

North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS
2025



NDSU

EXTENSION

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

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North Dakota

Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS 2025

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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/flowers. 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 survey of community gardeners in Bismarck showed each household saved an average of \$105 on produce expenses per year.² Extrapolated statewide, these findings suggest that gardeners in North Dakota save millions of dollars each year by growing some of their own vegetables.

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

cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers. Nevertheless, only 7.3% of adults and a lower percentage of children in North Dakota eat the recommended amount of vegetables for a healthy diet.^{3,4}

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

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

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

Gardeners in North Dakota enjoy healthy 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 four major goals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Selecting Varieties

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

Preparation of Seed Packets

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

Distribution of Seeds

Gardeners could choose up to eight of these trials for \$1.50 each with a total postage fee of \$6.00.

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

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

Gardeners were responsible for managing their crops (Fig. 1). This included fertilizing, watering, mulching, and using pesticides. They were



Fig. 1. Gardeners sowing their research plots.

encouraged to use their own practices so the varieties were tested under home garden conditions.

Gardeners were asked to submit their results after the first killing frost. Results could be submitted online or via mail to NDSU for analysis.

Weather in 2025

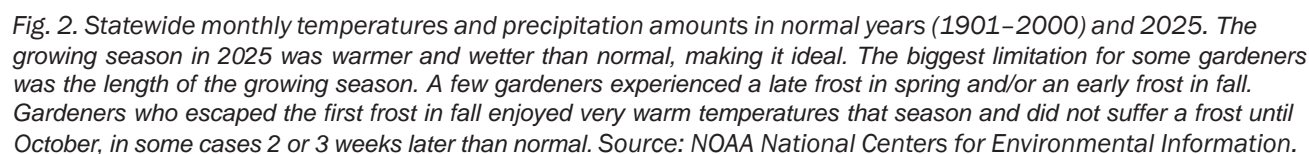
The growing season in 2025 was warmer and wetter than normal, making it ideal in our cold, dry state (Fig. 2).

The biggest limitation for some gardeners was the length of the growing season. A few gardeners experienced a later-than-normal frost in spring.

An even greater number of gardeners, mostly in the north, experienced an earlier-than-normal frost in early September. This frost arrived approximately 2 weeks before normal.

The vast majority of gardeners escaped the initial frost in September and enjoyed exceptionally warm temperatures in fall. The first frost in fall for these gardeners did not occur until early to mid-October, which is about 2 weeks later than normal. These conditions allowed many late-ripening crops to mature.

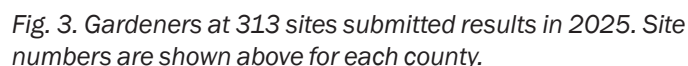
To identify superior varieties for gardeners, it makes sense to determine which varieties perform best in gardens under the management of gardeners.



In 2025, gardeners at 313 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from 1,723 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 48 of the state's 53 counties (Fig. 3). Our trials extended into Manitoba, Minnesota, 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.

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



Trials with inconsistent data, damaged extensively from pests, or were grown in a manner that one variety received better growing conditions than the other (typically more sun) were eliminated from analysis.

Presentation of Results

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

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

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

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

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

Impacts

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

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

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

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

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

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 →
NC

Location →

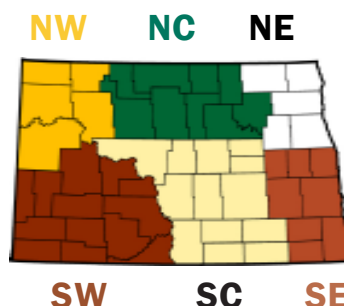
Comments →

Garden types

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

Locations

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



Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states/provinces evaluated promising vegetable and cut flower varieties. Gardeners at 313 sites submitted results this year. They rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. Reports of 1,723 side-by-side comparisons were submitted.

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

varieties they would recommend (Rec) to other gardeners. They had the option of recommending one, both or neither of the varieties in each trial.

The gardeners rated the performance of each variety using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 10 = excellent. The preference and recommendation percentages as well as mean ratings for each variety are presented below along with our conclusions for each trial.



Bean, Green

Both of these popular varieties were outstanding in yield and taste qualities. *Provider* produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall; its pods were of good quality. Gardeners who preferred *Bush Blue Lake 274* often noted its good flavor.

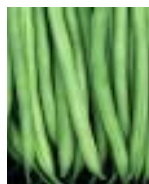
Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
B.B. Lake 274	48	74	7.40
Provider	52	77	7.66
(41 sites)			



Bean, Dark Green

Both varieties were healthy, productive and easy to pick. Their pods were uniform, straight, tasty and slow to get seedy. *Lewis* produced an earlier and more concentrated harvest. *Dark Horse* had beautiful, dark, smooth pods.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Dark Horse	44	77	7.21
Lewis	56	72	7.53
(48 sites)			



Bean, Green Filet Organic

Compass plants were more compact but produced high yields. *Compass* pods were smaller, crisper and more slender. *Maxibel* plants were much more vigorous; they produced earlier. *Maxibel* pods were longer, thicker and more tender.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Compass	53	59	7.13
Maxibel	47	67	7.50
(49 sites)			



Bean, Green Romano

Few gardeners were interested in this trial. *Roma II* is the old standby variety, and it performed well. Every gardener recommended it. *Velero* was reported to have superior pod flavor and texture, but this was not mentioned by gardeners.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Roma II	67	100	8.33
Velero	33	67	6.00
(5 sites)			



Bean, Yellow Filet

Both varieties produced long, slim and straight pods. *Borsalino* germinated much better, leading to much higher yields. *Gerritsun* germinated poorly. We do not know if this was due to a genetic weakness or a bad batch of seeds.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Borsalino	77	69	7.15
Gerritsun	23	27	4.27
(32 sites)			



Beet, Red

Both varieties grew well, and gardeners were split on their preferred variety. *Red Cloud* had an edge in root quality both in appearance and taste. *Grenade* had an edge in germination and plant health, and it was ready to be harvested earlier.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Grenade	48	80	7.97
Red Cloud	52	83	8.03
(37 sites)			



Beet, Red Organic

Sweet Dakota Bliss matured earlier and produced a higher yield. Gardeners were pleased with the root quality of both varieties. *Shiraz* received higher ratings for appearance, and *Sweet Dakota Bliss* received higher ratings for taste.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Shiraz</i>	38	67	7.10
<i>Swt Dakota Bliss</i>	62	77	7.90
(31 sites)			



Beet, Gold

More gardeners preferred the looks of the globular, pinkish-orange roots of *Golden Boy* over the oblong, golden roots of *Badger Flame*. *Badger Flame* has a unique, non-earthly taste, but more gardeners preferred the flavor of *Golden Boy*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Badger Flame</i>	37	66	6.75
<i>Golden Boy</i>	63	72	7.32
(37 sites)			



Carrot, Early Organic

Napoli and *Yaya* were exceptional. Their roots were uniform, crunchy and flavorful. *Napoli* had slightly larger carrots and produced better yields. Gardeners liked the looks (barrel shape with blunt tips) and sweetness of *Yaya*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Napoli</i>	58	86	8.16
<i>Yaya</i>	42	75	7.96
(69 sites)			



Carrot, Main Crop Organic

Bengala roots were rated higher. They were straight, blunt-tipped, uniform, crunchy, sweet and flavorful. *Dolciva* roots were bigger, less uniform in shape, straight, smooth and sweet. *Bengala* produced higher yields at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Bengala</i>	57	87	7.89
<i>Dolciva</i>	43	70	7.60
(66 sites)			



Carrot, Bunching

Orange Blaze received very high scores for its good yields and beautiful roots. *Orange Blaze* consistently produced long, straight and smooth roots. Gardeners liked the uniformity and deeper orange color of *Orange Fancy* roots.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Orange Blaze</i>	62	85	8.08
<i>Orange Fancy</i>	38	65	7.44
(53 sites)			



Corn, Early Super Sweet

These varieties germinated well and matured at the same time. *Awaken* was a consistent performer and was preferred by many more gardeners. *Awaken* was more productive. More gardeners preferred the look and taste of *Awaken* ears.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Awaken</i>	50	83	7.55
<i>Bolt</i>	50	55	7.17
(36 sites)			



Corn, Midseason Super Sweet

Superb showed strong seedling vigor, leading to earlier maturity and higher yields. Gardeners liked the sweetness, tenderness and color of *Superb* kernels. *Xtra-Tender 274A* has performed well in the past but not this year.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Superb</i>	81	75	7.81
<i>Xtra-Tender 274A</i>	19	44	6.69
(18 sites)			



Corn, Yellow Super Sweet

XTH11274 was preferred by a vast majority of gardeners. These persons were extremely impressed by its large, full ears. More gardeners preferred the taste of *Vision MXR*. *Vision MXR* ripened earlier at more sites, too.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Vision MXR</i>	27	73	7.45
<i>XTH11274</i>	73	82	8.18
(14 sites)			



Corn, Early Synergistic

Gardeners split when selecting their preferred varieties. *Evolution* germinated better at more sites. Its stalks were robust and produced higher yields. The ear size and yields of *Sweetness* were smaller, but its flavor was clearly superior.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Evolution</i>	50	71	6.86
<i>Sweetness</i>	50	71	6.71
(17 sites)			



Cucumber, Burpless

Summer Dance ripened quickly and produced high yields. Its cukes were longer, straighter, smoother, glossier and more slender than those of *Burpless Beauty*. Many gardeners liked *Burpless Beauty*, but it did not excel in any trait.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Burpless Beauty</i>	43	63	6.78
<i>Summer Dance</i>	57	78	7.46
(96 sites)			



Cucumber, Pickling Organic

Provision matured earlier and produced more cukes at more sites. *Provision* cukes were darker green in color and more slender. *Double Yield* cukes looked more like a traditional pickler: stubby with a yellow/white tinge on its skin.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Double Yield</i>	43	60	6.60
<i>Provision</i>	57	77	7.70
(57 sites)			



Cucumber, Slicing

General Lee produced earlier and higher yields at more sites. Many gardeners liked *General Lee* for its crisp, flavorful, smooth-skinned fruits. *Gateway* is famous for its resistance to diseases; *General Lee* matched *Gateway* in vine health.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Gateway</i>	38	71	7.06
<i>General Lee</i>	63	69	7.62
(42 sites)			



Gourd, Ornamental

The vines of *Autumn Wings Blend* were much more aggressive, and they produced a massive number of beautiful gourds. *Gizmo* generated more excitement because of its larger, unique, multicolored, winged gourds.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Autumn Wings B.</i>	49	79	6.78
<i>Gizmo</i>	51	87	7.05
(41 sites)			



Lettuce, Green Bibb

Both varieties were outstanding. *Gatsby* had higher yields and looked more attractive to more gardeners. *Gatsby* resisted bolting better. *Newham* leaves were smoother and easier to clean than the crinkly leaves of *Gatsby*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Gatsby</i>	57	96	8.17
<i>Newham</i>	43	72	7.63
(28 sites)			



Lettuce, Green Leaf

Both varieties were outstanding. They were healthy, beautiful, resisted bolting, and had good flavor. *Grazion* showed an edge in earliness. *Starfighter* showed an edge in taste.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Grazion</i>	54	77	7.92
<i>Starfighter</i>	46	77	7.85
(32 sites)			



Lettuce, Green Romaine

Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both. *Sunland* was impressive and reliable. *Sunland* produced the first yield and produced more lettuce overall at more sites. The heads of *Chalupa* were smaller, full and tight. Both varieties resisted bolting.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
<i>Chalupa</i>	44	75	7.44
<i>Sunland</i>	56	93	7.87
(45 sites)			



