



North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

**RESULTS
2019**

NDSU

EXTENSION

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

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North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS FOR 2019

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Introduction

The First Step to Success

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bottom Line

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

Goals

This program has three major goals:

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

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

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

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

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

Selecting Varieties

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

Preparation of Seed Packets

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

Distribution of Seeds

This program is promoted by North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension faculty and staff across the state. Information is available at the website www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/. Interested households can 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 (Fig. 1). Gardeners receive simple, yet detailed instructions on laying out their plots (Appendix 1). We encourage a 10-foot



Fig. 1. Gardeners sowing their research plots.

plot length for obtaining representative data, but container gardening is allowed.

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

Weather in 2019

Cool temperatures in May delayed planting in most gardens (Fig. 2). Soil moisture levels were good in the southern half of the state, but drought persisted in the north until mid-summer.

In summer, temperatures were near normal. Rainfall amounts in summer were slightly above normal; this is a good thing in our semi-arid state.

The late summer and fall climate was much wetter than normal. Very cold temperatures in October delayed the maturity of melons and other spring-sown crops. Many crops sown in late summer (greens, radish and turnips) did not mature.

The first frost arrived for most gardeners when a blizzard swept across our state on October 9. This killing frost was about a week later than normal.

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

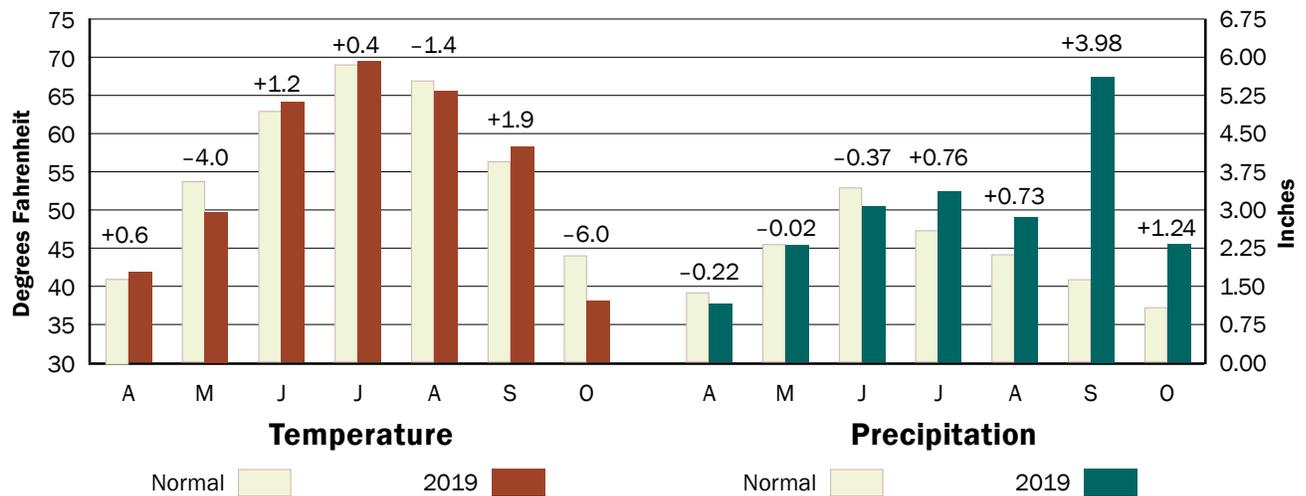


Fig. 2. Monthly air temperatures and precipitation amounts in 2019 and normal (1901–2000). Cool temperatures in May delayed planting in most gardens. In summer, temperatures were near normal. Rainfall amounts in summer were slightly above normal; this is a good thing in our semi-arid state. Late summer and fall were much wetter than normal. Very cold temperatures in October delayed the maturity of crops. Source: Nat. Oceanic and Atmos. Admin.

Quantity and Quality of Participation

In 2019, gardeners at 220 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from over 1,205 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 43 of the state’s 53 counties (Fig. 3). Our trials extended into Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Saskatchewan and South Dakota.

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

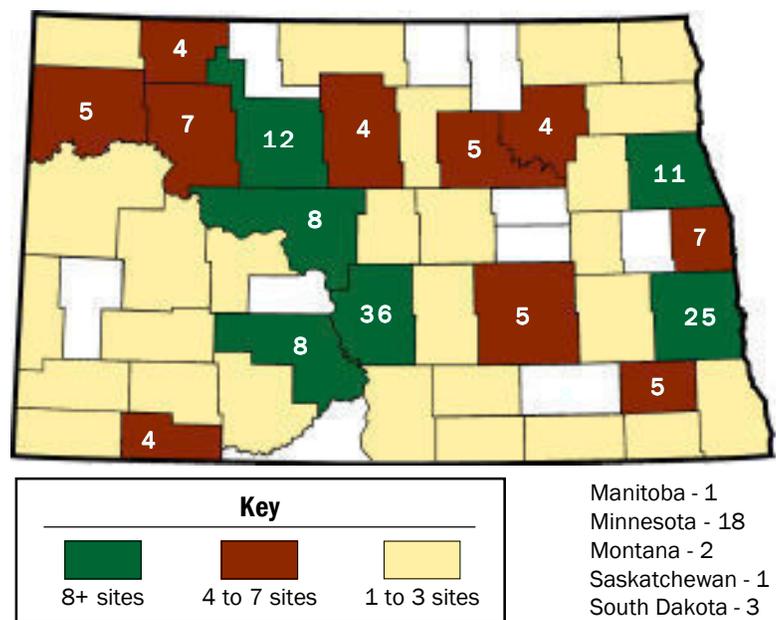


Fig. 3. Gardeners at 220 sites submitted results in 2019. Site numbers are shown above for each county with 4 or more sites.

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.

Approximately 25% of reports this year were eliminated from our analysis and report. In most cases, these reports documented crop failures of both varieties due to deer, rabbits, flea beetles or flooding. A few reports with inconsistent data were eliminated.

Presentation of Results

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

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

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

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

Garden type (organic or inorganic) was documented. We asked gardeners whether or not they used inorganic

fertilizers (for example, Miracle-Gro or 10–10–10) or inorganic pesticides (for example, Sevin or Daconil). Most gardeners did not, and they are listed as “organic” in this report. Very few gardeners used inorganic pesticides except in managing flea beetles in autumn.

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. Reports where both varieties failed due to weather or wildlife damage were not presented.

Sharing the Final Results

Participating gardeners are e-mailed 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

Evaluations of our project show gardeners in this project are introduced to new varieties and enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets. Youth in this project sharpen their skills in science. Youth enjoy healthier diets and increased levels of physical activity. Impact reports are posted on our website.

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

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10)

Variety A: ★★★★★☆

Variety B: ★★★★★☆

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

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)

☺

☹

Garden types

- 🌱 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🧪 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Locations

MN = Minnesota

NE = Northeast

SE = Southeast

NC = North Central

SC = South Central

NW = Northwest

SW = Southwest

MB = Manitoba

SK = Saskatchewan

SD = South Dakota

MT = Montana

Garden type

🌱

Location

NC

Comments

Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states/provinces evaluated promising vegetable, herb and cut flower varieties. A team of gardeners at 220 sites rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. A total of 1,205 side-by-side comparisons were submitted.

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

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

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



Bean, Green Snap

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

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



Bean, Green Filet

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

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



Bean, Green Pole

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

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



Bean, Purple Snap

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

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



Bean, Vegetable Soybean

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

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



Bean, Yellow Snap

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

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



Beet, Gold

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

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



Beet, Red

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

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



Beet, Red Canning

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

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



Carrot, Garden (Nantes)

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

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



Carrot, Large

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

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



Carrot, Long (Imperator)

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

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



Corn, Early

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

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



Corn, Early Super Sweet

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

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



Corn, Late Super Sweet

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

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



Cucumber, Burpless

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

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



Cucumber, Pickling

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

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



Cucumber, Slicing

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

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



Greens, Loosehead Cabbage (Fall)

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

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



Greens, Purple (Fall)

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

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



Greens, Pac Choi (Fall)

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

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



Lettuce, Green Butterhead

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

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



Lettuce, Red Butterhead

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

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

(8 sites)

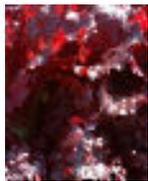


Lettuce, Green Leaf

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

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Deer Tongue	33	71	6.57
Jebousek	67	71	7.43

(7 sites)



Lettuce, Red Leaf

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

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Beleah Rose	38	75	7.75
Merlot	63	88	8.25

(9 sites)



Lettuce, Red Lollo

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

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Dk. Red L. Rossa	78	78	7.89
Revolution	22	44	6.44

(9 sites)



Lettuce, Green Romaine

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

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Little Gem	35	50	6.60
Newham	65	75	7.65

(27 sites)



Melon, Small Cantaloupe

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

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Minnesota Midget	57	88	6.13
Sugar Cube	43	63	6.25

(10 sites)



Melon, Mid-Sized Cantaloupe

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

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Athena	50	70	7.30
Sarah’s Choice	50	70	7.10

(14 sites)



Melon, Large Cantaloupe

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

Variety	Pref	Rec	Rating
Carousel	33	50	7.00
Solstice	67	67	7.83

(9 sites)



Melon, Green Honeydew

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

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



Melon, Orange Honeydew

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

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



Melon, Korean

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

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



Pea, Shell

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

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



Pea, Short-Vine Snap

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

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



Pea, Tall-Vine Snap

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

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



Pumpkin, Early

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

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



Pumpkin, Large

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

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



Pumpkin, Cooking

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

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



Pumpkin, Giant White

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

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



Radish, Bicolor (Fall)

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

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



Radish, Purple (Fall)

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

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



Radish, Red (Fall)

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

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



Radish, Red Long (Fall)

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

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



Radish, Watermelon (Fall)

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

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



Radish, White (Fall)

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

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



Spinach, Heat Tolerant (Fall)

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

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



Spinach, Savoy Leaf (Fall)

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

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



Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

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

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



Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

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

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



Squash, Semi-Crookneck

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

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



Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

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

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



Squash, Green Zucchini

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

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



Squash, Winter Multicolor Acorn

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

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



Squash, Winter Tan Acorn

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

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



Squash, Winter Buttercup

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

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



Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

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

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



Squash, Winter Butternut

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

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



Squash, Winter Orange Hubbard

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

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



Swiss Chard, Multicolor

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

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



Turnip, Purple Top (Fall)

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

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



Turnip, Red (Fall)

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

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



Turnip, White (Fall)

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

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



Watermelon, Red Allsweet

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

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



Watermelon, Red Early

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

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



Watermelon, Yellow

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

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



Basil, Compact

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

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



Basil, Large Leaf

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

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



Parsley, Flat Leaf

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

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



Cosmos, Rose

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

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



Cosmos, Striped

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

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



Cosmos, White

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

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



Sunflower, Confectionary

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

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



Sunflower, Orange

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

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



Sunflower, Red

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

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



Zinnia, Candystripe

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

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



Zinnia, Giant Dahlia

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

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



Zinnia, Mexican

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

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

Bean, Green Snap

Varieties

'Bush Blue Lake 274'

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

'Lewis'

53 days. Attractive, dark green pods on upright plants. Heavy yielding and easy to pick.



Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

Trait	B.B. Lake		
	274	Lewis	Same
Germinated best	31%	23%	46%
Healthier plants	41	18	41
Harvested earlier	30	52	17
Higher yields	29	50	21
More attractive pods	26	57	17
Tasted better	17	35	48
Preference	38	63	
Recommend (😊)	67	83	
Mean score ¹	7.42	8.29	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Bush Blue Lake 274'

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😊 MN
 Both varieties are very good. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' yielded longer.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😊 MN
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods were not as tough when eating.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😊 NC
 'Bush Blue Lake 274' had great plants and pods. Both varieties produced a great bean crop.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The rabbits ate the plants down to nubs—but both varieties came back and produced. Awesome! Both produced until October 1. The pods of 'Bush Blue Lake 274' were long, straight and tasted great.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The vines of 'Bush Blue Lake 274' were healthier, bushier and more productive. I loved the long, lean look of 'Lewis' pods.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Vines were healthier and produced earlier. Beans were more flavorful. 'Lewis' had rust on some of its leaves.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties performed well in difficult conditions. I had no issues with insects eating leaves. I liked the taste of 'Bush Blue Lake 274' slightly better. I would grow both varieties again in my garden.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😞 NW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' was a better producer.

Bush Blue Lake 274 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Lewis ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Bush Blue Lake 274' had much better yield and lasted into July and August.

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

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
 Jade II

Strong performers

- Bush Blue Lake 274
- Derby
- Espada
- Greenfield
- Inspiration
- Lewis
- Pike
- Provider
- Strike

Prefer 'Lewis'

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

Strong winds damaged the seedlings of both varieties. I replanted the trial on June 14 and both varieties produced very well. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced larger pods, leading to higher yields. I prefer the smaller pod of 'Lewis'; it looked daintier. I prefer its delicate taste, too.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

The germination rate of 'Lewis' was twice that of 'Bush Blue Lake 274'. 'Lewis' plants looked stronger and produced 2 weeks earlier. Its young beans were very flavorful, meaty, straight, dark green—great for canning whole. The initial picking was especially good. Funny thing—I have always grown 'Bush Blue Lake 274' in the past.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

I liked that 'Lewis' was more like a French bean. The pods were thin, a little sweeter and more tender. I was very happy with both varieties, as 'Bush Blue Lake 274' produced longer and 'Lewis' earlier, so I had lots of beans most of the summer.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

Both varieties are really good; both were delicious. 'Lewis' produced more and was healthier. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' pods were larger and had some black spots on them.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

Both varieties kept producing through the summer. The crop was good. Both varieties tasted good. 'Lewis' produced more yield and its pods were nice and straight. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' germinated earlier.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

'Lewis' was earlier. Its pods were more attractive and tasted better.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

For a cooler, wetter year both did well; 'Lewis' a little better. Both tasted great. 'Lewis' produced 3 pint cases of canned beans before 'Bush Blue Lake 274' was ready to be picked. 'Lewis' pods were smoother, darker green in color, and easier to prepare. I have been planting 'Blue Lake 274' beans for many years. Never did I ever think a bean could beat 'Bush Blue Lake 274' but 'Lewis' did.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

The varieties were generally similar, but 'Lewis' tasted better.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

'Lewis' ripened earlier and produced more pods. Its pods were more attractive.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

We had a bumper crop of beans. The plants were very healthy, and both grew well. 'Lewis' had nice, straight pods. Its plants were more manageable. At the first picking, 'Lewis' yielded 3 gallons, compared to 1 gallon for 'Bush Blue Lake 274'. The vines of 'Bush Blue Lake 274' were fuller with bigger leaves. It was hard to find these beans. The beans of 'Bush Blue Lake 274' were slightly better in taste.

Bush Blue Lake 274 
Lewis 

I would love to grow 'Lewis' again. Only about 25% of my plants germinated, but those that did produced very well, and tasted excellent, even though they didn't bush out like the others. I even got a second harvest after 6 inches of rain revived them in September.

'Lewis' ripened earlier and produced higher yields.

Prefer 'Lewis' (continued)

Bush Blue Lake 274   
Lewis   NW

'Lewis' germinated and sprouted later and slower—here and there. Eventually all came up very well. 'Lewis' plants were small, but they produced a good quantity of beans—not the best I've ever had—but it was an unusual year. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' had healthy-looking plants and blossoms, it had very few beans! This was unbelievable and the worst bean crop I've ever had—and I usually plant 'Bush Blue Lake 274'.

Bush Blue Lake 274   
Lewis   SW

'Lewis' had excellent germination; had a more upright and less dense habit, making it much easier to harvest (it was easier to see the beans); first harvested on July 22; produced a lovely “second wind” crop in September, causing me to get the canner back out and putting it far ahead of 'Bush Blue Lake 274' in terms of yield; these beans were beautiful! Long, slender and uniform—the nicest beans I've ever picked! 'Bush Blue Lake 274' was floppier (the plants kind of laid on the ground) and was more fragile—both the vines and the beans broke more easily during watering, wind and harvesting. Its first harvest was July 26. These were a very nice, tasty bean that I would have been happy with any other year, but they paled in comparison to 'Lewis'.

Bush Blue Lake 274   
Lewis   SW

'Lewis' plants held up better. 'Lewis' pods looked nicer and were of more uniform size.

Bush Blue Lake 274   
Lewis   SD

I was not at all impressed with 'Bush Blue Lake 274'. The vines were very large and had few beans. They were hard to pick, and vines were fragile. 'Lewis' performed much better overall.

No Preference

Bush Blue Lake 274  J 
Lewis   SW

I was not at all impressed with 'Bush Blue Lake 274'. The vines were very large and had few beans. They were hard to pick, and vines were fragile. 'Lewis' performed much better overall.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Lewis'. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners were especially impressed by the quality of its pods: dark green, straight and slender. 'Bush Blue Lake 274' plants were healthy, bushier, and produced a good crop of medium green, meaty pods all summer long.

Gardeners were especially impressed by the quality of 'Lewis' pods. They were dark green, straight and slender.

Bean, Green Filet

Varieties

'Crockett'

60 days. Pods are slender and deep green. Yields are heavy and continuous. Proven performer in North Dakota.

'Serengeti'

55 days. Pods are medium green, slim, straight and tender. Sturdy plants support high yields.



Data

Gardeners at 43 sites submitted information.

Trait	Crock't	Sereng'i	Same
Germinated best	23%	11%	66%
Healthier plants	38	15	47
Harvested earlier	63	22	16
Higher yields	39	19	42
More attractive pods	64	9	27
Tasted better	47	3	50
Preference	84	16	
Recommend (😊)	94	67	
Mean score ¹	8.73	7.39	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Crockett'

Crockett 😊 MN
Serengeti 😞

'Crockett' pods had more flavor and richer color.

Crockett 😊 MN
Serengeti 😊

'Crockett' had a much faster and higher germination rate. We like the looks of its long, slender, dark green pods—they never got big and seedy like those of other varieties. We did a blind taste test and 'Crockett' was the winner.

Crockett 😊 MN
Serengeti 😊

'Crockett' matured earlier and was more attractive. Its vines, however, were more susceptible to mildew.

Crockett 😊 SE
Serengeti 😊

'Crockett' pods had a more attractive, darker green color.

Crockett 😊 SE
Serengeti 😞

'Crockett' had a larger, healthier canopy. Produced 3.0 pounds in the first picking compared to 1.1 pounds for 'Serengeti'.

'Crockett' pods had nice, dark green pods. I plan to have more 'Crockett' beans in our garden in 2020 for home canning. It was much more productive.

Crockett 😊 SE
Serengeti 😞

Filet beans are great for the home gardener. They are nice and long with small seeds and make for a nice attractive presentation on the plate. 'Crockett' produced nice, firm, tender beans with great flavor and outstanding color. Having trialed this variety previously, I believe it sets the standard for filet beans. 'Serengeti' was stringier and didn't have as fine a flavor.

'Crockett' is an exceptional variety. This year it was recommended by more gardeners than any other variety in our entire program.

Best green filet bean varieties

Top choice
Crockett

Strong performers
Calima
Maxibel
Serengeti

Prefer 'Crockett' (continued)

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SE

'Crockett' was exceptional in every way! Beautiful, sturdy plants that produced dark green, perfectly long, slender beans in abundance and kept on producing well late; in fact, still had a few nice beans on the plants until I pulled them on October 1. 'Serengeti' plants were slightly less sturdy and less prolific, and its beans were not as deep green compared to those of 'Crockett'. I gave a few seeds of each variety to my sister who lives in Langdon. She was super impressed with 'Crockett' as well!

Crockett   
 Serengeti   NC

Both varieties germinated well; both grew into very healthy, bushy plants. 'Crockett' bloomed first, also producing the first pods. Outstanding yields from both varieties—wow! Loved, loved, loved the deep green color of 'Crockett' pods plus the straightness of this awesome variety. Tender and delicious, a great green bean to use at mealtime and just can't be beat when used for canning 'dilly beans'. I'm totally amazed with 'Crockett'! It's a Grand Champion among green filet beans.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   NC

I liked the long, dark green pods of 'Crockett'.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   NC

Both varieties are very good producers with great pods. The pods of 'Crockett' are nicer looking, dark green color.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

Plants of both varieties were very weak and broke off easily. Very few plants were alive at harvest time.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

'Crockett' showed better germination. Both varieties produced a lot of pods.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

'Crockett' pods are dark green, glossy and delicious. Very high yields.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

'Crockett' germinated better. It produced more beans per stem. The pods have a darker green color. Both varieties had lovely, long pods. They tasted so good, even when eaten in the garden!

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

'Crockett' pods are dark green, glossy and delicious. Very high yields. 'Serengeti' is a good variety, but 'Crockett' is exceptional.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

I loved the dark green, straight, and uniform pods of 'Crockett'. Both varieties did not have a second stand of production, but this was weather related.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

Both varieties were great! The best tasting beans I've tried. Heavy producers! I liked the color of 'Crockett' pods.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

I enjoyed the dark, bright green color of 'Crockett' pods. They were straighter too. Both varieties made a comeback once we finally got rain in August.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   SC

These varieties are very similar. I had lots of slugs in my garden that really ate the bean plants, so I didn't have the best yield.

Crockett   
 Serengeti   NW

'Crockett' pods were tender, darker green, and straighter. The taste of 'Serengeti' was a bit tougher.

Gardeners raved over the long, slender, straight, dark green pods of 'Crockett'—the ultimate in quality.

Prefer 'Crockett' (continued)

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NW

I liked the flavor, tenderness and vibrant green color of 'Crockett' pods. 'Crockett' produced an abundance of beans. I picked every other day and usually had a large colander full. Both varieties were very good.

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NW

'Crockett' pods were straighter and brighter green. They were easier to put into pint jars for making spiced dilly beans. Both varieties were very tasty.

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😞 🌱 NW

Better germination; way more beans per plant. Pods were darker green and better tasting. 'Seregeti' germination was about 50%.

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😞 🌱 NW

'Crockett' pods were straighter. I love these long, skinny pods; tender and crisp.

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SW

'Crockett' had healthier plants and earlier yields.

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SW

Both varieties have nice and straight pods. I liked the size and shape of 'Crockett' pods.

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😞 🌱 MT

'Crockett' is an excellent green bean! Pretty deep green color, very productive, great taste. Both varieties produced well, but 'Crockett' pods looked and tasted better.

Prefer 'Seregeti'

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 NE

Both varieties produced pods of very good quality. Their plants were upright and short, and produced good yields into late September. The pods remained edible even when they were maturing.

Crockett ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Seregeti ★★★★★ 😊 🌱 SE

'Seregeti' came up better and faster, but 'Crockett' germinated very well too. The plants of both varieties looked good. They both produced good yields. I am still getting beans off the plants and they are blossoming for the third time now. I loved both varieties. Both were wonderful. They had nice green color and they had nice straight pods. Great for pickling and canning.

'Crockett' produced heavy, early crops.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

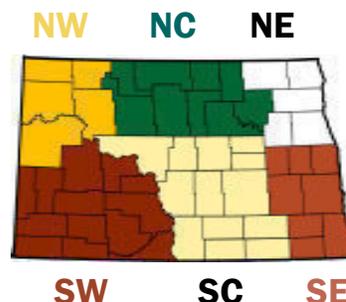
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

Garden type →
 🌱 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

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

Prefer 'Serengeti' (continued)

Crockett   
Serengeti   NC

Both varieties were very good eating and good producers. I liked the taste and deep green color of 'Serengeti'.

Crockett   
Serengeti   SC

The beans were cropped once by an animal. 'Serengeti' produced 8 pounds; 'Crockett' produced 6.25 pounds. I found 'Crockett' was easier to pick—they grew in clusters that enabled me to pick a handful at once. 'Serengeti' beans grew farther apart which I picked more on a bean by bean basis.

Crockett   
Serengeti   NW

'Serengeti' germinated much better. I wish 'Crockett' had germinated better—don't know if it was because we have clay soil or the seeds themselves. I prefer 'Serengeti' because of its abundance of produce, and the pods grow really long and straight. I like the presentation they make grilled. Easy to can into jars too. 'Serengeti' tasted more like a green pea pod than a green bean! 'Crockett' tastes like a green bean.

Crockett   
Serengeti   NW

Both of these varieties started producing 2 weeks after my standard variety. They were nice, long, green beans. They made it through 3 weeks without water.

Crockett   
Serengeti   SW

'Serengeti' started producing two weeks earlier. 'Crockett' pods are such an attractive deep green color and hence, may be more nutritious. I like filet beans very much because they can be cooked whole—no cutting!

Crockett   
Serengeti   SW

'Crockett' germinated almost 1 week earlier. It grew faster and produced better looking beans.

No Preference

Crockett   
Serengeti   NE

Both varieties were excellent producers all year.

Conclusions

'Crockett' is an exceptional variety. It has performed well in our trials every year, and this year was recommended by more gardeners than any other variety in our entire program. Gardeners raved over its long, slender, straight, dark green pods—the ultimate in quality. 'Crockett' produced heavy, early crops. The plants of both 'Crockett' and 'Serengeti' were healthy and produced tasty pods.

Both varieties were healthy and produced tasty pods.

Bean, Green Pole

Varieties

'Kentucky Blue'

58 days. Award-winner known for its 'Kentucky Wonder' flavor and 'Blue Lake' sweetness.

'Monte Cristo'

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



Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Kentucky Monte		
	Blue	Cristo	Same
Germinated best	43%	29%	29%
Healthier plants	29	43	29
Harvested earlier	57	14	29
Higher yields	43	57	0
More attractive pods	14	57	29
Tasted better	14	29	57
Preference	29	71	
Recommend (☺)	43	71	
Mean score ¹	5.86	7.71	
Median score ¹	6.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Kentucky Blue'

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☹ SE

Both varieties had vigorous plants and produced very well. 'Kentucky Blue' produced more beans.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Kentucky Blue' performed best overall. Rabbits and deer ate most of it.

Prefer 'Monte Cristo'

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Monte Cristo' produced a much higher yield.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☺ NC

Neither variety was productive when it was hot and dry early in the season. After we got some good rains in August, both varieties did much better. 'Monte Cristo' was more productive.

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

'Monte Cristo' vines were much healthier and were very good producers. Its pods were extremely long and tasty.

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

'Monte Cristo' vines were hardy and aggressive on the trellis. They stayed healthy through the entire season and produced a lot of pods.

Kentucky Blue ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Monte Cristo ★★★★★ ☺ SW

They were hard to grade with 'Monte Cristo' only winning the taste test and 'Kentucky Blue' winning the rest of the categories.

Conclusions

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

'Monte Cristo' vines were healthy and produced higher yields. Its pods were bright green, longer and very attractive.

Best green pole bean varieties

Top choice
Fortex

Strong performers

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

Bean, Purple Snap

Varieties

'Amethyst'

56 days. Pods are lustrous, thin and straight. Very good flavor. Pods turn green when cooked.

'Purple Queen Improved'

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



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	P. Queen		
	Amethyst	Impr.	Same
Germinated best	29%	29%	41%
Healthier plants	13	19	69
Harvested earlier	6	63	31
Higher yields	19	56	25
More attractive pods	6	19	75
Tasted better	25	25	50
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (😊)	56	75	
Mean score ¹	7.25	7.69	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Amethyst'

Amethyst ★★★★★😊🐞
Purple Queen Impr. ★★★★★😞SE

'Amethyst' produced three times the yield of 'Purple Queen Improved'. The tastes of the pods were similar, but I prefer the texture of 'Amethyst' pods. 'Purple Queen Improved' pods were more dense and chewier. Bugs ate holes in the leaves of both varieties.

Amethyst ★★★★★😊🐞
Purple Queen Impr. ★★★★★😊SE

'Amethyst' pods tasted better to us.

Amethyst ★★★★★😊🐞
Purple Queen Impr. ★★★★★😊SE

'Amethyst' tasted better.

Amethyst ★★★★★😊🐞
Purple Queen Impr. ★★★★★😞NC

'Amethyst' produced abundantly. Both varieties had good flavor and the color was attractive. I was surprised that both varieties turned green upon cooking.

Amethyst ★★★★★😊🐞
Purple Queen Impr. ★★★★★😊SC

'Amethyst' tasted a tiny bit better. Germination was poor for both varieties. The plants that did germinate produced lots of healthy beans.

Amethyst ★★★★★😊🐞
Purple Queen Impr. ★★★★★😊SC

More of the 'Amethyst' plants came up and seemed fuller, but both were great. I could not taste a difference between the varieties. The leaves got a bit torn from a heavy rain, but they still produced all summer long. It was fun for the kids to pick purple beans, and then see them turn green when we cooked them!

Amethyst ★★★★★😊🐞
Purple Queen Impr. ★★★★★😞SC

'Amethyst' was very hardy and produced nice, straight pods. I have to say these were so fun! "Magic beans" is what my kids called them. I was very impressed they continued producing until a hard freeze!

Gardeners enjoyed the color and taste of both varieties' pods.

Best purple bush bean varieties

Top choice
Purple Queen Improved

Strong performer
Royal Burgundy

Prefer 'Purple Queen Improved'

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   MN

It was very dry after planting, and I irrigated evenly. Then we got too much rain at once and they all looked like a loss. They came back. 'Purple Queen Improved' produced earlier and produced better yields. Its pods were larger, consistently dark in color and more uniform in shape. Among raw pods, 'Amethyst' tasted sweeter.

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   MN

'Purple Queen Improved' was everything I look for in my beans. Its yields were earlier and higher. The pods of both varieties tasted very good but 'Purple Queen Improved' was my favorite. Both varieties germinated at near 100%.

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   SE

'Purple Queen Improved' had healthier, slightly larger plants. It produced 2.4 pounds compared to 0.9 pounds for 'Amethyst' on the first harvest date. 'Purple Queen Improved' had more beans on the second harvest date.

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   SC

'Purple Queen Improved' beans were thicker, straighter and easier to cut. The pods of both varieties were similar in length. I loved how their purple color made them easy to pick and quite pretty; but was so sad when they turned green while cooking (probably better so the kids would eat them).

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   SC

I have planted 'Amethyst' in years past so I figured I would choose 'Amethyst'; however, I am choosing 'Purple Queen Improved' for higher yield, better taste and hardiness of the plant. I also think 'Purple Queen Improved' turns a brighter green when cooked. It ripened earlier; the first picking was on July 24. A week later, 'Purple Queen Improved' produced two to three times as much as 'Amethyst'. Both varieties are excellent.

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   NW
'Purple Queen Improved' produced higher yields and I liked the size of its pods.

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   NW
'Purple Queen Improved' produced more.

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   NW
'Purple Queen Improved' had higher and earlier yields.

Amethyst   -
Purple Queen Impr.   SW
'Purple Queen Improved' had more produce. They both stayed crisp and tasty in pickled beans. The red brine is surprising.

No Preference

Amethyst   
Purple Queen Impr.   SE

I was disappointed in how short the plants were. Many of the beans touched the ground and spoiled. We have sandy soil and received a lot of driving rain with cool temperatures that most likely affected the plants this year.

Conclusions

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

'Purple Queen Improved' produced earlier and higher yields.

Bean, Vegetable Soybean

Varieties

'Chiba Green'

82 days. Compact plants produce good yields in a concentrated set. Large pods with 3 beans each.

'Tohya'

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



Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Chiba		
	Green	Tohya	Same
Germinated best	0%	0%	100%
Healthier plants	50	50	0
Harvested earlier	0	50	50
Higher yields	50	0	50
More attractive pods	50	0	50
Tasted better	0	50	50
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	50	50	
Mean score ¹	8.00	7.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Chiba Green'

Chiba Green ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Tohya ★★★★★ ☹ NE

A rabbit got into the garden early in the season and topped the new growth on all soybeans. The plants recovered. 'Tohya' produced earlier, and 'Chiba Green' produced more pods. They tasted the same.

Prefer 'Tohya'

Chiba Green ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
 Tohya ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Tohya' tasted slightly better.

Conclusions

This was not a popular trial. In limited testing, 'Tohya' produced earlier yields and 'Chiba Green' produced higher yields. 'Tohya' has performed well in trials conducted in previous years. It matures early and produces delicious soybeans. 'Chiba Green' deserves another look.

'Tohya'
 matured
 earlier and
'Chiba Green'
 produced
 higher yields.

**Best
 vegetable
 soybean
 varieties**

Top choice
 Tohya

**Strong
 performer**
 Envy

Bean, Yellow Snap

Varieties

'Gold Rush'

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

'Golden Rod'

55 days. Bright yellow pods with buttery flavor. Vines are vigorous and productive.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold Rush	Golden Rod	Same
Germinated best	21%	21%	57%
Healthier plants	43	36	21
Harvested earlier	57	29	14
Higher yields	36	43	21
More attractive pods	29	0	71
Tasted better	21	21	57
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (☺)	71	64	
Mean score ¹	7.57	7.29	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Gold Rush'

Gold Rush ☺ SE
 Golden Rod ☺
 Both varieties recovered from rabbit damage more than once this summer. 'Gold Rush' produced better yields. We were impressed with both varieties.

Gold Rush ☺ SE
 Golden Rod ☹
 'Gold Rush' tasted better.

Gold Rush ☺ NC
 Golden Rod ☹
 I wish I had double the plants of 'Gold Rush'—they were so good!

Gold Rush ☺ SC
 Golden Rod ☺
 'Gold Rush' was more productive.

Gold Rush ☺ SC
 Golden Rod ☹
 'Gold Rush' matured earlier.

Gold Rush ☺ NW
 Golden Rod ☹
 'Gold Rush' produced well.

Gold Rush ☺ -
 Golden Rod ☹ SW
 'Gold Rush' had the better yield, but yields of both varieties were low because of rabbits!

Gold Rush ☺ SW
 Golden Rod ☺
 'Gold Rush' produced better.

Prefer 'Golden Rod'

Gold Rush ☹ NE
 Golden Rod ☺
 'Golden Rod' yielded 50% more pods. Its pods tasted sweeter and had more flavor. Its plants were healthier.

Gold Rush ☺ NE
 Golden Rod ☺
 'Golden Rod' was easier to pick as the beans were in a group while 'Gold Rush' beans were single ones.

Most gardeners preferred 'Gold Rush'. Its plants were healthy and produced earlier yields.

Best yellow bush bean varieties

Top choice
Carson

Strong performers
Borsalino
Gold Rush
Rocdor

Prefer 'Golden Rod' (continued)

Gold Rush ★★★★★☹️ 🐛
 Golden Rod ★★★★★😊 SE

'Golden Rod' tasted better.

Gold Rush ★★★★★😊 🐛
 Golden Rod ★★★★★😊 SE

'Gold Rush' was preferred by my Mom because it most resembled the texture and taste of green beans. My niece and I liked 'Golden Rod' because it had a buttery taste.

Gold Rush ★★★★★☹️ 🐛
 Golden Rod ★★★★★😊 SC

'Golden Rod' germinated better. 'Golden Rod' plants were taller, sturdier, and even put on more blossoms after a 4-inch rainfall. It produced more beans per plant. There were no noticeable differences between the varieties in the appearance of their pods. Both were delicious in a three-bean salad!

Gold Rush ★★★★★☹️ 🐛
 Golden Rod ★★★★★😊 SC

'Golden Rod' had bigger plants and higher yields.

Conclusions

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

'Golden Rod' plants were vigorous and productive.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

Variety A ★★★★★😊
 Variety B ★★★★★☹️

← **Comments**

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

Garden types

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

Garden type →

NC

← **Location**

Locations

MN = Minnesota
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 SK = Saskatchewan
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Beet, Gold

Varieties

‘Burpee’s Golden’

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

‘Golden Detroit’

55 days. Bright golden roots have a pyramidal shape. Plants grow vigorously. Delicious greens.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Burp. Golden	Golden Detroit	Same
Germinated best	40%	20%	40%
Healthier plants	22	11	67
Harvested earlier	43	29	29
Higher yields	71	29	0
More attractive roots	29	14	57
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	60	40	
Recommend (😊)	63	25	
Mean score ¹	6.63	5.50	
Median score ¹	6.50	4.50	

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

Prefer ‘Burpee’s Golden’

Burpee’s Golden 😊 MN
Golden Detroit 😞

Both varieties germinated below 50%.

‘Burpee’s Golden’ produced twice as much yield.

Burpee’s Golden 😊 MN
Golden Detroit 😞

I irrigated my planting and ‘Burpee’s Golden’ germinated much better. Its leaves were larger, and I tried a few in salads. Its roots were heavier, bigger and almost orange—same color as my carrots.

Burpee’s Golden 😊 SE
Golden Detroit 😊

I never tried golden beets before, and I really enjoyed these varieties. They are easy to grow with little maintenance. ‘Burpee’s Golden’ had higher yields and I liked the size of its roots when harvested.

Burpee’s Golden 😊 SC
Golden Detroit 😞

I have never grown golden beets before. Their leaves were beautiful and glossy. Their roots were bright and colorful. ‘Burpee’s Golden’ produced three times the yield of ‘Golden Detroit’. I will grow golden beets again next year.

Burpee’s Golden 😊 SW
Golden Detroit 😞

‘Burpee’s Golden’ germinated faster and was a stronger, sturdier plant. The plants of both varieties were healthy and did well. ‘Burpee’s Golden’ produced an abundant crop of medium-sized beets—it yielded more than ‘Golden Detroit’. The roots of ‘Burpee’s Golden’ were more uniform.

‘Burpee’s Golden’ germinated better, grew vigorously and produced higher yields at more sites.

