (continued)

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  NW
Both varieties did extremely well. ‘ProCut Gold’ had a few more heads.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SW
Both these varieties had such large flower heads that the stems could not hold them up. ‘ProCut Gold’ produced more flowers and the flowers had more petals around the large central disk. I would not recommend either variety for cut flowers or landscaping. Either could be used to attract birds.

‘ProCut Gold’ seemed hardier in the drought conditions. It bloomed a few days earlier and its flowers were bigger.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SW
‘ProCut Gold’ had massive flowers/heads compared to ‘Vincent’s Fresh’, although they were spaced only one foot apart within row.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SW
No comments.

Prefer ‘Vincent’s Fresh’

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  NE
Both varieties were absolutely gorgeous.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SE
We had dry conditions and watered seldom, but both performed well.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SE
‘Vincent’s Fresh’ was very pretty. ‘ProCut Gold’ flowers were larger and drooped.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SE
No comments.

‘Vincent’s Fresh’ bloomed earlier. Its blooms were beautiful but less uniform.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SE
‘Vincent’s Fresh’ germinated better. It was more attractive in the garden.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SC
‘ProCut Gold’ grew taller and had bigger heads but fewer petals. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ had some really nice flowers.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  NC
Both germinated extremely well (near 100%). ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ grew slightly taller and bloomed a couple of days earlier. ‘ProCut Gold’ heads were a bit bigger. They both were really quite large. Very nice, healthy plants. My guests loved the bouquets ... but the heads were huge!

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  NC
When I was choosing a cut flower to test, I didn’t realize these would be huge!

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SC
Germination was slow due to dry spring. Plants were very healthy. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ bloomed 1 week earlier (July 24), had a taller plant and much larger blooms.

ProCut Gold  ★★★★★ ☺
Vincent’s Fresh  ★★★★★ ☺  SC
I thought these plants would stay small like the roadside sunflowers I love so much. They did not! They grew taller than the garage and I had to brace them.

Conclusions

‘ProCut Gold’ had healthier stalks and seemed to tolerate the drought better. Its blooms were large, symmetrical and attractive. ‘Vincent’s Fresh’ bloomed earlier. Its flowers were beautiful but not as symmetrical. Several gardeners were expecting shorter plants with smaller heads. This can be achieved to some degree by growing stalks closer to each other.
Zinnia, Scarlet

Varieties

‘Benary’s Giant Scarlet’
82 days. Double, 4–6 inch blooms on sturdy stems. Resists mildew.

‘Giant Dahlia Scarlet’
82 days. Large, 4–6 inch blooms for cutting. Includes single, semidouble and double types.

Data

Gardeners at 61 sites submitted information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Benary’s Giant</th>
<th>Giant Dahlia</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthier plants</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bloomed earlier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better cut flower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median score(^1)</td>
<td>9.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ‘Benary’s Giant Scarlet’
Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ MN
Giant Dahlia ★★★★ ☺ MN

Both varieties were great performers. They had nice tall plants with strong stems. I never had to tie them up or brace them. Very bright flowers. ‘Benary’s Giant’ flowers were larger and more attractive with thicker stems and more branching.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ MN
Giant Dahlia ★★★★ ☺ MN

Overall I liked ‘Benary’s Giant’. Both varieties had beautiful, large plants/flowers.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ NE
Giant Dahlia ★★★★ ☺ NE

No comments.

This was our most popular trial in spring.

Best zinnia varieties for cutting

Top choice
Benary’s Giant
Strong performers
Burpeeanna Giants
Cut and Come Again
Giant Dahlia
Oklahoma
Uproar Rose
Zowie! Yellow Flame

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SE

We only had 20% germination. The blooms of ‘Benary’s Giant’ were more uniform in size, formation and color. ‘Giant Dahlia’ bloomed first.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ SE
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SE

‘Benary’s Giant’ grew so much taller and had more blooms.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Both varieties had excellent germination. ‘Benary’s Giant’ emerged a little bit earlier, but ‘Giant Dahlia’ bloomed about a week earlier. Both varieties had a ton of blooms on each plant. When I went to cut some to sell at the local Farmer’s Market, it was much easier to find ‘Benary’s Giant’ blooms with the long stems desired for marketing purposes. Also, not all of ‘Giant Dahlia’ blooms were scarlet. There were several plants with various pink colors that weren’t scarlet at all. Each ‘Benary’s Giant’ plant had true scarlet, beautiful blooms. I will definitely plant this variety in years to come!