Lettuce, Red Leaf

Gardeners loved the look of the dark red leaves of *Shirane Sky*. It was crisper in texture and was rated higher for taste. *New Red Fire* grew faster and produced more lettuce at more sites. Gardeners mentioned it was tender.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
New Red Fire	53	76	7.12
Shirane Sky	47	82	7.41
(17 sites)			



Lettuce, Red Summer Crisp

Both received high ratings. *Cherokee* and its dark red leaves were especially beautiful, but *Chrystal* and its predominantly green leaves tasted better. *Chrystal* was ready to be harvested earlier, but *Cherokee* produced higher yields overall.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cherokee	50	77	7.63
Chrystal	50	77	7.87
(31 sites)			



Melon, Cantaloupe

Atlantis germinated better and had healthier vines. It was a more reliable producer across sites. *Atlantis* melons were attractive, sweet and flavorful. The varieties produced similar yields, and their melons ripened at the same time.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Atlantis	78	73	7.14
Olympic Express	22	41	5.54
(43 sites)			



Okra, Green

Okra demands heat. We enjoyed a warm growing season in 2025, but neither variety excelled. The compact plants of *Jambalaya 2.0* were easy to manage and produced more pods. It outperformed *Clemson Spineless 80* in all traits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Clemson Sp. 80	29	57	5.29
Jambalaya 2.0	71	79	6.58
(16 sites)			



Pumpkin, Large Round

Both varieties received solid ratings. Most gardeners preferred *Big Doris*. *Big Doris* pumpkins had a classic, round shape with deep orange color and thick handles. Yields were comparable. Fruits weighing 20+ pounds were common.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Big Doris	61	80	7.87
Dynasty	39	77	7.47
(37 sites)			



Pumpkin, Large Tall

Big Loretta matured earlier, had bigger pumpkins and produced higher yields. The dark orange color of *Early Giant* pumpkins was attractive, but most gardeners preferred the overall look of *Big Loretta* pumpkins.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Big Loretta	67	84	7.37
Early Giant	33	68	6.26
(25 sites)			



Pumpkin, Extra Large

Both varieties received good ratings, but *Denali* was preferred by more gardeners. Every gardener recommended *Denali*. *Denali* pumpkins matured earlier, were bigger and judged to be more attractive at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Apogee	38	67	7.22
Denali	63	100	8.56
(14 sites)			



Pumpkin, Giant

Neither variety received impressive ratings. More gardeners recommended *Grower's Giant*. It ripened earlier and produced bigger pumpkins at more sites. The pumpkins of *Big Moose* had a deeper orange color and better handles.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Big Moose	36	50	5.07
Grower's Giant	64	75	5.57
(17 sites)			



Spinach, Savoyed-Leaf

Both varieties grew well in spring and fall plantings. Neither variety stood out from the other. Gardeners who preferred *Green Beret* often noted its outstanding taste. Gardeners who preferred *Sunangel* liked its robust plants and large leaves.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Green Beret	44	66	6.81
Sunangel	56	66	6.96
(57 sites)			



Squash, Green Scallop

Green Lightning is known for the vivid striping on its fruits, but more gardeners preferred the solid green look of *Starship* fruits. The early maturity of *Green Lightning* was impressive. The yields and tastes of the varieties were not remarkable.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Green Lightning	62	75	8.08
Starship	38	83	7.33
(14 sites)			



Squash, Green Zucchini

Kefren germinated better and produced higher yields at more sites. *Kefren* fruits had fewer seeds, but there was no difference in the taste of these varieties. Wet weather led to both varieties suffering from powdery mildew late in season.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Desert	39	61	7.35
Kefren	61	81	7.84
(35 sites)			



Squash, Yellow Summer

Multipik was a workhorse. It germinated better, matured earlier and produced loads of fruits. The vast majority of gardeners recommended *Multipik*, but most preferred *Butterfingers* for the superior looks and taste of its fruits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Butterfingers	55	55	6.09
Multipik	45	82	6.82
(14 sites)			



Squash, Butternut

Block Party yields were earlier and much higher than those of *Quantum*. The fruits of *Block Party* were blocky and attractive with bright orange, flavorful flesh. *Quantum* was okay but did not excel in any trait; many of its fruits did not ripen.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Block Party	74	77	7.71
Quantum	26	59	6.71
(27 sites)			



Squash, Round Butternut

Autumn Frost was preferred over *Spellcast* by most gardeners because of the sweet, nutty taste of its fruits. *Spellcast* vines were vigorous and produced much larger fruits. *Spellcast* matured earlier at more sites. Overall yields were similar.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Autumn Frost	65	80	7.14
Spellcast	35	75	7.38
(27 sites)			



Squash, Gray

Both varieties produced attractive, deeply ribbed fruits. The flesh of *Blue Harvest* was delicious, moister and much sweeter compared to that of *Mint Prince*. *Mint Prince* was fun to decorate with, but its flesh was drier and less flavorful.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Blue Harvest	56	82	7.09
Mint Prince	44	73	6.91
(13 sites)			



Squash, Orange Spaghetti

Hasta La Pasta matured earlier and produced higher yields. Most of the gardeners who expressed a preference on fruit quality preferred the looks and taste of *Hasta La Pasta*. *Orangetti* did not excel in any trait.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Hasta La Pasta	64	67	6.83
Orangetti	36	50	6.58
(16 sites)			



Squash, Specialty Winter

Speckled Hound was healthier, ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. *Troll* fruits were small, making them suitable for serving small families. Both could be used for decorating; most preferred the looks of *Speckled Hound*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Speckled Hound	80	82	7.80
Troll	20	55	6.50
(12 sites)			



Swiss Chard, White-Stem

Fordhook Giant grew faster, produced over a longer time and produced higher yields. A key attribute of *Silverado* is its glossy, crinkly leaves, but more gardeners felt the leaves of *Fordhook Giant* were more attractive and easier to clean.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Fordhook Giant	62	69	7.69
Silverado	38	54	5.85
(14 sites)			



Watermelon, Hybrid

Gardeners liked but did not love them. There was no clear winner on taste or overall. *Pronto* flesh was pink, sweet and juicy with relatively few seeds. *Top Gun* melons were generally smaller. Its flesh was bright red, crisp and juicy.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Pronto	52	63	7.13
Top Gun	48	67	6.88
(28 sites)			



Watermelon, Open-Pollinated

Klecky Sweet was a disaster. It germinated poorly, and no gardeners recommended it. *Klecky Sweet* grew slowly and its melons often rotted. *Sweet Dakota Rose* showed again it is one of the most reliable and delicious watermelons to grow.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Klecky Sweet	0	0	2.31
Swt Dakota Rose	100	92	7.62
(25 sites)			



Sunflower, Bicolor

Desert Sun had large, beautiful blooms on sturdy stalks. It bloomed early, and gardeners loved its colors. Every gardener recommended it. *Florenza* lacked vigor at most sites. Its flowers were small and its plants were shorter.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Desert Sun	90	100	8.43
Florenza	10	43	6.24
(21 sites)			



Sunflower, Bicolor Mixes

Neither variety received high ratings. *Daydream Mixture* was preferred by most. It was healthier and produced more flowers at more sites. More gardeners liked its colors. *Magic Roundabout* did not excel in any trait.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Daydream Mix.	60	81	7.00
Magic Round.	40	67	6.52
(23 sites)			



Sunflower, Lemon Yellow

Gardeners liked *Valentine*, but they strongly preferred the beauty of *Butter Chiffon*. The blooms of *Butter Chiffon* were lovely with their lemony, delicate petals. *Valentine* bloomed early and produced many flowers.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Butter Chiffon	79	80	7.93
Valentine	21	73	6.73
(15 sites)			



Sunflower, Soft Bicolor

Strawberry Blonde outperformed *Gypsy Charmer* in all traits. It germinated better, was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. *Strawberry Blonde* was a better cut flower. *Gypsy Charmer* performed better in previous trials.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Gypsy Charmer	19	43	5.63
Strawberry Blonde	81	83	7.38
(36 sites)			



Sunflower, Double-Petal Dwarf

Baby Bear grew well and most gardeners preferred it. *Baby Bear* bloomed earlier at more sites. Its flowers were cute and outstanding for cut flower arrangements. Gardeners enjoyed the fluffy flowers of *Teddy Bear*, and most recommended it.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Baby Bear	57	86	7.95
Teddy Bear	43	73	7.32
(27 sites)			



Sunflower, Orange Single-Stem

ProCut Orange Excel bloomed first, looked more attractive and was a better cut flower. Its plants were sturdy and uniform. Gardeners liked its deeper orange color. *Jua Maya* did not show a major weakness, but no strength either.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Jua Maya	27	45	5.91
ProCut Or. Exc.	73	73	7.09
(14 sites)			



Zinnia, Flaming Mixes

The colors of both mixes were bold, warm and bright. Both mixes received very high ratings. They were easy to grow, bloomed prolifically, attracted pollinators, and made wonderful cut flowers. This was our most popular trial.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Lava Lamp	56	94	8.32
So. of the Border	44	85	7.92
(80 sites)			



Zinnia, Pink Mixes

Both mixes were very showy and pretty. The plants were tall and healthy, producing many blooms all summer. *Blushing Bride* had a blend of soft and charming colors. The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* were brighter with more shades of pink.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Blushing Bride	49	83	7.70
Strawberry Parfait	51	84	7.81
(72 sites)			



Zinnia, Red Shades

These were two gorgeous mixes. They produced loads of beautiful flowers all summer. These mixes contained the same deep red varieties. Gardeners split on whether they liked the addition of light red or purple seeds to the mixes.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Berry Tart	54	88	8.15
Merlot Mix	46	84	7.85
(59 sites)			

Bean, Green

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Bush Blue Lake 274

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

Provider

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



Data

Gardeners at 41 sites submitted information.

Trait	B.B.L. 274	Provider	Same
Germinated best	22%	38%	41%
Healthier plants	12	32	56
Harvested earlier	19	59	22
Higher yields	30	50	20
More attractive pods	19	29	52
Tasted better	30	18	52
Preference	48	52	
Recommend (😊)	74	77	
Mean score ¹	7.40	7.66	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Bush Blue Lake 274

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Provider 7★★★★☆ 😞 MN

Bush Blue Lake 274 was a very heavy producer.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Provider 7★★★★☆ 😊 NE

I liked the late production of *Bush Blue Lake 274* because it extends the bean-eating season. The varieties had similar yields and taste.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Provider 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Provider made a lot of beans, but they tended to be smaller pods.

B. Blue Lake 274 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Provider 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Bush Blue Lake 274 had good flavor, stringless pods and higher yields.

B. Blue Lake 274 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Provider 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Bush Blue Lake 274 had a second flush of pods.

B. Blue Lake 274 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Provider 5★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Bush Blue Lake 274 produced far more beans.

B. Blue Lake 274 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Provider 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

These were both great producers! *Bush Blue Lake 274* had better flavor.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Provider 7★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Bush Blue Lake 274 germinated a lot better, was hardier for my soil, and produced more pods per plant. This variety is still the old nugget of green beans for me. Both varieties suffered from rust disease.

B. Blue Lake 274 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Provider 1★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Provider produced earlier, but *Bush Blue Lake 274* produced over a longer period of time. The pods of *Bush Blue Lake 274* were tender, sweet and delicious! The pods of *Provider* tasted bitter and terrible!

Both of these popular varieties were outstanding in yield and taste qualities.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Jade

Strong performers

Annihilator
 Antigua
 Bush Blue
 Lake 274
 Derby
 Espada
 Homerun
 Lewis
 Pike
 Provider
 Red Tail
 Strike
 Tendergreen
 Improved

Prefer Bush Blue Lake 274 (continued)

B. Blue Lake 274 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
 Provider 6★★★★☆ ☺ SC

The skin of a *Bush Blue Lake 274* pod was thinner; not so tough and more palatable. Its pods were skinnier. *Bush Blue Lake 274* is best for eating fresh; *Provider* is better for canning and freezing.