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
Boldor

Strong performers
Burpee’s Golden
Touchstone Gold

Prefer 'Golden Detroit'

Burpee's Golden   
Golden Detroit   SE

'Golden Detroit' had better yield and more consistent growth. Its taste was great. The plants of 'Burpee's Golden' were smaller.

Burpee's Golden   
Golden Detroit   SC

'Golden Detroit' had a marginally larger root.

Burpee's Golden   
Golden Detroit   MB

'Golden Detroit' had better germination and yield. Both varieties had poor germination rates (less than 35%). The roots of 'Golden Detroit' were monstrous. Both varieties tasted sweet.

Conclusions

'Burpee's Golden' germinated better, grew vigorously and produced higher yields. The leaves of both varieties were healthy and attractive. Gardeners liked the color and flavor of both varieties' roots. 'Golden Detroit' produced low yields at several sites, and most gardeners did not recommend it.

Gardeners liked the healthy plant tops and quality roots of both varieties.

Beet, Red

Varieties

'Kestrel'

53 days. Smooth, globular, deep-red roots. Glossy green tops resist diseases and tolerate drought.

'Merlin'

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



Data

Gardeners at 19 sites submitted information.

Trait	Kestrel	Merlin	Same
Germinated best	31%	25%	44%
Healthier plants	13	19	69
Harvested earlier	21	36	43
Higher yields	36	36	29
More attractive roots	7	21	71
Tasted better	7	13	80
Preference	46	54	
Recommend (☺)	86	79	
Mean score ¹	7.80	7.67	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Kestrel'

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Kestrel' germinated slightly better, had a slightly higher yield and was earlier.

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ ☹ NE

Over half of the plants of both varieties did not develop roots larger than a marble.

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Merlin ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Kestrel' produced four times as many beets. 'Merlin' did not germinate well.

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 NC
Merlin ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠 NC

'Kestrel' roots were smoother and tasted much sweeter. I liked its taste much better. 'Merlin' germinated better, had healthier plants and produced slightly higher yields. I canned 'Merlin' and it tasted fine.

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛 SC
Merlin ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛 SC

'Kestrel' germinated better and produced the first yield. Both varieties produced softball-size beets.

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 SC
Merlin ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 SC

These two varieties were very similar! Our family was split on which one tasted better. 'Kestrel' germinated better.

Prefer 'Merlin'

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 MN
Merlin ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 MN

'Merlin' produced a higher yield. Its roots had a better shape.

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠 MN
Merlin ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 MN

'Merlin' produced more beets and they were uniform in size.

Kestrel ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛 NE
Merlin ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛 NE

Both varieties germinated very well. The yields were bountiful. 'Merlin' roots had a sweeter taste and were larger.

'Kestrel' and 'Merlin' were healthy and produced bountiful yields. Gardeners liked the looks and flavors of both varieties.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Merlin

Strong performers

- Bull's Blood
- Cylindra
- Detroit Dark Red
- Early Wonder
- Tall Top
- Red Ace

Prefer 'Merlin' (continued)

Kestrel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated well. Their plants were healthy and hardy. They produced at the same time. Both varieties had a very good yield, but I got a few more off 'Merlin'. I loved the deep purple color of 'Merlin' roots. Both varieties tasted good.

Kestrel ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These varieties were very similar in taste and appearance. 'Merlin' was ready to harvest earlier.

Kestrel ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Rabbits loved both varieties. 'Merlin' was hardier. It came back twice (about 80% after the first time) and produced two beets. 'Kestrel' never came back after the first feeding.

Kestrel ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated well and stayed healthy despite challenging weather. When I processed my beets for the freezer, I got one more bag of 'Merlin' so the yields were close. I prefer 'Merlin' for its taste; slightly better.

Kestrel ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Merlin' continues to be a favorite of mine. It was hardy and produced nice yields of symmetrical roots. Gophers adored 'Merlin'.

No Preference

Kestrel ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😞 NE

I only got about seven beets big enough to eat. I think the plants had Cercospora disease.

Kestrel ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Merlin ★★★★★ 😊 NW

No comments.

Conclusions

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

'Merlin' had a slim edge in root appearance and taste qualities.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Garden type →

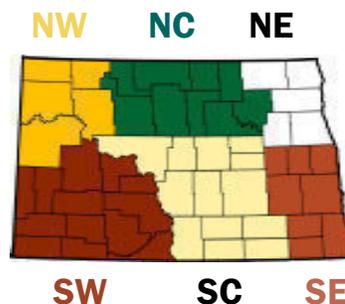
🐛 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →

NC

Comments →

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



Locations

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

Beet, Red Canning

Varieties

'Cylindra'

54 days. Straight and cylindrical, 5-inch-long roots can be cut into uniform slices.

'Forono'

55 days. Very uniform roots grow 5 inches long. Smooth and easy to prepare for pickling.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cylindra	Forono	Same
Germinated best	50%	6%	44%
Healthier plants	33	11	56
Harvested earlier	53	12	35
Higher yields	47	18	35
More attractive roots	38	25	38
Tasted better	40	13	47
Preference	65	35	
Recommend (☺)	76	47	
Mean score ¹	8.06	6.59	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Cylindra'

Cylindra ☺ MN
Forono ☹

'Cylindra' germinated better. It had healthy leaves. Its roots were bigger and had a deep red color.

Cylindra ☺ MN
Forono ☹

The rich color of 'Cylindra' held up to cooking and canning. Both varieties tasted good.

Cylindra ☺ SE
Forono ☹

'Cylindra' was better in all traits.

Cylindra ☺ SE
Forono ☹

Both varieties did very well. I liked 'Cylindra' because it was easy to process.

Cylindra ☺ SE
Forono ☹

We roasted a batch of each. The skins slipped easily from both varieties once cooked. 'Forono' roots were tastier when hot. They were sweet; had a nice burst of flavor. After the beets had cooked, the 'Cylindra' roots had much more flavor. They were rich with a nutty flavor. The 'Forono' roots continued to have a sweet flavor without any depth. If I had plans to serve the beets warm, I would use 'Forono'. If the beets were going to be served cool or at room temperature, I would definitely serve 'Cylindra'. We did not have enough of either variety to can them.

Cylindra ☺ NC
Forono ☺

'Cylindra' had better germination and yield. I have grown 'Forono' in the past and had excellent results. I think the cool spring really affected the germination of both varieties.

Cylindra ☺ SC
Forono ☺

'Cylindra' was first to produce.

Cylindra ☺ NW
Forono ☺

Both varieties were great. 'Cylindra' roots looked and tasted a little better.

'Cylindra' germinated much better, matured earlier and produced higher yields. More gardeners who had a taste preference chose 'Cylindra'.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Merlin

Strong performers

Bull's Blood
Cylindra
Detroit Dark Red
Early Wonder
Tall Top
Red Ace

Prefer 'Cylindra' (continued)

Cylindra
 Forono NW

'Cylindra' was very sweet—best ever.

Cylindra
 Forono NW

Only about 25% of 'Forono' seeds germinated; it did not grow well at all. Removing the skins of both of these canning beets was not easy; they did not slip off like I was used to with round beets. These long beets, however, slice up nicely for canning.

Cylindra
 Forono SW

'Cylindra' had higher germination, healthier plants, earlier yields, and resisted becoming fibrous. Both varieties produced large beets.

Prefer 'Forono'

Cylindra
 Forono NE

'Forono' was a darker beet and was much sweeter—very good to eat—similar to Harvard beets. Yum! I really liked the flavor—great for eating and making beet pickles—good color. 'Cylindra' had larger beets.

Cylindra
 Forono NC

'Forono' was healthier. It produced larger beets and higher yields.

Cylindra
 Forono SC

I love the shape of these beets; will buy in the future versus round beets. 'Forono' roots were huge, yet not woody.

Cylindra
 Forono SC

'Forono' had healthier plants and more attractive roots.

Cylindra
 Forono N NW

'Cylindra' plants grew faster. Its roots grew larger, faster and were wider. 'Forono' roots stayed long and slim and were perfect for slicing for pickles. 'Forono' tasted better. Sadly, neither beet was very tasty compared to the 'Detroit Dark Red' I usually plant. These tasted a bit like dirt. I have heard from others that 'Cylindra' beets are very tasty, but I did not find either variety very sweet and tasty. The garden season was dry. I watered lots, but not until we finally got some rain did the garden really thrive.

Cylindra
 Forono NW

'Forono' made excellent pickled beets, even though they were quite large when I picked them. 'Cylindra' canned well, too.

'Forono' had healthy plants but was not exceptional in any way.

Conclusions

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

Carrot, Garden (Nantes)

Varieties

'Goldfinger'

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

'Ingot'

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



Data

Gardeners at 49 sites submitted information.

Trait	Goldf'r	Ingot	Same
Germinated best	26%	24%	50%
Healthier plants	9	20	72
Harvested earlier	14	23	63
Higher yields	14	21	64
More attractive roots	39	32	30
Tasted better	31	29	40
Preference	52	48	
Recommend (☺)	78	73	
Mean score ¹	7.80	7.71	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Goldfinger'

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🏠 MN
 Ingot ★★★★★☹
 'Goldfinger' had more attractive roots.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🏠 MN
 Ingot ★★★★★☹
 'Goldfinger' roots were sweeter, had better flavor and a nice shape.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🏠 NE
 Ingot ★★★★★☺
 Both varieties looked very healthy and produced average yields. 'Goldfinger' roots were straighter, a bit larger and better looking.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🏠 NE
 Ingot ★★★★★☺
 'Goldfinger' roots were slightly sweeter and darker orange.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🐛 NE
 Ingot ★★★★★☺
 The seeds were planted using a light mulch, and both appeared approximately 12–14 days after sowing. The plants of both varieties exhibited healthy, dark green, upright tops throughout the summer. Yields were great from both varieties. 'Goldfinger' roots were straight; both had dark-orange roots approximately 7–8 inches long. 'Ingot' exhibited many twisted roots. Taste testing was a tie in our family as both were sweet and crispy.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🐛 SE
 Ingot ★★★★★☺
 With all other areas pretty much equal, 'Goldfinger' was preferred by family at mealtime.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🏠 SE
 Ingot ★★★★★☹
 'Goldfinger' roots were straighter and better looking. They kept longer in the fridge and tasted sweeter.

Goldfinger ★★★★★☺ 🐛 SE
 Ingot ★★★★★☹
 'Goldfinger' rated better for all traits, including taste.

This was a very popular trial, and most gardeners were pleased with the performance of both varieties.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Laguna
 Mokum
 Napoli
 Nelson
 Yaya

Prefer 'Goldfinger' (continued)

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 SE

'Goldfinger' tasted sweeter. Its roots were more moister and firmer. Neither variety did well. The soil was too wet and chunky for sowing carrots. Slugs were a problem too.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😞 NC

'Goldfinger' roots were more uniform and straighter.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😞 NC

The trial was slow to start but ended up doing quite well. 'Goldfinger' was better all around. I liked the shape and taste of its roots. It germinated better and produced a bigger harvest.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😞 SC

'Goldfinger' had better roots.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 SC

'Goldfinger' roots were longer and had a much larger diameter. It tasted good. 'Ingot' was noticeably sweeter with a more distinct taste.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 SC

Many of my fellow gardeners in our rental garden had trouble getting carrots to germinate—cold soil, washouts due to torrential rains. I guarded what germinated and was exceptionally pleased with what I did get. Both varieties deserve “extra credit” for doing as well as they did in an exceedingly challenging year! 'Ingot' produced a few more roots, and its roots were more uniform in size. 'Goldfinger' tasted better, but it was close.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 SC

'Goldfinger' carrots tasted wonderful. The roots were long and straight—made for easy cleaning after this super wet fall. Only half the seeds of both varieties germinated.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 SC

Both varieties were excellent. 'Goldfinger' roots were very uniform, never grew extremely huge, and they never got a woody center. 'Ingot' produced a higher yield.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😞 SC

'Goldfinger' germinated better and had larger roots. It was a better producer.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😞 NW

'Goldfinger' roots were better looking and better tasting. Both varieties had some hairy roots. Neither of these were as sweet as the 'Napoli' I grew in my garden.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 NW

'Goldfinger' produced higher yields. There was lots of rain so there were lots of tender carrots! These varieties were quite similar.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 NW

'Goldfinger' was a little bit better yielder.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😞 NW

'Goldfinger' roots were sweeter. 'Ingot' had a stronger flavor. I preferred the crunch of 'Goldfinger' as the 'Ingot' was harder.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 NW

Both varieties were great. 'Goldfinger' roots looked more attractive.

Goldfinger  😊 
 Ingot  😊 SW

'Goldfinger' roots were shorter, stubbier and sweeter tasting.

'Goldfinger' has been a strong performer in our trials for many years.

Prefer 'Ingot'

Goldfinger  MN
 Ingot 

'Ingot' started out the best. The roots of both varieties were split and rotting in the ground. I think it was too wet and the ground was saturated by the time I harvested.

Goldfinger  MN
 Ingot 

'Ingot' had very good flavor. 'Goldfinger' did not have any flavor. Both varieties had nice looking roots.

Goldfinger  NE
 Ingot 

'Ingot' roots tasted a bit sweeter and were enjoyed more by our family. 'Goldfinger' roots were larger and longer. Yields of the varieties were similar.

Goldfinger  NE
 Ingot 

Both did quite well. We had a great carrot crop once the seedlings emerged. 'Ingot' roots were more uniform in size.

Goldfinger  SE
 Ingot 

Strange gardening year—they came up and were stunted—small carrots.

Goldfinger  SE
 Ingot 

'Ingot' roots looked and tasted better.

Goldfinger  SE
 Ingot 

'Ingot' was easy to grow. The roots of both varieties were tasty and had a nice shape and size.

Goldfinger  SE
 Ingot 

'Ingot' roots were more consistent in size.

Goldfinger  NC
 Ingot 

I liked 'Ingot' because its roots weren't as big. Both varieties were good tasting.

Goldfinger  NC
 Ingot 

We harvested nice looking, straight carrots from both varieties. 'Ingot' roots were more consistent in size and sweeter. 'Goldfinger' had very poor germination, but we did not have much rain from May to July.

Goldfinger  NC
 Ingot 

'Ingot' roots tasted better and were longer. Yields were about equal.

'Ingot'
 performed well
 and deserves
 further testing.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

Variety A  NC
 Variety B  NC

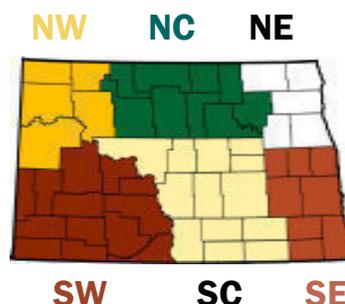
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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

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Prefer 'Ingot' (continued)

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  SC

'Ingot' had larger roots and was sweeter.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  SC

Both varieties had very sweet and nice roots.
 'Ingot' roots were generally bigger.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  SC

'Ingot' germinated better. Both varieties really started to grow with the rains we finally got even though I tried to water.

Goldfinger  -
 Ingot  SC

The varieties were similar, but 'Ingot' tasted better.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  SC

'Ingot' was definitely sweeter.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  NW

'Ingot' produced well with same size carrots throughout the patch. They were very tasty and held up well to sautéing and roasting for freezing.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  SW

'Ingot' was sweeter. Carrots of both varieties were nice and long.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  SW

Both varieties were good, but 'Ingot' was better in all traits.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  SW

'Ingot' seemed hardier.

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  MT

'Ingot' had better germination and healthier plants. Its roots were nice looking, deep orange and very tasty.

No Preference

Goldfinger  
 Ingot  NC

The roots of both varieties were stringy and very small. I would not grow either variety again.

Conclusions

This was a very popular trial, and most gardeners were pleased with the performance of both varieties. No consistent and significant differences were detected between the varieties. 'Goldfinger' has been a strong performer in our trials for many years. We are excited to find 'Ingot', a comparable variety that deserves further testing.

No consistent and significant differences were detected between the varieties.

Carrot, Large

Varieties

'Baltimore'

65 days. Dark orange roots grow over 12 inches long and 2 inches wide. Great for stews and juicing.

'New Kuroda'

73 days. Roots are deep-orange, smooth and tapered. Very sweet and flavorful. Tolerates heat.



Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Balti- more	New Kuroda	Same
Germinated best	18%	12%	71%
Healthier plants	12	18	71
Harvested earlier	13	25	63
Higher yields	18	41	41
More attractive roots	35	29	35
Tasted better	14	36	50
Preference	59	41	
Recommend (☺)	76	82	
Mean score ¹	7.53	7.53	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Baltimore'

Baltimore ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
New Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both varieties were good. 'New Kuroda' roots were compact and thick, more attractive, but harder to pull out of the soil; its stems were more likely to break off.

Baltimore ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
New Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both did quite well. We just dug all the carrots on October 20 and the quality of the very large carrots was excellent for both varieties. Even the 3-inch-diameter carrots were not woody, and we had tons to freeze and can. 'Baltimore' roots were more uniform in size.

Baltimore ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
New Kuroda ★★★★★ ☹️ NC
'Baltimore' produced about 25% more yield. Neither variety had a lot of flavor compared to 'Ingot' and 'Goldfinger' grown in my other carrot trial.

Baltimore ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
New Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SC
Yields and the quality of both varieties were similar. Their roots looked nice and tasted very good raw. 'Baltimore' had slightly longer roots; easy to grow; good germination.

Baltimore ★★★★★ ☺ -
New Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SC
'Baltimore' roots were not as fat.

Baltimore ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 🍷
New Kuroda ★★★★★ ☺ SC
Both varieties were similar. Yields were good and very similar, but the roots tended to split due to rain. 'Baltimore' had larger tops.

Baltimore ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
New Kuroda ★★★★★ ☹️ NW
'Baltimore' roots were longer and one inch in diameter. They had a beautiful color and appearance. It was sweet when raw, but not "sweet" when cooked; I do not care for sweetness in stews and soups. 'New Kuroda' has beautiful, deep-orange color. It was very good cooked, but I did not care for their short, fat structure with lots of hairs. Both varieties cooked quickly and held their shape when cooked a long time in stews.

Both varieties produced large and flavorful, dark orange roots.

Best large carrot varieties

Top choice
Hercules

Strong performers
Baltimore
New Kuroda

Prefer 'Baltimore' (continued)

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   NW 

'Baltimore' germinated better (100% compared to 75% for 'New Kuroda'). Its carrots were bigger and had better taste.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   NW 

'Baltimore' had larger roots. It tasted better but did not germinate as well.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   SW 

A hard pounding rain reduced the germination of both varieties. 'Baltimore' germinated better and had very large roots. I really did not like how large the roots of both varieties were.

Prefer 'New Kuroda'

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   MN 

These are the best carrots I've ever grown. I highly recommend both varieties. 'New Kuroda' roots were a little bigger.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   SE 

'New Kuroda' roots were more attractive and tasted better. It had higher yields.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   SE 

'New Kuroda' had healthier plants, higher yields and better taste.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   NC 

'New Kuroda' roots tasted better and were thinner around.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   SC 

'New Kuroda' had a wonderful sweet taste! All other traits were similar.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   NW 

These varieties were very similar and grew well in my compacted soil. 'New Kuroda' roots were more attractive.

Baltimore   
New Kuroda   SW 

These varieties were very similar. Both had beautiful, slender roots and were quite long. 'New Kuroda' roots tasted better.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced large and flavorful, dark orange roots. Gardeners liked both varieties and rated them similarly. Most gardeners preferred 'Baltimore', primarily for its looks. More gardeners achieved higher yields with 'New Kuroda', and more gardeners felt 'New Kuroda' tasted better.

Most gardeners preferred 'Baltimore', primarily for its looks. 'New Kuroda' produced higher yields, and more gardeners preferred its taste.

Carrot, Long (Imperator)

Varieties

'Imperator 58'

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

'Sugarsnax 54'

68 days. Slim, 10-inch roots are bright orange and very sweet. Keeps its flavor after cooking.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Imper. 58	S'snax 54	Same
Germinated best	30%	26%	43%
Healthier plants	22	26	52
Harvested earlier	26	26	48
Higher yields	45	36	18
More attractive roots	50	35	15
Tasted better	48	26	26
Preference	61	39	
Recommend (☺)	74	52	
Mean score ¹	7.35	7.17	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Imperator 58'

Imperator 58 ☺ MN
Sugarsnax 54 ☹ MN

Both had 80% germination. We harvested both varieties on the same day. We harvested 13.2 pounds of 'Imperator 58' and 8.8 pounds of 'Sugarsnax 54'. 'Imperator 58' carrots were smaller, mostly straight and easy to pull. 'Sugarsnax 54' roots had many split roots and a few color variations. My family was split on which variety tasted better. 'Imperator 58' had a nice even carrot taste. 'Sugarsnax 54' tasted stronger and sweeter.

Imperator 58 ☺ MN
Sugarsnax 54 ☹ MN

Both varieties produced beautiful carrots and carrot tops. 'Imperator 58' roots were longer, tasted better and were less woody (fibrous).

Imperator 58 ☹ SE
Sugarsnax 54 ☹ SE

'Imperator 58' germinated better and its tops were taller. I had 28 inches of rain this summer and my garden was a disaster because of standing water. Both varieties were rotten when I tried to dig them on October 1. My grandkids tried a couple carrots at the beginning of September, and they liked the taste of both varieties.

Imperator 58 ☺ SE
Sugarsnax 54 ☺ SE

'Imperator 58' roots were larger and darker orange. It seemed to be easier to care for and the roots were more attractive. 'Sugarsnax 54' had a slightly better taste; it wasn't bitter, and its texture was better among early harvested roots. Both varieties were 11–12 inches long and difficult to dig in heavy clay soils.

Imperator 58 ☺ SC
Sugarsnax 54 ☹ SC

'Imperator 58' roots had no forking; 10% of 'Sugarsnax 54' roots were forked.

Imperator 58 ☺ NC
Sugarsnax 54 ☹ NC

'Imperator 58' roots tasted better but had a greater tendency to split. 'Sugarsnax 54' roots looked nicer but only tasted okay.

Imperator 58 ☺ NW
Sugarsnax 54 ☹ NW

'Imperator 58' roots had a fresher, brighter taste. 'Sugarsnax 54' had too many forked roots.

Both varieties had healthy tops and produced beautiful roots that grew 10–12 inches long.

Best long (Imperator) carrot variety

Top choice
Imperator 58

Prefer 'Imperator 58' (continued)

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😞 🍷 NW

'Imperator 58' roots did not split. If you were able to dig out the whole carrot, they were very long. 'Sugarsnax 54' roots were quite wide and split. Maybe that was because of the excessive rain and wetness of the ground.

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NW

'Imperator 58' had way better germination.

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SW

'Imperator 58' tasted better. 'Sugarsnax 54' was slightly better in germination rate and plant health.

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

The roots of both varieties were nice and long. 'Imperator 58' roots were sweeter and moister.

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SW

'Imperator 58' roots were much sweeter; better flavor; would be good for cooking. The roots of both varieties were nice and long.

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 MB

Both varieties produced excellent roots that grew to 10–12 inches. 'Imperator 58' roots were more uniform in size. It showed slightly superior germination. 'Sugarsnax 54' had robust tops. Its roots had more deformities—not excessive though.

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SD

'Imperator 58' tasted sweeter than 'Sugarsnax 54' when cooked. 'Sugarsnax 54' tasted better than 'Imperator 58' when eaten raw. This was not a good year for carrots. It was too wet and there was not enough sunshine. I usually like to leave carrots in the ground until a light frost to make them sweeter, but this year I had to harvest at the end of August due to roots rotting in the ground.

Prefer 'Sugarsnax 54'

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN

'Sugarsnax 54' had better flavor; sweeter.

Imperator 58 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Sugarsnax 54 ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 NE

'Sugarsnax 54' roots were long and uniform. Some of 'Imperator 58' roots were very thick and squat.

Gardeners were impressed by the high yields, uniform roots and fresh, mild flavor of 'Imperator 58'.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

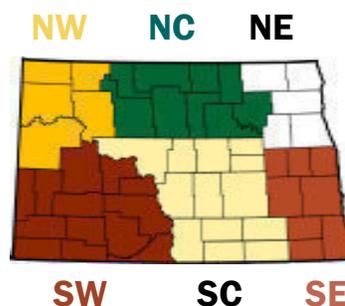
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
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 SK = Saskatchewan
 SD = South Dakota
 MT = Montana

Prefer 'Sugarsnax 54' (continued)

Imperator 58  
Sugarsnax 54   NE

'Sugarsnax 54' tasted better. Its roots were larger, some 2–3 inches in diameter. 'Imperator 58' germinated better but neither variety germinated well. 'Imperator 58' produced a slightly higher yield and the roots were less likely to be misshaped.

Imperator 58  
Sugarsnax 54   NC

'Sugarsnax 54' roots were smoother, firmer and less knotty. Its seeds came up quicker. 'Imperator 58' germinated at a higher rate, had taller plants and produced a third more yield.

Imperator 58  
Sugarsnax 54   NC

Both varieties produced very nice carrots. 'Imperator 58' had larger roots, but 'Sugarsnax 54' had a better taste. A lot of carrots were very long and broke off when digging them up.

Imperator 58  
Sugarsnax 54   SC

'Sugarsnax 54' produced higher yields and tasted better.

Imperator 58  
Sugarsnax 54   SC

'Sugarsnax 54' roots were larger and had better taste. 'Imperator 58' roots had a taste we did not care for. Its roots were significantly less hardy and smaller.

Imperator 58  
Sugarsnax 54   SC

'Sugarsnax 54' roots looked more attractive and tasted better.

Imperator 58  
Sugarsnax 54   SW

'Sugarsnax 54' produced a higher yield. The taste was not that great for either variety. I will be leaving them in the ground through the fall to see if they sweeten up.

Conclusions

Both varieties had healthy tops and produced beautiful roots that grew 10–12 inches long. 'Imperator 58' was preferred by most gardeners. These gardeners were impressed by the high yields, uniform roots and fresh, mild flavor of 'Imperator 58'. A minority of gardeners preferred the performance and taste of 'Sugarsnax 54'.

A minority of gardeners preferred the performance and taste of 'Sugarsnax 54'.

Corn, Early

Varieties

'Sweetness' (syn)

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

'Temptress' (syn)

70 days. Combines great quality with reliable performance. Strong seedling vigor.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sweetness	Temptress	Same
Germinated best	29%	7%	64%
Healthier plants	20	20	60
Harvested earlier	77	15	8
Higher yields	42	25	33
More attractive ears	33	17	50
Tasted better	62	23	15
Preference	71	29	
Recommend (☺)	85	62	
Mean score ¹	7.71	6.71	
Median score ¹	8.50	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Sweetness'

Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ 📦
 Temptress ★★★★★ ☺ MN
 'Sweetness' tasted better.

Sweetness ★★☆☆☆ ☹ 🐞
 Temptress ★★☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Both varieties were slow to germinate due to dry weather conditions. Ears on 'Temptress' filled to only about a third. The ears of both varieties were small and had good taste.

Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ 📦
 Temptress ★★★★★ ☺ NE
 'Sweetness' matured quicker.

Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Temptress ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Sweetness' dominated the trial with healthier looking plants and many nice cobs. This variety was taller, fuller with leaves and sometimes produced two cobs on a plant. 'Temptress' did not germinate as well.

Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Temptress ★★★★★ ☹ NC

The seedlings of both varieties were vigorous, and the stalks were healthy. 'Sweetness' ripened a few days earlier. Both varieties had good yields. Both had good flavor, but 'Temptress' got grainy first.

Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ 📦
 Temptress ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Sweetness' ripened 5 days earlier. Its cobs were larger and fuller. Its kernels were much more flavorful. I'll grow 'Sweetness' next year. Both varieties were productive, and their ears were filled with kernels to their tips. 'Temptress' stalks were taller; stalks of both varieties were sturdy.

Sweetness ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Temptress ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Both varieties germinated great! The crops grew well, and we got so much corn from both! The ears of both varieties looked quite nice. Even though 'Temptress' produced larger ears, the superior taste/texture of 'Sweetness' is worth the smaller ears. 'Sweetness' matured a few weeks earlier.

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

Best bicolor se and syn corn varieties

Top choice
 Peaches & Cream

Strong performers
 Allure
 Ambrosia
 Cuppa Joe
 Delectable
 Luscious
 Sweetness
 Temptation

Prefer 'Sweetness' (continued)

Sweetness ★★★★★ 😊 🍄
 Temptress ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sweetness' ears were sweeter and larger.

Sweetness ★★★★★ 😊 🍄
 Temptress ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Looks like all seeds germinated. Both varieties were quite good in all aspects. 'Temptress' seemed to mature faster, but 'Sweetness' tasted better and maintained its quality in the garden longer.

Sweetness ★★★★★ 😊 🍄
 Temptress ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Sweetness' was better all around.

Prefer 'Temptress'

Sweetness ★★★★★ 😊 🍄
 Temptress ★★★★★ 😊 MN

The flavor of 'Temptress' was really good, and its ears were filled out.

Sweetness ★★★★★ 😞 🍄
 Temptress ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Temptress' cobs were short and stocky but tasted amazing. Its kernels were fat and juicy. 'Sweetness' plants had bugs and mold in spots. Both varieties tasted good!

Sweetness ★★★★★ 😊 🍄
 Temptress ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Sweetness' ears were too close to the ground. It was too easy for raccoons to get them.

Sweetness ★★★★★ 😞 🍄
 Temptress ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Sweetness' went into tassel a week earlier than 'Temptress'. Hail subsequently harmed the trial, but a few plants recovered enough to produce a few ears, so we were able to taste both varieties. Both varieties were very sweet, but 'Temptress' had deeper kernels which I think is important.

Conclusions

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

Most gardeners liked 'Temptress', but it did not excel in any traits.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

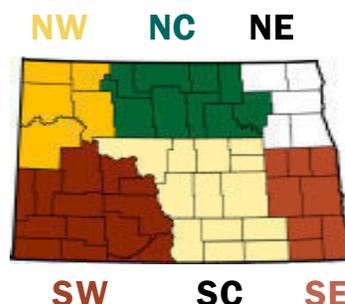
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

Garden type →
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Location →
 NC

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



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Corn, Early Super Sweet

Varieties

'Anthem XR' (shA)

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

'Raquel' (shA)

72 days. High quality. Bright kernels and large ears. Ears maintain quality in the field. Very productive.



Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Anthem		
	XR	Raquel	Same
Germinated best	33%	10%	57%
Healthier plants	29	19	52
Harvested earlier	32	26	42
Higher yields	32	21	47
More attractive ears	26	16	58
Tasted better	21	26	53
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	79	58	
Mean score ¹	7.58	7.16	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Anthem XR'

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Raquel ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Anthem XR' germination was greater by 50%, which led to its higher yield. Its stalks were healthy. The ears of 'Anthem XR' tasted sweeter but both varieties had a crisp texture and were very tasty. Both varieties exhibited straight rows of bicolored kernels on 8-inch ears.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Raquel ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Anthem XR' was much sweeter. Its ears were much larger.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Raquel ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Anthem XR' produced larger and more ears. The flavor of both varieties was excellent.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Raquel ★★★★★ ☹ NC

'Anthem XR' tasted much better than 'Raquel'.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Raquel ★★★★★ ☺ SC

These varieties were the best corn I have grown in years. My wife liked the taste of 'Anthem XR'. I could not tell the difference except that 'Anthem XR' ears were 7–8 inches long while 'Raquel' ears were 8–9 inches long. Biggest ears I have ever grown. Pollination was great; all ears were filled tip to end. Both tasted good. 'Anthem XR' stalks grew 5–6 feet tall; 'Raquel' stalks were 7–8 feet tall.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Raquel ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Anthem XR' did better and produced a higher, quicker yield. Its ears were much longer. Both varieties had lodging issues due to summer storms.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Raquel ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Anthem XR' had healthier stalks and produced an earlier harvest.

More gardeners recommended 'Anthem XR', often due to higher yields.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
American Dream

Strong performers
Anthem XR
SS2742
Xtra-Tender 274A
Xtra-Tender 277A

Prefer 'Anthem XR' (continued)

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😞 SC
 'Anthem XR' grew better. Its ears looked and tasted better.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 SD
 'Anthem XR' germinated better. Neither variety produced double-ear stalks.

Prefer 'Raquel'

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 MN
 It was hard to tell the difference between the two varieties.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 MN
 Both varieties were healthy. 'Raquel' produced higher yields. 'Raquel' was ideal for off-the-cob freezing, with large, uniform kernels. It tasted sweeter than 'Anthem XR', but I would have preferred a sweeter taste—however—it was very good!

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 SE
 'Anthem XR' germinated better, but 'Raquel' showed more vigor. Both varieties produced huge cobs. Lodging was an issue for both varieties, but 'Raquel' seemed to straighten back up better than 'Anthem XR'.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞 📦
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😞 SE
 Neither of these varieties grew well in our new garden. No full ears were harvested. Neither variety tasted extremely sweet. 'Raquel' germinated better.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 'Raquel' germinated earlier. These two varieties were so alike it was difficult to find differences.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😞 SC
 These varieties were okay. I have had better luck with other varieties. Yields were no more than one ear per stalk. 'Raquel' was earlier.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞 📦
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Raquel' stood up better. It produced higher yields and tasted better.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 SW
 'Raquel' was healthier and was ready to pick earlier.

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😞 📦
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😞 SW
 'Raquel' ear tips filled better.

No Preference

Anthem XR ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Raquel ★★★★★ 😊 NC
 Both varieties were good, but I have had sweeter corn. These varieties were so similar that I couldn't tell them apart.

Conclusions

Both varieties performed well, but neither distinguished itself from the other. Gardeners were evenly split on their preferences. More gardeners recommended 'Anthem XR', often due to higher yields. 'Anthem XR' has performed well in our trials of previous years.

Both varieties performed well, but neither distinguished itself from the other.

Corn, Late Super Sweet

Varieties

'American Dream' (shA)

77 days. Award winner. Sweet, tender kernels of amazing quality. Easy to grow. Sturdy stalks.

'Obsession' (shA)

79 days. Very tender, sweet and creamy kernels. Ears are long and filled to the tip.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	American Dream	Obsession	Same
Germinated best	8%	46%	46%
Healthier plants	23	15	62
Harvested earlier	58	25	17
Higher yields	62	23	15
More attractive ears	46	23	31
Tasted better	23	15	62
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (😊)	69	62	
Mean score ¹	7.92	7.85	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Preferred 'American Dream'

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'American Dream' produced earlier and more yield. 'Obsession' was a taller and stronger plant, with bigger ears.

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😞 MN

'American Dream' tasted much better.

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NE
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'American Dream' produced more and slightly earlier. Its stalks often had two ears.

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NE
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'American Dream' had larger ears and more robust plants. 'Obsession' plants were smaller as were the ears.

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'American Dream' tasted way better.

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The wind had laid them both flat during a storm and deer had eaten some of both types. The cold August and September led to them not hitting their peak taste; just on the edge of reaching full flavor. 'American Dream' had slightly larger ears and produced more mature ears per plant.

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'American Dream' had better quality cobs. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields.

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW
 Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'American Dream' had better yield and taste. I would grow both varieties in the future; both were great tasting.

Most gardeners preferred 'American Dream'. It ripened earlier and produced higher yields at most sites.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
 American Dream

Strong performers

Anthem XR
 SS2742
 Xtra-Tender 274A
 Xtra-Tender 277A

Prefer 'Obsession'

American Dream ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 📖
Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Obsession' ears were more tender and flavorful. 'American Dream' germinated quicker and grew taller. It produced two cobs per plant and its cobs were bigger.

American Dream ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Obsession' had higher yields and its ears were more attractive. 'American Dream' seemed about 3 days faster with germination, tasseling and harvest. Lodging was a problem for both varieties. Both varieties produced mostly small ears, but I may have spaced my plants too close together.

American Dream ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Obsession' seedlings showed more vigor. 'Obsession' produced higher yields and was ready a couple of days earlier. Some 'American Dream' stalks did not have any ears. The stalks of both varieties were healthy.

American Dream ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated well and were super healthy. They both produced corn around the same time. They both produced a lot of corn! Their ears were equally attractive. 'Obsession' had more rounded tips, whereas 'American Dream' had more pointed tips. The taste of 'Obsession' was very good. The texture of its kernels was definitely better. 'American Dream' tasted okay but its kernels were a little tougher.

No Preference

American Dream ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Obsession ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both germinated fantastically, but 'Obsession' slightly more fantastically. Super healthy plants, so yummy, great yields. If I didn't know better, I'd think these were the same variety. Absolutely delighted with both of these!

Conclusions

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

'Obsession' germinated better at more sites, but was otherwise unremarkable.

Cucumber, Burpless

Varieties

'Summer Dance'

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

'Summer Top'

60 days. Easy to grow. Heavy yields of 9-inch, dark green, high quality cucumbers. Vines resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 46 sites submitted information.

Trait	Summ. Dance	Summ. Top	Same
Germinated best	29%	27%	44%
Healthier plants	34	29	37
Harvested earlier	53	32	16
Higher yields	49	33	18
More attractive cukes	46	18	36
Tasted better	31	21	49
Preference	58	42	
Recommend (☺)	80	75	
Mean score ¹	7.85	7.23	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Summer Dance'

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☺ MN

I got a few more cucumbers from 'Summer Dance'. I would try both varieties again.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Summer Dance' vines were more vigorous and healthier. They produced at least 50% more yield. Its cucumbers were straighter and more uniform. 'Summer Dance' vines reached the top of its 7-foot trellis before 'Summer Top' reached the halfway point. Both varieties produced their first fruits at the same time; however, 'Summer Dance' had several cucumbers during the first harvest while 'Summer Top' had only one.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 NE
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Summer Dance' had healthier vines and higher yields.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 SE
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☺ SE

I have grown 'Summer Dance' in our high tunnel on a trellis for the last 4 years. It is an excellent slicing and eating cucumber. Lots of other gardeners ask us what seed we use because they love them too.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 SE
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Summer Dance' fruits were dark green, more attractive and had smoother skin. Both varieties were very productive and tasted great.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 SE
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Summer Dance' had bigger yields and tasted better.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 SE
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Summer Dance' cucumbers were straighter, sweeter and firmer. Both varieties were heavy producers; still producing on October 6.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 NC
 Summer Top ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Summer Dance' produced larger yields.