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ NC
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Germination was great and both had very healthy plants. Both varieties had very bright and showy flowers. The blooms of ‘Benary’s Giant’ were large and had staying power—lasted when cut also.
Prefer ‘Benary’s Giant’ (continued)

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ NC

‘Benary’s Giant’ had more consistent blooms. The plants were taller and they were beautifully perfect! All blooms were scarlet. ‘Giant Dahlia’ plants were shorter but still healthy. Its blooms came in shades of pink, orange and scarlet.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Giant Dahlia’ germinated better in the dry soil. The plants of ‘Benary’s Giant’ were a little bushier, which led to a few more flowers. The blooms of both varieties were beautiful in the garden and as cut flowers. This trial was a bright spot in a very poor year!

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Germination was slow due to the very dry spring. Plants were healthy. First blooms came at the same time. ‘Benary’s Giant’ was more vigorous, had slightly larger blooms, and slightly more blooms.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Benary’s Giant’ had large blossoms and bright color.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Benary’s Giant’ did really well; grew tall and produced wonderful flowers. I didn’t water these much and if I had, ‘Giant Dahlia’ may have done better.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Both varieties had healthy plants and beautiful flowers. ‘Benary’s Giant’ had more branching which resulted in more flowers.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Giant Dahlia’ bloomed 1 week earlier. ‘Benary’s Giant’ had huge flowers, much longer stems and lasted longer in a vase.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Benary’s Giant’ performed much better. It came up well and produced lots of beautiful, huge flowers. Although I irrigated the trial, ‘Giant Dahlia’ came up sparsely and so produced fewer flowers. Its flowers were slightly smaller. The blooms of both varieties were beautiful and bright.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Benary’s Giant’ bloomed longer.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SC

‘Benary’s Giant’ stood up to bad weather better. Nice bright red color. Its flowers had a striking appearance.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ NW

‘Giant Dahlia’ blooms were bigger but the plants were more susceptible to mildew. I used copper fungicide to control it. The plants of ‘Benary’s Giant’ were taller, bushier and had nicer foliage. Both varieties were a beautiful red color. Both of these varieties were so nice. I would definitely grow them again. They both produced long lasting flowers, beautiful red flowers.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ NW

I liked the color of both varieties but liked the larger flower of ‘Benary’s Giant’.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ NW

‘Benary’s Giant’ plants grew 3 inches taller; flowers of the two varieties were identical.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺ Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺ SW

‘Giant Dahlia’ had more color variety but ‘Benary’s Giant’ had larger flowers.

The flowers of ‘Benary’s Giant’ were slightly larger, all with double petals, and more uniform in color. Its well-branched plants produced lots of flowers. Its long, thick stems were great for cutting.
Prefer ‘Benary’s Giant’ (continued)

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SW
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SW

I was very impressed with ‘Benary’s Giant’! Its flowers were larger, bloomed earlier and had double petals. ‘Giant Dahlia’ had many single-petal flowers and was less showy. Also, there were some orange flowers mixed with the red in the row of ‘Giant Dahlia’.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SW
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SW

‘Benary’s Giant’ had slightly better germination and bloomed first. The blooms of the varieties were essentially the same size and shape.

Prefer ‘Giant Dahlia Scarlet’

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ MN
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ MN

‘Giant Dahlia’ was healthy and bloomed a few days earlier. It had beautiful, big blooms with lovely color, shape and size. ‘Benary’s Giant’ had better germination and healthier plants. Both varieties produced beautiful flowers. Gorgeous!

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ MN
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ MN

‘Benary’s Giant’ was a rich consistent, dark red color. Its flowers were not as abundant. ‘Giant Dahlia’ was impressive but lacked consistency. Colors ranged from light pink to burnt sienna to lipstick red. The bees preferred ‘Giant Dahlia’. I liked it, too.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ MN
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ MN

‘Giant Dahlia’ produced bright red flowers. ‘Benary’s Giant’ had some “pinkish” flowers—not attractive.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

Both were very attractive and continued producing until frost. Neither variety lasted long as a cut flower.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

‘Giant Dahlia’ produced more flowers.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

‘Giant Dahlia’ had nice and full but compact flowers which lasted longer. The flowers of both varieties were loved by butterflies and bees.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

‘Benary’s Giant’ plants were not very healthy. They wilted and had to be pulled. One of the ‘Giant Dahlia’ flowers was pink.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

‘Benary’s Giant’ had 67% germination while ‘Giant Dahlia’ had 50%. ‘Giant Dahlia’ bloomed first with ‘Benary’s Giant’ blooming a few days later. Both varieties were attractive, but ‘Giant Dahlia’ produced more flowers on each plant and bigger flowers. Its flowers had a rounder, fuller look; I loved how they looked in the garden!