B. Blue Lake 274 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Provider 9★★★★★ ☺ SC

Both varieties did well. *Bush Blue Lake 274* produced first.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
 Provider 7★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Bush Blue Lake 274 had better pods.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
 Provider 6★★★★☆ ☺ SW

These varieties started producing early and kept going even when some deer would eat the tops off the plants. I harvested many pods. I shared them with my family and everyone loved the flavor. This was a great year for beans. I enjoyed them for a long time, and I canned and froze many beans for use in the winter months. *Bush Blue Lake 274* produced better, had good flavor, and its pods were nice and crisp.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐛
 Provider 7★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Truly, these varieties did very much the same. They both produced well, and I saw no health issues with either. *Bush Blue Lake 274* had a slightly better taste.

B. Blue Lake 274 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Provider 9★★★★★ ☺ SW

I liked both varieties. They were very hardy and great producers! *Bush Blue Lake 274* tasted a little better. I did like how *Provider* was ready a little sooner.

B. Blue Lake 274 9★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Provider 7★★★★☆ ☹ SW

Bush Blue Lake 274 was a great producer, even on the smaller plants.

B. Blue Lake 274 9★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
 Provider 8★★★★★ ☹ SD

Bush Blue Lake 274 tasted a bit better. Both varieties yielded well. Their pods were straight and easy to pick.

Prefer Provider

B. Blue Lake 274 9★★★★★ ☺ -
 Provider 10★★★★★ ☺ MN

Provider produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall.

B. Blue Lake 274 5★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
 Provider 7★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Provider pods were more attractive. Both varieties suffered from deer damage.

B. Blue Lake 274 9★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Provider 10★★★★★ ☺ NE

Both produced good yields. *Provider* provided higher yields with taller plants making it easier to pick.

B. Blue Lake 274 6★★★★☆ ☹ 🐛
 Provider 8★★★★★ ☺ SE

Provider produced way more beans than *Bush Blue Lake 274*. I have always grown *Bush Blue Lake 274* in the past, but *Provider* produced a lot of beans.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★★★★★ ☺ 🐛
 Provider 10★★★★★ ☺ SE

The production of *Provider* beans continued from late July thru the end of September, and yields were still very good, as was quality. *Bush Blue Lake 274* also performed well, but the quality decreased during the season. I really preferred the taste of *Provider* over *Bush Blue Lake 274*. Both varieties had very good germination with *Bush Blue Lake 274* germinating in 7 days compared to 14 days for *Provider*.

B. Blue Lake 274 5★★★★☆ ☹ -
 Provider 8★★★★★ ☺ NC

Provider had healthier plants and pods. Its pods were smoother. *Provider* withstood rabbit pressure better.

Gardeners who preferred *Bush Blue Lake 274* often noted its good flavor.

Prefer Provider (continued)

B. Blue Lake 274 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Provider 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Provider produced 35 pounds compared to 17 pounds for *Bush Blue Lake 274*.

B. Blue Lake 274 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Provider 2★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SC

I did not like the taste of either variety.

B. Blue Lake 274 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ -
 Provider 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW

Provider germinated almost twice as well as *Bush Blue Lake 274*. *Provider* produced higher yields; its beans kept coming pick after pick. *Provider* beans were more attractive. The beans of these varieties tasted similarly.

B. Blue Lake 274 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Provider 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW

Bush Blue Lake 274 had a lot more vines and leaves. It was harder to harvest because of all the greenery.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Provider 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Provider had large beans and was easy to harvest.

B. Blue Lake 274 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Provider 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

We had a better yield with *Provider*. It gave us a second flush of beans later in the season.

B. Blue Lake 274 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Provider 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Provider had better yield.

B. Blue Lake 274 7★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Provider 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Provider germinated at 100% compared to 70% for *Bush Blue Lake 274*. *Provider* was healthier, flowered earlier and produced an earlier yield. *Provider* produced five large batches while *Bush Blue Lake 274* produced four small batches. *Provider* pods were longer and darker green.

B. Blue Lake 274 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Provider 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Provider performed better on all levels. It produced large, tender pods and lots of them. Its yields were earlier and higher compared to *Bush Blue Lake 274*.

B. Blue Lake 274 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Provider 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Provider performed better in all the categories. I didn't have a very large crop of beans like in other years, so while *Provider* was the better variety in this trial, I still think it was a little lacking in that regard.

B. Blue Lake 274 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Provider 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SD

Provider is amazing! I've grown *Bush Blue Lake 274* for years. I never thought I'd prefer another green bean, but *Provider* is better on just about every level. *Provider* germinated better (85% compared to 60% for *Bush Blue Lake 274*). *Provider* was ready to harvest 2 weeks earlier. *Provider* had straighter pods that stayed tender at longer lengths.

No Preference

B. Blue Lake 274 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Provider 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Both varieties had fantastically large pods that needed to be picked early or they tended to lose their color and taste.

Conclusions

Both of these popular varieties were outstanding in yield and taste qualities. Gardeners split over their preferred variety. *Provider* plants were more vigorous. They produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall. Gardeners who preferred *Bush Blue Lake 274* often noted its good flavor. *Bush Blue Lake 274* has a reputation for outstanding pod quality, but most gardeners felt *Provider* matched or exceeded *Bush Blue Lake 274* for pod quality.

***Provider* produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall. It matched or exceeded *Bush Blue Lake 274* for pod quality.**

Bean, Dark Green

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Dark Horse

58 days. High quality, straight, dark green pods with good uniformity. Upright plants produce high yields.

Lewis

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



Data

Gardeners at 48 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dark Horse	Lewis	Same
Germinated best	18%	30%	52%
Healthier plants	27	18	55
Harvested earlier	30	42	28
Higher yields	35	38	28
More attractive pods	37	24	39
Tasted better	26	21	52
Preference	44	56	
Recommend (😊)	77	72	
Mean score ¹	7.21	7.53	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Dark Horse

Dark Horse 10★★★★★😊🏠
Lewis 9★★★★★😊MN

Dark Horse beans won the Reserve Champion prize at the Polk County Fair. These beans were smooth and evenly sized, dark in color and very attractive. Both varieties yielded a lot of beans, produced into mid-September and were disease tolerant. The beans of both varieties had great flavor and color when cooked.

Dark Horse 9★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 7★★★★★😞MN

Dark Horse had brighter, dark-colored beans when cooked and had better structure after freezing and cooking. *Dark Horse* produced 40 pods per plant compared to 34 pods per plant for *Lewis*.

Dark Horse 9★★★★★😊🏠
Lewis 8★★★★★😞NE

Dark Horse had better germination, and I preferred the color of its beans. Both varieties had heavy white mold, and all plants died after the first harvest.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 7★★★★★😊NE

Dark Horse was a bit less productive, but its pods were much more attractive. Its pods were dark green, always looked young, and its texture was more tender. Both varieties tasted good; *Lewis* had a stronger “bean” taste.

Dark Horse 7★★★★★😊🏠
Lewis 4★★★★★😞SE

Lewis germinated at 35% compared to 23% for *Dark Horse*. *Lewis* suffered more damage from rabbits; this prevented a high yield.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 7★★★★★😊SE

Lewis had rust. *Dark Horse* had dark green pods that were very attractive.

Dark Horse 9★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 8★★★★★😊SE

The plants of these varieties stood tall and came back after winds. They produced awesome yields until frost. Their pods were long. *Dark Horse* pods tasted better.

Both varieties received good ratings. Their plants were healthy, upright, productive and easy to pick.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Jade

Strong performers

Annihilator
Antigua
Bush Blue
Lake 274
Derby
Espada
Homerun
Lewis
Pike
Provider
Red Tail
Strike
Tendergreen
Improved

Prefer Dark Horse (continued)

Dark Horse 10★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 9★★★★★😊NC

They both produced well and had long pods. *Dark Horse* tasted better and had nicer-looking, dark pods.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 7★★★★★😞NC

Dark Horse produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Dark Horse 6★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 3★★★★★😞SC

I wasn't overly impressed with either one. The yield wasn't great on either of them. *Dark Horse* had better germination, yield and taste.

Dark Horse 10★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 8★★★★★😞SC

Dark Horse was ready to pick earlier and the harvest lasted all summer long. Its pods had a very pleasant taste with better flavor. *Dark Horse* pods were shiny, dark green, long and rounder.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 6★★★★★😊SC

Dark Horse tasted better and produced longer in the season.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 7★★★★★😊SC

Dark Horse plants were bigger. Its pods were thicker but not woody — it had a nice texture. The pods of both varieties were straight and tasty.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 5★★★★★😞SW

Dark Horse was better all around. Its plants were fuller. Its yield was bigger and more flavorful. *Lewis* pods were a little starchy tasting.

Dark Horse 7★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 5★★★★★😞SW

Dark Horse produced bigger beans and higher yields.

Dark Horse 7★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 5★★★★★😞SW

Dark Horse tasted better and had a nicer, dark green pod.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 2★★★★★😞SW

Dark Horse produced a much higher yield and was great tasting.

Dark Horse 9★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 8★★★★★😊SW

I got 5 gallons of beans from my first and only harvest. The grasshoppers loved both varieties. I liked the taste of both varieties, but the people I shared them with preferred *Dark Horse* when both were eaten raw. I would grow both of these again. I have been growing *Blue Lake* forever, and these both outproduced *Blue Lake*.

Prefer Lewis

Dark Horse 4★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 5★★★★★😊MN

Lewis produced higher yields and tasted better.

Dark Horse 8★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 10★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties were terrific! They were so much better than other bush bean varieties I have tried. The pods of *Lewis* did not develop large seeds, so I didn't have to pick beans multiple times a week from the *Lewis* row.

Dark Horse 5★★★★★😊🐞
Lewis 6★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties were very prolific, especially given their compact plant sizes. *Lewis* produced an earlier yield. *Dark Horse* pods were more attractive. We also planted a row of *Blue Lake* and we all preferred *Blue Lake*. It tasted more like the "true green bean" flavor.

The gardeners who preferred *Dark Horse* often mentioned its beautiful, dark, smooth pods.

Prefer Lewis (continued)

Dark Horse 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Lewis 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

Lewis was a fantastic green bean. Its pods were long, straight, and easy to pick. The taste was a perfect combination of crispness and tenderness. I loved its upright bushes. *Lewis* was heavy bearing and tolerated wet and dry spells fairly well. *Lewis* canned up to some lovely, green bean pickles. The pods of *Dark Horse* were crisp but bitter, stringier/tougher.

Dark Horse 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Lewis 9★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Both varieties were healthy, very productive and good eating. Frost in spring hit the plants in the cotyledon stage but caused minimal damage.

Dark Horse 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Lewis 9★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Lewis was my favorite. It germinated better than *Dark Horse*. *Lewis* plants had a more branched out habit; *Dark Horse* plants were more upright. The first picking of *Lewis* was on July 18; the first picking of *Dark Horse* was July 25. *Dark Horse* produced beans steadily later into fall, although it seemed like I never had the huge load of beans at once like I did with *Lewis*. Both varieties had very attractive pods. *Dark Horse* pods were very dark green, but both had uniform, straight, beautiful beans. *Lewis* pods tasted slightly sweeter and tastier when compared side by side, cooked. We had 8 inches of rain in July. Both varieties got some mold, little by little. I lost a few plants. By the last harvest on September 26, I was still picking a few meals worth of beans every 3 days or so.

Dark Horse 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Lewis 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

I loved both varieties. *Lewis* produced a bit more yield and tasted a little bit better.

Dark Horse 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Lewis 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Lewis produced earlier and had a higher yield. Its beans were longer and had more flavor.