Both varieties produced lots of cucumbers. The fruits were long, thin-skinned, small-seeded and never bitter.

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice

Summer Dance

Strong performers

Orient
 Express II
 Sweet Slice
 Sweet Success
 Tasty Green

Prefer 'Summer Dance' (continued)

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Summer Dance' seedlings showed more vigor. Its vines were healthier and produced cukes a few days earlier. 'Summer Dance' produced more cukes per plant. The cukes of 'Summer Dance' were bigger and had a somewhat smoother surface.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Probably my worst year ever for growing cukes: poor germination and spindly, unproductive plants from both varieties. My area had an extremely dry spring and summer. 'Summer Dance' produced nicely shaped, great tasting cucumbers with deep green skin.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 🍷
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NC

These varieties were great for slicing. I even used them for sweet pickle slices. I had some problems from powdery mildew, but I kept pruning the bottom leaves.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Dance' grew better, produced more cucumbers, and tasted better.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Everyone I shared 'Summer Dance' with loved the variety. I replanted 'Summer Top' because I had 0% germination in my first sowing, which was done on May 13.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Dance' vines were healthier and produced the first cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Summer Dance' cucumbers were so crisp with smooth skin—most didn't make it to the house because my family ate them in the garden!

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Summer Top' had better looking plants and cucumbers.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Summer Dance' had better yield, fruit shape and tenderness.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Summer Dance' produced more.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Summer Dance' cucumbers were tasty and sweet. It produced longer. 'Summer Top' cucumbers ripened quicker and tasted good. Both varieties kept well in the refrigerator after harvest. I made some pickle spears with some of the first harvest; they did not get soggy. Overall, I am not a big pickler and prefer cucumbers for slicing and making creamed cucumbers—mayo, cream, sugar and vinegar.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😞 NW
 'Summer Dance' plants seemed nicer and the cucumbers were tasty.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😞 SW
 'Summer Top' did not produce any yield.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 MT
 'Summer Dance' cucumbers were straighter. Both varieties were very good.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😞 MT
 'Summer Dance' germinated better, had good flavor, and its cucumbers looked nice. I did not have good germination with either variety. This was my first year of planting in this garden and do not know if any pesticides were used on that soil in the past.

'Summer Dance' produced earlier and produced more cucumbers. Its fruits were straight, uniform and more attractive.

Prefer 'Summer Top'

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Top ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ NE

'Summer Top' cukes were darker green, crisper and had better taste/flavor. 'Summer Dance' germinated faster. As of August 1, 'Summer Dance' had two times the cukes; these cukes were light green and had very plain taste.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties were very tender and edible right off the vine for young (grandkids) and old (86-year-old great grandparents). The fruits didn't seem to get seedy even when over a foot long and 2 inches in diameter. It was the most popular vegetable in our garden for grandkids.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Top ★★☆☆☆ 😊 NE

'Summer Top' produced twice as many cucumbers. Only half of the seeds for both varieties germinated.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Top' germinated better and produced more. Drip irrigation was used on both varieties; we received less than 3 inches of rain from May 14 through Labor Day.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Summer Top' produced earlier than 'Summer Dance'. It had nicer looking cucumbers; 'Summer Dance' cucumbers had a tendency to curl. Both varieties were heavy producers and really started producing after period of frequent rains in late August and September.

Summer Dance - ☹️ 📦 🐛
 Summer Top - 😊 SC

'Summer Top' produced through September.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ 😊 📦
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Top' had better looking plants and better tasting cucumbers. 'Summer Dance' cucumbers were straighter.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 📦
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Top' plants outperformed 'Summer Dance' in every way. Nice, large, attractive cukes. I trellised both varieties.

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Top' produced great and tasted wonderful. Both varieties kept producing into September!

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were seriously great but 'Summer Top' edged out 'Summer Dance' with better flavor and straighter cucumbers. Both had fantastic yields.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Summer Top' had higher yields.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Summer Top' produced first.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ 😊 📦 🐛
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SW

I liked the taste of 'Summer Top' better.

Summer Dance ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ -
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Summer Top' had more attractive produce.

No Preference

Summer Dance ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Summer Top ★★★★★ 😊 NC

These varieties were very similar. I would definitely grow both again.

Conclusions

Gardeners were impressed with the quality and yields of both varieties. Their fruits were long, thin-skinned, small-seeded and never bitter. The vines were healthy and produced lots of cucumbers until frost. 'Summer Dance' was preferred because it produced earlier and produced more cucumbers. Its fruits were straight, uniform and more attractive.

The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced lots of cucumbers until frost.

Cucumber, Pickling

Varieties

'Calypso'

52 days. Heavy and reliable yields of medium-dark green, slightly tapered fruits. Vines resist diseases.

'Homemade Pickles'

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



Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	Homemade		
	Calypso	Pickles	Same
Germinated best	41%	44%	15%
Healthier plants	11	41	48
Harvested earlier	27	46	27
Higher yields	35	38	27
More attractive cukes	27	38	35
Tasted better	15	27	58
Preference	42	58	
Recommend (😊)	81	81	
Mean score ¹	7.88	8.15	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Calypso'

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE
 'Calypso' produced higher yields.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 SE
 'Calypso' had better yield and more attractive fruit.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 📦
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😞 SE
 'Calypso' cucumbers were straighter—easier to make pickles—and tasted better.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😞 SE
 'Calypso' had more uniform cucumbers.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC
 'Calypso' produced the first yield, and both varieties produced very well. We used drip irrigation in this trial since we had less than 3 inches of rain from May 15 through Labor Day.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 📦
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 NC
 As our spring was cool and dry, it took about 2 weeks for seedlings to emerge from the soil. 'Calypso' produced the first cucumbers of the season.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 📦
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😊 SC
 'Calypso' cucumbers were a little tastier and we could eat them as slicers. 'Homemade Pickles' did make excellent pickling cucumbers. Some fruits, especially those of 'Calypso', were misshaped due to poor pollination.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★☆ 😞 SC
 'Calypso' had very spiny prickles. You were smart to wear gloves to pick them. It was like picking cactus! That being said, if you could get past this downfall, they were very prolific and produced very well. 'Calypso' cucumbers were crisper and there were more of them. They stayed firm in the refrigerator whereas the 'Homemade Pickles' cucumbers seemed to wilt quite fast. Both varieties made good pickles.

Both varieties produced lots of quality cucumbers for pickling.

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
 Homemade Pickles

Strong performers

Alibi
 Calypso
 Eureka
 H-19 Little Leaf

Prefer ‘Calypso’ (continued)

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 📦 SC
 ‘Calypso’ had a little higher yield.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 NW
 ‘Calypso’ cucumbers had a better size and taste.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 NW
 ‘Calypso’ had longer vines and higher yields. I prefer the taste of its cucumbers.

Prefer ‘Homemade Pickles’

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN
 Both varieties are good for pickling and have a good yield.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 📦
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 📦 SE
 ‘Homemade Pickles’ was easier to pick. ‘Calypso’ seedlings showed more vigor.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC
 No question ‘Homemade Pickles’ produced more and had better tasting fruits. Each vine produced at least ten cukes compared to an average of three cukes per plant for ‘Calypso’. ‘Calypso’ had leaf blight.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😞 📦
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 📦 NC
 The vines of ‘Homemade Pickles’ had less powdery mildew and were more productive.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC
 The cucumbers of ‘Homemade Pickles’ had a nice shape, stayed small to use for dills, and stayed crisp as a dill pickle. Both varieties gave me plenty of pickles to make into dills. I also ate many cucumbers at meals.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 📦
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 📦 SC
 ‘Homemade Pickles’ tasted great and its yields were amazing. Both varieties are still producing as of September 27.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 📦 SC
 ‘Homemade Pickles’ looked and tasted a little better. I planted this trial in containers and trellised the vines on a chain-link fence. I didn’t have enough room for them to grow.

Calypso ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Homemade Pickles ★★★★★ 😊 📦 SC
 ‘Homemade Pickles’ was overall better. It produced way more cucumbers, and its cucumbers were more attractive. ‘Calypso’ produced the first cucumbers.

‘Homemade Pickles’ always performs well in our trials. Gardeners this year were impressed with its earliness, good yields and outstanding fruit quality.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

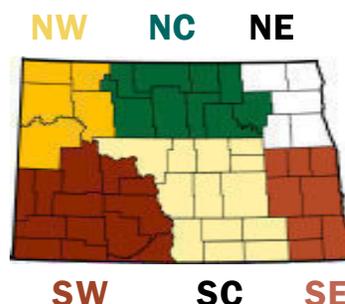
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

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

Prefer 'Homemade Pickles' (cont.)

Calypso ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Homemade Pickles ★★★★★★ 😊 SC
'Homemade Pickles' was the best pickler I have ever grown.

Calypso ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Homemade Pickles ★★★★★★ 😊 SC
'Homemade Pickles' had a higher yield and I liked how its fruits looked.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Homemade Pickles ★★★★★★ 😊 NW
The cucumbers of 'Homemade Pickles' stayed a better size, although the cucumbers of both varieties were very tasty and stayed crisp. It was so dry this spring and we were not able to do much in the way of gardening, so did not get the water to the cukes. Once they got water, they did fine, although a little slower than in previous years.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 📦
Homemade Pickles ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
'Calypso' struggled. I actually had to replant with some seeds I had left over. The cucumbers from 'Calypso' didn't form well; like balls instead of nice cucumbers.

Calypso ★★★★★★ 😊 📦
Homemade Pickles ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
'Homemade Pickles' had better taste and yield. I was impressed with both varieties, but 'Homemade Pickles' always had a ton of blossoms on their vines.

Calypso ★★★★★★ 😊 📦
Homemade Pickles ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
Both varieties were very healthy and matured at the same time. Their cucumbers looked great and tasted good. Both varieties were great producers but 'Homemade Pickles' produced more. 'Homemade Pickles' germinated faster too.

Calypso ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Homemade Pickles ★★★★★★ 😊 SD
'Homemade Pickles' had healthier plants.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced lots of quality cucumbers for pickling. 'Homemade Pickles' always performs well in our pickling cucumber trials. Gardeners this year were impressed with its earliness, good yields and outstanding fruit quality. These cucumbers were crisp, small-seeded, and blocky—perfect for pickling.

'Homemade Pickles' cucumbers were crisp, small-seeded, and blocky—perfect for pickling.

Cucumber, Slicing

Varieties

'Bristol'

54 days. High percentage of slim, straight, high quality fruits. Early yields. Vines resist diseases.

'Talladega'

60 days. Smooth, 8-inch fruits are dark green. Disease-resistant vines produce heavy yields.



Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bristol	Talladega	Same
Germinated best	35%	18%	47%
Healthier plants	24	24	53
Harvested earlier	47	24	29
Higher yields	41	47	12
More attractive cukes	29	29	41
Tasted better	25	25	50
Preference	39	61	
Recommend (😊)	67	78	
Mean score ¹	7.59	7.65	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Bristol'

Bristol ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Bristol' had a "sweeter" cucumber taste. 'Talladega' germinated poorly. 'Talladega' leaves had brown spots and brown edges, and its cucumbers had damage marks.

Bristol ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Bristol' produced an abundant crop.

Bristol ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Bristol' produced higher yields, and its cucumbers were more attractive.

Bristol ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Talladega ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Bristol' germinated first and the plants looked healthier. This year's trial was the best cucumber crop I've ever had.

Bristol ★★★★★ 😊 -
Talladega ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Bristol' ripened earlier and produced more cucumbers. 'Bristol' cucumbers were more attractive and tasted better.

Bristol ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Talladega ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Bristol' produced more.

Bristol ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Talladega ★★★★★ 😞 SW

Both varieties germinated poorly due to very wet, cold (snow) weather after I planted. I have grown 'Talladega' with success before, unfortunately this year I had only four seedlings germinate, then they wilted off at the 3-5-leaf stage. 'Bristol' was an excellent performer in a wet and cold summer; it produced fruit late into September.

'Bristol' got off to a quick start and produced the first cucumbers at more sites.

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice
General Lee

Strong performers
Dasher II
Raider
Stonewall
Straight Eight
Talladega

Prefer 'Talladega'

Bristol ★★★★★☹️ 📦
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 SE

'Talladega' was later but produced higher yields. Its cucumbers looked more attractive and tasted better.

Bristol ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 SE

Both were excellent varieties. 'Talladega' produced cucumbers early and often. When 'Bristol' started maturing, it produced lots of cucumbers. Both varieties had heavy production right until freezing.

Bristol ★★★★★☹️ 📦
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 NC

'Talladega' tasted better. Its cucumbers were slower to get too big when left on the vine. 'Bristol' grew faster. 'Bristol' produced more cucumbers in the first picking and throughout the summer.

Bristol ★★★★★☹️ 🐞
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 NC

'Talladega' produced more yield. Its cucumbers had a consistent shape; many 'Bristol' cucumbers were shaped like a "C."

Bristol ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 NC

'Talladega' produced more fruits. The cucumbers of both varieties had a similar taste and appearance. Neither variety was very productive. We had a dry summer and wet fall. Watering should have been adequate but did not seem like it.

Bristol ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 SC

'Talladega' produced more, and its cucumbers tasted slightly sweeter than those of the 'Bristol'.

Bristol ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 SC

'Talladega' produced higher yields.

Bristol ★★★★★😊 🐞
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 SC

Both varieties were very good. 'Talladega' was earlier. I have never had much luck with cucumbers, but the yields of these varieties were amazing—they produced into October.

Bristol ★★★★★☹️ 📦
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 SW

'Talladega' germinated quicker and grew more vigorously. 'Bristol' tended to have more misshaped cucumbers. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted good.

Bristol ★★★★★☹️ -
 Talladega ★★★★★😊 SW

'Talladega' produced higher yields. Its fruits were juicier and tasted better.

'Talladega' produced higher yields in more gardens.

Conclusions

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

Greens, Loosehead Cabbage (Fall)

Varieties

'Maruba Santoh'

30–40 days. Grows fast and easily. Mild flavor. Tender, light green, round leaves for stir fries and salads.

'Tokyo Bekana'

21–45 days. Popular and easy to grow. Light green leaves with wavy edges and slim, white stems.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Maruba Santoh	Tokyo Bekana	Same
Germinated best	9%	64%	27%
Healthier plants	30	30	40
Harvested earlier	20	50	30
Higher yields	20	50	30
More attractive	30	60	10
Tasted better	40	20	40
Preference	44	56	
Recommend (☺)	70	80	
Mean score ¹	6.40	7.40	
Median score ¹	7.50	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Maruba Santoh'

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ ☹ NE

'Maruba Santoh' was a bit better. It was healthier, earlier to harvest, more attractive and better tasting.

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Maruba Santoh' had more leaves, bigger yield.

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Maruba Santoh' was better in all traits including yield and taste.

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 SC
Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ ☺ SC

I liked the flatter, less ripply leaves of 'Maruba Santoh'. The two varieties were close in taste, but I thought 'Maruba Santoh' was milder eaten raw. 'Tokyo Bekana' was much faster germinating; it was more established and better withstood the attack of flea beetles. 'Maruba Santoh' was significantly delayed and only about one-third of its plants survived.

Prefer 'Tokyo Bekana'

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Neither variety grew very big due to the cold weather. 'Tokyo Bekana' did better in all categories: less buggy, higher yields and better taste. It looked more like a lettuce than cabbage. It had an interesting flavor—kind of peppery.

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Both varieties grew well and were ready to harvest in a short time. 'Tokyo Bekana' was slightly taller. 'Tokyo Bekana' was more attractive; curly leaves. 'Maruba Santoh' had a slightly better taste.

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Tokyo Bekana' had higher production; nicer looking curly leaf. We thought this would be a cabbage variety, not lettuce!

Gardeners tried loosehead cabbage for the first time and enjoyed it. 'Tokyo Bekana' grew vigorously and gardeners liked its ruffled leaves.

Best Asian green varieties

Top choice
Win-Win Choi

Strong performers
Koji
Komatsuna
Mei Qing Choi
Miz America
Mizuna
Osaka Purple
Red Giant
Red Kingdom
Tatsoi
Tokyo Bekana

Prefer 'Tokyo Bekana' (continued)

Maruba Santoh ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Flea beetles moved in even before the seedlings came up. Most of the 'Maruba Santoh' did not survive.

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ 😊 SK

'Tokyo Bekana' germinated slightly better but both varieties germinated at over 90%. Both varieties performed well and tasted great. I have never planted loosehead cabbage before. I will definitely plant it in the future.

No Preference

Maruba Santoh ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Tokyo Bekana ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I liked both. 'Tokyo Bekana' has ruffled leaves. 'Maruba Santoh' has a little spice. Both were very healthy and produced well.

Conclusions

Gardeners tried loosehead cabbage for the first time, and they enjoyed both varieties. 'Tokyo Bekana' germinated very quickly and grew vigorously. 'Tokyo Bekana' was ready to harvest earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners liked its ruffled leaves. Gardeners who preferred 'Maruba Santoh' were especially pleased with its taste.

Gardeners who preferred 'Maruba Santoh' were especially pleased with its taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★☆☆☆☆ ☹️

← **Comments**

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

Garden types

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

Garden type →

🐛 NC

← **Location**

Locations

- MN = Minnesota
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- SK = Saskatchewan
- SD = South Dakota
- MT = Montana

Greens, Purple (Fall)

Varieties

'Purple Choi'

45–55 days. Dark purple leaves with green stems. Very popular in Japan. Tender and mild.

'Red Kingdom'

21–40 days. Deep red, lobed leaves with very mild mustard flavor. Stunning in a salad mix.



Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Purple Choi	Red Kingdom	Same
Germinated best	33%	50%	17%
Healthier plants	25	50	25
Harvested earlier	0	67	33
Higher yields	25	50	25
More attractive	50	50	0
Tasted better	20	40	40
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (☺)	50	67	
Mean score ¹	5.17	5.00	
Median score ¹	5.00	5.00	

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

Prefer 'Purple Choi'

Purple Choi ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Kingdom ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

'Purple Choi' was so pretty and perfectly shaped! Delicious. 'Red Kingdom' did not germinate.

Purple Choi ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Purple Choi' germinated quicker and grew faster.

Prefer 'Red Kingdom'

Purple Choi ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Red Kingdom' was healthier and had higher production. Its leaves were larger.

Purple Choi ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ 🐞
Red Kingdom ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Neither did well. 'Purple Choi' germinated quickly but never took off at all. 'Red Kingdom' was not much better. May have been the poor growing conditions at the end of the season. It would be worth trying under different growing conditions.

Purple Choi ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ 🐞
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ NE

The taste of 'Red Kingdom' was good and full.

Purple Choi ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ 🐞
Red Kingdom ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Red Kingdom' was delicious and attractive in the garden. 'Purple Choi' did not germinate.

Conclusions

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

'Red Kingdom' germinated better, was healthier and produced higher yields.

Best Asian green varieties

Top choice
Win-Win Choi

Strong performers

Koji
Komatsuna
Mei Qing
Choi
Miz America
Mizuna
Osaka Purple
Red Giant
Red Kingdom
Tatsoi
Tokyo Bekana

Greens, Pac Choi (Fall)

Varieties

'Asian Delight'

37 days. New, award-winning variety. Densely packed mini-heads do not bolt and are easy to grow.

'Win-Win Choi'

52 days. Vase-shaped heads are compact, heavy and uniform. The mini heads grow up to 12 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Asian Delight	Win-Win Choi	Same
Germinated best	15%	62%	23%
Healthier plants	9	45	45
Harvested earlier	25	50	25
Higher yields	0	86	14
More attractive	11	56	33
Tasted better	14	57	29
Preference	10	90	
Recommend (☺)	40	90	
Mean score ¹	3.70	6.20	
Median score ¹	2.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Asian Delight'

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Asian Delight' was healthier, looked more attractive and tasted better. 'Win-Win-Choi' produced a higher yield.

Prefer 'Win-Win Choi'

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛
Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ ☺ MN

'Win-Win Choi' had larger heads and higher yields. I liked the look of 'Win-Win Choi' but was not a fan of its taste. 'Asian Delight' was milder. Bugs loved both varieties.

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☹ 🐛
Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Neither did outstanding. It may have been the growing conditions. 'Asian Delight' grew more spread out and close to the ground. 'Win-Win Choi' was upright, which was what I expected with pac choy. 'Win-Win Choi' tasted better. Both varieties were bothered by flea beetles. I sprayed with neem oil but maybe needed to do more frequently.

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ ☺ MN

Both varieties were healthy. 'Win-Win Choi' heads were larger and fuller—between 12–15 inches. 'Win-Win Choi' was ready to cut earlier and produced higher yields. Both varieties had a nice appearance and I enjoyed eating them. I loved the crunchiness of the white stems. I liked the taste of 'Win-Win Choi' better, but both had a pleasant taste. You could use them in a variety of recipes.

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ ☺ SE

Both varieties started out very well, but cold/freezing temps killed them off before they matured. I would try them again—just to see how they would taste. I love the full-grown variety you can buy in the store.

'Win-Win Choi' was clearly superior to 'Asian Delight' under the harsh conditions.

Best Asian green varieties

Top choice
Win-Win Choi

Strong performers

Koji
Komatsuna
Mei Qing
Choi
Miz America
Mizuna
Osaka Purple
Red Giant
Red Kingdom
Tatsoi
Tokyo Bekana

Prefer 'Win-Win Choi' (continued)

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties got hit by flea beetles. 'Asian Delight' got hit to the point that the plants never recovered enough to be harvestable and put through a taste test. 'Win-Win Choi' seemed to have some resistance to the pests.

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Win-Win Choi' germinated better. It was healthier and looked more attractive. Neither variety produced enough to fully judge.

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

'Win-Win Choi' had the most promise early in the planting. The weather was unusually moist right after planting. Neither variety grew big enough to harvest.

Asian Delight ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Win-Win Choi' was delicious and hardy. 'Asian Delight' did not germinate.

Asian Delight ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Win-Win Choi ★★★★★ 😊 SK

'Win-Win Choi' germinated slightly better, but both varieties germinated at over 90%. 'Win-Win Choi' produced the first yield, which is an advantage in the north. I have never planted mini pac choi before; I will definitely plant it in the future. Both varieties were very tasty.

Conclusions

This trial was a bit of a surprise. We had great hopes for the new All-America Award Selections Winner 'Asian Delight'; however, 'Win-Win Choi' was clearly superior. 'Win-Win Choi' got off to a faster start and grew much better under harsh conditions that included unusually cold temperatures, hard rains, and flea beetles. 'Win-Win Choi' plants were more vigorous, healthier and more productive. Gardeners enjoyed its crunchy texture and pleasant taste.

'Win-Win Choi' plants were more vigorous, healthier and more productive. Gardeners enjoyed its crunchy texture and pleasant taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

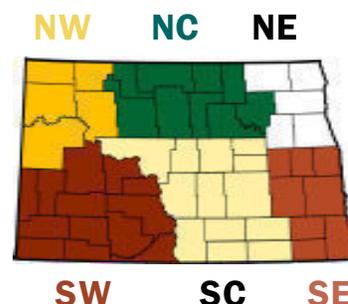
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

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

Garden type →
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 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

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



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Lettuce, Green Butterhead

Varieties

'Buttercrunch'

50 days. Very popular and reliable. Dark green outer leaves with creamy heart. Slow to bolt. A proven performer in North Dakota.

'Milagro'

65 days. Big, heavy, uniform heads. Medium-green leaves. Heads resist diseases and hold well in the garden.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Buttercrunch	Milagro	Same
Germinated best	21%	16%	63%
Healthier plants	37	11	53
Harvested earlier	29	24	47
Resisted bolting better	35	47	18
Higher yields	33	22	44
More attractive	53	26	21
Tasted better	53	24	24
Preference	59	41	
Recommend (😊)	89	61	
Mean score ¹	7.71	7.41	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Buttercrunch'

Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Milagro ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Buttercrunch' tasted much better—mild, good flavor. 'Milagro' had a stronger flavor. The plants of both varieties were very healthy and were ready to harvest at the end of June.

Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Milagro ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Buttercrunch' tasted good and produced well. It looked better and resisted bolting better.

Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC
Milagro ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Buttercrunch' germinated better, produced more, and tasted better.

Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC
Milagro ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Buttercrunch' resisted bolting better and produced longer.

Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC
Milagro ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Buttercrunch' leaves were crisper.

Buttercrunch ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC
Milagro ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Buttercrunch' had better flavor. I should have used some shade cloth to slow down the bolting.

Buttercrunch 😊
Milagro 😞 NW

'Buttercrunch' tasted better.

Buttercrunch 😊
Milagro 😊 NW

I liked the flavor and the shape of 'Buttercrunch'. We still have one 'Buttercrunch' head left—yummy.

Buttercrunch 😊
Milagro 😊 NW

'Buttercrunch' resisted bolting, looked better and tasted better.

Gardeners loved the looks, taste and crunch of 'Buttercrunch'. This proven winner was very dependable and resisted bolting.

Best green butterhead lettuce varieties

Top choice
Buttercrunch

Strong performer
Nancy

Prefer 'Buttercrunch' (continued)

Buttercrunch	☺	-
Milagro	☹	SW

'Buttercrunch' had a better look and taste. It stayed well after being refrigerated.

Buttercrunch	-	☺	
Milagro	-	☺	SD

Plants of both varieties were healthy, very uniform and attractive. 'Buttercrunch' had darker leaves. It matured earlier and tasted very good. A hailstorm destroyed the trial before 'Milagro' was ready to harvest.

Prefer 'Milagro'

Buttercrunch	☹	
Milagro	☺	MN

'Milagro' formed nice heads and had great flavor. It was very slow to bolt.

Buttercrunch	☺	
Milagro	☺	SE

Both were excellent performers. Both were late to bolt and continued production until early August. 'Milagro' was outstanding—couldn't ask for more. The 'Buttercrunch' plot had an animal dig into the row, which required reseeding and thus got off to a week later start. After it matured, it had excellent production.

Buttercrunch	☺	
Milagro	☺	SE

Both varieties were up by May 30 (after a week of rain), but half of the 'Buttercrunch' seedlings were killed by cutworms. 'Milagro' rotted in place when the heat and humidity increased at the end of June. Over half of its plants were lost to rot, which led to 'Buttercrunch' having higher yields. 'Buttercrunch' made beautiful heads with firm, crisp leaves. My whole family preferred the taste of 'Milagro' and its delicate leaves. 'Milagro' may be superior when grown for early (cool) season harvest, but 'Buttercrunch' is more reliable for a longer time.

Buttercrunch	☹	
Milagro	☺	SC

'Milagro' didn't bolt and tasted sweeter. 'Buttercrunch' tasted a bit bitter to me.

Buttercrunch	☺	
Milagro	☺	SC

'Milagro' was healthier, resisted bolting better, produced higher yields and looked more attractive.

Buttercrunch	☺	
Milagro	☺	NW

Both varieties produced very well. 'Buttercrunch' looked more like romaine where 'Milagro' stayed tight and really held its shape. I loved the taste of 'Milagro' and the full tight leaves. Great for "wraps."

Buttercrunch	☺	
Milagro	☺	SW

'Milagro' was great! Absolutely no bolting. 'Buttercrunch' also did well in a late planting. I love both varieties.

Conclusions

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

'Milagro' resisted bolting better at more sites and produced good yields.

Lettuce, Red Butterhead

Varieties

'Cervanek'

53 days. Heads are attractive, firm and heavy. Leaves are tender and slightly blistered. Tolerates bolting and keeps its red color in the heat.

'Grandpa Admire's'

60 days. Selected by George Admire, a Civil War soldier. Bronze-tinged, loose heads. Mild flavor. Resists extreme heat.



Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cerv- anek	Grandpa Admire's	Same
Germinated best	75%	0%	25%
Healthier plants	75	0	25
Harvested earlier	75	13	13
Resisted bolting better	50	13	38
Higher yields	75	0	25
More attractive	88	0	13
Tasted better	50	13	38
Preference	88	13	
Recommend (😊)	88	38	
Mean score ¹	8.38	5.00	
Median score ¹	9.50	4.50	

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

Prefer 'Cervanek'

Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Grandpa Admire's ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 MN

The germination of 'Cervanek' was even and consistent, compared to spotty germination with 'Grandpa Admire's'. 'Cervanek' plants were wider and had more leaves. It was ready to harvest about 5 days sooner. It bolted later. 'Cervanek' produced big, beautiful plants that fed us all summer. Its leaves were the dark red color I expected; 'Grandpa Admire's' leaves were very green in color. 'Cervanek' tasted slightly sweeter. In general, there was no comparison! I will plant 'Cervanek' again!

Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 📦
Grandpa Admire's ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 NE

'Cervanek' was a much stronger variety overall. 'Grandpa Admire's' hardly germinated.

Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 📦
Grandpa Admire's ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I loved them both. They both tasted great and had a great appearance.

Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 📦
Grandpa Admire's ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SC

'Cervanek' had wonderful color and flavor! Still harvesting in July with same quality. Best garden lettuce ever!

Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 📦
Grandpa Admire's ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Cervanek' was just a little better in all traits. Both germinated quickly, but 'Cervanek' was better. Its plants were a little larger over the entire season; its leaves were larger. Both resisted bolting—'Cervanek' a little better. Both produced good yields—'Cervanek' a little better. Both varieties tasted great.

Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Grandpa Admire's ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Cervanek' had better color and appearance.

Cervanek ★★★★★ 😊 -
Grandpa Admire's ★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SW

'Cervanek' germinated first. It had better taste and stayed fresh after refrigeration.

'Cervanek'
exceeded in all
traits.
Gardeners
enjoyed eating
the dark red,
flavorful heads
all summer.

**Best red
butterhead
lettuce
varieties**

Top choice
Red Cross

**Strong
performers**
Cervanek
Skyphos

Prefer 'Grandpa Admire's'

Cervanek ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Grandpa Admire's ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SC

Both germinated late and did not produce well at all. 'Grandpa Admire's' at least had a few plants that were usable.

Conclusions

'Cervanek' was extremely impressive. It excelled in all traits: germination, health, earliness, resistance to bolting, yields, looks and taste. Gardeners enjoyed eating the dark red, flavorful heads all summer. 'Grandpa Admire's' was inferior in all traits and was judged acceptable at best.

'Grandpa Admire's' was inferior in all traits and was judged acceptable at best.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺️
 Variety B ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

☺️
 ☹️

Comments →

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

Garden types

🐛 = Organic
 📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Garden type →

🐛 NC

Location →

NC

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Lettuce, Green Leaf

Varieties

'Deer Tongue'

50 days. Heirloom valued for its ruggedness. Compact plants with triangular leaves. Good texture and delightfully sharp flavor.

'Jebousek'

45 days. Deer-tongue type from Czechoslovakia. Compact plants with dark-green, triangular leaves. Great flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	Deer		
	Tongue	Jebousek	Same
Germinated best	29%	29%	43%
Healthier plants	14	29	57
Harvested earlier	29	14	57
Resisted bolting better	43	14	43
Higher yields	14	43	43
More attractive	0	43	57
Tasted better	29	43	29
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (😊)	71	71	
Mean score ¹	6.57	7.43	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Deer Tongue'

Deer Tongue ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jebousek ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Deer Tongue' produced more and longer. It bolted later; I was able to harvest it most of the summer. It was really thin though, and I like other kinds of lettuce better. 'Jebousek' got a whitish substance on the stem when you broke off a leaf later in the season that was bitter, so I stopped harvesting it then.

Deer Tongue ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jebousek ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These varieties were very similar. 'Deer Tongue' tasted better. The production of these two varieties was terrific.

Prefer 'Jebousek'

Deer Tongue ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Jebousek ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Jebousek' was more productive, attractive and better tasting. 'Deer Tongue' was earlier and resisted bolting better. Both varieties were short—and quit growing.

Deer Tongue ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jebousek ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These two varieties were very similar, with two exceptions: 'Jebousek' had very wide, dark leaves, and 'Jebousek' did not have near as many worms destroying it.

Deer Tongue ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jebousek ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties were quite vigorous. When leaves were small, the varieties had a similar and good taste. When leaves were bigger, 'Jebousek' was noticeably less bitter.

No Preference

Deer Tongue ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Jebousek ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Planted some in the garden and some in pots. Both varieties grew well and had good flavor. I would grow both varieties again.

Conclusions

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

'Jebousek' was more productive, attractive and better tasting to more gardeners. 'Deer Tongue' resisted bolting better.

Best green leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice
 Bergam's
 Green

Strong performers

Deer Tongue
 Tropicana
 Royal Oakleaf
 Salad Bowl
 Slobolt

Lettuce, Red Leaf

Varieties

'Beleah Rose'

52 days. Ruby-red color goes deep into the heart of the leaf. Tender and wavy leaves. Shows moderate resistance to bolting.

'Merlot'

60 days. Adds intense, burgundy color to salads. Crisp texture and mild flavor. Grows slowly, tolerates heat and resists bolting.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Beleah		
	Rose	Merlot	Same
Germinated best	0%	25%	75%
Healthier plants	13	38	50
Harvested earlier	13	38	50
Resisted bolting better	25	25	50
Higher yields	0	25	75
More attractive	13	38	50
Tasted better	13	50	38
Preference	38	63	
Recommend (😊)	75	88	
Mean score ¹	7.75	8.25	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Beleah Rose'

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😊 SC

There was very little difference between the varieties. Both were good. 'Beleah Rose' showed slightly better vigor.

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😞 SC

I liked the appearance of 'Beleah Rose', which made it more attractive to want to eat the lettuce.

Prefer 'Merlot'

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 MN
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😊

The row of 'Merlot' was thicker. The plants had a more dark burgundy appearance and better flavor. Plants of both varieties were healthy and very good producers. 'Beleah Rose' was slower to bolt.

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Merlot' was crisper.

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I planted these in a shadier area of my yard just to see if they would spring up. They did but I had pest issues with something digging in the bed pretty often. I had a few plants come up, but they struggled. 'Merlot' rated higher for all traits: health, yield and taste.

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😊 SC

They were both beautiful and tasted great. I would grow either one again in a heartbeat.

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😊 SC

This was my first time planting red lettuce, and I was very happy with 'Merlot'—it was exceptional in abundance and in taste. Both varieties had good germination, but 'Merlot' produced earlier (June 30) and produced for about 3 weeks. 'Beleah Rose' was later and did not produce nearly as well.

Both 'Merlot' and 'Beleah Rose' were healthy and very good producers of quality lettuce.

Best red leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice
 New Red Fire

Strong performers
 Merlot
 Red Sails
 Red Salad
 Bowl
 Red Velvet

No Preference

Beleah Rose ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Merlot ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These are very similar varieties. Both got bitter in hot weather.

Conclusions

Both 'Merlot' and 'Beleah Rose' were healthy and very good producers of quality lettuce. Gardeners rated both varieties highly with most gardeners expressing a preference for 'Merlot'. 'Merlot' matched or exceeded 'Beleah Rose' in all traits and was rated especially high for its flavor.

'Merlot' matched or exceeded 'Beleah Rose' in all traits and was rated especially high for its flavor.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 ★★★★★ 😊
 ★★☆☆☆ ☹️

Garden type →
 🐞
 NC

Location →
 NC

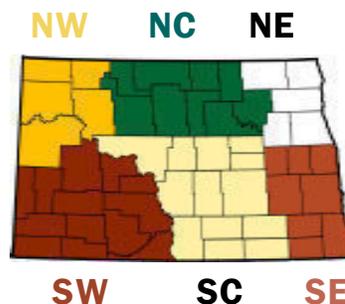
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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Lettuce, Red Lollo

Varieties

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’

53 days. Frilly green leaves with dark red edges. Adds color, volume and texture to salads. Harvest when young. Mild flavor.

‘Revolution’

48 days. Frilly, densely packed, crunchy leaves adds loft to salads. Grows vigorously and can hold in the garden a long time.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dk. Red L. Rossa	Revo-lution	Same
Germinated best	89%	11%	0%
Healthier plants	75	13	13
Harvested earlier	75	13	13
Resisted bolting better	29	29	43
Higher yields	78	11	11
More attractive	38	13	50
Tasted better	75	13	13
Preference	78	22	
Recommend (😊)	78	44	
Mean score ¹	7.89	6.44	
Median score ¹	9.00	6.00	

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

Prefer ‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Revolution ★★★★★☹️🐞 SE

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ produced a higher yield. It held out longer before becoming bitter.

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Revolution ★★★★★😊🐞 NC

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ germinated better and its leaves weren’t as frilly. Both varieties resisted bolting and we ate lettuce from these varieties all the way into August. ‘Revolution’ was frillier; the leaves were very attractive to add in mixed salads. However, for eating just one variety by itself, I preferred ‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’. Both were good.

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Revolution ★★★★★😊🐞 NC

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ tasted less bitter than ‘Revolution’.

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Revolution ★★★★★☹️🐞 SC

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ won all of the tests from germination to taste. ‘Revolution’ had poor germination.

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Revolution ★★★★★☹️🐞 SC

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ grew better in my weedy garden.

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Revolution ★★★★★☹️🐞 NW

‘Revolution’ did not germinate.