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

Germination was slower and spottier with ‘Benary’s Giant’. They also seemed to struggle more and were not as tall. ‘Giant Dahlia’ was a wonderful zinnia all around. It had taller plants, lots of blooms and re-blossomed better after cutting. It was nice to see that deer do not like zinnias.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SE

‘Giant Dahlia’ germinated slightly better and had slightly healthier plants. Both varieties produced nice cut flowers with beautiful, vibrant colors.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ NC
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ NC

I wasn’t really pleased with the germination of either. ‘Giant Dahlia’ germinated better. The blooms of both varieties were pleasing.

Benary’s Giant ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SC
Giant Dahlia ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ SC

Both were absolutely beautiful. ‘Giant Dahlia’ produced more. There were pink and orange blossoms among ‘Giant Dahlia’.

‘Giant Dahlia’ bloomed a few days earlier. Its flowers were less uniform but just as vibrant and beautiful.
Prefer ‘Giant Dahlia’ (continued)

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SC
Plants of both varieties were very healthy and produced beautiful flowers. ‘Giant Dahlia’ featured stronger color.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SC
‘Giant Dahlia’ flowers were fuller, redder and stood out to me. Very pretty. ‘Benary’s Giant’ bloomed 2 weeks earlier.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SC
‘Giant Dahlia’ plants were taller and the multiple colors of its blooms made me happy!

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SC
‘Giant Dahlia’ bloomed earlier, had taller plants and more flowers.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SC
Both were great for cut flowers. ‘Giant Dahlia’ produced slightly better.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
NW
Wow! These plants were gorgeous. People stopped on the street to look in the yard at these flowers when they began to bloom. Once they did start, they didn’t stop until the freeze. The blossoms were huge (3–4 inches across). They were both gorgeous. These plants were tall, strong, showy, glorious reds. I planted them with some smaller varieties from Burpee, and the beds were fabulous. ‘Giant Dahlia’ produced a few more plants, and the heads had some different color ranges. Some of the flower heads even had doubles. I’m picking the seeds off some of the plants tomorrow.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
NW
These flowers were beautiful and full of blooms that lasted a long time. ‘Giant Dahlia’ plants were a little taller.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
NW
These were beautiful plants. The blooms on both plants lasted a really long time. I planted in my boxes but I would plant them in the front yard if I do this again. I loved these flowers. ‘Giant Dahlia’ blooms lasted a long time. Its plants were tall and the blooms smelled good.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
NW
‘Giant Dahlia’ produced more flowers, although both varieties were attractive.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SW
‘Giant Dahlia’ had huge blossoms.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SW
‘Giant Dahlia’ started blooming in mid-July; ‘Benary’s Giant’ started at the end of August.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
SW
They did take longer this year to fully grow due to the drought. When they did, both varieties had strong and healthy plants.

Benary’s Giant ★★★★★ ☺
Giant Dahlia ★★★★★ ☺
MT
‘Giant Dahlia’ produced many and beautiful flowers. Drought was a factor.

Conclusions

Gardeners gave very high ratings to both varieties. The plants were healthy and filled with huge blooms. The flowers of ‘Benary’s Giant’ were slightly larger, all with double petals, and more uniform in color. Its plants were well branched and produced lots of flowers. Its long, thick stems were well suited for cutting. ‘Giant Dahlia’ bloomed a few days earlier. Its flowers were less uniform in color and petal number, but nonetheless just as vibrant and beautiful in the garden. The superior disease resistance of ‘Benary’s Giant’ was not a major factor in this dry year.

The plants of both varieties were healthy and produced an abundance of huge, showy flowers.
Dear Gardener,

Welcome to our research team! It will be fun to work with you this summer. Enclosed are the seeds you ordered. If you are missing anything, please let me know. Let's go over some key points:

1. Each trial compares two varieties. You must plant both varieties.

2. To make it a fair comparison, you need to treat both varieties in the same manner. They must get the same amount of sunlight and general care (watering and fertilizing).