Dark Horse 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Lewis 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties had great yields, although *Lewis* was more plentiful. *Lewis* pods were slightly longer and fatter, but the pods of both varieties were very straight and nice looking.

Dark Horse 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Lewis 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

It seemed like every seed planted of *Lewis* just sprang out of the ground in a week. *Dark Horse* had only 50% germination, and its plants were less full. *Lewis* grew very well despite the very dry, then very wet conditions. *Lewis* produced 2 weeks earlier than *Dark Horse*. *Lewis* beans were thinner, deliciously mild and tender. *Dark Horse* beans had a classic, green bean taste and texture.

Dark Horse 8★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Lewis 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties did well. The pods of *Lewis* were tender with a sweeter taste. The pods of *Dark Horse* were tough and had more like a wax bean exterior. In a taste trial among my family and friends, *Lewis* won 10–0.

Dark Horse 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Lewis 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Lewis produced quicker and slightly more pods. The pods of both varieties were small but nice and straight; perfect for pickling.

Dark Horse 3★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Lewis 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Lewis plants were twice the size as the *Dark Horse* plants. *Lewis* produced a huge yield, and its pods were attractive.

Dark Horse 7★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Lewis 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Dark Horse tasted sweet and had amazing flavor, but germination was 10%. *Lewis* had the typical green bean flavor and germination was 90%. *Dark Horse* plants were shorter, and its pods were bunched together.

***Lewis* plants grew vigorously, producing an earlier and more concentrated harvest.**

Prefer Lewis (continued)

Dark Horse 7★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Lewis 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

Lewis definitely produced a higher yield. The pods of *Lewis* were beautiful green, firm, crispy and straight. This made them great for canning, and overall a more attractive product. *Dark Horse* had fewer yields. Its pods were more flexible, less vibrant in color and their taste was not as good.

Dark Horse 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Lewis 6★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

Lewis germinated fast. Its plants were strong, bright green and produced the first pods.

Dark Horse 3★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Lewis 5★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

Both varieties had plants that were full of straight, green beans. They produced too many beans for a household to use at one time. The plants had so many beans the branches would break off when picking. A little wind created havoc by breaking the plants. These varieties reminded me of varieties that were developed for a one-time mechanical harvest — field to cannery. Not a garden-to-table variety that produced for a few months. *Lewis* ripened first. I preferred its lighter color for canning.

Dark Horse 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Lewis 10★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both had amazing yields. I could not believe the number of flowers on each plant on each variety. The plants were literally loaded with flowers. *Lewis* pods were more tender with good, green bean flavor.

Dark Horse 6★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Lewis 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The pods of *Lewis* were longer, straighter and larger. Both varieties had very healthy plants. Their yields were good and lasted a long time. I enjoyed the taste of both.

Dark Horse 5★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Lewis 10★★★★★ 😊 SC

Dark Horse produced the first yield, but *Lewis* produced a higher yield overall and had more attractive pods.

Dark Horse 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Lewis 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Lewis won out due to its earlier and higher yields. *Lewis* yielded almost 2 weeks earlier than *Dark Horse*, but *Dark Horse* produced longer than *Lewis* did. I loved the dark green color of the *Dark Horse* pods. The beans of these varieties tasted the same.

Dark Horse 6★★★★☆ ☹️ -
Lewis 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Lewis pods had better texture and stayed crisp when I pickled them.

Dark Horse 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Lewis 8★★★★☆ 😊 SK

I liked the flavor and texture of *Dark Horse* pods best, but it had fewer plants germinate. Both varieties produced well for the plants that grew.

No Preference

Dark Horse 5★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Lewis 5★★★★☆ 😊 SC

These varieties performed identically. The plants of both varieties were great until the leaves got spots, shriveled and died.

Dark Horse 9★★★★☆ 😊 -
Lewis 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The varieties were almost identical in germination, growth, yield, pod appearance and taste. I harvested a bumper crop. *Dark Horse* produced the first pods.

Conclusions

Both varieties received good ratings. Their plants were healthy, upright, productive and easy to pick. Pods of both varieties were uniform, straight, tasty and slow to get seedy. Most gardeners preferred *Lewis*. It germinated better and its plants grew vigorously, producing an earlier and more concentrated harvest. *Dark Horse* plants caught up and matched it for overall yield. The gardeners who preferred *Dark Horse* often mentioned its beautiful, dark, smooth pods.

Pods of both varieties were uniform, straight, tasty and slow to get seedy.

Bean, Green Filet Organic

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Compass

54 days. Pods are slim, smooth and attractive. Good flavor. Plants resist diseases.

Maxibel

50 days. High yields of long, slender, green beans. Long harvest season. Brown mottled seeds.



Data

Gardeners at 49 sites submitted information.

Trait	Compass	Maxi-bel	Same
Germinated best	27%	27%	45%
Healthier plants	28	21	51
Harvested earlier	24	55	21
Higher yields	50	38	13
More attractive pods	38	26	36
Tasted better	35	33	33
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (☺)	59	67	
Mean score ¹	7.13	7.50	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Compass

Compass 5★★★★★☺🐞
Maxibel 4★★★★★☺ MN

Compass was healthier and produced higher yields. Its pods stayed smaller, did not get overgrown and woody, and tasted better.

Compass 10★★★★★☺🐞
Maxibel 4★★★★★☹ MN

Compass plants had compact, bushy growth. They produced a lot of long, slender beans on a weekly basis. *Maxibel* produced beans first. Its plants got very large, and its beans were larger than those of *Compass*.

Compass 8★★★★★☺🐞
Maxibel 7★★★★★☺ MN

I chose *Compass* as I like a smaller bean for eating raw and steaming/stir fry. *Compass* was like a filet bean — smaller and did not get beany. It produced abundantly. *Maxibel* plants were larger and bushier, like a pole bean. Its vines climbed on my fence. *Maxibel* bean pods were fuller, longer and crisp; they were 6–8 inches long. *Maxibel* beans could get “beany” but were crisp and that made the taste better. They worked well for freezing and for making pickled beans. *Maxibel* beans were easier to pick. The germination rate for both varieties was about 60%, and there were no issues with diseases.

Compass 9★★★★★☺🐞
Maxibel 8★★★★★☺ NE

I really liked the petite size of the *Compass* plants and pods. I was really surprised by how many beans I picked off each plant. Many plants had five or six pods growing all together which made picking so easy. If someone has a small space and wants green beans, I would definitely recommend planting *Compass*. *Maxibel* was okay. It had bigger plants and pods, and therefore produced a higher yield overall. Quite a few of the *Maxibel* plants produced pods with strings on them, which I didn’t like.

Compass plants were more compact but surprisingly produced a higher yield at more sites.

Best green filet bush bean varieties

Top choice
Crockett

Strong performers
Compass
Maxibel
Serengeti

Prefer Compass (continued)

Compass 9★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 7★★★★★😞NE

Compass produced approximately twice as much yield. *Compass* plants were more compact. *Maxibel* plants became very viny and eventually required trellising. I would not recommend *Maxibel* as a bush variety. The first harvest of *Compass* was on July 5, which was 5 days before the first harvest of *Maxibel*. *Maxibel* pods had slightly more flavor; *Compass* pods were slightly sweeter.

Compass 10★★★★★😊🏠
Maxibel 6★★★★★😊SE

Compass produced lots of beans that were perfectly thin and long. Delicious!

Compass 10★★★★★😊🏠
Maxibel 8★★★★★😞SE

Compass germinated faster and better. It produced a week or so earlier and produced a lot of them. Its pods were very nice.

Compass 3★★★★★😞🐞
Maxibel 2★★★★★😞SE

I was disappointed with this year's beans. They didn't yield very many plants, and their pods were not very good to eat. *Maxibel* pods were small and skinny. They really didn't have much to them. *Compass* pods were larger in size but they were dry. Both varieties were tough and chewy.

Compass 9★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊SE

These varieties had many similarities. In the end, *Compass* seemed to peak our taste buds best.

Compass 7★★★★★😞-
Maxibel 5★★★★★😞NC

Both varieties produced thin, short beans. Both varieties produced high yields. *Compass* had larger beans and plants.

Compass 3★★★★★😞🐞
Maxibel 1★★★★★😞NC

This trial had poor germination and required replanting. The plants were small and produced very little.

Compass 9★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊NC

Compass produced a lot more beans. Both varieties were very tasty.

Compass 9★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊NC

Compass pods were very petite and delicious. *Compass* plants were about half the size of *Maxibel* plants and required me to reach lower to harvest. Both varieties had a great amount of beans to harvest. I had a hard time keeping up with them. *Maxibel* was better in germination and growth, but *Compass* had better flavor. If I want petite beans, *Compass* is better because it doesn't get that bean bump inside the pods if I am slow to get them picked.

Compass 9★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 7★★★★★😞SC

Compass produced a larger yield. *Compass* pods were a little larger but never got too hard to eat! This is a huge benefit for me because I don't get out to pick them every other day. Both varieties had great tasting beans!

Compass 8★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 6★★★★★😞SC

I prefer *Compass* for its thinner beans and smaller, bushier plants. *Maxibel* plants grew taller and had a thicker bean I don't care for. *Compass* produced well again into the fall before the frost.

Compass 9★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 5★★★★★😞SC

Compass had very nice, long and slender pods. They were excellent in stir frying. *Maxibel* pods were less attractive and seemed to have more of a string bean appearance. *Compass* produced earlier and higher yields.

Compass 10★★★★★😊🏠
Maxibel 8★★★★★😞SC

Compass produced more and had more attractive pods.

Compass pods were smaller, crisper and more slender.

Prefer Compass (continued)

Compass 9★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊SC

We had a clear preference for *Compass*. Its pods were smaller, not stringy and had good flavor. Its vines were easier to work with.

Compass 7★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 6★★★★★😞SW

I grew these in raised beds, and they didn't perform as well as expected. *Compass* tolerated cool wet/then very windy and dry conditions in Adams County.

Compass 9★★★★★😊-
Maxibel 7★★★★★😞SW

Compass produced a higher yield, tasted better and had darker pods.

Compass 7★★★★★😊🏡
Maxibel 5★★★★★😊SW

These varieties were similar.

Compass 9★★★★★😊🏡
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊SW

Everyone loved the flavor of *Compass*.

Compass 10★★★★★😊🏡
Maxibel 8★★★★★😞SW

Compass was a very prolific producer. Its beans were easy to pick and tender.

Compass 10★★★★★😊🏡
Maxibel 9★★★★★😞SD

Both varieties were very good. They produced very well and their pods were very tender. *Compass* produced a higher yield; its pods looked and tasted better.

Prefer Maxibel

Compass 7★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties grew well and were quite productive. We thought *Maxibel* was a more productive, better-tasting bean. *Maxibel* had a nice, long attractive pod; *Compass* pods were shorter and thinner. I would not consider *Maxibel* a filet bean. *Maxibel* plants had a taller, floppy growth habit; *Compass* plants were more compact and sturdy.

Compass 7★★★★★😞🐞
Maxibel 9★★★★★😊MN

Maxibel beans were thinner, more tender and tastier.

Compass 8★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 9★★★★★😊NE

Maxibel plants kept producing into September.

Compass 2★★★★★😞🏡
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊NE

Maxibel produced larger plants with greater and earlier yield compared to *Compass*. *Compass* produced very small pods compared to *Maxibel*. *Maxibel* beans were crisp and sweet with a mild, nutty flavor and very tasty.

Compass 3★★★★★😞🏡
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊NE

Compass had a massive yield, but the beans stayed small/thin and had a slightly bitter taste. *Maxibel* had a slightly smaller yield but had longer, crisper, more flavorful pods. Both varieties produced long into the fall. The plants of *Compass* were more compact and upright. The plants of *Maxibel* were a bit more bushy and branched.