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★😊🐞
 Revolution ★★★★★☹️🐞 SW

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ had superior germination, growth and flavor. ‘Revolution’ had very poor germination and weak plants. It also got much more bitter and sooner.

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ was outstanding. It displayed superior germination, yield and flavor.

Best red lollo lettuce variety

Top choice
 Dark Red Lollo Rossa

Prefer ‘Revolution’

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Revolution ★★★★★★ 😊 MN

The taste of ‘Revolution’ stayed milder longer into harvest. I liked its smaller leaves and plants. It was very slow to bolt. The row of ‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ got off to a stronger start, but the rows looked similar during mid-harvest. Its larger, thicker plants appeared to produce more but ‘Revolution’ produced nicely too.

Dark Red Lollo Rossa ★★★★★★ 😞 📦
 Revolution ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

‘Revolution’ germinated very well. It had very high yields and is still producing in August with no bolting. Looks beautiful in the garden and could be in a flower garden. These plants are full and add a wonderful flavor to salads. ‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ had mushroom problems.

Conclusions

‘Dark Red Lollo Rossa’ was a very strong performer. It germinated better, grew faster, was healthier, produced higher yields and tasted better than ‘Revolution’. Both varieties resisted bolting well. ‘Revolution’ did not germinate well in several gardens, and most gardeners did not recommend it.

‘Revolution’ did not germinate well in several gardens, and most gardeners did not recommend it.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★★ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★★ 😞

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

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊

😞

Garden type

🐛 = Organic

📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

Location

NC

Comments

Garden types

🐛 = Organic

📦 = Uses inorganic fertilizers

🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified

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Lettuce, Green Romaine

Varieties

'Little Gem'

40 days. Heirloom prized for its sweet flavor and crunchy texture. Bright green leaves with creamy hearts. Harvest at 4–6 inches.

'Newham'

52 days. Modern variety with uniform, upright heads and great flavor. Dark green leaves with blanched hearts. Slow to bolt.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Little Gem Newham Same		
	Little Gem	Newham	Same
Germinated best	15%	55%	30%
Healthier plants	15	35	50
Harvested earlier	20	50	30
Resisted bolting better	30	20	50
Higher yields	10	60	30
More attractive	15	40	45
Tasted better	16	37	47
Preference	35	65	
Recommend (😊)	50	75	
Mean score ¹	6.60	7.65	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Little Gem'

Little Gem ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 MN
Newham ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 MN

'Little Gem' produced smaller but very dense, crisp heads. 'Newham' was larger but with looser heads.

Little Gem ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE

My Mom and I preferred 'Little Gem' for its crisp, romaine flavor and texture. 'Newham' had no flavor and had the texture of spinach. My daughter thought the flavor of 'Little Gem' was too strong and preferred 'Newham'.

Little Gem ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
Newham ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NC

I preferred the look of 'Little Gem' with its glossy leaves. I felt this variety had an edge on the flavor (a bit sweeter) plus crispier. Its texture and taste won me over! Both varieties produced nice, compact looking, romaine lettuce heads.

Little Gem ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
Newham ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 NC

'Little Gem' germinated better. Only three plants of 'Newham' came up.

Little Gem ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SC
Newham ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SC

Very disappointed in both of these due to poor germination. I got about 5–6 plants from the seeding. Did I plant too late (May 28)? I waited as I had planted an earlier crop of a variety of lettuce. 'Little Gem' did just a little bit better. I'm still waiting for some good romaine . . . it's in the snow right now.

Little Gem ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

Both of these varieties were excellent producers and provided tasty and healthy product. 'Little Gem' produced earlier and a bit more.

Little Gem ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW
Newham ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Little Gem' had good taste.

Both varieties were healthy and produced crisp, delicious lettuce.

Best green romaine lettuce varieties

Top choice
Fusion

Strong performers
Crisp Mint
Green Forest
Newham
Starhawk

Prefer 'Newham'

Little Gem  MN
Newham 

'Newham' had bigger leaves and produced better.

Little Gem  MN
Newham 

'Newham' produced a much higher yield and nice lettuce heads.

Little Gem  NC
Newham 

I will definitely grow both of these varieties again. 'Newham' is almost like a butter lettuce. I was able to use it for lettuce wraps and it was super sweet. 'Little Gem' was crispier and delicious and also sweeter than other romaines that I grow. I started harvesting heads of 'Newham' by July 1. It lasted longer in the garden and I was able to share lots of lettuce with friends.

Little Gem  SC
Newham 

'Newham' was easy to grow and had high yields. The plant was taller and the layers of leaves in the middle were very pretty. Plants of both varieties were very healthy, ready to harvest at the same time, and were very delicious.

Little Gem  SC
Newham 

'Newham' tasted better. It seemed by the time these varieties made a small head they were already starting to bolt. I would like to test them under shade cloth.

Little Gem  SC
Newham 

'Newham' produced more. Although the tastes of the varieties were similar, 'Newham' was preferred. 'Newham' plants returned nicely after being cut too.

Little Gem  SC
Newham 

Both varieties germinated poorly, even after sowing twice. Plants were not healthy and yields were poor. 'Newham' at least had enough to taste—it was bitter by July 14.

Little Gem  SC
Newham 

'Newham' had better taste and hardiness.

Little Gem  NW
Newham 

'Newham' was a gorgeous, sturdy plant. 'Newham' leaves stayed crisp after washing, so unlike green leaf lettuce. 'Little Gem' did not germinate well at all.

Little Gem  NW
Newham 

These varieties do very well in garden "bins" or raised beds. Large yields from both. My neighbors love them! Gorgeous plants. Both varieties were excellent. 'Little Gem' had just a hint of bitterness.

Little Gem  NW
Newham 

'Newham' produced higher yields. 'Little Gem' never bolted—'Newham' did—but 'Little Gem' was slower to produce a yield.

Little Gem  SW
Newham 

'Newham' had a 75% germination rate while 'Little Gem' only germinated 25% of the seeds. Both were beautiful, healthy looking, tasty plants. 'Newham' produced a slightly larger head, while 'Little Gem' grew back better after being harvested. Both produced well into August without bolting—I was impressed!

Little Gem  SW
Newham 

'Newham' had nicer plants and tasted better.

'Newham' grew more vigorously and produced more lettuce. More gardeners felt 'Newham' heads looked and tasted better.

Conclusions

'Newham' was preferred over the standard variety 'Little Gem'. 'Newham' grew more vigorously and produced higher yields. More gardeners felt 'Newham' heads looked and tasted better. Its heads were slightly larger. Both varieties were healthy and produced crisp, delicious lettuce.

Melon, Early Cantaloupe

Varieties

'Minnesota Midget'

70 days. Heirloom. Compact vines produce 3.5-inch-wide melons. Unique flavor.

'Sugar Cube'

80 days. New hybrid noted for its personal-sized, 2-pound fruits. Sweet, deep-orange, aromatic flesh. Vines resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Minn. Midget	Sugar Cube	Same
Germinated best	50%	13%	38%
Healthier plants	38	13	50
Matured earlier	43	14	43
Higher yields	43	29	29
More attractive fruits	13	25	63
Tasted better	33	33	33
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (☺)	88	63	
Mean score ¹	6.13	6.25	
Median score ¹	6.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Minnesota Midget'

Minnesota Midget ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sugar Cube ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Minnesota Midget' grew faster and ripened faster. I should have sowed earlier (sowed June 1) or started them indoors. A pest ate the 'Sugar Cube' plants so they did not produce. I had a total of one ripe 'Minnesota Midget' melon. It was amazing, so I'll definitely try it again.

Minnesota Midget ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sugar Cube ★★★★★ ☹ NC

Both varieties had near 100% germination. Their vines were healthy and produced fruits around the same time. Their yields were good. The grayish rind of 'Sugar Cube' made it more attractive. 'Minnesota Midget' tasted better, although both tasted good.

Minnesota Midget ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sugar Cube ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Minnesota Midget' melons lasted longer on the vine.

Minnesota Midget ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sugar Cube ★★★★★ ☹ SD

'Minnesota Midget' had better yield and healthier fruit.

Prefer 'Sugar Cube'

Minnesota Midget ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sugar Cube ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Sugar Cube' cantaloupes looked more attractive.

Minnesota Midget ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Sugar Cube ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Sugar Cube' plants were bigger, healthier and had more blossoms. We got so much rain that all the melons rotted on the vine.

Minnesota Midget ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Sugar Cube ★★★★★ ☺ SC

Cutworms damaged both varieties; only one 'Minnesota Midget' and two 'Sugar Cube' plants survived. 'Sugar Cube' ripened 1 week earlier. This first cantaloupe was delicious! The rest of the melons in the trial ripened much later. It became very rainy; the cantaloupes did not ripen well; their flesh was not crisp. 'Sugar Cube' produced more melons per plant.

'Minnesota Midget' was a more consistent performer during this cooler than normal growing season.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

No Preference

Minnesota Midget ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Sugar Cube ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SD

Neither variety grew bigger than baseballs. I did not harvest them.

Conclusions

'Minnesota Midget' was a more consistent performer during this cooler than normal growing season. It germinated better, matured earlier and was more productive at more sites. A remarkably high percentage of gardeners recommended it, although its ratings were not especially high. Yields of both varieties were low due to pests and cool weather. In some cases, gardeners celebrated after harvesting a single ripe melon.

Yields of both varieties were low due to pests and cool weather. In some cases, gardeners celebrated after harvesting a single ripe melon.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺️
 Variety B ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

☺️ = Yes
 ☹️ = No

Location →

NC

Comments →

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

Garden types

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

Locations

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
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- SK = Saskatchewan
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- MT = Montana

Melon, Mid-Size Cantaloupe

Varieties

'Athena'

75 days. Melons are 5–6 pounds with thick, orange flesh. Most popular cantaloupe in the north.

'Sarah's Choice'

76 days. Widely known as one of the most flavorful cantaloupes. Oval, 3-pound fruits. Easy to grow. From New Hampshire.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Athena	Sarah's Choice	Same
Germinated best	42%	0%	58%
Healthier plants	42	8	50
Matured earlier	60	30	10
Higher yields	50	30	20
More attractive fruits	60	20	20
Tasted better	10	20	70
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	70	70	
Mean score ¹	7.30	7.10	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Athena'

Athena ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Athena' had more vigorous growth and was more disease resistant. 'Athena' produced higher yields with larger melons. 'Sarah's Choice' only produced two melons that were able to ripen within this growing season.

Athena ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Athena' melons were larger and ripened better.

Athena ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Athena' always gives you plenty of delicious melons to enjoy early in the season. 'Athena' may be just a little sweeter but both varieties were delicious. When the rains finally came in mid-August, the melons had to be turned often and watched for when they were ready to eat. The moisture made so melons did not keep very well for storing. Enjoyed anyway.

Athena ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Sarah's Choice' had very poor germination.

Athena ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Athena' germinated quicker. Its leaves were healthier. 'Athena' produced a very abundant crop, and its melons were large and had a nice shape. 'Sarah's Choice' vines seemed to have more issues with powdery mildew. It produced a sparse crop and its melons were smaller. I was disappointed with the taste of both varieties—not much flavor.

Prefer 'Sarah's Choice'

Athena ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Sarah's Choice' performed better. It produced earlier melons and more melons.

'Athena' matured earlier, produced higher yields, and its fruits were more attractive compared to those of 'Sarah's Choice'.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Prefer 'Sarah's Choice' (cont.)

Athena ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Sarah's Choice' melons were slightly larger. The melons of both varieties were very sweet. Drip irrigation was used in this trial. We received less than 3 inches of rain from May 15 through Labor Day.

Athena ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😊 SC

We had planted cantaloupe before with poor results and hadn't planted any for a few years. We had a great crop this year with very tasty fruit! These varieties showed no significant differences.

Athena ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sarah's Choice' had 28 melons compared with 18 for 'Athena'. They ripened earlier and tasted better.

Athena ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Sarah's Choice ★★★★★ 😊 SC

My family thought 'Sarah's Choice' was sweeter and better tasting by far over 'Athena'. We will plant 'Sarah's Choice' again next year. Germination for this trial and my entire garden was poor. My single 'Sarah's Choice' plant yielded four fruits and my six plants of 'Athena' yielded a total of six fruits.

Conclusions

'Athena' is the most popular cantaloupe in the Midwest. It matured earlier, produced higher yields, and its fruits were more attractive compared to those of 'Sarah's Choice'. 'Athena' germinated better and its vines were healthier at more sites. Gardeners loved the taste of both varieties and were split on the variety they preferred.

Gardeners loved the taste of both varieties and were split on the variety they preferred.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

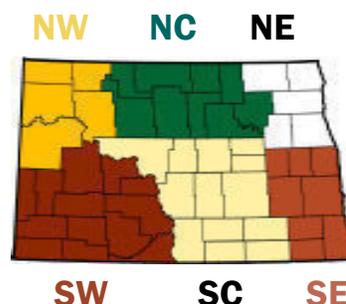
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

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Melon, Large Cantaloupe

Varieties

'Carousel'

80 days. Large, ribbed fruits grow 6–9 pounds. Small seed cavity and firm, thick flesh. Good yields.

'Solstice'

76 days. Thick, orange flesh is very sweet and flavorful. Fruits are deeply sutured and grow 6–9 pounds. Proven performer in North Dakota.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Carousel	Solstice	Same
Germinated best	17%	50%	33%
Healthier plants	33	50	17
Matured earlier	17	83	0
Higher yields	33	50	17
More attractive fruits	50	0	50
Tasted better	17	33	50
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (☺)	50	67	
Mean score ¹	7.00	7.83	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Carousel'

Carousel ☺ NC
Solstice ☹

'Carousel' produced almost double the yield. Yellowjackets ate every melon that became ripe.

Carousel ☹
Solstice ☹ SC

We sowed them indoors, but many of the plants died after transplanting. We sowed directly in the garden and had poor germination. We harvested very few melons, but these melons were good. 'Carousel' tasted better.

Prefer 'Solstice'

Carousel ☹ SE
Solstice ☺

It was a cold, wet spring. 'Carousel' had only 15% germination; 'Solstice' 35%. 'Carousel' was slow to ripen.

Carousel ☺ NC
Solstice ☺

'Solstice' produced a lot earlier than 'Carousel'. 'Carousel' fruits were larger. This was not a hot summer so it took a little longer to produce ripened fruit.

Carousel ☺ NC
Solstice ☺

'Solstice' produced very large melons for the short growing season we have here in North Dakota.

Carousel ☹
Solstice ☺ SC

'Solstice' ripened later but had higher yields and better flavored fruit.

Conclusions

'Solstice' was a more reliable performer across sites, and most gardeners preferred it over 'Carousel'. 'Solstice' germinated better, had healthier vines, matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners especially liked the looks of 'Carousel' melons, and they enjoyed the flavor of both varieties.

'Solstice' was a more reliable performer across sites. It matured earlier and produced higher yields.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Melon, Green Honeydew

Varieties

‘Earli-Dew’

80 days. A reliable, early ripening honeydew. Lime-green flesh has excellent flavor and texture. Melon slips off the vine when ripe.

‘Honeycomb’

78 days. Early maturing, large-sized honeydew. Icy green, sweet flesh with outstanding flavor and aroma. Vines resist diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 5 sites submitted information.

Trait	Earli-Dew	Honeycomb	Same
Germinated best	40%	40%	20%
Healthier plants	25	50	25
Matured earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	25	0	75
More attractive fruits	25	50	25
Tasted better	25	75	0
Preference	25	75	
Recommend (😊)	100	100	
Mean score ¹	7.75	8.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer ‘Earli-Dew’

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Earli-Dew’ was a bit sweeter. We may have picked them too early; we still have many growing and some blooms yet! (August 26). ‘Honeycomb’ had more plants emerge. ‘Honeycomb’ melons appeared more oval and slightly larger.

Prefer ‘Honeycomb’

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I liked the taste of ‘Honeycomb’ better. ‘Honeycomb’ melons did not snap off the vine very easily when ripe; ‘Earli-Dew’ melons snapped off quickly.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 SE

‘Honeycomb’ tasted better.

Earli-Dew - - 🐛
Honeycomb - - SE

Rabbits caused damage; only ‘Honeycomb’ vines survived. It was difficult to know when they were ripe; it pulls hard off stem when ripe. Its fruits were great—very attractive and very good taste.

Earli-Dew ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Honeycomb ★★★★★ 😊 SD

‘Honeycomb’ tasted better. The vines of both varieties were healthy—we had plenty of rain this year. ‘Earli-Dew’ had the first ripe melons. Both varieties produced nice melons. It was hard for me to tell when the fruits were ripe, so may not have caught some fruits at their prime.

Conclusions

‘Earli-Dew’ has been the standard honeydew grown in the north for many years. Although testing is limited, it is exciting to see a new variety outperform it. ‘Honeycomb’ matched ‘Earli-Dew’ for earliness and exceeded it for taste qualities. Gardeners had a hard time determining when to harvest these melons, especially those of ‘Honeycomb’.

**‘Honeycomb’
matched
‘Earli-Dew’ for
earliness and
exceeded it for
taste qualities.**

Best honeydew varieties

Top choice
Earli-Dew

Strong
performers

Honey
Orange
Honeycomb

Melon, Orange Honeydew

Varieties

'Honey Blonde'

71 days. Orange flesh is sweet and flavorful. Vigorous vines resist diseases and tolerate cool weather. Early ripening.

'Honey Orange'

74 days. Flesh is pale salmon orange, thick, crisp and delicious. Oval fruits with ivory rind. Matures early and tolerates cool conditions.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Honey Blonde	Honey Orange	Same
Germinated best	17%	67%	17%
Healthier plants	50	33	17
Matured earlier	50	50	0
Higher yields	50	33	17
More attractive fruits	17	50	33
Tasted better	0	83	17
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (😊)	50	100	
Mean score ¹	5.50	7.50	
Median score ¹	5.50	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Honey Blonde'

Honey Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Honey Orange ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Honey Blonde' germinated better, produced the first ripe fruits, and had beautifully colored flesh—almost cantaloupe-like. 'Honey Orange' tasted awesome; the texture of 'Honey Blonde' was a little drier. The vines of both varieties dried down well before the first frost.

Honey Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Honey Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Honey Blonde' ripened first but was not very sweet. It seemed that when they got ripe, I did not get to eat them—an animal was eating them, and I had trouble with spots and rotting.

Prefer 'Honey Orange'

Honey Blonde ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Honey Orange ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I planted late—poor growing season—neither variety produced many ripe melons. 'Honey Blonde' set more melons but many didn't become ripe before frost. I liked the taste of 'Honey Orange' best. I liked both varieties and would plant both again.

Honey Blonde ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Honey Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Honey Orange' was better tasting and produced more fruit.

Honey Blonde ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Honey Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Honey Orange' had 16 melons and they were very tasty. 'Honey Blonde' had very few melons.

Honey Blonde ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Honey Orange ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Honey Orange' ripened earlier. Its fruits were more attractive and tasted better. 'Honey Blonde' had thicker skin and produced fewer fruits.

Conclusions

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

'Honey Orange' looked very promising. Its fruits were delicious, and every gardener recommended the variety.

Best honeydew varieties

Top choice
Earli-Dew

Strong performers

Honey
Orange
Honeycomb

Melon, Korean

Varieties

'Sun Jewel'

68 days. Oblong fruits are lemon yellow with shallow white sutures. White, crisp flesh. High yields. Grows well in cool climates.

'Torpedo'

65 days. Crisp, sweet, white flesh. Very early and easy to grow. Vines are productive. Fruits slip off the vine when ripe.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sun Jewel	Torpedo	Same
Germinated best	33%	0%	67%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Matured earlier	100	0	0
Higher yields	100	0	0
More attractive fruits	100	0	0
Tasted better	50	0	50
Preference	100	0	
Recommend (😊)	67	0	
Mean score ¹	6.33	1.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	1.00	

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

Prefer 'Sun Jewel'

Sun Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Torpedo ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 MN

These melons ripened early but had poor taste even when picked ripe. We threw most of the melons away. They were not sweet; tasted like cucumbers. We will not plant this again. It was wasted garden space to grow these.

Sun Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Torpedo ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

'Sun Jewel' ripened early and was very productive. The flavor of 'Sun Jewel' is distinctive and refreshing. 'Torpedo' was a big disappointment. Its yields were poor and its melons were small.

Sun Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Torpedo ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

I harvested about 10 pounds of 'Sun Jewel'. I was surprised its flesh was white. 'Torpedo' germinated poorly and did not produce any fruits.

Sun Jewel ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Torpedo ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SC

I had a seed failure with 'Torpedo'. I harvested about 10 pounds of 'Sun Jewel'. I was surprised the flesh was white.

Prefer 'Torpedo'

None.

Conclusions

'Sun Jewel' has performed well in the past, and it performed well in 2019. It produced good yields at all sites. The flesh of 'Sun Jewel' was white and distinctive. One gardener felt its taste was pleasant and refreshing, while another gardener thought it tasted like cucumbers. All gardeners were disappointed with 'Torpedo'. Its yields were very poor. 'Torpedo' was the lowest rated vegetable variety in the history of our trials.

'Sun Jewel' produced good yields. Gardeners had mixed feelings about the taste of its white flesh.

Best Korean melon variety

Top choice
 Sun Jewel

Pea, Shell

Varieties

'Lincoln'

65 days. Good for freezing. Pods are filled with 8–10 tender peas. Excellent flavor. Grows 28 inches.

'Maestro'

61 days. Early yields of dark green, sweet peas. Strong, disease-resistant vines grow 24 inches tall.



Data

Gardeners at 33 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lincoln	Maestro	Same
Germinated best	58%	23%	19%
Healthier plants	62	8	31
Matured earlier	38	46	15
Higher yields	83	9	9
More attractive pods	67	8	25
Tasted better	44	4	52
Preference	92	8	
Recommend (☺)	92	38	
Mean score ¹	8.79	6.28	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Lincoln'

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☺ MN
 Both varieties were good.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Maestro ★☆☆☆☆ ☹ MN
 'Lincoln' germinated better. 'Maestro' had poor germination; in a 10-foot row we had only four plants.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☹ MN
 'Lincoln' was sweeter.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☺ MN
 Both varieties produced fairly well. 'Lincoln' had long pods; blight was on 'Maestro' vines.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 MN
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☹

'Lincoln' had longer pods, more peas in the pods, and produced much longer. It had a much better yield. 'Maestro' seedlings came up first and produced earlier; it was nice to have an earlier variety for the first taste.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 SE
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☹

'Lincoln' was so much sweeter. 'Maestro' seemed to have more peas per pod.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛 SE
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☹

'Maestro' had very poor germination (less than 50%) and uneven filling of pods. Often half of each pod had no peas in them.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 SE
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☺ SE
 'Lincoln' produced better.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠 SE
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Lincoln' tasted better.

Lincoln ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛 SE
 Maestro ★★★★★ ☹ SE
 'Lincoln' had close to a 100% germination rate; whereas the rate of 'Maestro' was 60%. 'Lincoln' had much more vigorous growth. It had more pods on the vines, along with fuller pods and a higher yield. Sweetness between the varieties was about equal, but 'Lincoln' by far outproduced 'Maestro'.

'Lincoln' has proven again it is the finest all-purpose garden pea for North Dakota. Nearly every gardener recommended it.

Best shell pea varieties

Top choice
Lincoln

Strong performers

- Early Frosty
- Green Arrow
- Knight
- Little Marvel
- Maestro
- Improved Wando

Prefer 'Lincoln' (continued)

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 SE
 'Lincoln' had higher yields and tasted better.

Lincoln  😞 
 Maestro  😞 SE
 Both varieties had low yields; 'Lincoln' yields were slightly higher.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😊 SE
 The germination rate of 'Lincoln' was two times higher. Deer ate the crop.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😊 NC
 Both varieties grew a good crop.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 NC
 Both are good varieties and had good yields. Pods had an average of nine peas per pod. 'Lincoln' had a longer, straight pod. 'Maestro' ripened about a week earlier and some of its pods were curled.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 SC
 I would love to see 'Maestro' again as the germination was only about 25%. 'Lincoln' produced really well and tasted really good.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 SC
 'Lincoln' had at least double the amount of plants, and its peas were of better quality. 'Maestro' didn't do well. Its plants were slim, and the pods were few.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 SC
 This is the first year we had a great crop of peas! 'Lincoln' was better in everything overall. It had good germination, flavor and yields.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😊 NW
 'Lincoln' had superior yield, shape of pods, and flavor of peas.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 NW
 We prefer 'Lincoln'. It produces an abundance of peas, delicious flavor. 'Lincoln' is the best of any trial of peas I have done.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😊 SW
 'Lincoln' produced higher yields. Its pods looked more attractive and tasted better.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 SW
 'Lincoln' had better germination and taste. 'Maestro' had terrible germination.

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😞 SD
 'Lincoln' tasted better, both raw and cooked. 'Maestro' peas were hard and flavorless. 'Maestro' pods were large but had few peas in them; hard to shell. It was wet this year, and the plants of both varieties turned moldy before they were done producing.

Prefer 'Maestro'

Lincoln  😊 
 Maestro  😊 NE
 'Maestro' had a better yield.

Lincoln  😞 
 Maestro  😊 SC
 'Maestro' had bigger peas, nicer looking pods and more flavor.

Conclusions

'Lincoln' has proven again it is the finest all-purpose garden pea for North Dakota. It received very high ratings and was recommended by an overwhelming percentage of gardeners. It germinated better and produced much higher yields over a longer season. Its pods were attractive and easy to shell. 'Maestro' germinated poorly at several sites, indicating seed quality and not the cultivar itself may have been a factor. However, 'Maestro' productivity and pod quality were inferior even in sites where good stands were established. 'Maestro' produced the first harvest at more sites; otherwise it was a poor performer.

'Lincoln' germinated better and produced higher yields. Its pods were attractive and easy to shell.

Pea, Short-Vine Snap

Varieties

'Cascadia'

62 days. Crisp, sugary, stringless pods. The 32-inch vines produce good yields. Trellising is optional.

'Sugar Ann'

52 days. Very early and reliable. The 27-inch vines produce sweet, crisp pods. Trellising is optional.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sugar		
	Cascadia	Ann	Same
Germinated best	25%	33%	42%
Healthier plants	24	40	36
Matured earlier	21	71	8
Higher yields	26	52	22
More attractive pods	21	42	38
Tasted better	13	58	29
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (😊)	67	88	
Mean score ¹	6.79	8.04	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Cascadia'

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😞 NE

These varieties didn't impress us, particularly 'Sugar Ann'. 'Cascadia' had tender pods and less powdery mildew in August.

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Sugar Ann' was slow to start. 'Cascadia' was more vigorous and produced more yield.

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Cascadia' vines looked healthier and had more attractive pods. 'Sugar Ann' produced higher yields. They both tasted really good.

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 NC
 'Cascadia' pods were one and a half times larger with more peas. 'Sugar Ann' was better tasting and earlier producing.

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SC
 Overall, we had a good pea crop. Both varieties emerged pretty good and produced a lot of pods. 'Cascadia' vines were healthier overall and produced longer into the season. Its pods were darker green, more flavorful and crisper. 'Sugar Ann' pods were sweeter. I would grow both again.

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 'Cascadia' produced a better yield, taller vine.

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😞 NW
 'Cascadia' tasted sweeter. 'Sugar Ann' matured earlier, and its pods were darker green and more attractive. The varieties produced a similar number of pods.

Cascadia ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 NW
 Some of the vines were munched off and I replanted some of each variety. Both caught up fairly well with the first planting. 'Cascadia' had larger pods, but 'Sugar Ann' was sweeter. 'Cascadia' had taller vines. I think both varieties would have benefited with some staking.

'Cascadia' was recommended by most gardeners, but the variety did not excel in any trait.

Best snap pea varieties

Top choice
 Sugar Ann

Strong performers
 Sugar Sprint
 Super Sugar
 Snap

Prefer 'Sugar Ann'

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Sugar Ann' had better germination and produced more pods. I will grow 'Sugar Ann' again.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I was very happy with both varieties. 'Sugar Ann' pods were crunchy, thinner and sweeter. 'Cascadia' pods sometimes became thick, so I took the peas out of them. 'Cascadia' pods sometimes got bumpy on the outside, so I threw them. Both varieties produced throughout the summer; maybe because it was such a wet summer.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 NE

'Sugar Ann' tasted better and matured earlier. Its downside was its plants were only half the size of 'Cascadia' plants. Only half the seeds of both varieties germinated.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Sugar Ann' had better yield and taste.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Sugar Ann' excelled in all traits. Our garden was poor and flooded out.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SE

I grew both varieties in raised planters with trellises. 'Sugar Ann' performed better by far. It produced more pods, and its pods did not get scorched by the sun. 'Cascadia' pods got scorched.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Sugar Ann' had a longer production time. Both varieties had good flavor and nice pods.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Sugar Ann' tasted better and produced more.

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties grew well. 'Sugar Ann' produced the first pods, but 'Cascadia' produced a lot of pods a couple of weeks later; the overall yields were similar. Both varieties produced great peas and lots of them!

Cascadia ★★☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Sugar Ann ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Cascadia' vines produced more peas. My family thought 'Sugar Ann' tasted better.

Gardeners were very impressed with the earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste of 'Sugar Ann'.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

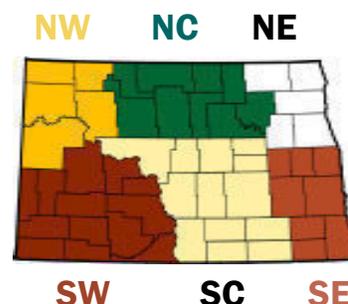
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★☆☆☆

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
- SE = Southeast
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Prefer 'Sugar Ann' (continued)

Cascadia  😊 
 Sugar Ann  😊 SC

'Sugar Ann' tasted a little better. The rabbits in my neighborhood loved both varieties. They ate my plants down to stubs, but both varieties came back and produced wonderfully!

Cascadia  😊 
 Sugar Ann  😊 SW

I enjoyed the taste of 'Sugar Ann' more.

Cascadia  😞 
 Sugar Ann  😊 SW

Both varieties had sweet pods, but 'Sugar Ann' had a better yield.

Cascadia  😞  
 Sugar Ann  😊 SW

'Sugar Ann' performed very well. Sugar Ann was a clear winner on health and taste—extremely tasty.

Cascadia  😊 
 Sugar Ann  😊 SW

Both had excellent germination; I did not trellis either variety but wished I had (the plants really laid in the dirt). Neither had great yields but the area in the garden they were planted never produces terribly well. I suspect the difficult location contributed to their lackluster performance. The pods really were good, just poor yields. 'Cascadia' had larger, less lumpy pods, while 'Sugar Ann' pods were decidedly sweeter and juicier.

Cascadia  😞 
 Sugar Ann  😊 SW

'Sugar Ann' vines were 4–6 inches taller. They produced slightly more pods. The pods had a sweeter flavor.

Conclusions

'Sugar Ann' has proven again it is the best snap pea for North Dakota. It received very high ratings and was preferred by most gardeners. Gardeners were very impressed with its earliness, healthy vines, high yields and delicious taste. 'Cascadia' was recommended by most gardeners, but it did not excel in any trait.

'Sugar Ann' has proven again it is the best snap pea for North Dakota.

Pea, Tall-Vine Snap

Varieties

'PL141'

60 days. Huge, 4-inch pods are sweet and curved. Vigorous 3–4-foot vines require trellising.

'Super Sugar Snap'

66 days. Earlier and more resistant to diseases than 'Sugar Snap'. Vines grow 4–6 feet and require trellising.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Super S.		
	PL141	Snap	Same
Germinated best	21%	43%	36%
Healthier plants	21	50	29
Matured earlier	29	64	7
Higher yields	21	64	14
More attractive pods	20	40	40
Tasted better	8	38	54
Preference	29	71	
Recommend (☺)	36	86	
Mean score ¹	6.64	7.64	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'PL141'

PL141 ☺ SE
 Super Sugar Snap ☺ SE
 'PL141' had a higher germination rate. Its vines were healthier and produced better. The pods of both varieties tasted very good.

PL141 ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ☺ SC
 'PL141' vines grew higher and were easier to pick. 'PL141' had narrower pods, which made them more attractive and their ratio of peas to pods more enjoyable.

PL141 ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ☹ SC
 'PL141' germinated better, had healthier vines, produced earlier and produced more.

PL141 ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ☺ SW
 'PL141' vines were healthier.

Prefer 'Super Sugar Snap'

PL141 ☹
 Super Sugar Snap ☺ MN
 I would plant 'Super Sugar Snap' again. It germinated first and more of its seeds germinated. Its vines were taller, had more pods per plant and produced 2 weeks longer. The pods of both varieties were delicious! Kids ate them straight off the vine; the pods had a nice size.

PL141 ☺
 Super Sugar Snap ☺ SE
 'Super Sugar Snap' had better taste and performance. Yields were earlier and higher.

PL141 ☹
 Super Sugar Snap ☺ NC
 I liked the flavor of 'Super Sugar Snap'.

PL141 ☹
 Super Sugar Snap ☺ NC
 I had a poor crop—rabbits, powdery mildew and cool weather made for very few pods. I sprayed with Daconil but it didn't work as well as in previous years. I have planted and was successful with 'Super Sugar Snap' before.

'PL141' was generally inferior. Most gardeners did not recommend it.

Best snap pea varieties

Top choice
 Sugar Ann

Strong performers
 Sugar Sprint
 Super Sugar Snap

Prefer ‘Super Sugar Snap’ (cont.)

PL141 
 Super Sugar Snap  SC

‘Super Sugar Snap’ was very aggressive in growth and grew at least 1 foot higher. It needs at least a 4-foot-tall trellis. Its vines were fuller—produced more peas—pods were larger and more consistent in size.

PL141 
 Super Sugar Snap  SC

‘Super Sugar Snap’ germinated 50% better and produced better yield. I liked its climbing vines—seemed to discourage the rabbits.

PL141 
 Super Sugar Snap  SC

‘Super Sugar Snap’ had sweeter and fuller pods. Its vines grew taller.

PL141 
 Super Sugar Snap  NW

Both varieties germinated poorly. A few ‘Super Sugar Snap’ vines reached 3 feet; a few ‘PL141’ vines grew 2 feet tall. Both varieties produced large pods and tasted good. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ produced more pods. I have planted a snap pea variety before and the plants were 4-feet tall, bushy, with lots of pods harvested. Maybe it was the year—dry in spring, cold August, super wet/cold September.

PL141 
 Super Sugar Snap  NW
 I love the flavor of ‘Super Sugar Snap’.

PL141 
 Super Sugar Snap  SW
 I would grow ‘Super Sugar Snap’ again. It had better flavor and yield.

Conclusions

‘Super Sugar Snap’ was the clear winner, excelling in all categories. It germinated better and its vines grew more vigorously. ‘Super Sugar Snap’ vines produced earlier crops and higher yields overall. Gardeners liked the look and taste of its pods. A very high percentage of gardeners recommended ‘Super Sugar Snap’; whereas, most gardeners did not recommend ‘PL141’. ‘PL141’ was not special in any way.

‘Super Sugar Snap’ was the clear winner. It was earlier and produced higher yields of delicious pods.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

Variety A 
 Variety B  NC

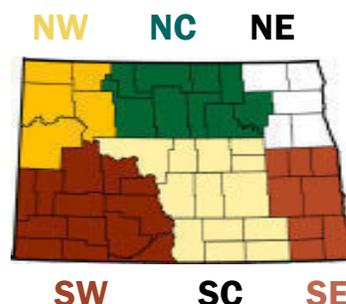
‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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

Locations

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Pumpkin, Early

Varieties

'Orange Sunrise'

90 days. Round, 15-pound pumpkins show orange color early in summer. Great for cool climates.

'Racer Plus'

85 days. Compact vines produce 12-pound fruits with deep ribs, strong handles and deep color.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Orange Sunrise	Racer Plus	Same
Germinated best	45%	18%	36%
Healthier plants	30	30	40
Harvested earlier	56	33	11
Higher yields	45	27	27
Bigger pumpkins	56	33	11
More attractive	33	22	44
Preference	55	45	
Recommend (😊)	82	73	
Mean score ¹	7.36	6.82	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	
Median weight (lbs)	9	8	

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

Prefer 'Orange Sunrise'

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Orange Sunrise' matured earlier. We harvested 16 'Orange Sunrise' and 6 'Racer Plus' pumpkins. The 'Orange Sunrise' pumpkins had a nice size and a lovely, pure-orange color. Both varieties germinated well, and their vines were healthy.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Orange Sunrise' vines had bigger leaves and more blossoms. These vines produced more and bigger pumpkins.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 🍷
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I preferred 'Orange Sunrise' because of the beautiful color and the uniform shape of its pumpkins.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Orange Sunrise' had eight pumpkins, and they looked very nice and orange with a good size. 'Racer Plus' did not germinate.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Orange Sunrise' outperformed 'Racer Plus' in every category.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Orange Sunrise' germinated at 100% and its vines grew in a traditional vine pattern. 'Racer Plus' had 88% germination. Its vines grew in more of a bush pattern, so it would work better for families with limited space. The pumpkins of 'Orange Sunrise' were bright orange while those of 'Racer Plus' were more of a traditional darker orange. My kids loved the size and color of 'Orange Sunrise' better and I preferred the color of 'Racer Plus'.

'Orange Sunrise' matured earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Its pumpkins were bright orange.