3. We want to see how these varieties perform under real home garden situations. The packets have instructions on how to sow your seeds, but you may use your own gardening practices. For example, I sow my cucumber seeds in a row but you can plant them in hills if you wish. It's up to you.

4. When possible, grow the varieties for each trial in rows near each other. Look at the diagram (top right). Notice the varieties being compared in the lettuce and beet trials are grown next to each other. In this way, they are most likely to get the same amount of sunlight and care.

Cucumber, melon and pumpkin vines can "run" and become intertwined. Try to keep the vines of each variety within the row so you do not get confused when harvesting and evaluating each variety.

5. You have enough seeds to grow at least 10 feet of each variety. We've enclosed a row marker with string. There is a 10-foot space between the two marks on the string. It's okay if you don't have enough space for 10-foot rows, but try to get a fair look at both varieties.

6. Use the plot labels that are enclosed. This will help you remember which variety is which. I strongly encourage you to make a plot diagram after you are done planting for your future reference in case the plot labels get removed accidentally (this happens with kids).

7. An example of a completed evaluation form is enclosed. Use this as a guide to help you when evaluating the varieties.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be happy to help.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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701.328.9722

Welcome to our research team!

More Info
Go to the ND Home Garden Variety Trials website: www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials
## Example of Evaluation Form

### Cantaloupe Variety Trial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which variety?</th>
<th>Apollo</th>
<th>Zeus</th>
<th>Same</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had healthier plants?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Apollo vines turned gray in fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produced the first ripe melons?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Three days earlier than Zeus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produced higher yields?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had more attractive melons?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overall Performance Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Apollo</th>
<th>Zeus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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!</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

Please write any additional comments on back. They are very helpful!
Appendix 3
Seed Sources

The following are a few sources where seeds of the varieties tested in 2017 may be found. This list is not meant to be a complete list; many other seed companies offer these varieties. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to a company are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the North Dakota State University Extension Service is implied.

Key:
BC = Baker Creek  Bu = Burpee  EB = Eden Brothers  Fe = Fedco  
Gu = Gurney’s  Ha = Harris  HF = Henry Field’s  HP = HPS  
Jh = Johnny’s  Jr = Jordan  Ju = Jung  Kz = Kitazawa  
MV = Mtn Valley  NE = NE Seed  Os = Osborne  Pa = Park  
Pi = Pinetree  PR = Prairie Road  Re = Reimer  SS = Seed Savers  
St = Stokes  Sw = Swallowtail  Te = Territorial  TT=TotallyTomatoes  
Tw = Twilley  VB = Vermont Bean  Vs = Veseys

**BEAN.** Bush Blue Lake 274: BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, HP, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Tw, VB.  
**Inspiration:** Bu, Ju, Pa, VB.  
**Crockett:** Ha, Os, Te, VB.  
**Pike:** Ha.  
**Purple Queen Improved:** Gu, HF, Ju, VB.  
**Royal Burgundy:** EB, Fe, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pi, Re, St, Te, Tw, Vs.  
**Carson:** Ha, Jr, Pi, Te, VB.  
**Gold Rush:** Fe, MV, NE, Pi, St, VB.  
**Kentucky Blue:** Bu, Ha, Jr, Ju, MV, Pa, Pi, Re, Te, Tw, VB.  
**Monte Cristo:** Te.  
**Envy:** BC, Jh, Pi, Re, SS.  
**Tohya:** Gu, Jh, Kz, Os.

**BEET.** Boldor: Fe, Gu, HF, Jh, Te, Vs.  
**Touchstone Gold:** Fe, Gu, Ha, Jh, Os, Pa, Pi, St, Sw, Te, Tw.  
**Merlin:** Bu, Ha, Os, Pa, Re, St, Tw, Vs.  
**Red Ace:** Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Te, VB, Vs.

**CARROT.** Hercules: Jh, Re.  
**Royal Chantenay:** EB, Ha, MV, Re, St, Te.  
**Goldfinger:** Ha, Os, St, Vs.  
**Mokum:** Bu, Fe, Jh, Pi, Sw, Te, VB, Vs.  
**Bolero:** Jh, Ju, Os, St, Sw, Te, VB, Vs.  
**Kuroda (including Shin Kuroda):** BC, Fe, Ha, Kz, Pi, Re, VB.  
**Chablis Yellow:** Kz.  
**Solar Yellow:** Ed, Jr, Kz, NE.