Compass 8★★★★★😊🏡
Maxibel 9★★★★★😊SE

Both varieties germinated well. I preferred picking and cleaning *Maxibel* pods because of their bigger size. *Maxibel* produced into October leading to a higher yield overall. *Compass* plants stayed more compact. Its pods were smaller and more slender.

Compass 3★★★★★😞🏡
Maxibel 8★★★★★😊SE

I didn't like *Compass* at all. It was prolific, but the pods were so skinny and didn't seem like they were ready but they were.

Compass 8★★★★★😊🐞
Maxibel 9★★★★★😊NC

With the short growing season in North Dakota, I liked that *Maxibel* produced more quickly. I thought it tasted slightly better.

Maxibel plants were much more vigorous and bushy; they produced earlier.

Prefer Maxibel (continued)

Compass 6 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🐛
Maxibel 8 ★★★★★ (smiley) NC

Maxibel germinated better, which led to more production.

Compass 8 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🐛
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) SC

I was very impressed with *Maxibel*. It was a strong producer for the whole growing season. *Maxibel* pods were consistently long and straight with great flavor whether raw, cooked or baked.

Compass 8 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🐛
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) SC

Both varieties produced well. I started picking on July 7. *Maxibel* produced more pods, and its pods were more slender and tender.

Compass 7 ★★★★★ (smiley) 🐛
Maxibel 9 ★★★★★ (smiley) SC

Maxibel had taller, fuller plants, but the yields of these varieties were the same.

Compass 1 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🏠
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) NW

Compass did not germinate. *Maxibel* beans were long and skinny, very tender and tasted great.

Compass 9 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🏠
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) NW

More plants of *Maxibel* germinated.

Compass 9 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🏠
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) NW

The pods of *Maxibel* were long and attractive.

Compass 5 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🐛
Maxibel 9 ★★★★★ (smiley) SW

Maxibel did better in every category. It produced more fuller, flavorful and consistent beans. It held up to cooking well.

Compass 6 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🐛
Maxibel 9 ★★★★★ (smiley) SW

Maxibel grew better and tasted better.

Compass 9 ★★★★★ (smiley) 🐛
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) SW

Both varieties produced really well throughout the whole summer. They were very hardy plants since major windstorms really pummeled them several times. *Maxibel* pods were slightly meatier than *Compass* pods and were a little easier to pick.

Compass 2 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🏠
Maxibel 8 ★★★★★ (smiley) SW

Maxibel grew nice, long pods. *Compass* had tiny, tough pods that lacked flavor.

Compass 6 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🏠
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) SW

Maxibel produced earlier and higher yields. *Compass* pods were very straight — nice for canning. Both varieties tasted very good!

Compass 7 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🐛
Maxibel 10 ★★★★★ (smiley) SW

Maxibel was a beautiful, productive, tender bean variety. It kept producing until frost. The pods were long, slender and very tender. This is the favorite bean I have ever planted. Abundant rain might have something to do with it. *Compass* plants were small and not as vigorous. They produced many small pods and seemed to stalemate.

No Preference

Compass 1 ★★★★★ (frowny) 🏠
Maxibel 1 ★★★★★ (frowny) SW

We didn't care for these varieties. Both varieties had very tough beans.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced well. *Compass* plants were compact and upright. Several gardeners were surprised that such compact plants could produce so many beans. In fact, *Compass* did produce a higher yield at more sites. *Maxibel* plants were much more vigorous and bushy; they produced earlier. There was no clear favorite on taste qualities. *Compass* pods were smaller, crisper and more slender. *Maxibel* pods were longer, thicker and more tender. Some gardeners felt that *Maxibel* pods were more flavorful; others felt *Maxibel* pods were a bit stringy.

***Maxibel* pods were longer, thicker and more tender. Some gardeners felt that *Maxibel* pods were more flavorful; others felt *Maxibel* pods were a bit stringy.**

Bean, Green Romano

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Roma II

53 days. Heavy crops of stringless, flat pods with robust flavor. Pods are slow to produce seed and fiber. Upright plants.

Velero

56 days. Attractive pods are set high on upright plants. Pods have quality interiors and flavor.



Data

Gardeners at 5 sites submitted information.

Trait	Roma		
	II	Velero	Same
Germinated best	60%	20%	20%
Healthier plants	67	0	33
Harvested earlier	100	0	0
Higher yields	50	0	50
More attractive pods	0	50	50
Tasted better	50	50	0
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (😊)	100	67	
Mean score ¹	8.33	6.00	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Roma II

Roma II 9★★★★★😊🐞
 Velero 8★★★★★😊SE

Both were very good. *Roma II* had an edge in earliness and taste.

Roma II 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Velero 1★★★★★😞SC

Roma II germinated great and grew as any normal bean plant. Its yield was excellent with large, tasty beans. *Velero* had absolutely terrible germination for me.

Prefer Velero

Roma II 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Velero 9★★★★★😊NW

These varieties were similar and good. *Velero* gets a slight edge for its better taste.

Conclusions

Very few gardeners were interested in this trial. *Roma II* is the old standby variety, and it performed well in this trial. Every gardener recommended it. *Velero* was reported to have superior pod flavor and texture, but this was not mentioned by gardeners.

***Roma II* is the old standby variety, and it performed well in this trial. Every gardener recommended it.**

Best romano bean variety

Top choice
Roma II

Bean, Yellow Filet

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Borsalino

60 days. Sturdy, compact plants produce good yields of tender, straight and delicious pods. Sunny yellow color.

Gerritsun

57 days. Slim, yellow beans with no green retention. Early and matures in concentrated sets.



Data

Gardeners at 32 sites submitted information.

Trait	Borsalino	Gerritsun	Same
Germinated best	81%	15%	4%
Healthier plants	42	11	47
Harvested earlier	58	26	16
Higher yields	57	24	19
More attractive pods	29	24	47
Tasted better	22	33	44
Preference	77	23	
Recommend (☺)	69	27	
Mean score ¹	7.15	4.27	
Median score ¹	8.00	3.50	

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

Prefer Borsalino

Borsalino 9★★★★★☺🐞 NE
Gerritsun 1★★★★★☹ SE

Borsalino is a very good variety. Its pods have good quality. Not a single seed of *Gerritsun* germinated.

Borsalino 9★★★★★☺🏠 SE
Gerritsun 1★★★★★☹ SE

The varieties were planted right next to each other. *Gerritsun* did not germinate. We had lots of rain after sowing. *Borsalino* was superior in all traits.

Borsalino 5★★★★★ - 🏠 SE
Gerritsun 2★★★★★☹ SE

Gerritsun had very poor germination.

Borsalino 8★★★★★☺🐞 SE
Gerritsun 3★★★★★☹ SE

Gerritsun barely came up, and therefore it was hard to really know much about that variety.

Borsalino 5★★★★★☹🐞 SE
Gerritsun 1★★★★★☹ SE

Gerritsun failed to emerge even when replanted. *Borsalino* had pale yellow pods that were moderately attractive but tough.

Borsalino 7★★★★★☹🐞 NC
Gerritsun 1★★★★★☹ NC

Gerritsun did not germinate; reseeded on June 20 and had minimal plant growth. I didn't care for the flavor or texture of either variety.

Borsalino 8★★★★★☺🐞 NC
Gerritsun 1★★★★★☹ NC

Gerritsun was sad; only one plant emerged even after it was replanted. Its beans were not yellow. *Borsalino* was tasty and produced a lot of beans per plant.

Borsalino 5★★★★★☹🐞 NC
Gerritsun 4★★★★★☹ NC

Borsalino tasted better and produced a bigger pod. Both varieties were slow growing. If you didn't pick on a timely basis, these pods stayed nice for quite a while.

Both varieties produced long, slim and straight pods.

**Best yellow
filet bush
bean variety**

**Top choice
Borsalino**

Prefer Borsalino (continued)

Borsalino 9★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 4★★★★★😞NC

Borsalino germinated better, which led to higher yields.

Borsalino 10★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 1★★★★★😞SC

Gerritsun did not germinate at all. *Borsalino* was a great producer with multiple harvests. Its pods were long, slim and straight with very nice color. *Borsalino* plants were compact.

Borsalino 8★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 3★★★★★😞SC

All seeds of *Borsalino* germinated and its plants were full of beans. Only two seeds of *Gerritsun* emerged.

Borsalino 9★★★★★😊🏠
Gerritsun 4★★★★★😞SC

The yield of *Borsalino* was better. Its pods were crisp, long and straight; perfect for pickling. *Gerritsun* germinated slowly and very poorly.

Borsalino 7★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 6★★★★★😞SC

I had to replant *Gerritsun* because of poor germination. The plants of both varieties got rust spots which I treated with baking soda water and then neem; this strategy worked well. I removed the leaves affected by the rust, but this caused bushier, shorter plants. Both varieties produced well enough, and their slim, almost seedless pods were delicious. *Borsalino* produced a better yield. I seldom plant yellow beans, and I really liked the slim pods ... very attractive!

Borsalino 8★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 6★★★★★😊SC

The germination of *Gerritsun* was very spotty. Pretty much all of the *Borsalino* seeds came up nicely. *Borsalino* had thick, full rows with nice leaves. *Borsalino* was the first to produce pods.

Borsalino 5★★★★★😞🏠
Gerritsun 1★★★★★😞SC

There was no germination of *Gerritsun*; *Borsalino* germinated at 40%. The beans of *Borsalino* were small and very curled.

Borsalino 8★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 5★★★★★😞SC

Borsalino germinated at near 100%. *Borsalino* plants were bigger/fuller and produced beans first. Both varieties produced a lot of beans. Their beans were similar in size and most of the beans were straight. These beans had a similar taste, and they tasted better than regular green beans.

Borsalino 9★★★★★😊🏠
Gerritsun 6★★★★★😞NW

Borsalino germinated much better. *Borsalino* produced a higher yield, and its pods were more tender.

Borsalino 8★★★★★😊🏠🌧️
Gerritsun 1★★★★★😞SW

I planted *Gerritsun* twice and not one seed germinated either time. I soaked the beans prior to planting and that did not help. I gave them plenty of water (same conditions as *Borsalino*). *Gerritsun* was a complete failure. *Borsalino* did not do well in the high humidity that we had this summer. It suffered from tan spots (mildew) even after fungicide application.

Borsalino 8★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 3★★★★★😞SW

Borsalino was better all around. It produced more plants and a higher yield. I don't think I would plant *Gerritsun* again.

Borsalino 7★★★★★😊🐛
Gerritsun 1★★★★★😞SK

Gerritsun did not come up at all. *Borsalino* produced well but was slow to produce and harder to pick than other bean varieties.

***Borsalino* germinated much better, leading to much higher yields.**

Prefer Gerritsun

Borsalino 7★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞 MN
Gerritsun 9★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were prolific producers into fall, but *Gerritsun* was still going strong into the first frost. In our family's taste test, *Gerritsun* was the overall winner! *Gerritsun* tasted sweeter.

Borsalino 4★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 MN
Gerritsun 8★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties germinated quickly! It was an unfortunate year for me as the relentless rain (not complaining) helped breed disease. Most things in my yard were affected at some point. The *Gerritsun* plants came thru better than those of *Borsalino*. In fact, the *Gerritsun* plants are still producing as of October 1!

Borsalino 8★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SE
Gerritsun 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

Gerritsun was slightly better in terms of germination and taste.

Borsalino 2★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞 SC
Gerritsun 10★★★★★ 😊 SC

Gerritsun plants were productive. *Gerritsun* pods were tender and very good tasting.

Borsalino 9★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠 NW
Gerritsun 10★★★★★ 😊 NW

Gerritsun produced more. Its pods were very tender and tasty.