Best semi-vine jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
Neon

Strong performers
Gladiator
Magic Lantern

Prefer ‘Racer Plus’

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN

‘Racer Plus’ did well during a difficult growing season. Its vines were dark green and larger. ‘Racer Plus’ produced 13 pumpkins; these were generally larger and had a perfect shape! ‘Orange Sunrise’ produced 10 pumpkins; all but three of these remained green throughout the growing season.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 MN
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MN

We were excited about the amount of pumpkins we harvested in spite of the tough summer weather. ‘Orange Sunrise’ pumpkins were larger (12–15 pounds versus 10-13 pounds for ‘Racer Plus’), but we were not looking for a larger size pumpkin. They all grew in a standard shape; none were odd shaped—I’m happy with the results.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SE
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE

The pumpkins of both varieties were smaller than I expected. ‘Racer Plus’ pumpkins had a maximum of 10 inches in diameter; these fruits had a nice shape and color. ‘Orange Sunrise’ pumpkins had a diameter of 7 inches; its pumpkins were tall and irregular.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

‘Racer Plus’ had more vigor. It produced more and larger pumpkins. Its pumpkins were 8–10 pounds, while ‘Orange Sunrise’ pumpkins were 6–8 pounds. ‘Orange Sunrise’ leaves had some blight.

Orange Sunrise ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 MT
 Racer Plus ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 MT

‘Racer Plus’ pumpkins looked very nice. They were bright orange and perfect for carving. It was fun to raise them and give them away to the kids in the neighborhood. My toddler enjoyed watching them grow. ‘Orange Sunrise’ seed did not germinate. I found wireworms in the first and second plantings (the second planting was in another location). ‘Racer Plus’ was sowed in the same general area and germinated well.

‘Racer Plus’ had darker orange pumpkins. Its vines were compact and well suited for gardeners with limited space.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced attractive pumpkins, but most gardeners preferred ‘Orange Sunrise’. It matured earlier—always a nice trait for northern gardens. ‘Orange Sunrise’ produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners liked its bright orange fruits. ‘Racer Plus’ had darker orange pumpkins. The compact vines of ‘Racer Plus’ were well suited for gardeners with limited space.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

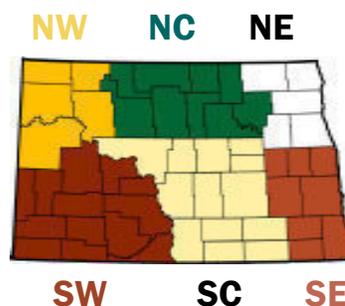
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

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Pumpkin, Large

Varieties

‘Early King’

90 days. Deep-orange, 20-pound jack-o’-lanterns with strong handles. Resists mildew. Early.

‘Kratos’

100 days. Disease-resistant, semi-bush vines produce 20-pound pumpkins with strong handles.



Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early King	Kratos	Same
Germinated best	37%	21%	42%
Healthier plants	18	24	59
Harvested earlier	35	29	35
Higher yields	47	26	26
Bigger pumpkins	53	24	24
More attractive	39	28	33
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (☺)	68	68	
Mean score ¹	7.16	7.11	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	
Median weight (lbs)	19	15	

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

Prefer ‘Early King’

Early King ☺
Kratos ☺ MN

Both varieties were good. I was looking for jack-o’-lantern size so ‘Early King’ was the winner with the bigger pumpkins (13–15 pounds compared to 10–13 pounds for ‘Kratos’). It was ready to harvest earlier (September 13) and produced two times the number of pumpkins.

Early King ☺
Kratos ☺ MN

‘Early King’ had nice, big pumpkins but not so big that I couldn’t move them. Both varieties produced nice pumpkins.

Early King ☺
Kratos ☺ MN

We had tough summer weather, but both varieties did well. ‘Early King’ fruits had a nice size and good form; its stem was nice and thick. ‘Early King’ fruits weighed 15–18 pounds, compared to 12–15 pounds for ‘Kratos’. We will consider planting these varieties next year.

Early King ☹
Kratos ☹ MN

Both varieties got powdery mildew and I sprayed the vines with fungicide. The plants finally died, but pumpkins were all ripe. ‘Early King’ produced more pumpkins and they were larger in size.

Early King ☺
Kratos ☺ MN

I was looking for large fruit and ‘Early King’ was the largest.

Early King ☺
Kratos ☹ SE

‘Early King’ pumpkins were larger (20 pounds compared to 15 pounds for ‘Kratos’) and easier to carve.

Early King ☺
Kratos ☹ NC

Both had good looking fruits, but I liked the ribs of ‘Early King’ a bit more. ‘Early King’ produced more pumpkins, too. Both varieties produced pumpkins that weighed 8–12 pounds.

‘Early King’ produced larger pumpkins (19 pounds compared to 15 pounds for ‘Kratos’) and a higher yield at more sites.

Best jack-o’-lantern varieties

Top choice
Early King

Strong performers
Autumn Gold
Cronus
Early Dakota
Howden
Gladiator
Magic Lantern

Prefer 'Early King' (continued)

Early King  NC
 Kratos  NC

Both varieties produced many pumpkins in the extremely dry conditions this summer without any irrigation. 'Early King' pumpkins were bigger.

Early King  SC
 Kratos  SC

'Early King' had a higher yield. The pumpkins of both varieties averaged 8 pounds in weight.

Early King  SC
 Kratos  SC

'Early King' had many more pumpkins. These pumpkins had a nicer color, shape and size. The germination of 'Kratos' was very poor.

Early King  SW
 Kratos  SW

'Early King' had big, very attractive fruits. Overall, it grew better than 'Kratos'. I really enjoyed both varieties.

Early King  SD
 Kratos  SD

'Early King' produced one of the larger fruits. Most pumpkins of both varieties were at about 8 pounds and green at first frost.

Prefer 'Kratos'

Early King  MN
 Kratos  MN

'Kratos' had a better shape and higher production.

Early King  SE
 Kratos  SE

Both varieties germinated poorly. 'Kratos' pumpkins were larger (15 pounds compared to 10 pounds for 'Early King') and more attractive.

Early King  NC
 Kratos  NC

'Kratos' was the only variety that grew much this year.

Early King  NC
 Kratos  NC

The stem on 'Kratos' was enormous which made the pumpkin seem very sturdy.

Early King  SC
 Kratos  SC

I sowed 'Early King' twice—no seeds germinated. 'Kratos' produced six pumpkins that averaged 20 pounds each.

Early King  SC
 Kratos  SC

'Kratos' won hands down. I had at least seven Kratos plants germinate and one or two plants of 'Early King'.

Early King  SW
 Kratos  SW

Both varieties germinated at only 50% due to weather. 'Kratos' matured a bit earlier; this was important for me since we had a very short growing season. No mildew with either of these varieties. I used a soaker hose to irrigate, and I had lots of large fruits. I enjoyed growing them both.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties but 'Early King' was preferred by the majority. 'Early King' produced larger pumpkins (19 pounds compared to 15 pounds for 'Kratos') and a higher yield at more sites. Gardeners liked the size, shape and sturdy stems on the fruits of both varieties. Susceptibility to powdery mildew was mentioned by a single gardener.

Gardeners liked the size, shape and sturdy stems on the fruits of both varieties.

Pumpkin, Cooking

Varieties

'Cinderella's Carriage'

100 days. New award winner. Thirty-pound fruits have sweet yellow flesh with nutty flavor.

'Rouge Vif D'Etampes'

105 days. French heirloom known as 'Cinderella'. Scarlet fruits prized for making yummy pies and dishes.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cind. Carriage	Rouge V. D'Et.	Same
Germinated best	20%	40%	40%
Healthier plants	20	10	70
Harvested earlier	44	33	22
Higher yields	33	44	22
More attractive	56	11	33
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	56	44	
Recommend (☺)	89	78	
Mean score ¹	7.89	6.78	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Cinderella's Carriage'

Cinderella's Carriage ★★★★★☺🍂🍂
 Rouge Vif D'Etampes ★★★★★☹️ NE

'Cinderella's Carriage' set its fruits very late. 'Rouge Vif D'Etampes' did not even have female flowers.

Cinderella's Carriage ★★★★★☺️🍂
 Rouge Vif D'Etampes ★★★★★☺️ SW

'Cinderella's Carriage' pumpkins were larger, ripened earlier and were more attractive. 'Rouge Vif D'Etampes' germinated better and produced 13 fruits compared to 11 pumpkins for 'Cinderella's Carriage'.

Cinderella's Carriage ★★★★★☺️🍂
 Rouge Vif D'Etampes ★★★★★☹️ SC

All of 'Cinderella's Carriage' plants grew amazing. Only one 'Rouge Vif D'Etampes' plant survived.

Cinderella's Carriage ★★★★★☺️🍂
 Rouge Vif D'Etampes ★★★★★☺️ NW

'Cinderella's Carriage' produced a larger number of large and more mature pumpkins. These pumpkins had more edible flesh inside. I loved the shapes and colors of the fruits of both varieties.

Cinderella's Carriage ★★★★★☺️🍂
 Rouge Vif D'Etampes ★★★★★☺️ SW

'Rouge Vif D'Etampes' produced about three pumpkins per vine while 'Cinderella's Carriage' only produced one pumpkin per vine. However, 'Cinderella's Carriage' was a more attractive color inside, and its seeds toasted up more nicely. There was no noticeable difference in the flavor of the two varieties. Interesting note: Both varieties produced two distinct shapes of pumpkin: a 15-inch-plus-diameter pumpkin that was very flat with indented tops and bottoms (like a tire on a rim), and a smaller, darker pumpkin that was that slightly rounded on top rather than indented. If I didn't know better, I'd say each seed packet contained two kinds!

The pumpkins of 'Cinderella's Carriage' were more attractive and ripened earlier at more sites.

Best cooking pumpkin varieties

Top choice
 Cinderella's Carriage

Strong performers
 Rouge Vif D'Etampes
 Small Sugar

Prefer ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’

Cinderella’s Carriage ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Rouge Vif D’Etampes ★★★★★★ 😊 MN
 ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’ had better color and size. Its fruits weighed 20–25 pounds compared to 10–14 pounds for ‘Cinderella’s Carriage’ The shapes and colors of both varieties were uniform, and we received a lot of comments about the pumpkins. All our friends wanted to take one home.

Cinderella’s Carriage ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Rouge Vif D’Etampes ★★★★★★ 😊 NE
 ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’ pumpkins ripened earlier and had a nice orange flesh and orange rind on the outside. We harvested four pumpkins of this variety compared to only one pumpkin of ‘Cinderella’s Carriage’.

Cinderella’s Carriage ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Rouge Vif D’Etampes ★★★★★★ 😊 NW
 ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’ produced a larger yield. ‘Cinderella’s Carriage’ fruits ripened earlier.

Cinderella’s Carriage ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Rouge Vif D’Etampes ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
 ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’ had more vigorous vines. It produced more pumpkins and matured 3 days earlier. We have not tasted either one yet—too early.

Conclusions

The new hybrid ‘Cinderella’s Carriage’ was rated higher than the famous heirloom ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’. More gardeners preferred and recommended ‘Cinderella’s Carriage’. Its pumpkins ripened earlier at more sites, and its pumpkins were more attractive. ‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’ posted higher yields at more sites. Vines of both varieties were healthy and vigorous. No taste differences were mentioned.

‘Rouge Vif D’Etampes’ posted higher yields at more sites. No taste differences between the varieties were mentioned.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

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

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 = Yes
 😞 = No

Location →

NC

Comments →

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

Garden types

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

Locations

MN = Minnesota
 NE = Northeast
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 MT = Montana

Pumpkin, Giant White

Varieties

'New Moon'

90 days. White inner flesh is a breakthrough. Great for painting and carving. Rind may turn ivory.

'Polar Bear'

Its rind retains its white color after harvest, making it ideal for fall displays. Fruits exceed 50 pounds.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	New Moon	Polar Bear	Same
Germinated best	40%	15%	45%
Healthier plants	35	10	55
Harvested earlier	21	26	53
Higher yields	37	26	37
Bigger pumpkins	37	37	26
More attractive	16	32	53
Preference	30	70	
Recommend (☺)	65	70	
Mean score ¹	6.75	7.10	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	
Median weight (lbs)	25	25	

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

Prefer 'New Moon'

New Moon ★★★★★☺ 🏠
 Polar Bear ★★★★★☺ MN

The pumpkins of these varieties were very similar in size, color and attractiveness. I thought they might get a bit larger—the average weight was 5 pounds—but we did have a very cool and wet summer.

New Moon ★★★★★☺ 🍷
 Polar Bear ★★★★★☹ NC

Neither variety had good yields per plant.

New Moon ★★★★★☺ 🍷
 Polar Bear ★★★★★☹ SC

Only two seedlings of 'Polar Bear' came up. Hail ruined the planting when almost mature.

New Moon ★★★★★☺ -
 Polar Bear ★★★★★☹ SC
 'New Moon' outperformed 'Polar Bear' in every category. These white pumpkins were beautiful but were not the best tasting. Our family preferred the orange varieties for taste.

New Moon ★★★★★☺ 🍷
 Polar Bear ★★★★★☹ SW

I loved these white pumpkins! 'Polar Bear' did not perform well at all, but 'New Moon' was fantastic! Its biggest pumpkin weighed in at 45 pounds! 'New Moon' had large, picture-perfect fruits.

Prefer 'Polar Bear'

New Moon ★★★★★☺ 🍷
 Polar Bear ★★★★★☺ MN

'Polar Bear' produced more pumpkins on fewer plants. 'New Moon' plants looked best at first but as time went on 'Polar Bear' took over and produced two times more pumpkins. 'New Moon' produced the largest pumpkin but 'Polar Bear' had the next three largest pumpkins. 'New Moon' averaged 30 pounds; 'Polar Bear' averaged 50 pounds.

New Moon ★★★★★☺ 🏠
 Polar Bear ★★★★★☺ NE

These varieties produced large pumpkins with a lot of pulp that weighed a lot (35–40 pounds)! 'Polar Bear' had more attractive skin.

'New Moon' pumpkins developed tinges of blue, green and peach on their rinds. Its vines were healthier and produced more pumpkins at more gardens.

Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Big Moose

Strong performers
 Dill's Atlantic
 Giant
 Early Giant
 Howden
 Biggie
 Polar Bear

Prefer 'Polar Bear' (continued)

New Moon  😊 
 Polar Bear  😊 SE

'Polar Bear' produced nine pumpkins, and these pumpkins stayed white. 'New Moon' produced five pumpkins, and these pumpkins developed a bluish tinge.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😊 SE

'Polar Bear' had better germination and produced more pumpkins.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😊 NC

Both varieties grew very large pumpkins! 'Polar Bear' fruits were smaller, easier to handle and stayed white after exposure to sun. 'New Moon' pumpkins developed a grayish tint.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😊 NC

'Polar Bear' grew the biggest pumpkins.

New Moon  😞  
 Polar Bear  😊 NC

'Polar Bear' produced more pumpkins. I was disappointed that the fruits produced were not as large (only 12–15 pounds) as it was suggested they would be.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😊 SC

'Polar Bear' fruits were rounder and more upright, more white, and they were smaller (a more manageable size). 'New Moon' had some interesting colors, like a peachy color and a bluish and sort of green. The fruits in this trial were bigger than I expected, and I really enjoyed that.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😊 SC

'Polar Bear' vines grew more vigorously. The 'New Moon' plants died in June, possibly due to disease. 'Polar Bear' produced one large, 40-pound pumpkin. It was very white and smooth.

New Moon  😊 
 Polar Bear  😊 SC

'Polar Bear' pumpkins were huge (25 pounds compared to 20 pounds for 'New Moon') and their skin was smoother.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😞 SC

'Polar Bear' had bigger pumpkins. They got hailed out before they were ready to be picked. All pumpkins grew flat on the side laying on the ground—really flat.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😊 NC

'Polar Bear' grew the biggest pumpkins.

New Moon  😊 
 Polar Bear  😊 SW

'Polar Bear' produced slightly larger fruit (45 pounds compared to 40 pounds for 'New Moon').

New Moon  😊 
 Polar Bear  😊 SD

The vines of both varieties were very healthy and produced large pumpkins. 'New Moon' pumpkins were slightly heavier (40 pounds compared to 35 pounds for 'Polar Bear') but 'Polar Bear' pumpkins were more attractive.

New Moon  😞 
 Polar Bear  😊 SD

'Polar Bear' produced slightly larger pumpkins (45 pounds compared to 40 pounds for 'New Moon').

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. Most gardeners preferred 'Polar Bear'. Its pumpkins were whiter and stayed white. 'New Moon' pumpkins developed tinges of blue, green and peach on their rinds. 'New Moon' germinated better, had healthier vines and produced more pumpkins at more gardens. The median weight of pumpkins for both varieties was 25 pounds.

'Polar Bear' pumpkins were whiter and stayed white.

Radish, Bicolor (Fall)

Varieties

'French Breakfast'

26 days. Popular heirloom. Scarlet skin with white tips. Cylindrical and mildly pungent.

'Nelson'

21 days. 'French Breakfast' type with hybrid vigor and uniformity. Strong tops make harvesting easy.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	French Break.	Nelson	Same
Germinated best	36%	18%	45%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Harvested earlier	50	0	50
Higher yields	75	25	0
More attractive	50	25	25
Tasted better	63	0	38
Preference	75	25	
Recommend (😊)	100	80	
Mean score ¹	8.25	6.25	
Median score ¹	8.50	6.50	

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

Prefer 'French Breakfast'

French Breakfast 😊 🐛
Nelson 😊 MN

'French Breakfast' outperformed 'Nelson' in germination, health, earliness, yield and attractiveness. Their tastes were similar.

French Breakfast 😊 🐛
Nelson 😊 NE

'French Breakfast' germinated better; its leaves looked better; it produced more; and tasted awesome. Both varieties tasted good.

French Breakfast 😊 🐛
Nelson 😊 SE

Both are good varieties, but I prefer the taste of 'French Breakfast'. Fall-grown radishes are the best! No bolting or woody radishes, as happens with spring-grown radishes.

French Breakfast 😊 🐛
Nelson 😊 NC

'French Breakfast' was more mellow in flavor. 'Nelson' had more attractive flesh. Both varieties germinated quickly.

French Breakfast 😊 🐛
Nelson 😞 SC

'French Breakfast' had higher yields, more attractive roots and tasted better. 'Nelson' was not bad. Both varieties had short tops.

Prefer 'Nelson'

French Breakfast 😊 🐛
Nelson 😊 SW

'Nelson' had larger roots. I had a major problem with flea beetles.

French Breakfast 😊 🐛
Nelson 😊 SK

Both varieties performed well, but 'Nelson' was better. It had slightly better germination; healthier plants and higher yields.

Conclusions

'French Breakfast' has always done well in our trials and it did well in the cold autumn of 2019. It received high ratings and every gardener recommended it. It had higher yields, more attractive roots and tasted awesome. Most gardeners liked 'Nelson', but it could not match the performance of 'French Breakfast'.

'French Breakfast' had higher yields, more attractive roots and tasted awesome.

Best bicolor radish variety

Top choice
French
Breakfast

Radish, Purple (Fall)

Varieties

'Bacchus'

26 days. Rich purple skin. Roots are round, uniform and mature quickly. Proven performer in North Dakota.

'Plum Purple'

26 days. Globular roots with plum-colored skin and crisp, white flesh. Mildly pungent.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Plum		
	Bacchus	Purple	Same
Germinated best	50%	17%	33%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Harvested earlier	60	40	0
Higher yields	40	20	40
More attractive	20	40	40
Tasted better	25	50	25
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (😊)	50	100	
Mean score ¹	7.40	6.80	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Bacchus'

Bacchus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Plum Purple ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 MN

'Bacchus' had more production.

Bacchus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Plum Purple ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC

'Bacchus' had larger roots. 'Plum Purple' roots looked slightly more attractive and were slightly milder.

Prefer 'Plum Purple'

Bacchus ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Plum Purple ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE

'Plum Purple' had a milder taste.

Bacchus ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Plum Purple ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE

'Plum Purple' roots had a prettier purple color. Both varieties came up very well and had nice, healthy plants. Both produced very well. Both tasted very good—good crunch and nice and round.

Bacchus ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Plum Purple ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW

'Plum Purple' was slightly more productive. Its roots were larger and had better flavor. Cold weather reduced the growth of both varieties.

Conclusions

Every gardener recommended 'Plum Purple' and most preferred it over 'Bacchus'. Many gardeners preferred the taste of 'Plum Purple'. 'Bacchus' has performed well in our previous trials and it performed well at our limited test sites this year. It germinated better, grew more vigorously and produced higher yields at more gardens.

Gardeners liked the looks and taste of 'Plum Purple' roots. 'Bacchus' grew more vigorously and produced higher yields at more gardens.

Best purple radish varieties

Top choice
Bacchus

Strong performer
Amethyst

Radish, Red (Fall)

Varieties

'Champion'

25 days. Scarlet roots are juicy and crunchy. This award winner has been popular for decades.

'Roxanne'

25 days. Uniform roots with cardinal-red skin and pure white flesh. A proven performer in North Dakota.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Champ.	Roxanne	Same
Germinated best	27%	27%	45%
Healthier plants	30	10	60
Harvested earlier	40	40	20
Higher yields	50	40	10
More attractive	44	22	33
Tasted better	30	30	40
Preference	44	56	
Recommend (😊)	70	70	
Mean score ¹	6.80	6.50	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Champion'

Champion 😊 MN
 Roxanne 😞

'Champion' produced more.

Champion 😊 SE
 Roxanne 😊

Both varieties came up within a day or two of each other. They had healthy plants and produced very good yields. They tasted very good; loved them both; nice and crunchy. 'Champion' produced the first radishes. 'Champion' had a very good crunch and taste, and nice, bright red color.

Champion 😊 SE
 Roxanne 😞

'Champion' was better in every category. Its plants were twice as big as those of 'Roxanne' on August 27, 19 days after sowing.

Champion 😊 SW
 Roxanne 😞

'Champion' plants were bushier, sturdier and a little more productive. Its roots tasted a little less bitter. The trial germinated well. I had to dust for bugs.

Prefer 'Roxanne'

Champion 😞 MN
 Roxanne 😊

'Roxanne' germinated after 3 days; 'Champion' germinated 4 days later. 'Roxanne' tops were shorter, and its roots had a more uniform shape. 'Champion' tops were taller, and its roots were more subject to splitting. We had many days of repeated rain during the trial.

Champion 😞 MN
 Roxanne 😊

'Roxanne' developed faster and produced higher yields. Its roots were rounder, more attractive and more traditional looking. 'Roxanne' had a stronger radish flavor.

Both 'Champion' and 'Roxanne' germinated well, had healthy plants, and produced good yields.

Best red radish varieties

Top choice
Roxanne

Strong performers
Champion
Cherry Belle
Rover

Prefer 'Roxanne' (continued)

Champion ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated well, and I had to do extensive thinning on both. I harvested two dozen nickel-sized radishes of 'Roxanne' on September 27; one dozen nickel-sized radishes of 'Champion' on October 7. Both varieties had a nice round shape and bright red color. 'Roxanne' was overall a better looking radish—also had a hotter taste to it. My wife liked the milder flavor of 'Champion'.

Champion ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated well. They were healthy but got nibbled on by beetles. 'Champion' had more yield; some 'Roxanne' roots were only the size of marbles. Both produced many roots that split in two sections down their middles. 'Roxanne' was milder, which I like. 'Champion' had a bit more spice but was still mild overall.

Champion ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 SK

Great germination (90–100%) for both; 'Roxanne' was slightly better. 'Roxanne' tasted hotter. Neither variety had issues with root maggots.

No Preference

Champion ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Roxanne ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I liked the round roots of both varieties. This was a tough trial. Dry soil reduced germination and insects later attacked the plants.

Conclusions

Both 'Champion' and 'Roxanne' germinated well, had healthy plants, and produced good yields. The roots of both varieties had a nice round shape and bright red color. 'Champion' tops were larger, and more gardeners preferred the look of its roots. Gardeners were split on which variety tasted better. Flea beetles were a common pest in this trial.

The roots of both varieties had a nice round shape and bright red color. Gardeners were split on which variety tasted better.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

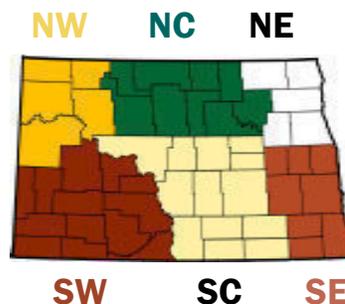
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

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Radish, Red Long (Fall)

Varieties

'Cincinnati Market'

30 days. Carrot-shaped roots. Thin, scarlet skin with brittle, white flesh. Heirloom. Good for containers.

'Dragon'

40 days. Chinese radish with bright red skin and bright white flesh. Crisp and mild. Good in stir fries and salads.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cincinnati		
	Market	Dragon	Same
Germinated best	14%	57%	29%
Healthier plants	29	29	43
Harvested earlier	0	60	40
Higher yields	0	40	60
More attractive	0	80	20
Tasted better	0	75	25
Preference	0	100	
Recommend (☺)	50	83	
Mean score ¹	4.40	6.20	
Median score ¹	4.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Cincinnati Market'

None.

Prefer 'Dragon'

Cincinnati Market ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Dragon ★★★★★ ☺️ MN

'Dragon' excelled in all traits. 'Cincinnati Market' had way fewer plants.

Cincinnati Market ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐛
 Dragon ★★★★★ ☺️ NE

'Dragon' germinated quicker and performed better overall. It tasted better. The plants of 'Cincinnati Market' looked great.

Cincinnati Market ★★★★★ N 🐛
 Dragon ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

'Dragon' had smoother roots and tasted better. Flea beetles were a problem in this trial.

No Preference

Cincinnati Market ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐛
 Dragon ★★★★★ ☺️ NE

It was a frustrating trial. The soil was dry at planting time, then flea beetles invaded, and then root maggots attacked near harvest time.

Cincinnati Market ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Dragon ★★★★★ ☹️ SE

'Cincinnati Market' sprouted quicker and fuller, but neither variety produced any yield. Most of their roots were above the soil line.

Conclusions

Testing was limited, but every gardener preferred 'Dragon'. It germinated better and grew faster. Its roots were smoother, more attractive and better tasting. 'Cincinnati Market' received low ratings and was a poor performer at several sites. Flea beetles were an issue in this trial.

Every gardener recommended 'Dragon'. It germinated better and grew faster. Its roots were smoother, more attractive, and better tasting.

Best red radish varieties

Top choice
 Roxanne

Strong performers
 Champion
 Cherry Belle
 Rover

Radish, Watermelon (Fall)

Varieties

'Red Meat'

60 days. Large, 4-inch roots with deep pink flesh. Very sweet and delicious. Eat fresh or pickled.

'Starburst'

60 days. Chinese radish hybrid. Uniformly shaped roots with vibrant red flesh. Stores well.



Data

Gardeners at 3 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red Meat	Starburst	Same
Germinated best	50%	0%	50%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Harvested earlier	0	0	100
Higher yields	0	0	100
More attractive	0	0	100
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	0	100	
Recommend (☺)	50	50	
Mean score ¹	2.50	3.50	
Median score ¹	2.50	3.50	

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

Prefer 'Red Meat'

None.

Prefer 'Starburst'

Red Meat   
 Starburst   MN

Neither variety did very well. This may have been related to the cold, wet weather. They just didn't take off. I had about four nice 'Starburst' radishes. They tasted good and were very pretty when sliced. There were no 'Red Meat' radishes to harvest. I used neem oil once due to flea beetles. I would like to see how they might do under different conditions or in the spring.

Red Meat   
 Starburst   SC

'Starburst' germinated a bit better. Neither variety produced a full-sized root due to the cold, wet weather.

Conclusions

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

Watermelon radishes require a longer season than most other radishes. These varieties did not receive enough warmth to grow and mature.

Best watermelon radish variety

Top choice
 Yet to be determined

Radish, White (Fall)

Varieties

'Hailstone'

25 days. Round, smooth, snow-white roots. Crisp and juicy. Holds well in the field. Small foliage.

'Pearl'

28 days. New variety. Pure white, globular roots with sturdy tops. Tolerates heat and is easy to grow.



Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Hailstone	Pearl	Same
Germinated best	0%	25%	75%
Healthier plants	33	33	33
Harvested earlier	0	100	0
Higher yields	0	100	0
More attractive	0	0	100
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	0	100	
Recommend (☺)	0	100	
Mean score ¹	2.50	7.00	
Median score ¹	2.50	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Hailstone'

None.

Prefer 'Pearl'

Hailstone   
 Pearl   NC

'Pearl' tasted good. 'Hailstone' was decimated by flea beetles and did not produce a yield.

Hailstone   
 Pearl   SC

'Pearl' had larger roots and was more productive. 'Hailstone' plants were larger and more vigorous.

Conclusions

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

'Pearl' showed greater vigor and produced higher yields.

Best white radish variety

Top choice
White Icicle

Spinach, Heat-Tolerant (Fall)

Varieties

'Escalade'

43 days. Medium to dark green leaves are uniform, large and round. Tolerates heat.

'Space'

37 days. Thick, dark green, sweet and juicy leaves. A top performer in North Dakota.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Escalade	Space	Same
Germinated best	22%	33%	44%
Healthier plants	56	11	33
Harvested earlier	33	11	56
Higher yields	38	25	38
More attractive	22	11	67
Tasted better	0	33	67
Preference	56	44	
Recommend (😊)	78	67	
Mean score ¹	7.00	6.89	
Median score ¹	6.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Escalade'

Escalade 😊 MN
Space 😞 MN

'Escalade' plants were better looking and bushier. I did not detect a difference in taste. I've always grown 'Space'. Now I will switch to 'Escalade'.

Escalade 😊 MN
Space 😞 MN

'Escalade' was a larger plant. Spinach did better in our spring garden than in the fall.

Escalade 😊 NC
Space 😊 NC

'Escalade' sprouted better and was healthier.

Escalade 😞 SC
Space 😞 SC

'Escalade' germinated quicker/better. Neither variety flourished due to cold, wet weather.

Prefer 'Space'

Escalade 😊 MN
Space 😊 MN

'Space' tasted better. 'Escalade' had a thicker leaf and a slightly bitter taste.

Escalade 😞 NE
Space 😊 NE

'Space' outperformed 'Escalade' in all traits.

Escalade 😊 SC
Space 😊 SC

Neither variety yielded a huge amount, but their leaves were very healthy. 'Space' seemed to have more of a 'green' taste that I like.

Escalade 😊 SW
Space 😊 SW

Both varieties had poor germination and very slow growth, but their leaves were nice and crinkly. 'Space' grew slightly better.

Conclusions

'Escalade' was preferred by most gardeners. These gardeners were impressed by the vigor of 'Escalade' plants in the cold, wet weather. Its plants were healthier and produced higher yields at more gardens. Gardeners with a taste preference selected 'Space'. 'Space' has been a strong performer in our trials for years. Both varieties were recommended by a majority of gardeners.

'Escalade' was healthier and produced higher yields at more gardens. Gardeners with a taste preference selected 'Space'.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
Olympia

Strong performers

Escalade
Gazelle
Melody
Red Kitten
Space

Spinach, Savoy Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

'Avon'

42 days. Large, slightly crinkled, dark leaves. Sprightly sweet flavor. Vigorous and holds well in field.

'Regiment'

37 days. Vigorous plants produce early yields of slightly crinkled, broad, spade-shaped leaves.



Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Avon	Regiment	Same
Germinated best	45%	9%	45%
Healthier plants	22	22	56
Harvested earlier	25	13	63
Higher yields	25	25	50
More attractive	50	0	50
Tasted better	43	29	29
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (☺)	88	88	
Mean score ¹	6.50	6.25	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Avon'

Avon ☺ SC
Regiment ☺ SK

Deer found our garden at the end of the season. They loved the spinach and ate it any time the plants had growth on them. 'Avon' tolerated the deer feeding slightly better. The varieties had a similar taste.

Avon ☺ SW
Regiment ☺ SW

This was my first time successfully growing spinach. I preferred the taste of 'Avon'. I will definitely be planting again next year!

Avon ☺ SW
Regiment ☺ SW

'Avon' had a more mellow flavor; it was tasty.

Avon ☺ SK
Regiment ☺ SK

'Avon' performed slightly better. It had slightly better germination and yields.

Prefer 'Regiment'

Avon ☺ MN
Regiment ☺ MN

Both varieties germinated well and were healthy. 'Regiment' had a higher yield. 'Avon' leaves were rounder, which I prefer; while 'Regiment' leaves were more pointed. 'Avon' had a slightly milder flavor.

Avon ☺ NE
Regiment ☺ NE

The taste of 'Regiment' was awesome.

Avon ☺ SW
Regiment ☺ SW

'Regiment' tasted better. 'Avon' had more crinkly leaves and a slightly bitter aftertaste.

Conclusions

Gardeners recommended both varieties. Most of them preferred 'Avon'. Its rounded leaves were more attractive than the pointed leaves of 'Regiment'. More gardeners preferred the taste of 'Avon' as well. 'Avon' germinated better. The two varieties were healthy and produced similar yields.

Gardeners preferred 'Avon' for its rounded leaves and superior taste. Both varieties were healthy and produced good yields.

Best savoy-leaf spinach varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
Emperor

Strong performers

Avon
Bloomsdale
Long
Standing
Tye

Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Fall)

Varieties

'Lakeside'

30 days. Healthy plants produce very flavorful leaves even under harsh conditions. Early maturing.

'Olympia'

38 days. Grows quickly, producing high yields of smooth, mild leaves. A proven performer in North Dakota.



Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lake-side	Olympia	Same
Germinated best	23%	54%	23%
Healthier plants	27	55	18
Harvested earlier	30	50	20
Higher yields	30	50	20
More attractive	30	40	30
Tasted better	22	11	67
Preference	20	80	
Recommend (😊)	40	90	
Mean score ¹	4.80	6.70	
Median score ¹	5.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Lakeside'

Lakeside 😊 NE
Olympia 😊

'Lakeside' tasted great.

Lakeside 😊 SK
Olympia 😊

'Lakeside' overall performance was better—grew faster, better germination and larger plants.

Prefer 'Olympia'

Lakeside 😞 MN
Olympia 😊

'Olympia' germinated better, but neither variety germinated well.

Lakeside 😊 MN
Olympia 😊

'Olympia' germinated first, and its plants had a tighter, fuller form. 'Olympia' definitely produced the highest yield. I preferred the shape and taste of 'Olympia'. Its leaves were thicker and more flavorful. 'Lakeside' leaves were lighter and milder.

Lakeside 😞 SE
Olympia 😊

'Olympia' had way more plants and better yield.

Lakeside 😞 SE
Olympia 😊

'Olympia' was the winner in this trial. It had healthier plants and a higher yield. 'Lakeside' was tasty, but it struggled. Growing spinach in the fall is another great way to stretch out the season. They are also good in brothy soups as a garnish.

Lakeside 😊 NC
Olympia 😊

'Olympia' was healthier and looked more attractive. The deer harvested for me.

Lakeside 😞 NC
Olympia 😊

'Olympia' produced better with bigger plants.

'Olympia' excelled in this trial. It germinated better and had healthier plants. Its yields were earlier and higher.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for fall sowing

Top choice
Olympia

Strong performers
Escalade
Gazelle
Melody
Red Kitten
Space

Prefer 'Olympia' (continued)

Lakeside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Olympia ★★★★★ 😊 NW

The taste on both these varieties was similar; both quite mild. Very nice for salads, wilting and omelets! 'Olympia' was a much better producer. It had nice size leaves and had high yields in September. I did my final harvesting on October 2, prior to the snow coming. Plants were up to eight inches tall.

Lakeside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️ SW

'Olympia' tasted better, but neither tasted great. Both varieties grew slowly and did not produce large yields.

No Preference

Lakeside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Olympia ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

Very poor germination. Both varieties didn't produce anything to evaluate. This was disappointing because previous fall spinach crops produced well.

Conclusions

'Olympia' excelled in this trial. It germinated better and had healthier plants. Its yields were earlier and higher. Gardeners liked the taste of both 'Olympia' and 'Lakeside'.

Nearly all gardeners recommended 'Olympia', while most gardeners chose not to recommend 'Lakeside'.

Gardeners liked the taste of both 'Olympia' and 'Lakeside'.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

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

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

☹️

😊

Garden types

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

Locations

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

Garden type →

🐛 NC

Location →

← **Comments**

Spinach, Smooth Leaf (Spring)

Varieties

'Seaside'

43 days. Dark-green, thick, spade-shaped leaves. Plants grow upright and resist bolting.

'Space'

45 days. Grows vigorously and is slow to bolt. Medium-green leaves. Upright habit keeps leaves clean.



Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Seaside	Space	Same
Germinated best	10%	30%	60%
Healthier plants	20	35	45
Harvested earlier	18	29	53
Higher yields	31	50	19
Resisted bolting	29	41	29
More attractive	17	61	22
Tasted better	38	25	38
Preference	33	67	
Recommend (☺)	61	83	
Mean score ¹	7.29	8.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Seaside'

Seaside ☺ MN
 Space ☺

'Seaside' was good overall. It had tender leaves, good taste and was a good producer.

Seaside ☺ NE
 Space ☹

'Seaside' germinated earlier, and its plants were larger. Its leaves had a stronger flavor, which we liked. We ate 'Seaside' from spring through fall. Even after it bolted, its leaves were not bitter. We ate it fresh in salads; did not try it cooked. 'Space' plants were more compact. Its taste was milder—more like the spinach sold at grocery stores.

Seaside ☹ SE
 Space ☹

'Seaside' bolted 10 days later, leading to a longer and larger harvest. Its leaves were darker green and slightly better tasting.

Seaside ☺ NW
 Space ☹

'Seaside' tasted better and did not bolt.