**CORN.** Ambrosia: Bu, EB, Fe, HP, Jr, MV, NE, Pa, Re, Tw, VB.  
**Peaches & Cream:** Bu, EB, HP, Jr, MV, Os, Re, Tw.  
**Anthem XR:** Ha, Jr, Tw.  
**Xtra-Tender 274A:** Ha, Jr, Os, St, Tw.  
**Bodacious RM:** EB, Fe, Gu, HF, HP, Jr, Ju, MV, Os, Pa, Re, Sw, Te, Tw.  
**Inferno:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Te, Tw, Vs.  
**Fiesta:** Ha, HP, Jr, Ju, NE, Pa, Tw.  
**Painted Mountain:** Fe, Gu, HF, Jh, Ju, Os, St.  
**Autumn Explosion:** HP, Jr, Re, VB.  
**Glass Gem:** Fe, Jh, MV, Pi, Te.  
**Cherry Berry:** Ha, St.  
**Strawberry:** BC, EB, Jr, Ju, NE, Os, Pa, SS, Tw.

**CUCUMBER.** Summer Dance: Bu, Jh, Kz, Os, Pi, Re, Te, TT, VB, Vs.  
**Sweet Slice:** Re, Te, TT, VB.  
**Homemade Pickles:** EB, HP, Jr, Ju, NE, Pa, Pi, PR, Re, Sw, Te, TT, VB.  
**Regal:** Jr.  
**General Lee:** Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Pi, Re, Te, TT, Tw.  
**Stonewall:** Ha, Jr, Re, St.  
**Mercury:** Os, Vs.  
**Muncher:** BC, HP, Ju, MV, Pi, Re, TT.  
**Martini:** Os, TT, Tw.  
**Silver Slicer:** Fe, Ha.

**GREENS.** Miz America: Bu, Jh, Pa, Tw.  
**Red Kingdom:** Jh.  
**Koji:** Jh.  
**Tatsoi:** BC, EB, Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Kz, MV, Os, Pi, SS, Vs.

**LETTUCE.** Adriana: Jh.  
**Buttercrunch:** BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Jh, Ju, MV, NE, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Sw, Te, Tw, VB.  
**Bergam’s Green:** Jh.  
**Tropicana:** Gu, HF, Jh, Os.  
**Coastal Star:** Jh, Os, Te.  
**Fusion:** Jh.  
**Muir:** Jh.  
**Nevada:** Ha, Jh, Sw.

**MELON.** Aphrodite: Bu, Ha, HP, Jr, Ju, Os, Pa, Tw, VB.  
**Athena:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, HP, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Os, Pa, Pi, St, Te,
**Seed Sources (continued)**

Tw. El Gordo: Bu, Gu, HF, Ju, NE, Tw, VB.  
Solstice: Ha, Jr, Ju.  
Arava: Fe, Jh.  
Diplomat: Fe, Jh.  
**OKRA.** Candle Fire: Ju, Pa, Te, Tw.  
Carmine Splendor: Jh, Ju.  
**PEA.** Lincoln: BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Te, VB.  
Sienna: Jh.  
Sugar Magnolia: BC, Bu, Pi, Te.  
Super Sugar Snap: Bu, Fe, Ha, HP, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, Pi, Re, Te, Tw, VB, Vs.  
**PUMPKIN.** Early Scream: Jr (2017).  
Neon: Ha, Jr, Te, Tw, Vs.  
**Early King:** Ha, Tw, Vs.  
**Howden:** BC, Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Te, VB, Vs.  
**Early Giant:** Jh, Jr, Pi, Tw.  
**Howden Biggie:** Ha, Jr, Ju, MV, Re, St, Tw.  
**RADISH.** Amethyst: Ha, Jh.  
Bacchus: Jh.  
**Rover:** Jh, Ju, VB, Vs.  
**Roxanne:** Bu, Jh, Pa, St, Te, Tw, Ve.  
**SPINACH.** Emperor: Jh.  
Reflect: Jh, Ju, Pi, Tw.  
**Olympia:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Ju, Os, Sw, Te.  
**Space:** Fe, Jh, Ju, Pa, Sw, Tw, VB, Vs.  
**Gazelle:** Jh.  
**Red Kitten:** Jh.  
**SQUASH.** Dunja: Jh, Os.  
Raven: Fe, Jh, Pa, Pi, Te.  
Payload: Ha, St.  
**Spinless Perfection:** Ha, Jh, St, Tw.  
**Fortune:** St, Te, Tw.  
**Multipik:** Gu, Ha, HF, Jh, Jr.  
**SWISS CHARD.** Barese: BC, Jh, Re.  
Silverado: Os, Re, St.  
**WATERMELON.** Sangria: Fe, Gu, HF, Jr, MV, Pa, Pi, Sw, Te, Tw.  
**Sweet Dakota Rose:** Fe, PR.  
**Jade Star:** Jr, Tw.  
**Sugar Baby:** BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, HP, Jh, Jr, Ju, MV, NE, Pi, Sw, Te, Tw, VB.  
**Gold in Gold:** HP, Os, TT, Tw.  
**Lemon Krush:** NE, Tw.  