Borsalino 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠 NW
Gerritsun 10★★★★★ 😊 NW

Gerritsun beans were very long, tender and delicious.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced long, slim and straight pods. *Borsalino* germinated much better, leading to much higher yields. *Gerritsun* germinated poorly at most sites. We do not know if this is a genetic weakness of *Gerritsun*, or if it was due to a bad batch of seeds. *Borsalino* has performed well in previous trials.

***Gerritsun* germinated poorly at most sites. We do not know if this is a genetic weakness of *Gerritsun*, or if it was due to a bad batch of seeds.**

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

Location
NC

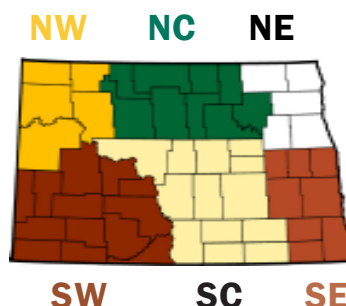
Comments
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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

Locations

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



Beet, Red

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Grenade

60 days. Roots have fine flesh, dark red color and high sugar content. Vigorous plants resist disease.

Red Cloud

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



Data

Gardeners at 37 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red		
	Grenade	Cloud	Same
Germinated best	28%	10%	62%
Healthier plants	32	12	56
Harvested earlier	38	8	54
Higher yields	31	23	46
More attractive roots	25	36	39
Tasted better	18	29	54
Preference	48	52	
Recommend (😊)	80	83	
Mean score ¹	7.97	8.03	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Grenade

Grenade	9★★★★★😊	🏠
Red Cloud	8★★★★★😊	MN

Both varieties were good. They produced high yields and made delicious beet pickles! *Grenade* plants were healthier and its roots were more attractive.

Grenade	8★★★★★😊	🏠
Red Cloud	7★★★★★😊	NE

The roots of *Grenade* had a sweeter and less earthy flavor compared to *Red Cloud*. *Red Cloud* roots were prettier, while *Grenade* roots were more knobby looking. The plants of both varieties suffered from *Cercospora* leaf spot.

Grenade	10★★★★★😊	🏠
Red Cloud	9★★★★★😊	NE

Grenade beets were a bit sweeter and had a less bitter aftertaste. Both varieties germinated well and produced an abundance of beets. *Grenade* produced more leaves for eating. The deep red color of *Red Cloud* beets was very attractive.

Grenade	8★★★★★😊	🐛
Red Cloud	7★★★★★😊	NE

Grenade plants were more vigorous. They grew faster and better than *Red Cloud*.

Grenade	8★★★★★😊	-
Red Cloud	7★★★★★😊	NE

Grenade germinated better (40% compared to 25% for *Red Cloud*). *Grenade* grew more vigorously and produced larger roots.

Grenade	9★★★★★😊	🏠
Red Cloud	8★★★★★😊	SE

These two varieties were very similar to each other. *Grenade* had a slight advantage of higher weight yield and slightly less incidence of *Cercospora* leaf spot at harvest. Their roots had a similar taste. Neither variety tasted as well as other varieties I have grown in the past.

Grenade	9★★★★★😊	🐛
Red Cloud	7★★★★★😊	SE

Grenade produced more beets. Its beets were darker in color and a perfect size for pickling. The beets of both varieties tasted very good.

Both varieties grew well, and gardeners were split on their preferred variety.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Red Cloud

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

Prefer Grenade (continued)

Grenade 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Red Cloud 5★★★★☆ ☹️ SE

Grenade produced slightly larger beets, and it tasted better.

Grenade 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 1★★★★☆ ☹️ NC

The roots of *Grenade* had a decent size, great color and tasted great. Its leaves were big and beautiful. Only three *Red Cloud* seeds germinated.

Grenade 10★★★★★ 😊 -
Red Cloud 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties germinated very well and their roots looked nice. Their roots and greens both tasted great. *Grenade* roots grew larger faster.

Grenade 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 7★★★★☆ 😊 NW

These varieties were similar. Their roots did not get as big as I expected. *Grenade* roots were a little bigger a little earlier.

Grenade 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

The beets of *Grenade* had a nicer shape.

Grenade 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Red Cloud 8★★★★☆ ☹️ SW

Both varieties were very nice. *Grenade* produced earlier and higher yields.

Grenade 8★★★★☆ 😊 -
Red Cloud 7★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Grenade grew better in my garden. The beets of both varieties were relatively small. *Grenade* beets were more consistent and flavorful.

Prefer Red Cloud

Grenade 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Red Cloud 8★★★★☆ 😊 MN

Red Cloud was much sweeter. I will grow *Red Cloud* again.

Grenade 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Red Cloud 8★★★★☆ 😊 MN

Red Cloud produced a higher yield. Its roots had a darker color and better taste.

Grenade 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

These varieties were very similar. *Red Cloud* tasted slightly sweeter.

Grenade 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

These varieties had a similar taste but *Red Cloud* had larger roots.

Grenade 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both beet varieties were really good. *Red Cloud* produced a bigger beet, which I prefer.

Grenade 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

These varieties were very similar.

Grenade 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Red Cloud 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

Red Cloud tasted better.

Grenade 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

Red Cloud germinated better. *Grenade* produced larger beets, making the yields of the two varieties equal. I prefer the smaller sized beet and sweeter flavor of *Red Cloud*.

Grenade 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Red Cloud 6★★★★☆ 😊 NC

The roots of *Red Cloud* did not get as big as the roots of *Grenade*.

Grenade 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Red Cloud 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Red Cloud produced a higher yield and had a better overall appearance. We fried the roots of both varieties and couldn't taste any difference.

***Grenade* had an edge in germination and plant health. It was ready to be harvested earlier.**

Prefer Red Cloud (continued)

Grenade 6★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Red Cloud 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Red Cloud had larger roots. Other than that, they were very similar. Slugs damaged both varieties equally.

Grenade 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Red Cloud 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I loved both of these varieties. They performed really well from germination to harvest. I shared many, and people enjoyed them both fresh and pickled. I really enjoyed the fact that *Red Cloud* didn't get so big so fast. We enjoyed beets all summer right up until mid-September.

Grenade 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Red Cloud 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Red Cloud had better flavor.

Grenade 6★★★★☆ 😞 -
 Red Cloud 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Red Cloud produced a more uniform root and its yield was excellent. *Grenade* was less vigorous in growth.

Grenade 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Red Cloud 9★★★★☆ 😊 SK

Red Cloud roots tasted better, and its beet greens looked nicer.

Red Cloud had an edge in root quality both in appearance and taste.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well, and gardeners were split on their preferred variety. Neither variety clearly outperformed the other for any trait. *Grenade* had an edge in germination and plant health. It was ready to be harvested earlier. *Red Cloud* had an edge in root quality both in appearance and taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

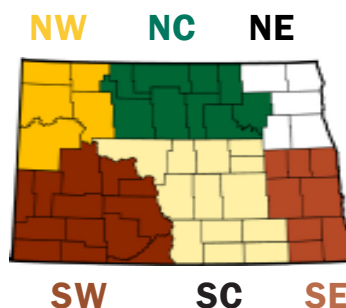
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 ★★★★★ 😊
 ★★★★★ 😞

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
 SD = South Dakota
 MB = Manitoba
 SK = Saskatchewan

Beet, Red Organic

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Shiraz

60 days. Smooth, round roots are delicious. Tall tops for high quality greens. Plants resist diseases.

Sweet Dakota Bliss

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



Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	Swt Dak.		
	Shiraz	Bliss	Same
Germinated best	21%	48%	31%
Healthier plants	14	29	57
Harvested earlier	30	37	33
Higher yields	14	46	39
More attractive roots	36	21	43
Tasted better	19	33	48
Preference	38	62	
Recommend (😊)	67	77	
Mean score ¹	7.10	7.90	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.50	

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

Prefer Shiraz

Shiraz 10★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 8★★★★☆😊NE

The roots of *Sweet Dakota Bliss* had white rings and less flavor.

Shiraz 10★★★★★😊-
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★☆😞SE

Shiraz plants were healthier and produced larger roots. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* produced a higher yield overall, but it consisted of smaller roots. The roots of both varieties tasted awesome after roasting.

Shiraz 9★★★★☆😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 7★★★★☆😞SE

Both varieties were good. *Shiraz* tasted better.

Shiraz 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 5★★★★☆😞SE

Shiraz beets were smaller and more attractive. They had sweeter flavor and softer flesh.

Shiraz 10★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★☆😊NC

Both varieties had awesome yields and tasted sweet as candy! *Shiraz* roots were ready to be harvested earlier.

Shiraz 9★★★★☆😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 8★★★★☆😞SC

Both varieties germinated and grew very well. *Shiraz* roots had a more attractive color.

Shiraz 8★★★★☆😊🏠
Swt Dakota Bliss 7★★★★☆😊SC

Shiraz had slightly larger roots.

Shiraz 10★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 5★★★★☆😞SC

Shiraz germinated better, was healthier and produced a higher yield. It is October 25, and its small plants are still growing. I've made canned pickled beets, refrigerator pickled beets and fresh-roasted beets so far. Both varieties taste the same and are actually very easy to hand peel if needed rather than water-cooking them.

Gardeners were generally pleased with the root quality of both varieties.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
Red Cloud

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

Prefer Shiraz (continued)

Shiraz 9★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 8★★★★★😊🐞 SC

I liked both varieties. *Shiraz* was the first to harvest and its yield was better. Both varieties tasted good but *Shiraz* was a little sweeter. My yield of *Sweet Dakota Bliss* was not very good.

Shiraz 10★★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊🐞 SW

These varieties were extremely similar and grew really well even after frost. *Shiraz* germinated better.

Shiraz 8★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 7★★★★★😊🐞 SW

Only 50% of *Shiraz* seeds germinated, but they produced an earlier and larger yield compared to *Sweet Dakota Bliss*. I was surprised that *Shiraz* won in my trial. I thought *Sweet Dakota Bliss* could never be beat!

Prefer Sweet Dakota Bliss

Shiraz 8★★★★★😊 -
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 MN

Both varieties produced a good yield. They were delicious.

Shiraz 5★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 8★★★★★😊 MN

Sweet Dakota Bliss germinated better and produced a higher yield. The flesh of its roots was more consistent.

Shiraz 1★☆☆☆☆😞🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 8★★★★★😊 NE

Sweet Dakota Bliss germinated well. Its beets were good-sized and tasty. *Shiraz* did not germinate at all.

Shiraz 3★★★★★😞🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 NE

Sweet Dakota Bliss outperformed *Shiraz* in so many ways, including yield and taste.

Shiraz 8★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 NE

The roots of *Sweet Dakota Bliss* were still usable into September.

Shiraz 8★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 NE

Sweet Dakota Bliss was first to germinate and first to yield. The roots of both varieties tasted good.

Shiraz 7★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 8★★★★★😊 SE

Both varieties grew great in our raised beds. We got a lot of beets. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* tasted better.

Shiraz 8★★★★★😊🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 NC

Sweet Dakota Bliss germinated faster and had a slightly better yield than *Shiraz*.

Shiraz 4★★★★★😞🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 5★★★★★😊 NC

Sweet Dakota Bliss grew slightly better and tasted sweet.

Shiraz 7★★★★★😞🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 SC

Some of the *Shiraz* roots were split on the bottom. The roots of *Sweet Dakota Bliss* were definitely sweeter.

Shiraz 7★★★★★😞🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 SC

I had so many compliments on the taste of *Sweet Dakota Bliss*. The roots didn't get too large or woody. I pickled some and roasted some — the taste was amazing!

Shiraz 3★★★★★😞🐞
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★★★★★😊 SC

Sweet Dakota Bliss was better in all categories!