Seaside ☺ NW
 Space ☺

Both germinated rapidly and filled out nicely. 'Seaside' was producing baby leaves for salads earlier and had large production amounts. Our family and neighbors loved the taste of 'Seaside'. It was great for salads, sautéing, and making pesto.

Seaside ☺ SW
 Space ☺

Both varieties were great, but I preferred the taste of 'Seaside'.

Prefer 'Space'

Seaside ☺ MN
 Space ☺

I liked the shape of the leaf of 'Space'.

Seaside ☺ SE
 Space ☺

I personally liked 'Seaside', but my Mom and daughter liked 'Space'. We decided 'Space' had a very strong spinach flavor and texture that spinach lovers would prefer. 'Seaside' tasted more like a spring mix.

'Seaside' grew well and was recommended by most gardeners. These gardeners often mentioned its delicious taste.

Best smooth-leaf spinach varieties for spring sowing

Top choice
Space

Strong performer
Olympia

Prefer 'Space' (continued)

Seaside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Space' was overall best. Our garden got drowned out late in the season.

Seaside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Space' had larger leaves that were flat and smooth. Its taste was also sweeter and more tender.

Seaside ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked both. They were similar. They both had a very short picking season—too short.

Seaside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I only got one harvest out of both varieties. Bugs ate up 'Seaside' plants at a much greater rate than 'Space' plants. Taste and all other qualities were the same.

Seaside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Space' germinated better and grew more vigorously. It produced higher yields, and I enjoyed its flavor.

Seaside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Space' resisted bolting much better.

Seaside ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Space' germinated first and was more vigorous. Its leaves were darker green. It produced a larger yield and was ready to harvest a couple days earlier. 'Space' had a fuller taste. I enjoyed it in a salad and on sandwiches.

Seaside ★★★★★ ☹️ -
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Space' had healthier plants and better taste.

Seaside ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Space ★★★★★ 😊 MT

'Space' tasted a little better. These were both nice spinach varieties. It was fun to grow spinach, rather than buy it from Costco. I didn't realize spinach was so easy to grow. We had fun picking and eating our spinach, right from the garden. No chemicals added! How healthy!

'Space' produced higher yields and resisted bolting better at more sites. Gardeners liked its rounded leaf shape more than the pointed leaf shape of 'Seaside'.

Conclusions

'Space' produced higher yields and resisted bolting better at more sites compared to 'Seaside', another bolt-resistant hybrid. Most gardeners preferred 'Space' and it was highly recommended. Gardeners liked its rounded leaf shape more than the pointed leaf shape of 'Seaside'. 'Seaside' grew well and was recommended by most gardeners. These gardeners often mentioned its delicious taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

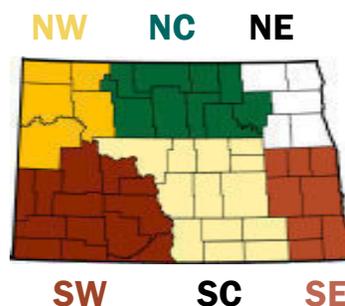
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

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Squash, Semi-Crookneck

Varieties

'Gentry'

43 days. Buttery yellow, smooth fruits. Productive vines have an open habit and few spines.

'Gold Star'

44 days. Vines resist diseases and produce good yields. Easy to pick from the open vines. Strong necks.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gold		
	Gentry	Star	Same
Germinated best	17%	50%	33%
Healthier plants	17	17	67
Harvested earlier	33	17	50
Higher yields	40	20	40
More attractive fruits	33	17	50
Tasted better	17	17	67
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	83	67	
Mean score ¹	9.17	8.83	
Median score ¹	10.00	9.50	

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

Prefer 'Gentry'

Gentry ★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
Gold Star ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Both varieties had healthy plants. 'Gentry' produced fruits a few days earlier. It produced more fruits per plant. The bright yellow color of its fruits makes them more attractive.

Gentry ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Gold Star ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

Both varieties germinated well, but 'Gold Star' was faster and more vigorous. 'Gentry' plants were healthier and produced fruits 1 week earlier. Its yields were endless and much higher compared to the yields of 'Gold Star'.

Prefer 'Gold Star'

Gentry ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Gold Star ★★★★★ ☺️ SC

'Gold Star' produced more fruits. Its fruits were of higher quality.

Gentry ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐛
Gold Star ★★★★★ ☺️ SC

'Gold Star' germinated a little better. Both varieties had very healthy plants that produced lots of fruits.

No Preference

Gentry ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐛
Gold Star ★★★★★ ☺️ NC

I cannot tell any difference between these varieties.

Gentry ★★★★★ ☺️ 🐛
Gold Star ★★★★★ ☺️ SW

I could not tell any difference between these two varieties. These varieties produced all season, and I made a lot of chips out of the squash.

Conclusions

Gardeners were very pleased with both varieties. 'Gentry' and 'Gold Star' had healthy plants that produced lots of fruits. The varieties were so similar that some gardeners struggled to find any significant differences between the two. Gardeners were split on their preferred varieties. 'Gentry' produced earlier and higher yields at more sites.

Both varieties had healthy plants that produced lots of fruits. 'Gentry' produced earlier and higher yields at more sites.

Best crookneck squash varieties

Top choice
Sundance

Strong performers

Gentry
Gold Star
Slick Pik YS
26

Squash, Dark Green Zucchini

Varieties

'Desert'

50 days. High yields of straight fruits. Open plants make harvesting easy.

'Raven'

48 days. Dark-green, smooth, glossy fruits. Vines have an open habit. Big yields.



Data

Gardeners at 10 sites submitted information.

Trait	Desert	Raven	Same
Germinated best	10%	20%	70%
Healthier plants	20	10	70
Harvested earlier	30	50	20
Higher yields	22	33	44
More attractive fruits	0	50	50
Tasted better	11	44	44
Preference	40	60	
Recommend (☺)	90	90	
Mean score ¹	7.80	8.70	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Desert'

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺SE

Both varieties grew well and produced a ton of squash until we cut them down due to powdery mildew. I may have planted them too close. 'Raven' fruits matured earlier.

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺SE

'Desert' tasted better.

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺NC

'Desert' produced first. Both varieties produced excellent yields from the beginning of the season until the end of October.

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺SW

Had a nice crop of zucchinis all season.

Prefer 'Raven'

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺NC

Both varieties were very good. The amount of zucchini 'Raven' produced was much more than 'Desert'.

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺SC

'Raven' ripened first. I had a great zucchini crop with both varieties; more than I can use. Both are great for baking.

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺NW

'Raven' fruits have a better shape and color. We really enjoy zucchini, wait for the first ones, and then—Holy Cow!— they do not slow down.

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺SW

'Raven' tasted better.

Desert ★★★★★☺☺🐞
Raven ★★★★★☺☺MT

'Raven' had earlier production.

Conclusions

Both varieties received high ratings and strong recommendations. 'Raven' was preferred by most gardeners. 'Raven' produced earlier crops at more sites, and numerous gardeners felt its fruits were more attractive and tasted better. Both varieties have performed well in our tests for years.

'Desert' and Raven' were both recommended by nearly all gardeners.

Best dark green zucchini varieties

Top choice
Raven

Strong performer
Desert

Squash, Green Zucchini

Varieties

'Cashflow'

45 days. Open, vigorous plants produce heavy yields of 8-inch, high quality fruits.

'Spineless Beauty'

50 days. Longtime favorite. Uniform fruits form on spineless, productive vines. Easy to pick.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Spineless		Same
	Cashflow	Beauty	
Germinated best	23%	8%	69%
Healthier plants	58	17	25
Harvested earlier	31	46	23
Higher yields	33	33	33
More attractive fruits	33	17	50
Tasted better	27	0	73
Preference	64	36	
Recommend	73	55	
Mean score ¹	7.64	6.91	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Cashflow'

Cashflow SE
 Spineless Beauty SE

Both varieties performed well. Their fruits tasted good, cooked up well and made outstanding zucchini bread. Blossom end rot was an issue with both varieties for a short period due to the irregular weather we experienced. I think 'Cashflow' is slightly more visually appealing.

Cashflow
 Spineless Beauty SE

'Cashflow' was much healthier and never got mildew, which always happens to my zucchini late in the season. For about a month, 'Spineless Beauty' (which is not spineless) produced fruits that rotted at the end, but the problem resolved itself.

Cashflow
 Spineless Beauty SE

Both varieties grew well. 'Cashflow' produced more fruits. Its fruits were fleshier and great for grilling. The fruits of 'Spineless Beauty' were more susceptible to blossom end rot.

Cashflow
 Spineless Beauty NC

Both varieties had 100% germination. The vines appeared healthy, produced fruits around the same time, and produced good yields. 'Cashflow' had smaller fruits that tasted better. 'Spineless Beauty' fruits got larger, faster.

Cashflow
 Spineless Beauty NC

'Cashflow' plants grew larger and produced higher yields. I was expecting higher yields from both varieties.

Cashflow
 Spineless Beauty SC

'Cashflow' vines were healthier and more productive.

Cashflow
 Spineless Beauty SC

'Cashflow' fruits were much more narrow and straighter. Spineless Beauty grew wider at the bottom and narrower on top. Both varieties produced very well and had similar flavor.

Both varieties produced attractive, delicious fruits. Most gardeners preferred 'Cashflow'; its vines were healthier.

Best green zucchini varieties

Top choice
 Spineless Beauty

Strong performers
 Cashflow
 Payload

Prefer ‘Spineless Beauty’

Cashflow 
Spineless Beauty 

‘Spineless Beauty’ plants were twice as big; they grew faster and produced first and produced more fruits. I wasn’t super impressed with either. Only two plants from each variety germinated. Their fruits were green and pretty. All sizes of fruits tasted good. I made soup out of the large ones successfully. I did not have disease or pest issues with either variety.

Cashflow 
Spineless Beauty 

‘Spineless Beauty’ plants were healthier and more productive. They were so bountiful that I had to pull some of the plants. I couldn’t give all of the fruits away!

Cashflow 
Spineless Beauty 

I was not impressed with either variety. In previous years growing zucchini, I have had an overabundance of produce; this year however, I was left wanting. Each variety produced very few male flowers and it was very common that the male and female flowers were not blooming at the same time. I frequently hand pollinated in order to ensure fruit set. Both varieties were infested by squash vine borer; ‘Cashflow’ rebounded better. ‘Spineless Beauty’ had just produced its first fruits at the time of the infestation and it had a higher abundance early on compared to ‘Cashflow’.

Cashflow 
Spineless Beauty 

‘Spineless Beauty’ produced the first and most fruits.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced attractive, delicious fruits. Most gardeners preferred ‘Cashflow’; its vines were healthier. Yields of ‘Cashflow’ and ‘Spineless Beauty’ were comparable, with more gardeners noting the earliness of ‘Spineless Beauty’. Several gardeners noted their zucchini yields were lower than normal this year. They also mentioned blossom end rot being an unexpected problem. ‘Spineless Beauty’ is a proven winner in previous trials and was again recommended by the majority of gardeners.

Yields of both varieties were comparable. Several gardeners noted the earliness of ‘Spineless Beauty’, a proven performer in North Dakota.

Squash, Winter Multicolor Acorn

Varieties

‘Carnival’

85 days. Fruits have flecks of green, gold and yellow. Each fruit is unique. High quality and stores well. Semi-bush plants.

‘Celebration’

80 days. Light yellow fruits with orange ribs and attractive flecking. Golden flesh is smooth, nutty and sweet. Semi-bush vines.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	Carnival	Celebration	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	40	20	40
Harvested earlier	50	0	50
Higher yields	80	0	20
More attractive fruits	67	17	17
Tasted better	50	50	0
Preference	100	0	
Recommend	100	50	
Mean score ¹	7.50	5.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	5.00	

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

Prefer ‘Carnival’

Carnival Celebration MN

‘Carnival’ produced first and produced more mature fruits. There was more design variation in ‘Celebration’ and more color variation in ‘Carnival’ fruits.

Carnival Celebration MN

Both varieties grew vigorously and were harvested at the same time. Each variety produced 34 fruits. The skin of ‘Carnival’ was deeper green and orange—beautiful enough to be ornamental. The flesh was sweeter and had a smoother texture.

Carnival Celebration NC

‘Carnival’ produced the first and most fruits. I used the fruits for decorations only.

Carnival Celebration SC

‘Carnival’ was easy to grow and productive. I loved the beauty of its fruits.

Carnival Celebration NW

‘Carnival’ produced higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive, but the fruits of both varieties were beautiful! The taste of ‘Celebration’ was slightly better.

Carnival Celebration NW

‘Carnival’ had bigger fruit and more plants.

Prefer ‘Celebration’

None.

Conclusions

‘Carnival’ was preferred and recommended by all gardeners. It matched or excelled over ‘Celebration’ in all categories. ‘Carnival’ was easy to grow, healthy, matured earlier and produced higher yields. Gardeners loved the green, gold and yellow flecks on its rind. Its fruits were pretty enough to use as decorations. Gardeners were split on which variety tasted better.

‘Carnival’ was the clear winner. It was easy to grow and produced higher yields. Its fruits were so beautiful they could be used as decorations.

Best acorn winter squash varieties

Top choice
Carnival

Strong performers
Black Bellota
Table Ace
Table King

Squash, Winter Tan Acorn

Varieties

'Baked Potatoes'

105 days. Tan fruits weigh 1.0–1.5 pounds. Flesh is off-white in color, sweet and nutty. Good for soups, roasting and pie.

'Thelma Sanders'

A “sweet potato” heirloom squash from Missouri. Thick, orange-gold flesh has sweet, chestnut flavor. Good yields and stores well.



Data

Gardeners at 2 sites submitted information.

Trait	Baked Potatoes	Thelma Sanders	Same
Germinated best	100%	0%	0%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Harvested earlier	0	50	50
Higher yields	50	50	0
More attractive fruits	50	0	50
Tasted better	0	100	0
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	100	100	
Mean score ¹	8.00	8.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Baked Potatoes'

Baked Potatoes ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Thelma Sanders ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Baked Potatoes' germinated better, grew vigorously and produced larger fruits.

'Thelma Sanders' produced the first fruits, higher yields and tasted better.

Prefer 'Thelma Sanders'

Baked Potatoes ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Thelma Sanders ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Thelma Sanders' had a more complex flavor profile than 'Baked Potatoes'. I would definitely plant both of these varieties again. Their fruits will store easily due to their size.

Conclusions

This was our least popular trial. The two gardeners were split on their preference and agreed to recommend both varieties. The hybrid 'Baked Potatoes' germinated better, grew vigorously and produced larger fruits. The heirloom 'Thelma Sanders' had more flavorful flesh. Gardeners were pleased with the yields of both varieties.

Gardeners liked both varieties.

'Baked Potatoes' grew vigorously and produced larger fruits.

'Thelma Sanders' had more flavorful flesh.

Best acorn winter squash varieties

Top choice
Carnival

Strong performers
Black Bellota
Table Ace
Table King

Squash, Winter Buttercup

Varieties

'Autumn Cup'

95 days. First hybrid semi-bush buttercup. Dark green fruits have small buttons at the bottom. Sweet, fine-textured, deep-orange flesh.

'Bonbon'

95 days. Award winner. Semi-bush vines produce reliable yields of classic, cupped fruits. Superb flavor. Proven performer in North Dakota.



Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	Autumn		
	Cup	Bonbon	Same
Germinated best	24%	29%	47%
Healthier plants	18	24	59
Harvested earlier	6	69	25
Higher yields	13	53	33
More attractive fruits	29	29	41
Tasted better	20	40	40
Preference	41	59	
Recommend	53	71	
Mean score ¹	6.71	7.41	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Autumn Cup'

Autumn Cup
 Bonbon NE

Seeds were sown on May 20 and took a long time to germinate. 'Autumn Cup' had healthier vines. Its fruits were healthier and had a thicker flesh. The flesh of both varieties was sweet and orange.

Autumn Cup
 Bonbon SE

'Autumn Cup' produced earlier and more fruits. Its fruits were uniform in size. Both varieties tasted so good.

Autumn Cup
 Bonbon NC

Both varieties produced a large yield. The fruits are very hard so they should keep for a long time. The fruits are hard to cut for cooking but ohhh so good.

Autumn Cup
 Bonbon SC

'Autumn Cup' did better in all traits.

Autumn Cup
 Bonbon NC

Both varieties germinated well, and their vines were healthy. 'Bonbon' produced first. 'Autumn Cup' produced more fruits (23 compared to 8 for 'Bonbon'). 'Autumn Cup' fruits had a beautiful shape and excellent flavor.

Autumn Cup
 Bonbon NW

'Autumn Cup' was very good, but the vines of both varieties took too much space in the garden.

Autumn Cup
 Bonbon SW

The flesh of both varieties was rather dry, but 'Autumn Cup' did taste better.

Both varieties had healthy vines. Their fruits had sweet, delicious flesh.

**Best
buttercup
winter
squash
varieties**

Top choice
Bonbon

**Strong
performer**
Burgess

Prefer 'Bonbon'

Autumn Cup MN
 Bonbon

I liked the taste and texture of 'Bonbon' better. Both were really good.

Autumn Cup SE
 Bonbon

'Bonbon' was better in all traits, including germination.

Autumn Cup SE
 Bonbon

These varieties were very similar.

Autumn Cup SE
 Bonbon

I preferred the shape of 'Bonbon' fruits. Its plants were healthier, more vigorous and more productive.

Autumn Cup NC
 Bonbon

'Bonbon' tasted better. The dry growing conditions did not provide a good year for growth. Fruits were smaller this year.

Autumn Cup SC
 Bonbon

'Bonbon' produced more squash and they were larger.

Autumn Cup SC
 Bonbon

'Bonbon' produced more squash, but the yields of both varieties were poor and disappointing.

Autumn Cup NW
 Bonbon

I liked the more compact nature of 'Autumn Cup', but of three hills, one produced nothing, one hill had two nice-sized fruits, and the other had three good-sized fruits. The hills of 'Bonbon' were bushier, took up more space, but each of two hills planted produced four large fruits. 'Bonbon' fruits had a gray bump (turban) on the bottom; 'Autumn Cup' did not. Both varieties tasted very good.

Autumn Cup SW
 Bonbon

'Bonbon' had a larger yield. Fruits of both varieties were uniform in shape; 'Autumn Cup' fruits were slightly larger.

Autumn Cup SW
 Bonbon

'Bonbon' fruits are second to none. They are perfectly sized and absolutely delicious. 'Autumn Cup' did very poorly in this trial. We were able to harvest just one fruit large enough to eat.

Conclusions

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

'Bonbon'
ripened earlier
and was much
more
productive in
most gardens.

Squash, Winter Baby Butternut

Varieties

'Butter Baby'

100 days. Heavy yields of personal-sized, 0.5–1.5-pound fruits. Fruits have flavorful, dark-orange flesh. Stores well. Semi-bush plants.

'Butterscotch'

100 days. Award winner. Small, 1–2-pound fruits. Flesh is rich and high in sugars. Short, semi-bush plants resist mildew.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Butter Baby	Butterscotch	Same
Germinated best	29%	35%	35%
Healthier plants	41	24	35
Harvested earlier	40	40	20
Higher yields	50	38	13
More attractive fruits	31	25	44
Tasted better	33	25	42
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	60	60	
Mean score ¹	7.07	6.80	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Butter Baby'

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I loved the small size of this squash—perfect for two people. I will grow these again! 'Butter Baby' plants appeared larger and fuller. It produced three times more fruits and the fruits were more uniform—small and stocky. The fruits of both varieties tasted good, but 'Butterscotch' was a little sweeter tasting. 'Butterscotch' germinated slightly better.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Butter Baby' produced more squash. We liked the size of the squash of both varieties.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😞 SE

All hills of 'Butterscotch' had at least one plant germinate while only three of five hills of 'Butter Baby' produced one or more plants. Both varieties were less attractive to the cucumber beetles that attacked other cucurbits. Both varieties resisted infection by powdery mildew that took out nearby spaghetti squash a month before frost. 'Butter Baby' produced larger fruit; 'Butterscotch' had a larger quantity overall. 'Butter Baby' taste was so much better—sweeter and nuttier.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😞 SE

Hailstones poked holes in the leaves. 'Butter Baby' vines held up to the weather; they produced quite a bit more fruits. Butternut squash is a new thing for us to try, and we did not care for the taste of either variety. We used the squash in fall decorating.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😞 NC

'Butter Baby' had better yield and taste. I really liked the small size as I live alone.

Butter Baby ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Butterscotch ★★★★★ 😊 SC

I like the smaller size of the 'Butter Baby' fruits. I have not tasted any of the fruits yet.

'Butter Baby' vines were bushier, more vigorous and more productive.

Best butternut winter squash varieties

Top choice
Early Butternut

Strong performers
Butter Baby
Waltham

Prefer 'Butter Baby' (continued)

Butter Baby SC
Butterscotch

'Butter Baby' fruits were a bit smaller, but had much bigger, healthier plants and ripened faster, with a sweet taste.

Butter Baby SC
Butterscotch

Both varieties struggled to grow once they came up. They grew slowly and did not set fruit very early. Quite a few of the squash didn't mature by time cold temps set in.

'Butter Baby' is the right size for two people for a meal. 'Butterscotch' seemed to crack a little along the neck.

Butter Baby NW
Butterscotch

'Butter Baby' plants were healthy but tiny. Maybe its fruits weren't mature enough, but all of them got soft or rotten in just a week or two after picking. 'Butterscotch' didn't germinate until July and did not produce a yield.

Prefer 'Butterscotch'

Butter Baby MN
Butterscotch

I harvested seven 'Butterscotch' fruits; these were uniformly sized and mature. I preferred its taste. I harvested only two of 'Butter Baby'; these fruits were small and immature.

Butter Baby SE
Butterscotch

'Butterscotch' fruits were ready sooner and had a larger average size. 'Butter Baby' produced more fruits but they were much smaller and many of the fruits did not mature.

Butter Baby SE
Butterscotch

The flesh of 'Butterscotch' was darker, more flavorful and more tender. Good squash flavor. 'Butter Baby' plants were bushier and more vigorous.

Butter Baby SW
Butterscotch

'Butterscotch' produced more squash.

Butter Baby SW
Butterscotch

'Butterscotch' germinated first and had more vigorous vines. Its squash matured 5 days earlier. I have not tasted either yet; it is too early.

No Preference

Butter Baby SC
Butterscotch

I have no real preference; both produced similar small squash.

Conclusions

'Butter Baby' was the preferred choice for most gardeners. Its vines were bushier, more vigorous and more productive. 'Butter Baby' fruits were slightly smaller, which many gardeners preferred. Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties. 'Butterscotch' was recommended by the same number of gardeners. It was interesting to note this baby butternut trial was more popular than the standard butternut trial.

This baby butternut trial was more popular than the standard butternut trial.

Squash, Winter Butternut

Varieties

'Atlas'

110 days. Cylindrical fruits with a slight bulge; easy for peeling. Cream-colored fruits have dark-orange flesh and weigh 6 pounds.

'Early Butternut'

82 days. Award winner. Early maturing hybrid produces good yields of delicious fruits on compact vines.



Data

Gardeners at 5 sites submitted information.

Trait	Early		
	Atlas	Butternut	Same
Germinated best	0%	50%	50%
Healthier plants	0	25	75
Harvested earlier	0	0	100
Higher yields	0	25	75
More attractive fruits	0	25	75
Tasted better	25	25	50
Preference	33	67	
Recommend	50	75	
Mean score ¹	7.50	7.75	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Atlas'

Atlas MN
 Early Butternut MN

The flesh of 'Atlas' was sweeter and had a finer texture. The fruits were easier to peel and process. 'Atlas' had half as many fruits, but they were twice as big compared to those of 'Early Butternut'. 'Atlas' fruits were straighter while those of 'Early Butternut' had a more traditional shape. The skins of 'Early Butternut' cracked.

Prefer 'Early Butternut'

Atlas MN
 Early Butternut MN

Yields were low due to the cool, rainy weather. 'Early Butternut' fruits were a lot larger. I will think of growing a different type of squash next year.

Atlas NE
 Early Butternut NE

'Early Butternut' had uniform, mature squash. 'Atlas' had many small squash at harvest time.

No Preference

Atlas SC
 Early Butternut SC

Both varieties performed equally so I don't have a preference.

Conclusions

'Early Butternut' has done well in our trials for years, and it grew well this year. Most gardeners preferred it over 'Atlas', and more gardeners recommended it. This was not a popular trial and data are limited. These varieties were rated very similarly for all traits, and no consistent differences were detected.

Most gardeners preferred 'Early Butternut'. These varieties were rated very similarly for all traits.

Best butternut winter squash varieties

Top choice
 Early Butternut

Strong performer
 Butter Baby
 Waltham

Squash, Winter Orange Hubbard

Varieties

'Lakota'

Beautiful orange fruits with green streaks. Fine-grained, sweet orange flesh and nutty taste. Grown in North Dakota by the Lakota Tribe.

'Red Kuri'

92 days. Early ripening, scarlet squash from Japan. Thick, yellow flesh is smooth, very sweet and nutty. Good for pies and purees.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red		Same
	Lakota	Kuri	
Germinated best	0%	55%	45%
Healthier plants	8	50	42
Harvested earlier	25	42	33
Higher yields	25	50	25
More attractive fruits	36	27	36
Tasted better	13	25	63
Preference	33	67	
Recommend	67	92	
Mean score ¹	6.00	7.58	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Lakota'

Lakota MN
 Red Kuri MN

Both were very amazing varieties. I'm happy I tried this trial to find more beloved winter squash varieties to add to my collection!

These two varieties are definite keepers and will now be staples in my garden. I loved the flavor of both varieties. I adored the smaller size of 'Red Kuri' for sheer handling and meal prep. 'Red Kuri' also has a nice delicate skin. However, I prefer the sweet, every so nutty flavor of 'Lakota'. It has more of the richness I am looking for along with the

most beautiful, show worthy fruit.

Lakota SE
 Red Kuri SE

The wet, cold spring led to very poor yields for both. I only harvested four tiny 'Lakota' and three tiny 'Red Kuri' fruits. 'Lakota' tasted milder compared to 'Red Kuri', which was tart. 'Red Kuri' is very nice and colorful.

Lakota NW
 Red Kuri NW

I love the multicolor look of 'Lakota'. Both varieties produced a similar number of fruits, but 'Lakota' fruits were larger.

Prefer 'Red Kuri'

Lakota -
 Red Kuri MN

'Lakota' vines did not produce any fruits.

Lakota NE
 Red Kuri NE

'Lakota' did not produce at all for me. 'Red Kuri' only gave two small fruits. This was a difficult growing season. I would like to try them again to see how they would grow under better conditions.

Lakota SE
 Red Kuri SE

None of my 'Lakota' seeds germinated. Most of 'Red Kuri' did and two plants produced small squash. Animals ate one and then the plants shriveled up. I planted pie pumpkins in the same area, and they did

The fruits of both varieties were beautiful and delicious. Their vines were notably vigorous.

**Best
 hubbard
 winter
 squash
 varieties**

Top choice
 Red Kuri

**Strong
 performer**
 Blue Magic

Prefer 'Red Kuri' (continued)

well. 'Red Kuri' has done well in the past.

Lakota ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SE
 Red Kuri ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE

'Red Kuri' produced more fruits. The flesh of its fruits was super creamy and sweet. The green stripes on 'Lakota' fruits were very attractive.

Lakota ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SC
 Red Kuri ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

The fruits of both varieties had great flavor and were beautiful—they were interesting to look at. 'Red Kuri' fruits were smaller and therefore easier to prepare.

Lakota ★★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Red Kuri ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Lakota' fruits were more attractive, but 'Red Kuri' tasted better. 'Red Kuri' vines were healthier and more productive. With the abundance of moisture in Western North Dakota this season, the squash plants overtook the garden even with trimming. I also had slug damage, but slugs did not harm 'Red Kuri'.

No Preference

Lakota ★★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Red Kuri ★★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NC

I liked the size of the fruits—not too big.

The flesh of both varieties was moist and soft but not as sweet as a buttercup squash.

Lakota ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Red Kuri ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐛 SC

'Lakota' bloomed first and produced a higher yield. The vines of both varieties were healthy, and their fruits were attractive.

Lakota ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Red Kuri ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC

These plants exploded in our garden, and nearly took over. Impressive! Both varieties were unique and so yummy! We picked some early and enjoyed breading and frying them. We picked them a bit more mature and made 'zucchini' boats with them using ground meat and cheese. They were so good! We made French fries with them, like sweet potato fries; and honestly, these have such a sweet, wonderful flavor. Both varieties are true winners. We definitely want these in our garden next year!

'Red Kuri' vines were healthier and more productive. 'Red Kuri' was a more consistent performer across sites.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred 'Red Kuri' and nearly every gardener recommended this Japanese variety. It germinated much better and its vines were healthier and more productive compared to 'Lakota' from North Dakota. 'Red Kuri' was a more consistent performer across sites. Fruits of both varieties were beautiful and could be used as decorations. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties. Vines were notably vigorous.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10)

Variety A ★★★★★☆ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★★ 😊

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)

😊 = Yes
 😞 = No

Comments

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

Garden types

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

Garden type

🐛 NC

Location

NC

Locations

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

Swiss Chard, Multicolor

Varieties

'Bright Lights'

60 days. Award winner. Vibrant stems in shades of red, yellow, orange, gold and white.

'Northern Lights'

60 days. Shiny green leaves with very colorful stems. Stalks are broad, very tender and fleshy.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bright Lights	Northern Lights	Same
Germinated best	15%	23%	62%
Healthier plants	23	15	62
Harvested earlier	33	8	58
Higher yields	23	31	46
More attractive	75	8	17
Tasted better	31	15	54
Preference	77	23	
Recommend	86	86	
Mean score ¹	8.54	7.92	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Bright Lights'

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Bright Lights' was more colorful. 'Northern Lights' stalks tasted smoother and sweeter.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The color of 'Bright Lights' was more vivid. The stalks of both varieties were very tasty and attractive.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Bright Lights' had faster growth and larger leaves. I loved its color assortment.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both are such nice varieties. I've never liked Swiss chard much but have been eating a ton of it this year. Not sure if the red stem varieties really tasted better, or because it's red I just think it does. I liked 'Bright Lights' better overall because it had more red stems than yellow or green. I found the red to be very pretty in the garden. 'Bright Lights' came up with the row entirely filled; only 75% of the 'Northern Lights' seeds came up. This trial got me hooked on growing Swiss chard!

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Bright Lights' had better taste and color!

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Northern Lights' had a bitter taste, but larger leaves. 'Bright Lights' was sweet, had a better variety of colors, but smaller leaves. Both varieties produced a crop all spring, summer and into the fall.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Bright Lights' tasted a bit better. Both varieties were very pretty; loved the colors.

Gardeners liked both varieties.

'Bright Lights' and 'Northern Lights' were rated similarly for most traits including yields and taste.

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bright Lights

Strong performers

Flamingo
Lucullus
Oriole
Peppermint
Rhubarb

Prefer 'Bright Lights' (continued)

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 -
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Bright Lights' germinated faster and thrived. Grew rapidly and regrew quickly after cuttings. Outstanding yield. Showed great heat tolerance and was slow to bolt. Both varieties looked great but 'Bright Lights' was more vibrant. Both varieties tasted yummy raw or cooked but 'Bright Lights' had a little richer flavor.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😞 SW

'Bright Lights' was far superior overall. It outperformed 'Northern Lights' in all categories. Fun trial.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Bright Lights' was more colorful.

Prefer 'Northern Lights'

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 MN

They were both fantastic Swiss chard varieties. Their flavors were great and it was fun to have the bright colors when I cooked up the greens. Plants were very healthy and productive (they are still producing even this late in the season (early September)). 'Northern Lights' was more productive.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Northern Lights' had more produce and more color.

Bright Lights ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Northern Lights ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Our grasshoppers were horrible this year and they did a number of these plants. We were able to eat some. These varieties were beautiful with their colors!

Conclusions

Gardeners liked growing these varieties and recommended both of them. 'Bright Lights' and 'Northern Lights' were rated similarly for most traits including yields and taste. There was one notable exception: looks. The colors of 'Bright Lights' were more vibrant; this led to a vast majority of gardeners preferring it.

The colors of 'Bright Lights' were more vibrant; this led to a vast majority of gardeners preferring it.

Turnip, Purple Top (Fall)

Varieties

'Purple Prince'

50 days. Smooth, uniform roots with bright purple tops. Pure white flesh is sweet and juicy.

'Purple Top White Globe'

50 days. Most popular turnip in the USA. Smooth, round roots. Leaves are large and good for cooking.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Purple Prince	P.T.W. Globe	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	33	0	67
Harvested earlier	100	0	0
Higher yields	100	0	0
More attractive roots	50	0	50
Tasted better	0	0	100
Preference	100	0	
Recommend	100	100	
Mean score ¹	9.50	7.50	
Median score ¹	9.50	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Purple Prince'

Purple Prince ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were very nice looking—good color and shape. 'Purple Prince' was slightly better.

Purple Prince ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Purple Top W. Globe ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Purple Prince' grew a little bigger though neither one was full grown because of the cool fall weather.

Prefer 'Purple Top White Globe'

None.

Conclusions

Both varieties struggled in the cold, wet autumn to develop full-sized roots. The limited data available showed a strong preference for the hybrid 'Purple Prince' over the standard 'Purple Top White Globe.' 'Purple Prince' grew quicker and produced higher yields. It was rated very highly by participants and preferred by all of them.

'Purple Prince' grew quicker and produced higher yields.

Best turnip varieties

Top choice
Hakurei

Strong performers
Purple Prince
Purple Top White Globe
Tokyo Cross

Turnip, Red (Fall)

Varieties

'Scarlet Queen'

50 days. Beautiful red skin. White flesh shows attractive red splashes when sliced. Crunchy and juicy.

'Tsugaru Scarlet'

55 days. Scarlet, round turnip from Japan. Flesh is pure white, tender, crisp and delicious.



Data

Gardeners at 3 sites submitted information.

Trait	Scarlet Queen	Tsugaru Scarlet	Same
Germinated best	0%	0%	100%
Healthier plants	0	0	100
Harvested earlier	0	50	50
Higher yields	0	50	50
More attractive roots	0	50	50
Tasted better	0	100	0
Preference	0	100	
Recommend	0	100	
Mean score ¹	4.00	7.00	
Median score ¹	4.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Scarlet Queen'

None.

Prefer 'Tsugaru Scarlet'

Scarlet Queen ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Tsugaru Scarlet ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Tsugaru Scarlet' roots had a more uniform size and better texture.

Scarlet Queen ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Tsugaru Scarlet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Tsugaru Scarlet' produced enough to taste. Its roots had diameters of 1.5 inches and smaller.

Conclusions

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

'Tsugaru Scarlet' showed more vigor, leading to higher yields.

Best turnip varieties

Top choice
 Hakurei

Strong performers
 Purple Prince
 Purple Top
 White Globe
 Tokyo Cross

Turnip, White (Fall)

Varieties

'Hakurei'

38 days. Popular Japanese turnip with sweet, mild flavor. Dark green, edible tops. Matures early.

'Tokyo Cross'

50 days. Award winner known for its quality roots and ease of growing. Flavorful flesh.



Data

Gardeners at 4 sites submitted information.

Trait	Tokyo		
	Hakurei	Cross	Same
Germinated best	75%	0%	25%
Healthier plants	50	25	25
Harvested earlier	50	25	25
Higher yields	50	25	25
More attractive roots	25	25	50
Tasted better	25	25	50
Preference	75	25	
Recommend	75	75	
Mean score ¹	6.00	5.00	
Median score ¹	6.00	5.50	

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

Prefer 'Hakurei'

Hakurei
Tokyo Cross MN

'Hakurei' roots were just a little bigger in size.

Hakurei
Tokyo Cross SE

'Hakurei' had full flavor. Both varieties produced small yields after 60 days; neither had full-sized roots.

Hakurei
Tokyo Cross SE

'Hakurei' germinated better and was healthier. It would have produced a good harvest, but rabbits ate the trial.

Prefer 'Tokyo Cross'

Hakurei
Tokyo Cross NC

'Tokyo Cross' was more productive. Its roots looked and tasted better.

Conclusions

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

'Hakurei'
germinated
better, had
healthier
plants and
produced
higher yields at
more sites.

Best turnip varieties

Top choice
Hakurei

Strong performers

Purple Prince
Purple Top
White
Globe
Tokyo Cross

Watermelon, Red Allsweet

Varieties

'Sangria'

90 days. High quality. Deep red flesh is very sweet and refreshing. Melons grow 20 pounds.

'Stargazer'

90 days. Elongated fruits weigh 25 pounds. Filled with sweet, crisp flesh.



Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sangria	Star-gazer	Same
Germinated best	43%	14%	43%
Healthier plants	14	29	57
Matured earlier	43	43	14
Higher yields	29	57	14
More attractive fruits	29	43	43
Tasted better	17	50	33
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	63	75	
Mean score ¹	6.38	7.13	
Median score ¹	6.50	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Sangria'

Sangria ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Stargazer ★★★★★ ☺ NE

Most mature 'Sangria' melons were full sized. 'Stargazer' had many small, softball-sized melons.

Sangria ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Stargazer ★★★★★ ☹ SE

'Sangria' germinated better, was healthier and produced more melons. It was a bad year for melons and there was very little to taste.

Sangria ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Stargazer ★★★★★ ☺ NC

'Sangria' produced larger melons with better flavor.

Sangria ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Stargazer ★★★★★ ☹ NW

'Sangria' melons were bigger, but I have not eaten a fully ripe melon yet.