**HERBS.** Eleonora: Jh, Os, St, Te.  
Genovese: BC, Bu, EB, Fe, Jh, Jr, MV, Os, PR, Re, SS, St, Tw.  
**Cardinal:** Jh, Pa.  
**Siam Queen:** BC, EB, Ha, Ju, Kz, MV, Pa, Pi, Re, St, Te, Tw.  
**Calypso:** Bu, Jh, Ju, Os, Pa, Vs.  
**Cruiser:** Jh, St, Tw.  

**FLOWERS.** Cupcakes: Jh, Pa, Pi.  
**Double Click:** Fe, Gu, Ha, HF, Jh, Ju, Pa, St, Sw, Te, Tw.  
**ProCut Gold:** Ha, Jh, Os, Sw, Tw.  
**Vincent's Fresh:** Ha, Sw, Tw.  
**Benary's Giant:** Fe, Ha, Jh, Jr, Os, Pi, St, Te, Tw.  
**Giant Dahlia:** Jh, Tw.
Appendix 4

Acknowledgements

Researchers

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Dyllis Bach
Nolan Bateman
Virginia Becker
Felix Becker
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Duane Bentz
Ken Jerome Bentz
Vicki Benzmillen
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Christine Berg and Tyler Franklin
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Brenda Bjugstad
Anne Blankenship
Royann Bold
Harriet Bracken
Kathleen Brandt
Bernadette Braun
David and Jan Breker
Mary Brenden
Alison Brennan
Denise Brorby
Emma Brown
Kay Bruhakken
Karen Buee
Austin Burkett
Caleb and Olivia Burrer
Wanda Burrer
Diane Byrum
Meigan Cameron
Bob Carlson
Tabitha Carlson
Patricia Cayley
Deb Chambers

Anitha Chirumamilla
Jessica Clemens
JoAnne Colebank
Cecelia Collins
A. Combs
Pamela Copenhaver
Catherine Cute
Carol Dahlstrom
Rebecca Darling
Christy Dauer
Barb Delaney
Donna Deplazes
Laura Devick
Thelma DiMattio
Sarah Dove
Ava, Halle, Nancy, Rachel and Ryker Dunlop
Darylnna Durkee
Cornelius Dyke
Pauline Economon
Erik and Kerry Eggert
Gerry Eichele
Celeste Ertelt
Heidi Eslinger
Lora and Ryan Fisher
Lori Flaten
Flickertail 4-H
Cari Flores
Nadine Florhaug
Lindsay Foy
Flo and Jackie Friedt
James and Lydia Frueh
Bernice Gagnon
Patricia Garrity
Geraldine Geiger
Shirly Genter
Lisa Gerving
Sherwood Gibbs
Allen Giese
Emma and Lyla Gillespie
Ruth Glen
Emily Goff
Deb Goplen
Mona Granrud
Mindy Grant
Mindy Graulty
Susan Gronhovd
Shannon Grove
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Linda Hallisey
Sue Hamilton
Sylvia Hansen
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Tom and Becky Hauge
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Lori Helm
Lila Hlebichuk
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Deb Jochim
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Glenna Johnson
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Kelsey and Tristan Lako
Curt Larson
Mary Lass
Kathleen Lawler
Ruby Lawler
Sharon Lehman
Sharon Leinen
Amy Leonard
Cheryl Lepp
Rebecca Limke
Ellin Lindee
Michael Luckenbill
Rae Ann Lynne
Karen MacDonald
Margaret Marcusen
Jeffrey Martian
Janell Martin
Judy Martinson
Jan McCarthy
Michael McDaniel
McDaniel’s Second Grade Class
Cindy McLean
Eden McLeod
McMillan Family
Alena, Ingrid and Peter Meberg
Janice Mills
Sara Mittelsteadt
Jayma Moore and David Rider
Diane Moran
Elizabeth and Taylor Morical
Julie Mosher
Mr. L’s Class
Alice, Dora and Terry Musumba
Eli, Logan, Katie and Madison Muth
Nicholas Nadeau
Juliana and Susan Nelson
Linda Ness
Penny Nester
Emily and Forrest Nielsen
Lori Nienhuis
Sally Niessen
Monica Norby
Vivian Novotny
Cindy and Dan Olson
Evan and NaTanya Olson
Jamie, Jamison and Wyatt Opp
Linda Opstad
Joel and Kim Owen
Judy Pacella
Parkers Prairie Second Graders
Season Parlier
Cory and Pam Paulson
Audrey Pederson
Leigh Ann Perdue
Kari Perreault
Charles Peterson
Donna Peterson
Jodi Peterson
Hannah Planteen
Shelley Porter
Angie Qual
August Rahlf
Diane Randle
Tim Rasmussen
Carmen Rath-Wald
Mary Rebentisch
Katie Reindl
Kristie Reinke
Becky Reis
Billie Jo Reutter
LeAnn Rindt
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Variety Descriptions