Among gardeners who expressed a preference on root quality, *Shiraz* received higher ratings for appearance, and *Sweet Dakota Bliss* received higher ratings for taste.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Bliss (continued)

Shiraz 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Swt Dakota Bliss 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SC

Sweet Dakota Bliss did not germinate well, but it germinated better than *Shiraz*. Very few *Shiraz* seeds germinated; maybe 20%. It hardly produced any beets. Its beets looked better than those of *Sweet Dakota Bliss* when cut but were woodier. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* tasted sweeter and lighter.

Shiraz 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Swt Dakota Bliss 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Sweet Dakota Bliss germinated much better than *Shiraz*. I thought *Shiraz* had a little bit more uniform purple color to the entire beet. These varieties were very similar in leaf health and size. Taste was very close as well; both varieties being a generally decent/average beet overall.

Shiraz 9★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
Swt Dakota Bliss 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW
Sweet Dakota Bliss tasted sweeter.

Shiraz 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW
The roots of *Sweet Dakota Bliss* were more attractive and better tasting.

Shiraz 7★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Swt Dakota Bliss 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

This trial suffered a hailstorm on July 20. Both varieties came back. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* produced bigger, sweeter roots.

Shiraz 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Swt Dakota Bliss 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Sweet Dakota Bliss grew better and produced more beets. Its beets were bigger and tasted better.

No Preference

Shiraz 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Swt Dakota Bliss 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SC

We were disappointed in how the beets grew, or I should say with how they didn't grow. Perhaps it is because we had raised garden beds. The roots of both varieties were tasty, just very small.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Sweet Dakota Bliss*. It again showed itself to be an outstanding organic beet. *Sweet Dakota Bliss* germinated better, was ready to be harvested earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites. Gardeners were generally pleased with the root quality of both varieties. Among gardeners who expressed a preference on root quality, *Shiraz* received higher ratings for appearance, and *Sweet Dakota Bliss* received higher ratings for taste.

Sweet Dakota Bliss germinated better, was ready to be harvested earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites.

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
Variety A 🐛
Variety B 🏠

Location
Variety A NC
Variety B NW

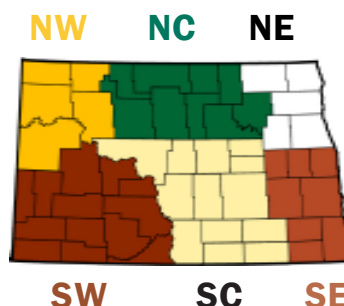
Comments
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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



Beet, Gold

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Badger Flame

55 days. Unique variety bred to minimize earthiness tones. Mild, sweet, oblong-shaped roots.

Golden Boy

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



Data

Gardeners at 37 sites submitted information.

Trait	Badger Flame	Golden Boy	Same
Germinated best	9%	41%	50%
Healthier plants	16	26	58
Harvested earlier	23	40	37
Higher yields	30	37	33
More attractive roots	34	38	28
Tasted better	24	31	45
Preference	37	63	
Recommend (😊)	66	72	
Mean score ¹	6.75	7.32	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Badger Flame

Badger Flame 8★★★★★😊🐛
Golden Boy 4★★★★★😞NE

Badger Flame produced larger beets and they were sweeter.

Badger Flame 9★★★★★😊-
Golden Boy 7★★★★★😞NE

Badger Flame was more vigorous. It had larger roots and great taste. Both varieties were good for salad greens.

Badger Flame 9★★★★★😊🏠
Golden Boy 8★★★★★😊SE

There wasn't much difference between these varieties. *Badger Flame* germinated better and faster.

Badger Flame 6★★★★★😊-
Golden Boy 4★★★★★😞SE

Both varieties were productive but their roots were small. The roots of *Badger Flame* were more attractive because its rings were more present. I did not care for the flavor of either of these varieties.

Badger Flame 7★★★★★😊-
Golden Boy 6★★★★★😞SE

I liked the color of the roots of *Badger Flame*.

Badger Flame 10★★★★★😊🐛
Golden Boy 8★★★★★😊NC

These are two very different beet varieties. *Badger Flame* roots had better flavor and color.

Badger Flame 7★★★★★😊🏠
Golden Boy 5★★★★★😊SC

Badger Flame roots had better flavor and color.

Badger Flame 8★★★★★😊🏠
Golden Boy 7★★★★★😞SC

I liked the deeper color and unique shape of *Badger Flame* roots. Both varieties were delicious.

Most gardeners preferred Golden Boy. It germinated better at more sites.

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
Touchstone
Gold

Strong performers
Boldor
Burpee's
Golden
Golden Boy
Yellow Sunrise

Prefer Badger Flame (continued)

Badger Flame 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Golden Boy 6★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated at around 50%. I preferred the redder color of *Badger Flame*. *Badger Flame* produced a higher yield. The beets of *Badger Flame* were cylindrical; the beets of *Golden Boy* were round. Both varieties had good “golden beet” flavor.

Badger Flame 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Golden Boy 5★★★★☆ 😞 NW

Badger Flame tasted much more pleasant and sweeter.

Prefer Golden Boy

Badger Flame 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 8★★★★☆ 😊 MN

Golden Boy germinated better and tasted sweeter. The roots of *Badger Flame* were more orange.

Badger Flame 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated well. *Golden Boy* produced the first yield and had larger roots. *Badger Flame* produced higher yields.

Badger Flame 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Golden Boy 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Golden Boy germinated much better. It produced higher yields, had more attractive roots and tasted better. *Badger Flame* showed weak germination but had healthier plants.

Badger Flame 8★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Golden Boy 10★★★★☆ 😊 SE

The *Golden Boy* beets were amazing. They had excellent flavor, produced healthy crops, and were a family favorite! The beets of both varieties tasted great but *Golden Boy* beets were sweeter. The beets of *Badger Flame* were thick and healthy.

Badger Flame 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Golden Boy 7★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Golden Boy was a better overall plant. Its roots were rounder and better tasting. I have had better golden beets in past years.

Badger Flame 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Golden Boy looked more attractive. *Badger Flame* grew faster. I wish I could say we grew to love beets because they are so good for you, but nobody was very excited about eating them.

Badger Flame 8★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Golden Boy 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Golden Boy beets were a little bit bigger.

Badger Flame 7★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Golden Boy 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Golden Boy roots were more uniform in shape and more attractive — pinkish orange. Two separate groups chose the flavor of *Golden Boy* over *Badger Flame*. *Golden Boy* tasted so good!

Badger Flame 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Golden Boy 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Golden Boy had much better yield and taste.

Badger Flame 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The roots of *Golden Boy* had better size and flavor.

Badger Flame 5★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Golden Boy 6★★★★☆ 😞 SC

I like the round shape of *Golden Boy* roots over the oblong shape of *Badger Flame* roots.

Badger Flame 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I prefer the spherical shape of *Golden Boy* roots compared to the elongated shape of *Badger Flame* roots. Both varieties turned out very well. They were fun to harvest and see the beautiful rings inside. I don't think I've ever trialed the golden beets and look forward to doing it again!

Badger Flame 3★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Golden Boy 10★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Golden Boy had larger, round roots and germinated better. It outperformed *Badger Flame* completely.

More gardeners preferred the globular shape and pinkish-orange color of *Golden Boy* roots over the oblong shape and gold color of *Badger Flame*.

Prefer Golden Boy (continued)

Badger Flame 2★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
Golden Boy 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Golden Boy rated higher for all traits.

Badger Flame 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
Golden Boy 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Golden Boy had a little better taste and didn't get as "woody" as soon as *Badger Flame*.

Golden Boy is a very good beet.

Badger Flame 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SD

Golden Boy germinated better, looked better and tasted good. *Badger Flame* was a bit more flavorful; even critters seemed to prefer it.

Badger Flame 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
Golden Boy 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SD

Golden Boy matured 12 days earlier and produced a higher yield. *Golden Boy* tasted sweeter, which my family prefers. The taste of *Badger Flame* is more earthy, which is my personal preference. *Badger Flame* roots have a beautiful color and were easier to process (canning and freezing).

Badger Flame 8★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
Golden Boy 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SD

Only half the seeds of each variety sprouted. *Golden Boy* produced round roots. *Badger Flame* produced longer roots that pushed out of the ground. I harvested 5 pounds of *Golden Boy* and 4 pounds of *Badger Flame*. Their roots tasted similar.

No Preference

Badger Flame 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

These varieties performed so similarly. They both germinated at near 100%. Both produced nice-sized beets with an excellent yield. Their beets looked good and tasted similar.

Badger Flame 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Golden Boy 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SD

These varieties were very similar. *Badger Flame* had better taste.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Golden Boy*. It germinated better at more sites. More gardeners preferred the globular shape and pinkish-orange color of *Golden Boy* roots over the oblong shape and gold color of *Badger Flame*. *Badger Flame* is reported to have a unique, non-earthly taste, but more gardeners preferred the flavor of *Golden Boy*.

***Badger Flame* is reported to have a unique, non-earthly taste, but more gardeners preferred the flavor of *Golden Boy*.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

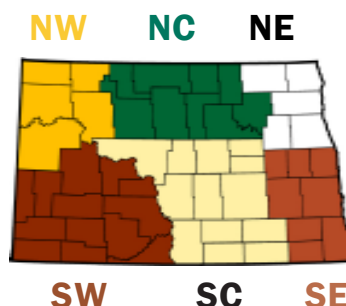
Ratings (1 to 10) →
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
★★★★★ 😊
★★★★★ ☹️

Garden type →
🐞 = 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
SD = South Dakota
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan

Carrot, Early Organic

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Napoli

58 days. Great flavor and color for an early carrot. Harvest in summer or let it grow until fall. Stores well.

Yaya

60 days. Smooth, uniform, 6-inch roots develop sweetness early in summer and maintain their quality through late fall.



Data

Gardeners at 69 sites submitted information.

Trait	Napoli	Yaya	Same
Germinated best	19%	21%	60%
Healthier plants	23	9	68
Harvested earlier	31	18	51
Higher yields	39	14	46
More attractive roots	24	31	44
Tasted better	32	36	32
Preference	58	42	
Recommend (☺)	86	75	
Mean score ¹	8.16	7.96	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Napoli

Napoli 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Yaya 6★★★★☆ ☹ MN

Napoli had larger carrots and a better yield.

Napoli 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Yaya 8★★★★☆ ☺ MN

This was a wonderful crop of very sweet carrots. *Napoli* produced higher yields while *Yaya* carrots had better quality.

Napoli 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Yaya 6★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Napoli grew better in my soil. It germinated much better and produced a higher yield.

Napoli 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 MN
Yaya 9★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Napoli had healthier plants and produced an earlier yield.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Yaya 8★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Both varieties were healthy and delicious. They had a crisp crunch and tasted sweet. Yields were satisfactory. The roots were not huge, but we were pleased with their size for fresh eating. We preferred *Napoli* because none of its roots were hairy or split (a few of the *Yaya* roots were either hairy or split). *Napoli* roots kept in the fridge well.

Napoli 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Yaya 9★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Napoli tasted slightly sweeter. *Napoli* had more small white roots coming out the side of the main root, and therefore was not quite as attractive.

Napoli 4★★★☆☆ ☹ 🐞
Yaya 3★★★☆☆ ☹ SE

Napoli did not germinate and was replanted. *Yaya* germinated better but poorly. *Napoli* roots were difficult to harvest in clay soil. Half of the *Yaya* roots were hairy and had a tough texture.

Napoli 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞 SE
Yaya 9★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Both of these varieties were amazing. *Napoli* had some larger carrots.

Both *Napoli* and *Yaya* were exceptional.

Best Nantes and bunching carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Bengala
Caravel
Laguna
Mokum
Napoli
Narvik
Naval
Negovia
Yaya

Prefer Napoli (continued)

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 7★★★★☆ 😞 SE

The roots of *Napoli* were more uniform in size; this helped at harvest time. *Napoli* roots tasted better and did not get bitter. *Yaya* plants were healthier and produced larger roots.