Prefer 'Stargazer'

Sangria ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Stargazer ★★★★★ ☺ NE

We sowed on May 20. Three seedlings of 'Stargazer' germinated, compared to one seedling of 'Sangria'. The vines of both varieties were healthy. 'Stargazer' ripened 3 weeks earlier. We harvested twelve 'Stargazer' melons—one was 25 pounds—compared to one melon of 'Sangria'. The flesh of 'Stargazer' was sweeter but more pink in color. The melons of both varieties were very seedy.

Sangria ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞 🐛
Stargazer ★★★★★ ☺ NE

'Stargazer' had healthier vines and produced more and larger fruits. Its fruits were more flavorful. 'Sangria' fruits were sweeter.

Sangria ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
Stargazer ★★★★★ ☺ SC

'Stargazer' had about 16 melons whereas 'Sangria' only had a few and they never matured before frost. 'Stargazer' was a very good tasting melon.

'Sangria' and 'Stargazer' yields were low this summer. Gardeners were evenly split on which variety they preferred.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sangria

Strong performers
Stargazer
Sugar Baby
Sweet Dakota
Rose

Prefer 'Stargazer' (continued)

Sangria ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Stargazer ★★★★★ 😊 SD

There was too much rain and not enough sunshine this summer. The plants of both varieties were large, but the fruits were set too late in the season. Deer started eating them, so I picked a couple fruits that were not quite ripe in the middle of September.

Conclusions

'Sangria' and 'Stargazer' yields were low this summer. 'Stargazer' produced more ripe melons at more sites. More gardeners liked the looks and taste of 'Stargazer' melons as well. Gardeners were evenly split on which variety they preferred. 'Sangria' has performed well in tests conducted in previous years.

'Stargazer' produced more ripe melons at more sites. More gardeners liked the looks and taste of 'Stargazer' melons as well.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 ☹️

Location →

NC

Comments →

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

Garden types

- 🍷 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Locations

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Watermelon, Red Early

Varieties

'Shiny Boy'

75 days. Award winner. Refreshing, sweet, tropical flavor. Twenty-pound melons ripen early.

'Sweet Dakota Rose'

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 15 pounds. Reliable.



Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Shiny Boy	S. Dak. Rose	Same
Germinated best	53%	29%	18%
Healthier plants	31	38	31
Matured earlier	47	53	0
Higher yields	44	50	6
More attractive fruits	25	56	19
Tasted better	15	46	38
Preference	35	65	
Recommend (☺)	59	71	
Mean score ¹	5.88	8.35	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Shiny Boy'

Shiny Boy ★★★★★☺🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★☹️ MN

'Shiny Boy' germinated better. Its vines were more vigorous and produced many more fruits. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced only two large melons; these melons were larger and had more attractive dark coloring. The vines of both varieties dried down well before the fruits were ripe.

Shiny Boy ★★★★★☹️🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★☹️ NE
'Shiny Boy' vines dried quickly, but it still produced higher yields.

Shiny Boy ★★★★★☺️🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★☺️ NC

'Shiny Boy' seedlings showed more vigor. Its vines had melons a few days before 'Sweet Dakota Rose'. 'Shiny Boy' had better yields, larger melons and tasted sweet. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons had fewer seeds and better taste.

Shiny Boy ★★★★★☺️🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★☹️ SC

'Shiny Boy' produced more melons.

Shiny Boy ★★★★★☺️🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★☹️ SC

'Shiny Boy' outproduced 'Sweet Dakota Rose'. One 'Shiny Boy' melon weighed 16 pounds. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' never fully ripened before rotting.

Shiny Boy ★★★★★☺️🐛
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★☺️ SC

Neither variety really had a great taste, but they were both okay.

Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Rose'

Shiny Boy ★★★★★☺️ -
Sweet Dakota Rose ★★★★★☺️ MN

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced a few more melons. The vines of both varieties did better when grown with black plastic around them.

Yields of both varieties were low, but 'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced slightly better.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sangria

Strong performers
Stargazer
Sugar Baby
Sweet Dakota Rose

Prefer 'Sweet Dakota Rose' (cont.)

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

Both varieties germinated at 100%, but all but one 'Sangria' seedling died from damping off. This led to a much higher yield for 'Sweet Dakota Rose'. The melons of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' had a nice, uniform shape and perfect size. Its flesh was very sweet and had excellent flavor.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced earlier melons and higher yields. It tasted better.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

'Sweet Dakota Rose' was first to ripen and produced slightly larger melons. The melons of both varieties were very sweet. Drip irrigation was used in this trial. We received less than 3 inches of rain from May 15 through Labor Day, and the plants were watered every 3 days.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

Both varieties produced several melons per plant. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons were smaller and a little better tasting. Neither variety produced very sweet melons—I'm blaming the cool weather for this.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

None of the melons ripened in time. The 'Sweet Dakota Rose' vines produced more melons, and its melons had a nice size.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

There were lots of melons but none of them were ripe at first frost. The vines of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' were healthier and just went crazy. I needed one more week of growing season. I sowed late (June 17), and the seedlings were slow to germinate, which was odd as the soil was quite warm. I would like to try starting them indoors. I only ever get ripe watermelons once every 2–3 years now matter how I plant them.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

We were not pleased. We sowed on June 8 and only one 'Shiny Boy' seed germinated; this seedling did not produce any melons. Seven seeds of 'Sweet Dakota Rose' germinated. These seedlings produced a total of two melons. Each of the melons had a big, black spot on them before ripening; these melons did not taste good. We sowed 'Sugar Baby' melons in the same spot of the garden last year and harvested two laundry baskets and a wheelbarrow full.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

Neither variety produced a fully ripe melon. Not a great year.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

'Sweet Dakota Rose' melons were sweeter. The melons of both varieties did not grow very large.

Shiny Boy 
Sweet Dakota Rose 

'Sweet Dakota Rose' had large melons; one did split. 'Sweet Dakota Rose' was the best watermelon we had all summer. Very sweet and crunchy. Mom said she prefers watermelons with seed because of 'Sweet Dakota Rose'.

Conclusions

'Sweet Dakota Rose' was developed in North Dakota and it showed its superiority in our region this summer. Gardeners were especially pleased with the taste and appearance of its melons. Yields of both varieties were low, but 'Sweet Dakota Rose' produced slightly better. Most gardeners preferred and recommended 'Sweet Dakota Rose' over the Asian watermelon 'Shiny Boy.'

'Sweet Dakota Rose' was developed in North Dakota and it showed its superiority in our region this summer. Gardeners were especially pleased with the taste and appearance of its melons.

Watermelon, Yellow

Varieties

'Petite Yellow'

75 days. One of the sweetest, earliest ripening melons. Melons are round and weigh 6 pounds.

'Yellow Doll'

70 days. Very early hybrid. Bright yellow flesh is crisp and very sweet. Round melons grow 8 pounds.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Petite Yellow	Yellow Doll	Same
Germinated best	36%	55%	9%
Healthier plants	73	18	9
Matured earlier	56	22	22
Higher yields	63	25	13
More attractive fruits	44	33	22
Tasted better	43	43	14
Preference	75	25	
Recommend (☺)	63	63	
Mean score ¹	6.38	6.13	
Median score ¹	8.50	6.00	

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

Prefer 'Petite Yellow'

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ ☺ SE

'Petite Yellow' germinated better and its plants were twice as big. I harvested four 5-pound melons on August 2 while the 'Yellow Doll' melons were only 1-inch in diameter. In all, 'Petite Yellow' produced 16 melons (100 pounds total) and 'Yellow Doll' produced four melons (20 pounds total). 'Petite Yellow' melons tasted good but 'Yellow Doll' was sweeter.

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☹ 🏠
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ ☹ NC

We never got to eat any melons. All of them rotted on the vine with all the rain we had.

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ ☺ SC

I loved these yellow watermelons! A great size for the fridge. Sweet and crisp. I harvested more of 'Petite Yellow'.

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Petite Yellow' vines were larger, healthier and grew faster. 'Petite Yellow' had higher yields and large melons.

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Petite Yellow' produced more melons and tasted better.

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ ☺ SW

'Petite Yellow' had better yield and taste. Both varieties tasted great.

Prefer 'Yellow Doll'

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☹ 🐞
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ ☹ SC

'Yellow Doll' only produced about five watermelons but they were very good tasting. 'Petite Yellow' had a few plants but they never had any watermelons.

'Petite Yellow' produced earlier and produced more ripe melons. It was a more reliable performer.

Best yellow watermelon varieties

Top choice
 Yellow Doll

Strong performers
 Early
 Moonbeam
 Petite Yellow

Prefer 'Yellow Doll' (continued)

Petite Yellow ★★★★★ ☹️ 🍄
 Yellow Doll ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Petite Yellow' only germinated 20% of its seeds; the plants were spindly and produced one golf-ball-sized melon. 'Yellow Doll' germinated 100% of its seeds. Its vines weren't terribly vigorous, but each produced one melon of decent size, which I harvested on October 1, not because I thought they were ready, but because it was about to freeze! However, ready or not they were tasty. This part of the garden turned out to have more afternoon shade than I had anticipated. These varieties may have performed better in a sunnier spot.

Conclusions

'Yellow Doll' has performed well in the past, but 'Petite Yellow' was the surprise winner in this trial. Its vines were healthier and grew faster. 'Petite Yellow' produced earlier and produced more ripe melons. It was a more reliable performer. Gardeners were split on which variety tasted better, and they recommended both varieties at an equal percentage.

Gardeners were split on which variety tasted better, and they recommended both varieties at an equal percentage.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) →

Variety A ★★★★★ 😊

Variety B ★★★★★ ☹️

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

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →

😊 ☹️

Garden type

🍄 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Location

NC

Comments

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Basil, Compact

Varieties

'Dolce Fresca'

70 days. Award winner. Bushy plants filled with sweet leaves.

'Emma'

70 days. Sturdy plants are easy to harvest. Mild, sweet flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dolce		
	Fresca	Emma	Same
Germinated best	31%	31%	38%
Healthier plants	31	31	38
Harvested earlier	15	31	54
Higher yields	15	38	46
More attractive	31	23	46
Tasted better	17	17	67
Preference	38	62	
Recommend	69	77	
Mean score ¹	7.62	7.69	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Dolce Fresca'

Dolce Fresca SE
Emma SE

'Dolce Fresca' was a fuller plant. It produced higher yields. The germination of 'Emma' was spotty. Its plants were taller.

Dolce Fresca SE
Emma SE

Both varieties had a high yield and great taste. 'Dolce Fresca' had a slightly higher yield, but both were great.

Dolce Fresca SE
Emma SE

'Dolce Fresca' plants were one-third larger, leading to that much more production. Its leaves were more resistant to leaf-eating insect pests.

Dolce Fresca SC
Emma SC

They had different tastes. I don't know how to describe it very well, but 'Emma' was almost minty.

Dolce Fresca SW
Emma SW

Both varieties performed well. I felt 'Emma' tasted a little more bitter than 'Dolce Fresca'. I preferred the overall looks of 'Dolce Fresca', too.

Prefer 'Emma'

Dolce Fresca MN
Emma MN

'Emma' was healthier, produced higher yields and looked more attractive.

Dolce Fresca SE
Emma SE

'Emma' had a sweeter taste to me. Both plants produced really well. I was very impressed with both of them. 'Dolce Fresca' seemed to have a head start in the beginning, but they both filled out pretty equally as the season progressed. The aroma from that portion of the garden was amazing. I would recommend both varieties. Both varieties held up to multiple hail events. They did, however, both start to die as soon as the temperature dropped into the mid/low 40s. They were completely gone after they were covered in a foot of snow for a few days in early October. I'd say they reacted pretty equally to the colder temps.

Gardeners liked both varieties and no clear and consistent differences were detected. They enjoyed the taste of both varieties.

Best basil varieties

Top choice
Genovese

Strong performers

Amethyst
Improved
Emma
Italian Large
Leaf
Lime
Mrs. Burns
Lemon
Sweet Dani

Prefer 'Emma' (continued)

Dolce Fresca ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 Emma ★★★★★ 😊

Both varieties were pretty good, and they were easy to grow. 'Emma' was the winner. Its plants were larger and somewhat tastier.

Dolce Fresca ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
 Emma ★★★★★ 😊

Both varieties did very well and tasted great.

Dolce Fresca ★★★★★ N 🏠
 Emma ★★★★★ 😊 NC

'Emma' germinated better, produced the first yield and produced more. A hailstorm on August 8 destroyed the planting.

Dolce Fresca ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
 Emma ★★★★★ 😊

'Emma' germinated better, produced a little earlier and had robust plants. Both varieties were very good tasting and very fragrant.

Dolce Fresca ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Emma ★★★★★ 😞 SC

Both varieties were slow to germinate. Their flavors were bold and bright. 'Emma' plants were a bit sturdier, fuller and recovered a bit faster after cuttings.

Dolce Fresca ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SC
 Emma ★★★★★ 😊

'Emma' was a better compact plant, a shorter plant by 4–6 inches. This makes it a better plant to hang and dry for cooking use in the winter. 'Emma' grew faster and bloomed first.

Conclusions

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

Most gardeners preferred 'Emma'. These gardeners commented that 'Emma' had sturdy plants that grew robustly, producing higher yields.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

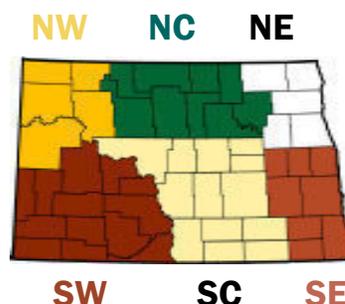
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

Garden type →
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 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🐛 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Location →
 NC

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



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Basil, Large Leaf

Varieties

'Italian Large Leaf'

78 days. Popular. Sweeter than classic 'Genovese' basil.

'Newton'

77 days. New. Classic flavor. Leaves up to 4 inches long.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Italian L.		
	Leaf	Newton	Same
Germinated best	38%	23%	38%
Healthier plants	27	18	55
Harvested earlier	18	36	45
Higher yields	33	33	33
More attractive	18	18	64
Tasted better	9	18	73
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	75	83	
Mean score ¹	7.33	6.67	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Italian Large Leaf'

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton NE

The plants of both varieties looked great, strong and healthy. I cut back the plants and had a good supply into fall. The taste of 'Italian Large Leaf' was strong initially but its aftertaste was better. The taste of 'Newton' had more acidity.

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton NE

'Italian Large Leaf' produced really well, and I was able to keep harvesting and using it. I liked the taste of both varieties, but 'Italian Large Leaf' was more licorice-like in flavor. 'Newton' did not germinate well or produce much but tasted better.

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton SE

'Italian Large Leaf' plants were more filled out. 'Newton' tasted bitter to me.

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton SC

The plants of both varieties were very tall and beautiful. I liked the looks of 'Italian Large Leaf' a bit better; it was a bit taller.

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton SC

'Italian Large Leaf' germinated slightly better.

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton SC

'Newton' never germinated. This trial was grown in a planter on my balcony. I don't think it had good drainage.

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton SC

The leaves of 'Italian Large Leaf' were larger and easier to harvest.

Italian Large Leaf
 Newton SW

'Italian Large Leaf' had sturdier plants. I'm thinking they had too much shade.

'Italian Large Leaf' and 'Newton' were rated similarly for all traits. Neither variety showed a particular strength or weakness.

Best basil varieties

Top choice
Genovese

Strong performers
Amethyst

Improved
Emma
Italian Large Leaf
Lime
Mrs. Burns
Lemon
Sweet Dani

Prefer 'Newton'

Italian Large Leaf ★★★★★ 😊 🌱
 Newton ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Newton' germinated earlier. Both varieties were very healthy and tasty.

Italian Large Leaf ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Newton ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Newton' germinated best, and once it got going it was very productive!

Italian Large Leaf ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 🌪️
 Newton ★★★★★ 😊 NW

'Newton' survived the wind much better. I companion planted the basil with peppers in large plastic whisky-style tubs and I won't do that again. The basil grew but not real well.

Italian Large Leaf ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Newton ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Newton' yielded better. Both varieties were healthy, and I did not notice any difference in their tastes.

Conclusions

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

Gardeners were pleased with the health, productivity and taste of both varieties.

Key to Site Reports

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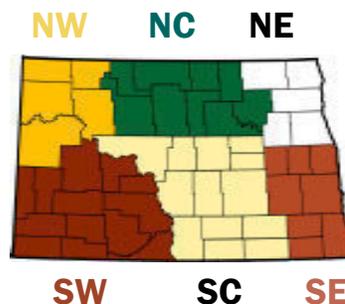
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

Garden type →
 🌱 = Organic
 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🌪️ = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Location →
 NC

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



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Parsley, Flat Leaf

Varieties

'Giant of Italy'

75 days. Classic. Flavorful leaves on strong stems. High yields.

'Peione'

75 days. New. Large leaves on thick, upright stems. Sweet flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 6 sites submitted information.

Trait	Giant of		
	Italy	Peione	Same
Germinated best	67%	0%	33%
Healthier plants	67	17	17
Harvested earlier	50	0	50
Higher yields	67	17	17
More attractive	0	0	100
Tasted better	0	33	67
Preference	50	50	
Recommend	100	67	
Mean score ¹	8.33	7.83	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.50	

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

Prefer 'Giant of Italy'

Giant of Italy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Peione ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties germinated very well. 'Peione' germinated within 1 week; 'Giant of Italy' took 2 weeks to germinate. Overall, I preferred 'Giant of Italy'. Its seedlings showed exceptional root development and vigor. 'Giant of Italy' plants grew bigger leaves, and therefore produced more yield.

Giant of Italy ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Peione ★★★★★ 😞 SC

We harvested both varieties at the same time. They produced multiple cuttings within 1–2 weeks of cutting. The plants were nice and healthy. They tasted very good when dried. 'Giant of Italy' germinated better. Its plants were bushy and taller.

Giant of Italy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Peione ★★★★★ 😞 SC

'Giant of Italy' had a longer leaf stem; it was easier to bunch when I gave some away. These varieties tasted the same; both were good. They both looked good. 'Giant of Italy' was harvested first, and its longer stems made it easy to pick a bunch when my wife needed some to cook with.

Prefer 'Peione'

Giant of Italy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Peione ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties were very good. 'Peione' tasted better.

Giant of Italy ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Peione ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Peione' tasted better and taste always wins!

Giant of Italy ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Peione ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Peione' had healthier plants and a slightly better yield. Neither variety attracted black swallowtail butterflies to my yard.

Conclusions

'Giant of Italy' germinated better, was healthier, grew faster and produced higher yields. Its long stems made it easy to harvest. It was very reliable and every gardener recommended it. Gardeners were split on which variety they preferred. Those who preferred 'Peione' often mentioned they felt it tasted better.

'Giant of Italy' germinated better, was healthier, and produced higher yields. Gardeners who preferred 'Peione' often felt it tasted better.

Best parsley variety

Top choice
Giant of Italy

Cosmos, Rose

Varieties

'Rubenza'

Cranberry blooms fade to an antique rose. The 42-inch plants bloom early and continuously.

'Xsenia'

New award winner. Its terracotta petals have glowing pink edges. Grows 24 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Rubenza	Xsenia	Same
Germinated best	45%	0%	55%
Healthier plants	52	0	48
Bloomed earlier	57	24	19
More blooms	52	14	33
Prettier in garden	68	14	18
Better cut flower	36	7	57
Preference	81	19	
Recommend	86	57	
Mean score ¹	8.33	6.24	
Median score ¹	9.00	7.00	

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

Prefer 'Rubenza'

Rubenza
 Xsenia

I liked the color of 'Rubenza' better; it is more striking. However, its plants were way taller and leggier, which led to a more tangled mass. In the garden they weren't as uniform in size as the plants of 'Xsenia'. I didn't care for the color of 'Xsenia' as much, but as a drift in the garden, the plants were more uniform and stood better. Both varieties were hailed on multiple times and they perked right back up a few days after each storm. I loved both of these and the fact that they handled the hail was a surprising plus! I have fallen in love with cosmos after this.

Rubenza
 Xsenia

'Rubenza' had more flowers.

Rubenza
 Xsenia

'Rubenza' was a beautiful cosmos. It handled lots of rain and high winds. The plants did not get fungus and bloomed for a long time—into mid-October!

Rubenza
 Xsenia

'Rubenza' was about 12 inches taller. The darker blossoms made a beautiful contrast.

Rubenza
 Xsenia

The color of 'Rubenza' was more vivid.

Rubenza
 Xsenia

'Rubenza' germinated twice as much as 'Xsenia'. The blossoms of 'Rubenza' were larger, with a beautiful deep rosy color as a new bloom or a faded one. They always caught my eye. Awesome color. 'Xsenia' plants were shorter and kind of all over the place, compared to the more uniform look of 'Rubenza'. Both were full of blooms, and both were very nice as cut flowers. If doing this trial again, I would stake up both of these varieties. Even though both rows were protected from the wind, both toppled over.

Rubenza
 Xsenia

I preferred the darker, rosier color of 'Rubenza' flowers. 'Xsenia' flowers were pinker. 'Rubenza' had taller plants but neither variety was very tall.

Gardeners loved

'Rubenza'. Its cranberry-red flowers were vibrant when opening, fading to a soft rose.

Best cosmos varieties

Top choice

Sonata

Strong performers

Double Click

Picotee

Psyche

Rubenza

Prefer 'Rubenza' (continued)

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

'Rubenza' had beautiful deep rose colors and ruffled petals. I have gorgeous flower arrangements. 'Xsenia' had poor germination and bloomed late.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

'Rubenza' germinated better. I love the dark pink/red color of the flowers. Both varieties were beautiful and great for pollinators.

Rubenza -
 Xsenia SC

'Rubenza' germinated a few days earlier. Plants of both varieties thrived, but 'Rubenza' plants showed amazing fullness. Both varieties were prolific bloomers and great for cut flowers. 'Rubenza' blooms had a bolder color and were more tolerant to wind.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

'Rubenza' had twice as many plants, which led to more flowers. Both varieties bloomed late into fall.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

'Rubenza' germinated faster and produced stronger plants.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

'Rubenza' was a prolific bloomer. Its flowers were attractive and maroon, twice the size of 'Xsenia'. Both varieties had wispy foliage. 'Xsenia' was the first to bloom (July 20) but the flowers were small and not as showy as 'Rubenza'. Both varieties were planted in the garden but may have done better up against a fence or foundation since both had tendencies to fall over.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

'Rubenza' had a beautiful color when its blooms first opened. On its older blooms, its colors faded to the most beautiful tones! 'Rubenza' grew taller. I love taller cosmos.

Rubenza
 Xsenia NW

'Rubenza' plants were healthier and produced more blooms. I liked the color of 'Xsenia' better.

Rubenza
 Xsenia NW

'Rubenza' was hardier, had many more blooms and was taller.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SW

They had different colors, but I liked them both. Both varieties lodged late in the season. 'Rubenza' bloomed first and lodged less.

Prefer 'Xsenia'

Rubenza
 Xsenia MN

'Xsenia' plants had more branching and more flowers per plant. Both varieties germinated poorly.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

I planted a bit late (June 11), but they came on strong within about a month. I liked the flower color of 'Xsenia' more.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SC

'Xsenia' bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Rubenza
 Xsenia SW

'Xsenia' was shorter and I prefer the look of smaller, daintier cosmos. Both varieties grew well and were healthy. They both had an abundance of blooms. These blooms worked well as cut flowers.

Conclusions

'Rubenza' was rated higher for all traits— gardeners loved it. Its cranberry-red flowers were vibrant when opening, fading to a soft rose. 'Xsenia' had a more compact and uniform habit, but gardeners were less fond of its earthy-pink flower color. Both varieties were prolific bloomers and good for cutting.

'Xsenia' had a more compact and uniform habit, but gardeners were less fond of its earthy-pink flower color.

Cosmos, Striped

Varieties

'Capriola'

Bright white flowers with light red edges. Bushy, 27-inch plants are easy to grow. Great for bouquets.

'Picotee'

Pure white petals are edged in rosy red. Bushy plants grow 48 inches. A proven performer in North Dakota.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Capriola	Picotee	Same
Germinated best	20%	60%	20%
Healthier plants	13	47	40
Bloomed earlier	47	40	13
More blooms	33	47	20
Prettier in garden	47	27	27
Better cut flower	17	33	50
Preference	53	47	
Recommend	87	80	
Mean score ¹	7.86	7.86	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Capriola'

Capriola Picotee MN

'Capriola' plants were healthier and more attractive than 'Picotee'. It was very attractive and fun to have in the garden.

Capriola Picotee SC

'Capriola' bloomed weeks earlier. The proximity of its flower to leaf was nicer and their leaves weren't so overwhelming. Both varieties were healthy.

Capriola Picotee SC

'Capriola' had better growth and vigor. It had more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden.

Capriola Picotee SC

'Picotee' grew very large before blooming, which made it look disproportionate. It had very few flowers. 'Capriola' had more flowers. Its plants looked proportionate and were attractive.

Capriola Picotee SC

'Capriola' bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Capriola Picotee NW

'Capriola' plants had thinner stems. They were shorter and looked best when planted in a flower bed. In a garden, I would choose 'Picotee' because it is twice as tall, more showy, and easier for bees to extract nectar. 'Picotee' plants bush out more. 'Picotee' is a superior cut flower because its stems are longer and its flowers larger.

Capriola Picotee NW

'Capriola' had fuller color in its petals that brought nice color to the garden. These blooms retained their petals much longer than the blooms of 'Picotee'. 'Capriola' bloomed first but the two varieties produced a similar number of blooms. 'Picotee' plants were taller and greener. Both varieties attracted many bees including bumblebees.

Gardeners liked 'Capriola' for its earliness to bloom and compact plant habit.

Best cosmos varieties

Top choice

Sonata

Strong performers

Double Click

Picotee

Psyche

Rubenza

Prefer ‘Capriola’ (continued)

Capriola ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Picotee ★★★★★ 😊 MT

Both varieties had such pretty flowers! Beautiful colors; great cut flowers. I loved the color of ‘Capriola’ but wish I would have staked the plants up. This was a fun trial, and I’m hoping to see some volunteer cosmos popping up next spring!

Prefer ‘Picotee’

Capriola ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Picotee ★★★★★ 😊 NC

‘Picotee’ plants were fuller and taller—up to 6 feet tall. ‘Capriola’ bloomed first and had more flowers. Plants of both varieties were good and healthy.

Capriola ★★★★★ 😊 -
 Picotee ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Picotee’ germinated a few days earlier. Its plants were fuller and produced 50% more blooms. The flowers of both varieties were bright.

Capriola ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Picotee ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Picotee’ had more variety of colors and its blooms stayed longer. Plants were taller and had fuller greenery.

Capriola ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Picotee ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Picotee’ was better in all traits—including surviving damage caused by rabbits!

Capriola ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Picotee ★★★★★ 😊 SC

‘Picotee’ was the winner all around—absolutely gorgeous bloomer with tall, strong, ferny legs. It grew fast. If we didn’t have that early snowstorm, I would have had blooms for weeks. ‘Capriola’ was stunted and barely bloomed at all for me.

Capriola ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
 Picotee ★★★★★ 😊 NW

‘Picotee’ grew much taller. It looked healthier and produced more flowers.

‘Picotee’ grew more vigorously. It had taller plants with more foliage, plus lots of flowers.

Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed the beauty of both varieties. More gardeners recommended and preferred ‘Capriola’, albeit by a small margin. These gardeners liked its earliness to bloom and more compact habit. ‘Picotee’ grew more vigorously. It had taller plants with more foliage, plus lots of flowers. Both varieties were good for cutting.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

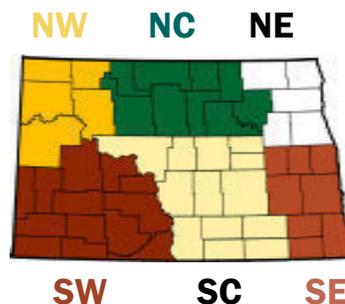
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★ 😊
 Variety B ★★★★★ 😞

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

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

Location →
 NC

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



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Cosmos, White

Varieties

'Afternoon White'

New. Bred for cutting. Straight, sturdy stems with large, pure white blooms. Grows 36–48 inches.

'Purity'

Silky white flowers with bright yellow centers. Ferny bushes grow 36–60 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 11 sites submitted information.

Trait	Afternoon		
	White	Purity	Same
Germinated best	50%	30%	20%
Healthier plants	30	30	40
Bloomed earlier	60	20	20
More blooms	33	44	22
Prettier in garden	30	40	30
Better cut flower	40	40	20
Preference	60	40	
Recommend	60	60	
Mean score ¹	7.80	6.60	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.50	

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

Prefer 'Afternoon White'

Afternoon White
 Purity MN

'Afternoon White' plants were healthy and grew evenly. 'Purity' plants bushed out and then laid on the ground.

Afternoon White N
 Purity SE

They both bloomed very late, the end of August. Then 'Afternoon White' had many more flowers. Both varieties had lots of buds in mid-October when I had to clean up the yard due to the snowstorm coming. The flowers were very pretty but more greenery than I had expected.

Afternoon White
 Purity NC

'Afternoon White' blooms were very pretty, very white and large. I love cosmos!

Afternoon White
 Purity NC

Both varieties were healthy, tall and very nice. 'Afternoon White' germinated at 85% compared to 50% for 'Purity'. Its stems were better for cutting flowers for bouquets. 'Purity' was more attractive because it bloomed non-stop from early on until now into October.

Afternoon White
 Purity NW

'Afternoon White' bloomed first and therefore brought color to the garden sooner. It produced larger flowers. 'Purity' plants had lush leaves and taller plants. These varieties produced a similar number of flowers. The flowers were attractive to bees.

Afternoon White
 Purity SW

'Afternoon White' germinated better. Its flowers lasted longer.

'Afternoon White' had larger flowers and bloomed earlier at more gardens.

Best cosmos varieties

Top choice

Sonata

Strong performers

Double Click

Picotee

Psyche

Rubenza

Prefer 'Purity'

Afternoon White ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Purity ★★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Purity' bloomed first, produced more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden. It was a better cut flower.

Afternoon White ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Purity ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Purity' produced more plants, and consequently, more flowers.

Afternoon White ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Purity ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Although I didn't sow them until mid-June, they were strong plants by August/September. The stems were tough. Cosmos are always a nice addition to the flower garden. 'Purity' had beautiful petals.

Afternoon White ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Purity ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Purity' had very strong, sturdy stems which held up well in the wind. Its taller plants worked better in my flower border.

Conclusions

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

Both varieties were healthy and bloomed prolifically all summer and fall.

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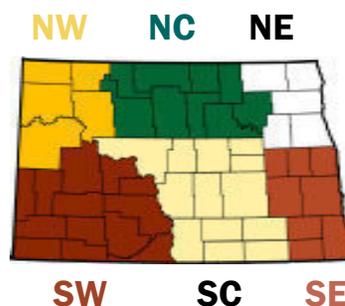
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★☆
 Variety B ★★★★★☆

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

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



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Sunflower, Confectionary

Varieties

'Mongolian Giant'

Enormous, 18-inch-wide, yellow flowers grow on 14-foot stalks. Huge, 1.5-inch seeds are delicious.

'Titan'

Giant, 24-inch-wide blooms filled with large seeds. Single-head stems grow 13 feet.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Mongolian		
	Giant	Titan	Same
Germinated best	23%	15%	62%
Healthier plants	9	27	64
Bloomed earlier	36	18	45
Grew taller	36	27	36
Prettier in garden	10	30	60
More seeds	10	50	40
Better quality seeds	0	33	67
Preference	40	60	
Recommend	55	27	
Mean score ¹	5.27	5.18	
Median score ¹	5.00	4.00	

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

Prefer 'Mongolian Giant'

Mongolian Giant Titan SE

'Titan' was first to lay down; several of its stalks fell over in fall winds. 'Mongolian Giant' stayed up.

Mongolian Giant Titan SE

'Mongolian Giant' grew 12 feet tall; 'Titan' grew 10 feet tall. Both varieties produced seeds too small for us to harvest (not enough "meat"). When the wind tipped the stalks over, squirrels ripped out the few seeds.

Mongolian Giant Titan SC

Both varieties recovered from some deer pressure but came back. 'Mongolian Giant' produced very tall plants with very large heads. Unfortunately, they were immature at first frost and seeds never hardened. 'Titan' plants looked good until they set heads, which looked like clubs and were diseased. 'Titan' stems rotted off at ground level. It was a very wet year.

Mongolian Giant Titan MT

'Mongolian Giant' had bigger heads.

Prefer 'Titan'

Mongolian Giant Titan SE

It was a tough year. 'Titan' bloomed first and looked more attractive in the garden.

Mongolian Giant Titan SE

Both varieties had high rates of disease, 'Titan' less so.

Mongolian Giant Titan SC

The stalks of 'Titan' were slightly stronger. Both varieties were beautiful.

Diseases, deer, squirrels, cold weather and winds prevented most gardeners from harvesting any quality seeds.

Best confectionary sunflower seed variety

Top choice
To be determined

Prefer Titan' (continued)

Mongolian Giant ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Titan ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛 NW

The plants of both varieties suffered from diseases. 'Titan' had larger heads and fuller seeds, but neither variety was very good.

Mongolian Giant ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Titan ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛 SW

'Titan' germinated and grew better, but neither variety produced the advertised size or quality of seeds.

No Preference

Mongolian Giant ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Titan ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛 SE

I was very disappointed that most of the plants of both varieties were unable to support the weights of their heads and toppled over onto the rest of the garden. Many of the heads rotted whether they were on the ground or not. I don't know what influenced the growth of sunflowers this year, but every variety grew 'crazy tall'. I grew these two in the garden and another beside my house, and all three plants grew very tall and lacked strength to support their height. The variety near the house I had planted last year in the garden grew to an average of 6 or 7 feet. I have mulled this over and can't pin down an explanation except maybe the above average moisture in late summer and fall.

Mongolian Giant - - 🐛
 Titan - - SE

They were awesome until two deer came through and mowed them off on June 25, and again 2 weeks later! Even with the deer repeatedly damaging the plants, they still grew and bloomed in late summer.

'Mongolian Giant' reached 10 feet and 'Titan' reached 7 feet. They were very beautiful, and the bees and butterflies enjoyed them.

Unfortunately, they matured too late to develop edible seeds. I hope to try this trial again, but with a better plan to deter the deer.

Conclusions

Gardeners were generally disappointed with this trial. Diseases, deer, squirrels, cold weather and winds prevented most gardeners from harvesting any quality seeds. 'Titan' produced more seeds and was preferred by more gardeners; however, most gardeners did not recommend it for seed production.

'Titan' produced more seeds, but most gardeners did not recommend it for seed production.

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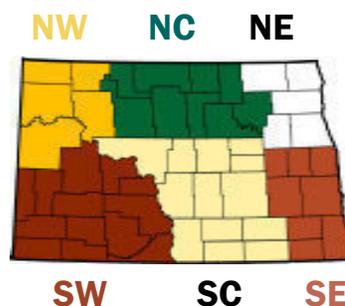
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ☆☆☆☆☆ ☺️
 Variety B ☆☆☆☆☆ ☹️

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 Variety A ☺️
 Variety B ☹️

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

Location →
 NC

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



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Sunflower, Orange

Varieties

'Country Roads'

The plants are filled with orange flowers on strong branches. Good for cutting. Grows 48–72 inches.

'Gold Rush'

Classic, golden sunflower. An abundance of blooms appear early in summer. Grows 48–72 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 7 sites submitted information.

Trait	Country Roads	Gold Rush	Same
Germinated best	0%	29%	71%
Healthier plants	14	29	57
Bloomed earlier	43	43	14
More blooms	14	43	43
Prettier in garden	43	29	29
Better cut flower	17	33	50
Preference	43	57	
Recommend	71	71	
Mean score ¹	7.57	8.14	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Country Roads'

Country Roads ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 SE

Both produced beautifully!

Country Roads ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Country Roads' produced an abundance of flowers continuously. My house was filled with sunflowers.

Country Roads ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😞 🏠 NW

Both varieties were nice, but 'Country Roads' was better for me. 'Country Roads' grew taller, had more blooms and was better for cut flowers. 'Gold Rush' stalks were thinner and spindlier; its leaves were smaller.

Prefer 'Gold Rush'

Country Roads ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Gold Rush' stalks seemed stronger and produced more flowers.

Country Roads ★★★★★ 😞 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

'Gold Rush' stalks were much sturdier and thicker. 'Gold Rush' bloomed a few days earlier. It had more blooms and these blooms were larger. The plants of both varieties really looked nice!

Country Roads ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

'Gold Rush' had more flowers per stalk with smaller flower heads. It made a beautiful arrangement. 'Country Roads' looked great in the garden because of its larger heads, but it did not do well as a cut flower.

Country Roads ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Gold Rush ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SD

'Gold Rush' had a slightly taller plant.

Conclusions

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

Both 'Country Roads' and 'Gold Rush' bloomed early and produced lots of flowers. Both varieties did well as cut flowers.

Best orange branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Gold Rush

Strong performers
Orange
Hobbit

Sunflower, Red

Varieties

'Chianti'

65 days. Red petals with dark discs. Purplish stems. Pollenless; good for cutting. Grows 48–72 inches.

'Moulin Rouge'

72 days. Popular variety with deep burgundy petals and dark discs. Pollenless. Grows 70 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Moulin Rouge		Same
	Chianti	Rouge	
Germinated best	14%	29%	57%
Healthier plants	8	62	31
Bloomed earlier	27	55	18
More blooms	18	36	45
Prettier in garden	9	45	45
Better cut flower	14	0	86
Preference	9	91	
Recommend	64	100	
Mean score ¹	6.55	7.91	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Chianti'

Chianti SE
Moulin Rouge SC

'Chianti' bloomed first, had more flowers, and had slightly larger flowers.