This is an academic report published for educational purposes only. The author gratefully acknowledges the sources of the descriptions of the varieties tested in this project: Fedco Seeds, Harris Seeds, Horticultural Products and Services, Kitazawa Seed, Johnny’s Selected Seeds, Jung Seed, Osborne Seed, Prairie Road Organic Seed, Reimer Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, Seeds of Change, Stokes Seeds, Swallowtail Garden Seeds, Territorial Seed and Veseys Seeds.
Gardeners Identify Superior Varieties for ND

The Situation
The first step in growing a productive garden is to select a superior variety. A superior variety can lead to major increases in yield and food quality.

The benefits of selecting superior varieties are great. Over 93,000 households in North Dakota grow a garden (National Garden Bureau, 2008). Surveys of gardeners in our state show these gardeners enjoy healthier diets and save millions of dollars on food expenses (for example, garden renters in Bismarck save an average of $105 per household on food expenses).

Extension Response
A team of 233 families across the state was formed to evaluate promising vegetable and cut flower varieties in spring and fall. These volunteers evaluated 99 varieties for plant vigor, health, earliness, yield, and food/ornamental quality. No other program in the USA can match this program for its number of participants and varieties tested.

Impacts
A survey was conducted to document the impacts of the project. One hundred and forty-one of 193 online households (73%) responded.

- 96% were introduced to new varieties.
- 94% will change the way they grow their garden in the future.
- 87% reported more productive gardens.
- 78% reported healthier diets.

Positive impacts were documented with children:

- 79% of children improved their diets.
- 78% of children sharpened their skills in science and math.
- 71% of children increased their level of physical activity.

These impacts on youth are noteworthy as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 92% of children in North Dakota do not eat enough vegetables for a healthy diet. An estimated 78% of children do not get enough physical activity (North Dakota: State Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Profile, 2012).

Results are shared with gardeners online and in workshops conducted across the state. Over 2,000 gardeners will attend these programs next spring.

Feedback
“We were introduced to varieties that we wouldn’t have tried on our own. We will plant them again.”

“I had never done any fall garden planting before, but I will from now on!”

Public Value Statement
Superior varieties lead to higher yields. Higher yields lead to healthier diets and greater savings on food expenses.

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Resource Links
http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/
Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

2018

The finest cultivars will lead to the finest gardens. North Dakota State University and its team of over 200 gardeners evaluate promising cultivars every summer. The following cultivars have excelled in these and other trials in the Midwest:

**ASPARAGUS.** Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Purple Passion.

**BEAN. Bush:** Blue Lake 274, Crockett, Derby, Espada, Greencrop, Inspiration, Jade, Maxibel, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Royal Burgundy, Serengeti, Strike. **Dry:** Arikara Yellow, Great Northern. **Lima:** Fordhook 242, Eastland. **Pole:** Fortex, Orient Wonder, Stringless Blue Lake S-7. **Soybean:** Envy, Tohya. **Wax:** Carson, Gold Rush, Rodcast, Soleil.

**BEET.** Avalanche, Boldor, Bull’s Blood, Detroit Dark Red, Early Wonder Tall Top, Merlin, Red Ace, Touchstone Gold.

**BROCCOLI.** Packman.

**BRUSSELS SPROUTS.** Jade Cross E.

**CABBAGE.** *Chinese:* Blues. **Head:** Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

**CARROT.** *Orange:* Bolero, Caracas, Goldfinger, Hercules, Laguna, Mokum, Nelson, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes. **Other:** Chablis Yellow, Purple Haze.

**CAULIFLOWER.** Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

**CORN.** *Shrunken kernel:* Anthem XR, SS2742, Vision, Xtra-Tender 274A and 277A, XTH20173. **Sugary enhanced:** Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Sugar Pearl, Temptation. **Synergistic:** Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select.

**CUCUMBER.** *Pickling:* Alibi, Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf. **Slicing:** Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Mercury, Muncher, Orient Express II, Raider, Salad Bush, Silver Slicer, Straight Eight, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green.

**EGGPLANT.** Black Beauty, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express.

**GREENS.** Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Komatsuna, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Vegetable Amaranth.


**KOHLRABI.** Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner.

**LETTUCE.** *Leaf:* Bergam’s Green, Deer Tongue, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Royal Oakleaf, Salad Bowl, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. **Bibb/ Cripshead:** Buttercrunch, Muir, Nancy, Nevada, Red Cross, Sierra, Skyphos. **Romaine:** Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Starhawk.

**MELON.** *Muskmelon:* Aphrodite, Athena, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. **Specialty:** Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan, Sun Jewel.
OKRA. Candle Fire, Clemson Spineless.
ONION. Ailsa Craig, Candy, Copra, Sweet Sandwich, Walla Walla.
RADISH. Standard: Amethyst, Bacchus, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Rover, Roxanne, White Icicle.
RUTABAGA. American Purple Top.
SPINACH. Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Gazelle, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, SV2157VB, Tyee.
SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.
SWISS CHARD. Bright Lights, Flamingo, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Rhubarb.
TURNIP. Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross.

Seed Sources

The following is a sample of companies offering seeds. This list is provided for educational purposes only; no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied.

Baker Creek Seed, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704; www.rareseeds.com; 417.924.8917.
Burpee Seed, 300 Park Ave., Warminster, PA 18974; www.burpee.com; 800.888.1447.
Fedco Seeds, PO Box 520, Waterville, ME 04903; www.fedcoseeds.com; 207.426.9900.
Gurney’s Seed and Nursery, PO Box 4178, Greendale, IN 47025; www.gurneys.com; 513.354.1492.
Harris Seeds, 355 Paul Rd, PO Box 24966, Rochester, NY 14624; www.harrisseeds.com; 800.544.7938.
Henry Fields, PO Box 397, Aurora, IN 47001; www.henryfields.com; 513.354.1494.
HPS, W. Stroud St., Randolph, WI 53956; www.hpsseed.com; 800.297.3123.
Johnny's Selected Seeds, 955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901; www.johnnyseeds.com; 877.564.6697.
Jung Seed, 335 S. High St., Randolph, WI 53956; www.jungseed.com; 800.297.3123.
Kitazawa Seed, 201 Fourth St., #206; Oakland, CA 94607; www.kitazawaseed.com; 510.595.1188.
Mountain Valley Seed, 175 W. 2700 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84115; www.mvseeds.com; 801.486.0480.
Pinetree Garden Seeds, PO Box 300, Gloucester, ME 04260; www.superseeds.com; 207.926.3400.
Prairie Road Seed, 9824 79th St. SE, Fullerton, ND 58441; www.prairieroadorganic.co; 701.883.4416.
Seed Savers Exchange, 3094 N. Winn Rd., Decorah, IA 52101; www.seedsavers.org; 563.382.5990.
Stokes Seeds, PO Box 548 Buffalo, NY 14240; www.stokesseeds.com; 800.396.9238.
Territorial Seed, PO Box 158, Cottage Grove, OR 97424; www.territorialseed.com; 800.626.0866.

All gardeners are invited to join our team of backyard researchers. Go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/