Prefer 'Moulin Rouge'

Chianti SE
Moulin Rouge SE

'Moulin Rouge' seedlings grew more vigorously. 'Moulin Rouge' stalks had larger flowers (5–8 inches across compared to 4–7 inches across for 'Chianti'), larger seedheads for birds, and many more flowers.

Chianti SE
Moulin Rouge SE

I loved the color of 'Moulin Rouge'! Its stalks were much larger, bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Chianti SE
Moulin Rouge SE

'Moulin Rouge' bloomed first and looked more attractive. Garden conditions were rough due to wet weather.

Chianti SE
Moulin Rouge SC

'Moulin Rouge' grew faster and had a taller plant. Its flowers were larger with a slightly yellow tinge at the ends of the flower head. Its stalks were hearty and withstood strong winds.

Chianti SE
Moulin Rouge SC

The blooms of both varieties were beautiful; almost black in color; stunning. 'Chianti' bloomed first.

Chianti SE
Moulin Rouge SC

Both varieties were healthy, but 'Moulin Rouge' grew about 2 feet taller and was healthier. 'Moulin Rouge' flowers were large and stunning! They were significantly larger. 'Chianti' bloomed approximately 1 month later.

'Moulin Rouge' has been an extraordinary variety in our trials for years. Every gardener in this year's trial recommended it.

Best red sunflower variety

Top choice
Moulin Rouge

Prefer 'Moulin Rouge' (continued)

Chianti ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Moulin Rouge ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Moulin Rouge' bloomed later but is still blooming today (early October).

Chianti ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Moulin Rouge ★★★★★ 😊 SC

'Moulin Rouge' had larger flowers and more flowers. Its plants were larger and more vigorous, but 'Chianti' ended up being more attractive in the garden because it was more petite and they didn't topple over as much in the windstorms. Both varieties had some yellow color break through.

Chianti ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Moulin Rouge ★★★★★ 😊 NW

I prefer the color of 'Moulin Rouge' flowers.

Chianti ★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Moulin Rouge ★★★★★ 😊 SD

'Moulin Rouge' plants were sturdier.

Conclusions

'Moulin Rouge' has been an extraordinary variety in our trials for years. Every gardener in this year's trial recommended it. Its stalks were healthier, more vigorous and bloomed earlier than those of 'Chianti'. 'Moulin Rouge' flowers were large and stunning. Most gardeners liked 'Chianti' but loved 'Moulin Rouge'.

The stalks of 'Moulin Rouge' were healthier, more vigorous and bloomed earlier than those of 'Chianti'. 'Moulin Rouge' flowers were large and stunning.

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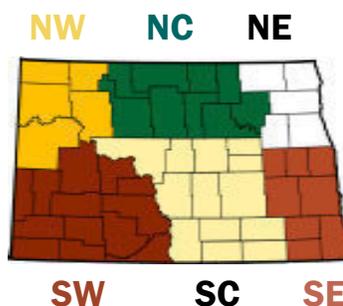
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A ★★★★★
 Variety B ★★★★★

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

Garden type →
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Location →
 NC

Comments →
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Zinnia, Candystripe

Varieties

‘Peppermint Stick’

Cream, white and orange blooms covered with reddish streaks. No two are alike. Grows 24–36 inches.

‘Pop Art’

Award winner. Gold and white flowers have “drips” of red paint. Grows 24 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

Trait	Peppermint Stick	Pop Art	Same
Germinated best	62%	8%	31%
Healthier plants	33	4	63
Bloomed earlier	59	23	18
More blooms	42	17	42
Prettier in garden	39	26	35
Better cut flower	24	24	53
Preference	58	42	
Recommend	75	71	
Mean score ¹	7.04	6.79	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	

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

Prefer ‘Peppermint Stick’

Peppermint Stick MN
Pop Art MN

‘Peppermint Stick’ had more colors that were vivid or bright, and there was a little more variety of colors. Lots of flowers on ‘Pop Art’ were only white. A couple ‘Peppermint Stick’ plants had damping off.

Peppermint Stick MN
Pop Art MN

‘Peppermint Stick’ germinated better. It had double the number of flowers. White mold developed on three ‘Pop Art’ plants, particularly on the stems of the striped flowers—not resistant to diseases. Both varieties produced solid and striped flowers. Both produced a large range of colors. Their flowers were large and attractive.

Peppermint Stick
Pop Art MN

They both did very well. ‘Peppermint Stick’ was just prettier.

Peppermint Stick
Pop Art SE

‘Peppermint Stick’ was really pretty. ‘Pop Art’ did grow but the flowers didn’t bloom.

Peppermint Stick
Pop Art SE

‘Peppermint Stick’ flowers lasted longer; they didn’t turn brown as quickly.

Peppermint Stick
Pop Art SE

I planted both varieties in pots this year, and both did quite well. They gave a long-lasting, beautiful display of color in the front yard. They lasted well into October and were still blooming. ‘Peppermint Stick’ bloomed earlier and had a few more flowers.

Peppermint Stick
Pop Art SC

‘Peppermint Stick’ had longer stems for cutting.

Peppermint Stick
Pop Art SC

‘Peppermint Stick’ had superior color and greater detail in the flowers. I’m not a fan of the yellow flowers of ‘Pop Art’.

‘Peppermint Stick’

germinated better and bloomed earlier. Its plants were taller, bushier and full of flowers.

Best candystripe zinnia variety

Top choice
Peppermint Stick

Prefer 'Peppermint Stick' (cont.)

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  SC

'Peppermint Stick' plants grew a little taller, but both grew fantastically! I'm not real fond of the orange petals, and 'Pop Art' had more orange ones in it. They were all beautiful!

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  SC

Both varieties germinated poorly. The plants were stunted and fell over in the wind. Both had odd colors—some red and white, some yellow and red, some solid red and a lot of solid yellow blooms. The solids were much prettier than the variegated blooms.

'Peppermint Stick' showed marginally better germination and slightly healthier plants, but both varieties were disappointing.

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  SC

'Peppermint Stick' plants grew much larger.

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  SC

'Peppermint Stick' was an overall better-looking plant but nothing exceptional. It germinated within 4 days; 'Pop Art' germinated 1 day later and not as well. 'Peppermint Stick' plants were taller and generally leafier. 'Pop Art' bloomed a day or two earlier. Neither variety was a particularly abundant bloomer, and their flowers seemed small relative to plant size. 'Pop Art' plants grew tall and leggy toward the end of the growing season; 'Peppermint Stick' too, but not so much. Their cut flowers were long lasting.

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  SC

'Peppermint Stick' had larger stems and bigger flowers. I loved the color! The varieties were similar, and I loved them both.

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  NW

They were very slow to germinate and neither of them was very productive. Only a few have even flowered to date (September 16).

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  NW

'Peppermint Stick' was awesome! It germinated better and was ahead the whole growing season. Its plants were very bushy; many flowers. Its blooms were big and full. The blooms lasted longer. 'Peppermint Stick' grew a full foot taller. Its flowers had more color variations: rose, gold, red/white stripe, yellow/white stripe—maybe more—lots of colors. The predominant color of 'Pop Art' was yellow or gold, and red/white stripe.

Prefer 'Pop Art'

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  MN

All flowers of 'Pop Art' had the candy stripe. Over half of 'Peppermint Stick' flowers were solid without stripes.

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  MN

'Pop Art' produced large flowers and more robust color variation. It seemed both variations of the flower had some sort of off typing. Some were speckled while others where not. But this is a new variety of zinnia for me, so wasn't sure what to expect. With 'Peppermint Stick', I was expecting white with red specks on the petals, but there were very few of these flowers.

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  MN

'Pop Art' had more flowers with variegation. The flowers had more striping that looked like peppermint sticks—cream with red. 'Peppermint Stick' had a lot of solid colored flowers, mostly yellow and red.

Peppermint Stick 
 Pop Art  SE

'Pop Art' colors stood out and had more color. 'Peppermint Stick' plants were taller and fuller, but the flowers were not as striking.

Most gardeners recommended 'Pop Art', but the variety did not excel in any particular trait over 'Peppermint Stick'.

Prefer 'Pop Art' (continued)

Peppermint Stick 
Pop Art  SE

Both varieties germinated around June 9. A major rain event occurred on June 11, and we replanted missing/non-germinated seeds on June 13. Both varieties had healthy plants with little or no damage or browning of leaves. Both varieties had many blooms per plant with 'Peppermint Stick' edging out 'Pop Art' with more blooms. 'Pop Art' had fuller blooms and had little variation while 'Peppermint Stick' had incomplete blooms and some without stripes. 'Pop Art' had a better look in the garden with very full blooms and little variation between flowers. 'Peppermint Stick' had variation in length of stems, had some incomplete flowers, and some flower without stripes. 'Pop Art' was more of a genuine, complete and beautiful look in the garden. This trial was fun and engaging. Having grown zinnias several years, we were a tad disappointed in the size of these blooms and the color compared to the larger giant zinnias or the more brilliant colored zinnias. Probably not varieties we would plant for huge mass appeal in a garden, but great for those who plant for enjoyment in smaller gardens or to enjoy up close.

Peppermint Stick 
Pop Art  SE

Enjoyed both varieties and would grow them again. Very long, prolific bloomers. Mine grew to 36–42 inches tall. Loved by butterflies and hummingbirds. I especially loved the colors of 'Pop Art'.

Peppermint Stick 
Pop Art  NC

I enjoyed both varieties, especially the color variations of 'Pop Art'.

Peppermint Stick 
Pop Art  NC

These varieties were excellent. Both grew 18–24 inches tall and had beautiful flowers. I would grow both varieties again.

Peppermint Stick 
Pop Art  NW

These two varieties were both very nice for cut flowers. No disease or insect problems. The butterflies loved them. 'Pop Art' was first to germinate and bloom, and it produced more flowers.

Peppermint Stick 
Pop Art  NW

'Pop Art' had prettier colors. 'Peppermint Stick' germinated better, grew into bigger plants and bloomed a few days earlier.

Peppermint Stick 
Pop Art  SW

I liked the size and look of 'Pop Art' in the garden. Its blooms had smaller heads and had more peppermint stripes on them. 'Peppermint Stick' germinated faster, had larger seedlings, and bloomed earlier.

Conclusions

'Peppermint Stick' germinated better and bloomed earlier. Its plants were taller, bushier and full of flowers. Most gardeners preferred it over 'Pop Art'. Gardeners differed as to which variety looked prettier; however, several expressed a preference for white flowers with red streaking. They were less fond of yellow flowers with streaking, as well as the any flowers that lacked streaking on their petals.

Gardeners especially liked the white flowers with red streaking. They were less fond of yellow flowers with streaking as well as any flowers that lacked streaking.

Zinnia, Giant Dahlia

Varieties

'Benary's Giant'

Premium cut flower. Large, double-petal blooms. Sturdy stems, excellent vase life. Grows 45 inches.

'State Fair'

Jumbo, 5-inch flowers come in a wide range of bright colors. Robust plants grow 36 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Benary's Giant	State Fair	Same
Germinated best	43%	17%	40%
Healthier plants	23	23	54
Bloomed earlier	28	56	16
More blooms	50	35	15
Prettier in garden	58	15	27
Better cut flower	29	24	48
Preference	67	33	
Recommend	85	81	
Mean score ¹	8.41	7.63	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer 'Benary's Giant'

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Benary's Giant' flowers were fuller and more beautiful with more blooms per plant. Their flowers looked like doubles and were velvety looking. Loved their beauty!

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Benary's Giant' bloomed earlier—from late summer and all the way to frost. It had more gold, red—brighter colors that showed up from a distance. I brought some cut flowers and they lasted almost a week. 'State Fair' had more pinks, purples, and was nice. Both varieties gave me much joy watching the butterflies. I have saved seeds for next year.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 MN

'Benary's Giant' had fuller plants, lots more flowers per plant, and had better looking flowers. 'State Fair' had more seeds that germinated, and its plants looked healthier.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😞 NE

'Benary's Giant' germinated 20% better than 'State Fair'. Both varieties germinated in about 10 days from sowing. 'Benary's Giant' foliage was bushier, and its stems were stronger; whereas, 'State Fair' foliage showed black spots on many plants. 'State Fair' bloomed about 3 days earlier, but 'Benary's Giant' had more flowers per plant. 'Benary's Giant' plants were larger and most of its flowers had double or semi-double petals. Its color display was vibrant and more diverse than 'State Fair'. 'State Fair' produced many pretty hues of pink from blush to medium and dark pink on mostly single-petal flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 NE

Both varieties grew well and bloomed nicely. I liked the look of 'Benary's Giant' flowers better; the blossoms were fuller. 'State Fair' bloomed a couple of days earlier.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😞 SE

'Benary's Giant' produced more flowers. Its flowers had a prettier form.

'Benary's Giant' was outstanding. Its double-petal flowers were large, bright and showy.

Best zinnia varieties for cutting

Top choice
Benary's Giant

Strong performers

- Burpeeanna Giants
- Cut and Come Again
- Giant Dahlia
- Oklahoma
- Uproar Rose
- Zowie! Yellow Flame

Prefer 'Benary's Giant' (continued)

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SE

'Benary's Giant' was more attractive. It bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 NC

'Benary's Giant' was slightly taller and larger flowered.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 NC

So nice to pick them from the garden and then have a large bouquet to enjoy on my dining room table. 'Benary's Giant' flowers were larger but didn't have as strong of stems.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SC

'Benary's Giant' had big, beautiful flowers with deep pink and dark red colors. Its plants were healthier.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SC

'Benary's Giant' plants grew a bit straighter and were less bushy. Both varieties had beautiful flowers.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SC

'Benary's Giant' flowers were nicer, and their stem proportions were better.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SC

'Benary's Giant' stems were stronger, and the flowers seemed to have more petals, making a more beautiful flower. 'State Fair' stems bent sometimes.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SC

The differences among these two varieties were minimal. The varieties in their flower colors were similar. 'Benary's Giant' plants grew taller.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SC

Both performed similarly. I preferred the color variety of 'Benary's Giant'.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 NW

'Benary's Giant' had nice, big, showy flowers; great for cutting. It had multiple flowers on a stem. 'State Fair' plants were very weak looking.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 🍷 SW

'Benary's Giant' germinated better.

Benary's Giant ★★★★★ 😊 -
 State Fair ★★★★★ 😊 SW

'Benary's Giant' had lots of full blooms. Both varieties had strong stems and stood tall.

'Benary's Giant' plants were loaded with flowers. Most gardeners felt 'Benary's Giant' looked prettier than 'State Fair' in their garden.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

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

Garden type →
 NC

Location →

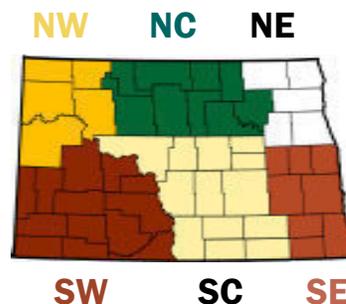
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

- 🍷 = Organic
- 🏠 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🕒 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Locations

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



Prefer ‘State Fair’

Benary’s Giant  SE
 State Fair  SE

‘State Fair’ bloomed 1 week earlier and had more vibrant colors. It was a good cut flower.

Benary’s Giant  SE
 State Fair  SE

‘State Fair’ was really pretty. ‘Benary’s Giant’ died in early summer.

Benary’s Giant  NC
 State Fair  NC

‘State Fair’ was more attractive to me. With the wet weather this fall, I found these taller varieties started to break at the plant base and lean over when it was windy. They were among the last plants blooming before the snowfall, and I’m glad I left them in the garden—the butterflies were very happy.

Benary’s Giant  SC
 State Fair  SC

I preferred the pink colors of ‘State Fair’.

Benary’s Giant  SC
 State Fair  SC

The rabbits mowed down an entire row of each of the varieties; all that made it were a few seeds of each variety I planted separately in a flower bed. The flowers that made it were very vibrant in color—loved to have some color in the late fall. ‘State Fair’ bloomed first, produced more flowers and bloomed into late September!

Benary’s Giant  SC
 State Fair  SC

‘State Fair’ bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Benary’s Giant  SC
 State Fair  SC

‘State Fair’ flowers were more attractive and showier. They didn’t flop down as much.

Benary’s Giant  NW
 State Fair  NW

I love these giant dahlia zinnias! These two varieties were wonderful. No insect problems, no disease problems. Both produced very nice blooms for cut flowers. ‘State Fair’ bloomed first and was a better cut flower.

Benary’s Giant  SD
 State Fair  SD

‘State Fair’ had more blooms and was more showy. Both varieties had healthy plants. Their flowers had very vibrant colors and were good cut flowers. ‘State Fair’ plants were a little taller.

Conclusions

‘Benary’s Giant’ was outstanding again this year. Its double-petal flowers were large, bright and showy. ‘Benary’s Giant’ plants were loaded with flowers. Most gardeners felt it looked prettier than ‘State Fair’ in the garden. ‘State Fair’ received high ratings and many recommendations as well. It bloomed earlier and its plants were just as healthy as those of ‘Benary’s Giant’ in most gardens. Both varieties did well as cut flowers.

‘State Fair’ bloomed earlier. Its plants were just as healthy as those of ‘Benary’s Giant’ in most gardens.

Zinnia, Mexican

Varieties

'Jazzy'

Earthy shades of burgundy, yellow and orange. Flowers are 1–2 inches wide. Grows 24 inches.

'Persian Carpet'

Bushy, 16-inch plants are covered with 2-inch double flowers. Tolerates heat, wind and drought.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jazzy	Persian Carpet	Same
Germinated best	19%	43%	38%
Healthier plants	19	33	48
Bloomed earlier	29	24	48
More blooms	14	33	52
Prettier in garden	48	29	24
Better cut flower	21	42	37
Preference	38	62	
Recommend	76	81	
Mean score ¹	7.57	8.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer 'Jazzy'

Jazzy NC
 Persian Carpet SC

So fun to try something new! So many beautiful blossoms on both varieties. Prettiest zinnias I've ever grown . . . love the combination of burgundy, red, yellow and orange laced with tips of coordinating colors. With so many blossoms, 'Jazzy' had such a nice "mound" look to those plants. 'Jazzy' had the compactness, beauty and color combination I enjoyed the most. 'Persian Carpet' was a great variety too; just taller and maybe a bit leggy looking.

Jazzy SC
 Persian Carpet MT

'Jazzy' looked more attractive in the garden.

Jazzy SC
 Persian Carpet SC

'Jazzy' looked more attractive and held its blooms longer.

Jazzy SC
 Persian Carpet SC

The rabbits mowed down the rows of these plants; however, 'Jazzy' made a major comeback from their "trimming."

Jazzy SC
 Persian Carpet SC

'Jazzy' had a stronger, more vibrant plant.

Jazzy SC
 Persian Carpet SC

Both varieties were very attractive. 'Jazzy' plants were healthier.

Jazzy SW
 Persian Carpet SW

Both varieties were very beautiful. 'Jazzy' had some very unusual colors. The colors of 'Persian Carpet' looked more like marigolds. 'Jazzy' plants were slightly shorter and more compact than 'Persian Carpet' plants, making it suitable for a border. Even so, the stems were long enough to use as a cut flower.

Jazzy MT
 Persian Carpet MT

I liked 'Jazzy' because of its compactness. Its plants were shorter, more rounded, perfect looking! Both varieties were fun to watch, full of beautiful blossoms all summer long!

'Jazzy' blooms had a wider variety of colors. More gardeners felt 'Jazzy' was prettier than 'Persian Carpet' in their garden.

Best Mexican zinnia varieties

Top choice
Persian Carpet

Strong performers
Jazzy
Old Mexico

Prefer 'Persian Carpet'

Jazzy ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 MN

I loved both varieties but 'Persian Carpet' had a more unique variety of coloring. It had a higher percentage of germination. 'Persian Carpet' plants seemed larger and fuller with more branching. Its stems were slightly stronger, but the stems of both varieties were very thin for use as a cut flower. I loved the variety of colors in 'Jazzy'. I will save seeds of these varieties and grow them next year.

Jazzy ★★★★★ 😞 🍷
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 MN

The blossoms of 'Persian Carpet' were larger and had very bright colors—gold and red. I liked it because it showed up from a distance. 'Persian Carpet' bloomed much earlier but its stems laid down in late summer. 'Jazzy' plants were shorter and stood more upright. 'Jazzy' had very interesting colors and blossoms but its colors were darker and did not show up from a distance. 'Jazzy' blossoms had a "pompom" shape.

Jazzy ★★★★★ 😞 🍷
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Persian Carpet' had a better yield, more prolific flowers and was yellow throughout. Its flowers were pretty and held up better in a vase. 'Jazzy' was more varied in color, and it did not hold color in a vase.

Jazzy ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

The flowers of 'Persian Carpet' were more eye-catching. It had brilliant colors.

Jazzy ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Persian Carpet' had longer stems and was a good cut flower choice. 'Jazzy' had much shorter stems and was not a good cut flower choice. 'Jazzy' is better suited as an accent garden choice or in pots. 'Jazzy' had issues with holes in foliage so I had to use some organic pesticide to control the damage. 'Persian Carpet' did not have this issue.

Jazzy ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties were great. I liked 'Persian Carpet' best and my best friend liked 'Jazzy' best. It all depends on how you are going to use them in an arrangement.

Jazzy ★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Persian Carpet ★★★★★ 😊 SE

'Persian Carpet' had better color and its flowers were a little larger. I thought these varieties were going to be more like standard zinnias, only shorter. They were bushy and more like short marigolds but larger and bushier than marigolds. I would not, and did not use them as a cut flower.

'Persian Carpet' flowers were larger, coming in brilliant shades of gold and red.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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

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

Garden type →
 🍷 = Organic
 🍷 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
 🍷 = Uses inorganic pesticides
 - = Not specified

Location →
 NC

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



Locations

- MN = Minnesota
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Prefer 'Persian Carpet' (cont.)

Jazzy   
Persian Carpet   SE

I liked the variety of 'Persian Carpet' flowers best. Both varieties had nice compact plants and blooms. Zinnias are always fun to grow, and the deer won't eat them; that is always a plus for us.

Jazzy   
Persian Carpet   NC

I liked 'Persian Carpet' as it looked different than other zinnias, almost more like a marigold. 'Persian Carpet' had longer stems that were easier to cut. About 75% of 'Persian Carpet' germinated whereas only about half of 'Jazzy' came up. My husband preferred the looks of 'Jazzy'.

Jazzy   
Persian Carpet   NC

'Persian Carpet' had very different color combinations and bloomed earlier. 'Jazzy' was slow to bloom but looked great when it did.

Jazzy   
Persian Carpet   SC

'Jazzy' didn't do well from the start—poor germination rate and never really amounted to much. 'Jazzy' plants barely reached 12 inches in height; 'Persian' Carpet maybe 24 inches; both looked as though they were struggling. 'Persian Carpet' did better, but the small size of the flowers and overall look of the plant gave it the appearance of a wildflower. Their flowers were small and pretty, but neither variety was an abundant bloomer.

Jazzy   
Persian Carpet   NW

I prefer the color of 'Persian Carpet'.

Jazzy   
Persian Carpet   SW

'Persian Carpet' plants were larger, and the stems were longer, so it worked better as a cut flower. 'Jazzy' was more colorful.

Conclusions

Most gardeners had not grown Mexican zinnias before and they were delighted. 'Persian Carpet' flowers were larger, coming in brilliant shades of gold and red. Some gardeners noted its longer stems, which are useful in cut flower arrangements. Gardeners liked the compact habit of 'Jazzy'. Its blooms had a wider variety of colors. More gardeners felt 'Jazzy' was prettier than 'Persian Carpet' in their garden.

Most gardeners had not grown Mexican zinnias before and they were delighted.

Appendix 1

Welcome Letter

NDSU

EXTENSION

Dear Gardener,

Welcome to our research team! It will be fun to work with you this summer. Enclosed are the seeds you ordered. If you are missing anything, please let me know. Let's go over some key points:

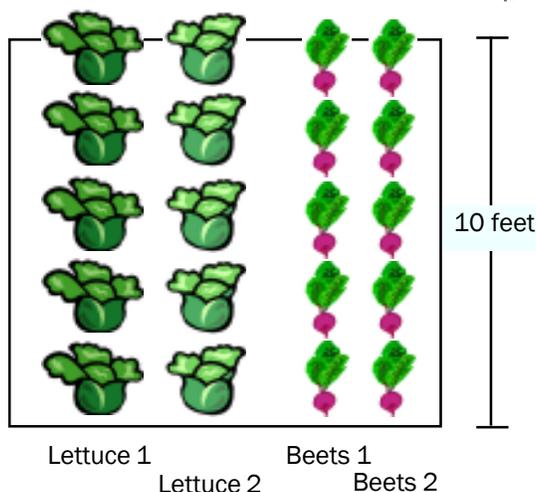
1. Each trial compares two varieties. **You must plant both varieties.**
2. To make it a fair comparison, you need to **treat both varieties in the same manner.** They must get the same amount of sunlight and general care (watering and fertilizing).

3. We want to see how these varieties perform under real home garden situations. The packets have instructions on how to sow your seeds, but you may **use your own gardening practices.** For example, I sow my cucumber seeds in a row but you can plant them in hills if you wish. It's up to you.

4. When possible, **grow the varieties for each trial in rows near each other.** Look at the diagram (top right). Notice the varieties being compared in the lettuce and beet trials are grown next to each other. In this way, they are most likely to get the same amount of sunlight and care.

Cucumber, melon and pumpkin vines can "run" and become intertwined. Try to keep the vines of each variety within the row so you do not get confused when harvesting and evaluating each variety.

5. You have enough seeds to grow at least 10 feet of each variety. We've enclosed a row marker with string. There is a 10-foot space between the two marks on the string. It's okay if you don't have enough



space for 10-foot rows, but try to get a fair look at both varieties.

6. **Use the plot labels** that are enclosed. This will help you remember which variety is which. I strongly encourage you to **make a plot diagram after you are done planting** for your future reference in case the plot labels get removed accidentally (this happens with kids).
7. An example of a completed evaluation form is enclosed. Use this as a guide to help you when evaluating the varieties.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Tom Kalb
Extension Horticulturist
2718 Gateway Ave., Suite 304
Bismarck, ND 58503
tom.kalb@ndsu.edu
701.328.9722

**Welcome
to our
research
team!**

More Info

Go to the ND Home Garden Variety Trials website: www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegarden/varietytrials/

Appendix 2

Example of Evaluation Form

2019 Trial #00 Cantaloupe
--

Name: Jenny Gardener

Date Sown: May 30

Did you use a chemical fertilizer (for example, 10–10–10, Miracle-Gro)? Yes No

Did you use a pesticide for insects or diseases? Yes No No
If yes, was it organic? Yes No

Which variety:	Apollo	Zeus	Same	Comments
Germinated best?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor
Had healthier plants?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Apollo vines turned gray in fall
Produced the first ripe melons?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Three days earlier than Zeus
Produced higher yields?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6
Had more attractive melons?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh
Tasted better?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet

Overall Performance Rating	Apollo	Zeus
Rate each variety on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 5 = good and 10 = excellent. <i>Don't give both a "10". Be very critical!</i>	5	9

Preference
Circle the variety you prefer. <i>Don't circle both—make a choice!</i> Apollo <input type="radio"/> Zeus <input checked="" type="radio"/>
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 <input type="radio"/> Zeus <input checked="" type="radio"/> Both <input type="radio"/> Neither <input type="radio"/>

Appendix 3

Acknowledgements

Researchers

North Dakota State University Extension is very thankful to the following gardeners who provided results from their research plots:

Sharon Aannerud	Katie Erickson	Kerri Howard
Norma Ackerson	Jewel Faul	Jeremy Hughes
Debra Altringer	Rhea Ferry	Alecia Hultgren
Christy Ames-Davis	Katie Fiskness	Kristina Hylton
Kenneth Anderson	Shirley Friberg	Diane Isakson
Nadine Anderson	Florian and Jackie Friedt	Jenny Jaggi
Orren Anderson	Susan Froemke	Joyce James
Dina Baird	Sara Gaebe	Mary Jantzer
LaRoy Baird	Darci Gahner	Sonya Jensen
Gene Baker	Larry Gangle and Family	Anthony Johnson
Britney Barnett	Pat Gates	Glenna and Kolin Johnson
Alexis Baxley	Sherwood Gibbs	Jill Johnson
Matthew Beneda	Gail Gjovik	Sara Johnson
Ron Beneda and Family	Ruth Glen	Sean Johnson
Amanda Berg	Emily Goff	Durand Jones
Bill Berg	Deb Goplen	Brian Jongeward
Kim Berseth	Brenda Gorseth	Joanne Kadrmass
Anne Blankenship	Richard Grabowski	Joe and Maria Kalb
Stacy Blawat	Land and Mona Granrud	Gary and Kathy Kennedy
Peggy Boe	Mike Greer	Chad Klindtworth
Tasha Bohl	Ann Guanella	Cody, Kara and Keegan Kostohryz
Royann and Tom Bold	Anita Haakenson	Elizabeth Kraft
Harriet Bracken	Ruth Haaland	Rosemarie Kuntz
Kathleen Brandt	Sylvia Hansen	Valerie Kuntz
David Breker	August, Clara, Edison, Jessica and Scott Harms	Sara Laite
Christine Bunko	Ray and Roxanne Hawley	Kelsey and Tristan Lako
Caleb, Olivia and Wanda Burrer	James Helbling	Wanda Lanz
Diane Byrum	Niki Helbling	Curt Larson
Sharon Canfield	Steve Hell	Deb Larson
Julie Canham	Deb Helvik	Mary Lass
Bob Carlson	Angela Herman	Lindsey Lee
Deb Chambers	Clarence Herz	Jessica Linback
Lori Cline	Tricia Hettwer	Ellin Lindee
Elaine Cuddigan	Shelby Hewson	Muriel Lippert
Josie Dahlberg	Kim Hoffmann	Michael Luckenbill
Denise Dame	Lucas Holmes	Michelle Lytle
Jonna Dawson	Kathy Holte	Lorraine Manz
Michelle Deichert	Nathan Horgeshimer	Margaret Marcusen
Tammy Dick	Dick Horner	Tamara Markel
Judy Dziengel	Linda Hovda	Brandon Markey
Laura Egan		

More Researchers

Janell Martin
Megan Martin
Theresa Martin-Johnson
Marjorie and Robert Martz
Amanda McClean
Mike McDaniel
Peter Meberg
Mary Meyer
Aubrie, Darrick, Gabrielle, Gavin,
Kathryn and Olivia Mischke
Brianna Moos
Bonnie Munsch
Katie, Eli, Logan and Madison
Muth
Kelsey Nash
Dorothea Nelson
Gabriele Nelson
Susan Nelson
Linda Ness
Penny Nester
William Niehaus
Emily and Forrest Nielsen
Kim Ohlhauser
Aaron, Garin, Jasper, Levi, Sterling
and Westin Opdahl
Season Parlier
Parshall FFA
Mark Patlovich
Shannon Paul
Pam Paulson
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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.

Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

2020

Selecting an outstanding cultivar can lead to a bountiful garden.

Cultivar selection checklist:

- ✓ Early maturity
- ✓ Flavorful
- ✓ Resists diseases
- ✓ Productive
- ✓ Widely adapted (cool soil, dry weather)

The finest cultivars will lead to the finest gardens. North Dakota State University and its team of over 200 gardeners evaluate promising cultivars every summer. The following cultivars have excelled in these and other trials in the Midwest:

ASPARAGUS. Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Purple Passion.

BEAN. Bush: Bush Blue Lake 274, Crockett, Derby, Espada, Inspiration, Jade II, Lewis, Maxibel, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Royal Burgundy, Serengeti, Strike. **Dry:** Arikara Yellow, Great Northern. **Lima:** Fordhook 242, Eastland.

Pole: Fortex, Monte Cristo, Orient Wonder, Seychelles, Stringless Blue Lake S-7.

Soybean: Envy, Tohya. **Wax:** Borsalino, Carson, Gold Rush, Rocdor.

BEET. Red: Bull's Blood, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Early Wonder Tall Top, Merlin, Red Ace. **Other:** Avalanche, Boldor, Burpee's Golden, Touchstone Gold.

BROCCOLI. Green Magic, Packman.

CABBAGE. Chinese: Blues. **Head:** Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

CARROT. Orange: Baltimore, Bolero, Caracas, Goldfinger, Hercules, Imperator 58, Laguna, Mokum, Napoli, Nelson, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes. **Other:** Chablis Yellow, Purple Haze.

CAULIFLOWER. Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

CORN. Shrunken kernel: American Dream, Anthem XR, SS2742, SS3778R, Xtra-Tender 274A and 277A. **Sugary enhanced:** Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Sweetness, Temptation.

Synergistic: Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select. **Ornamental:** Fiesta. **Popcorn:** Dakota Black.



CUCUMBER. Pickling: Alibi, Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf.

Slicing: Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Mercury, Muncher, Orient Express II, Raider, Salad Bush, Silver Slicer, Straight Eight, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Talladega, Tasty Green.

EGGPLANT. Black Beauty, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express.

GREENS. Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Komatsuna, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Tokyo Bekana, Vegetable Amaranth, Win-Win Choi.

KALE. Black Magic, Red Russian, Vates, White Russian, Winterbor.

KOHLRABI. Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner.

LETTUCE. Leaf: Bergam's Green, Cervanek, Deer Tongue, Merlot, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Royal Oakleaf, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. **Bibb/Crisphead/Lollo:** Buttercrunch, Dark Red Lollo Rossa, Muir, Nancy, Nevada, Red Cross, Sierra, Skyphos. **Romaine:** Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Newham, Starhawk.

MELON. Muskmelon: Aphrodite, Athena, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. **Specialty:** Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan.

OKRA. Candle Fire, Clemson Spineless.

ONION. Ailsa Craig, Candy, Copra, Sweet Sandwich, Walla Walla.

PEA. Shell: Early Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro Improved, Wando. **Snap:** Sugar Ann, Sugar Sprint, Super Sugar Snap. **Snow:** Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sweet Horizon.

PEPPER. Bell: Bell Boy, Early Sunation, Jupiter, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze. **Frying/Roasting:** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. **Hot:** Cheyenne, Early Jalapeno, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, Tiburon.

POTATO. Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

PUMPKIN. Cooking: Small Sugar, Cinderella's Carriage. **Jack-o'-lantern:** Autumn Gold, Cronus, Early Dakota Howden, Early Giant, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Howden Biggie, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie. **Giant:** Big Moose, Dill's Atlantic Giant, Polar Bear.

Ornamental: Blaze, Casperita, Jack Be Little.

RADISH. Standard: Amethyst, Bacchus, Champion, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Rover, Roxanne, White Icicle.

RUTABAGA. American Purple Top.

SPINACH. Avon, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Escalade, Gazelle, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, Tyeec.

SQUASH, SUMMER. Crookneck: Gentry, Sundance. **Scallop:** Flying Saucer, Sunburst. **Straightneck:** Fortune, Multipik, Zephyr. **Zucchini:** Cashflow, Desert, Easypick Gold, Gold Rush, Green Tiger, Payload, Portofino, Raven, Spineless Beauty.

SQUASH, WINTER. Acorn: Black Bellota, Carnival, Table Ace, Table King. **Buttercup:** Bonbon, Burgess. **Butternut:** Early Butternut, Waltham. **Delicata:** Cornell's Bush Delicata. **Hubbard:** Blue Magic, Red Kuri. **Kabocha:** Sunshine, Sweet Mama.

SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.

SWISS CHARD. Bright Lights, Flamingo, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Rhubarb.

TOMATO. Cherry: Juliet, SunSugar, Supersweet 100, Sweet Baby Girl, Yellow Pear. **Fresh market:** Big Beef, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus. **Paste:** Roma VF, Viva Italia. **Heirloom:** Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Striped German, Stupice, Wisconsin 55.

TURNIP. Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross.

WATERMELON. Seeded: Petite Yellow, Sangria, Stargazer, Sugar Baby, Sweet Dakota Rose, Yellow Doll. **Seedless:** Millionaire.

Seed Sources

The following is a sample of companies offering seeds. This list is provided for educational purposes only; no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied.

Baker Creek Seed, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704; www.rareseeds.com; 417.924.8917.

Burpee Seed, 300 Park Ave., Warminster, PA 18974; www.burpee.com; 800.888.1447.

Fedco Seeds, PO Box 520, Waterville, ME 04903; www.fedcoseeds.com; 207.426.9900.

Gurney's Seed and Nursery, PO Box 4178, Greendale, IN 47025; www.gurneys.com; 513.354.1492.

Harris Seeds, 355 Paul Rd, PO Box 24966, Rochester, NY 14624; www.harriseseeds.com; 800.544.7938.

Henry Fields, PO Box 397, Aurora, IN 47001; www.henryfields.com; 513.354.1494.

High Mowing Seeds, 76 Quarry Rd., Valcott, VT 05680; www.highmowingseeds.com; 866.735.4454.

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.

Osborne Seed, 2428 Old Hwy 99 S. Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273; www.osborneseed.com; 360.424.7333.

Pinetree Garden Seeds, PO Box 300, Gloucester, ME 04260; www.superseeds.com; 207.926.3400.

Prairie Road Seed, 9824 79th St. SE, Fullerton, ND 58441; www.prairieroadorganic.co; 701.883.4416.

Seed Savers Exchange, 3094 N. Winn Rd., Decorah, IA 52101; www.seedsavers.org; 563.382.5990.

Stokes Seeds, PO Box 548 Buffalo, NY 14240; www.stokeseeds.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.ags.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

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