Napoli 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Yaya 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

I sowed this trial in a raised bed. Both varieties produced well. *Napoli* had better flavor.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 7★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Both varieties struggled with germination, but *Napoli* had the better germination rate of the two. The plants on both varieties were very healthy. The roots of *Yaya* were more rounded and attractive looking.

Napoli 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Yaya 5★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Both varieties had 100% germination. The roots of *Napoli* were two times larger than the roots of *Yaya*; this led to higher yields for *Napoli*. *Napoli* roots were symmetrical, sweeter and had a nice crunch.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 6★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Yaya had more attractive roots but a more earthy and bitter flavor. The *Napoli* variety had more of a forked root but a sweeter, better flavor. The flavor of the *Napoli* carrot outweighed the attractiveness of the roots. The yields of both varieties were comparable.

Napoli 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 7★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Napoli produced a higher yield. The carrots of both varieties were lovely and tasty.

Napoli 7★★★★☆ 😊 -
Yaya 5★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Napoli produced a higher yield. Its carrots were more uniform in size and shape.

Napoli 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Yaya 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

I liked *Napoli* because it was sweeter and juicier. Its roots were slightly larger. My husband liked *Yaya* as he said it had a good carrot taste. The roots of both varieties were crisp and flavorful.

Napoli 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Yaya 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties grew well. *Napoli* tasted a little sweeter with a nicer look.

Napoli 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Yaya 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were good. *Napoli* had a sweeter flavor.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 7★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Napoli produced carrots of perfect size and with smooth sides. Its yields were amazing and the carrots were sweet!

Napoli 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Yaya 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Napoli roots had a consistent shape. They were straighter and had a better taste.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated very well and produced very well. Their roots looked the same. *Napoli* tasted slightly sweeter.

Napoli 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I really liked the blunt ends of *Nantes* carrots, and these both grew to fit the bill on that. Their plants were pretty equal in size and health. I thought *Napoli* was maybe just a touch sweeter, which I prefer in a carrot.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Yaya 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Napoli germinated about two times as many seedlings. *Napoli* carrots were generally larger and produced a larger yield. The carrots of both varieties were delicious! We had so many carrots this year!

The roots of both varieties were uniform, crunchy and flavorful.

Prefer Napoli (continued)

Napoli 10 NW
Yaya 9

Napoli roots were nice, long, big, sweet and tasty.

Napoli 10 NW
Yaya 9

Napoli roots were sweeter tasting. *Yaya* roots were longer and very hairy.

Napoli 10 SW
Yaya 7

Napoli produced more carrots. Its carrots were bigger and tastier.

Napoli 9 SW
Yaya 8

Napoli had large, uniform roots. *Yaya* had quite a few odd-shaped roots. Otherwise, both varieties performed well.

Napoli 8 SD
Yaya 7

Napoli produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Napoli 10 MB
Yaya 8

Although both varieties performed similarly, *Napoli* really has a nice, sweet carrot flavor.

Prefer Yaya

Napoli 6 MN
Yaya 8

Both varieties were extremely productive! *Yaya* tasted sweeter.

Napoli 9 NE
Yaya 10

Yaya carrots were nice looking. The carrots of both varieties tasted good.

Napoli 8 SE
Yaya 9

Yaya roots were sweeter; even my husband agreed. The yield of *Yaya* was just a little more, too.

Napoli 4 -
Yaya 5 SE

We liked the flavor of *Yaya* better. Neither variety produced as well as another carrot variety I grew in my garden.

Napoli 4 SE
Yaya 6

Yaya was sweeter. We much preferred its flavor both raw and cooked. Neither variety tasted as good as *Nantes Coreless*, which I have grown for years.

Napoli 8 NC
Yaya 10

Yaya roots were very sweet, juicy, crisp and had nice color. *Napoli* roots were 1 inch longer and had a pale color. Both varieties were easy to harvest by pulling tops — no digging.

Napoli 2 NC
Yaya 6

Yaya produced slightly larger carrots and a greater yield. Initially both tasted good, but I did not love the aftertaste of *Napoli*. Neither variety produced many carrots. That might have been my fault. I've only successfully grown carrots once.

Napoli 5 NC
Yaya 7

Yaya had a nice carrot shape and tasted sweeter; our family all preferred it over *Napoli*. *Napoli* germinated about 20% better, but *Yaya* produced more carrots.

Napoli 9 NC
Yaya 10

Both varieties were very good. *Yaya* carrots were a little smaller but better tasting.

Napoli 2 NC
Yaya 9

This trial was planted in a greenhouse. *Yaya* was the overall best performer. *Yaya* germinated first and more completely. *Napoli* did not germinate. After 2 weeks, I reseeded *Napoli* and it germinated. *Yaya* was a big YesYes!

***Napoli* had slightly larger carrots and produced a higher yield at more sites.**

Prefer Yaya (continued)

Napoli 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Yaya 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

The roots of both varieties were straight. *Napoli* roots were bigger and longer, but *Yaya* roots tasted sweeter.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Yaya 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Yaya had better germination, though both germinated quite well.

Napoli 7★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Yaya 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Yaya roots were more uniform and straight.

Napoli 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Yaya 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

These varieties were supposed to be early, but I feel like they took longer to germinate. *Yaya* roots tasted better and were larger.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Yaya 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I loved these two varieties. Both germinated well, had a nice texture and taste, and stayed sweet all summer! I loved the fact that *Yaya* roots stayed uniform in diameter from top to bottom.

Napoli 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Yaya 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Yaya tasted a little better.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Yaya 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were very good. They stayed a nice, usable size. *Yaya* had a slightly better, sweeter taste.

Napoli 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Yaya 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Yaya germinated earlier. *Yaya* roots were more attractive.

Napoli 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Yaya 10★★★★☆ 😊 NW

These two varieties were very similar. I rated *Yaya* higher because I have grown it for 4 years now and it is great every year. I've grown *Napoli* twice now and it is very nice as well.

Napoli 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Yaya 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both were great carrot varieties. *Yaya* had better flavor.

Napoli 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Yaya 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Yaya had sweeter, better-looking roots, but it took 3 weeks longer to get to harvesting size. *Yaya* was more prone to breaking when harvesting.

No Preference

Napoli 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Yaya 6★★★★☆ 😞 SE

None of the carrots in our garden grew well this year, including the varieties in this trial. It was too dry for most of the summer. *Napoli* roots were bigger, but *Yaya* roots were nicer.

Napoli 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Yaya 7★★★★☆ 😊 NC

I couldn't tell a difference between these varieties.

Napoli 10★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Yaya 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties grew really well despite inconsistent watering and no thinning after planting. Both carrots were undersized at predicted harvest time (60 days) but were beautiful and large when left in ground until after first frost (October 24). These varieties grew very similarly, tasted very similar, and it was very hard to tell a difference between them.

Gardeners who preferred Yaya often mentioned its appealing looks (barrel shape with blunt tips) and sweetness.

No Preference (continued)

Napoli 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC
Yaya 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

These varieties were identical to me. They were absolutely beautiful. They were early producing and very straight and unblemished. They were lovely to pick from a raised bed as they come out so easy and clean and not damaged from underground pests.

Napoli 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW
Yaya 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

Yaya carrots had more flavor. Some in my family liked the milder taste of *Napoli* better.

Napoli 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW
Yaya 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

We have no preference.

Conclusions

Both *Napoli* and *Yaya* were exceptional. Their roots were uniform, crunchy and flavorful. *Napoli* had slightly larger carrots and produced a higher yield at more sites. Gardeners who preferred *Yaya* often mentioned its appealing looks (barrel shape with blunt tips) and sweetness. Plants of both varieties were very healthy.

Plants of both varieties were very healthy.

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

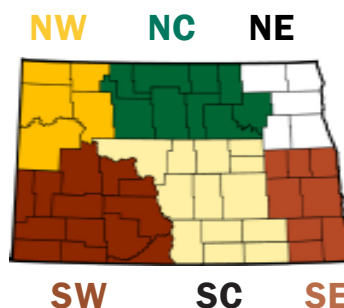
Comments
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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
- SD = South Dakota
- MB = Manitoba
- SK = Saskatchewan



Carrot, Main Crop Organic

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Bengala

85 days. Roots are crunchy with a balanced, sweet carrotty flavor. Outstanding for storage.

Dolciva

95 days. Swiss variety with flavorful, crunchy roots. A very sweet carrot that stores well.



Data

Gardeners at 66 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bengala	Dolciva	Same
Germinated best	31%	20%	49%
Healthier plants	13	10	77
Harvested earlier	22	20	58
Higher yields	36	29	34
More attractive roots	43	21	36
Tasted better	38	24	38
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (😊)	87	70	
Mean score ¹	7.89	7.60	
Median score ¹	8.50	8.00	

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

Prefer Bengala

Bengala 9★★★★★😊 -
Dolciva 8★★★★★😊 MN

The carrots of both varieties tasted great! The grandkids were eating them right out of the garden.

Bengala 9★★★★★😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★★😊 MN

Both varieties grew well. Their carrots were good tasting and are storing well. *Bengala* was my favorite. I liked its taste better. *Bengala* carrots were consistent in size and shape. I liked the taste of *Bengala* when eaten raw. It was very crisp and tasted like a garden carrot should.

Bengala 8★★★★★😊 🐞
Dolciva 6★★★★★😊 MN

Bengala carrots were larger, longer, straight and more uniform in size and shape. Flavor is king for me with carrots, and *Bengala* had the sweeter carrot taste. *Bengala* had a nice flavor when eaten fresh; its carrots were juicier and crunchier. *Dolciva* had a very slight bitterness when compared to *Bengala*. I was also happy with the germination and yield of *Bengala*. I harvested and tasted both varieties of carrots after the first couple of frosts in my area (this year that was in late October).

Bengala 10★★★★★😊 🐞
Dolciva 7★★★★★😊 MN

These carrots had great flavor and were so easy to grow even in my heavy clay soil. *Bengala* roots were consistent in size and firmness. Its yield was great. *Dolciva* roots seemed to be softer.

Bengala 9★★★★★😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★★😊 NE

Bengala germinated better (approximately 50% compared to approximately 40% for *Dolciva*). *Bengala* was slightly more vigorous. Its roots were more consistent in size and shape.

Bengala 9★★★★★😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★★😊 NE

Both performed very well. The roots of *Bengala* were more uniform.

Bengala germinated better and produced higher yields at more locations.

Best Nantes and bunching carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Bengala
Caravel
Laguna
Mokum
Napoli
Narvik
Naval
Negovia
Yaya

Prefer Bengala (continued)

Bengala 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Bengala roots had a more uniform shape and size. The roots had a medium length with a rounded end. *Bengala* roots tasted sweeter and were easier to bite through. *Dolciva* roots had a wider range of sizes. Some of its roots were very big/thick. *Dolciva* roots were crunchier, thicker and slightly less sweet.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Bengala germinated better. We also thought it had better flavor and a crisper texture.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

The seeds of both varieties took a little while to germinate, but once they germinated they became very healthy plants. The carrots on both varieties got very large and long. I am using them for winter storage, and they are very nice for that as both had attractive and smooth roots. *Bengala* roots were slightly more attractive. The roots of both varieties were equally sweet and had good flavor.

Bengala 4★★★☆☆ 😞 🐞
Dolciva 3★★★☆☆ 😞 SE

Both varieties grew well but tasted bland.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 2★★☆☆☆ 😞 SE

Rabbits ate almost all the *Dolciva* seedlings. *Bengala* plants were hardier and bounced back even after being eaten by rabbits.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Bengala roots were sweeter.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties were very nice. *Bengala* had a nicer root.

Bengala 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

These varieties were very similar.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Bengala roots were more attractive and had better flavor.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Bengala had better germination. The tops of *Bengala* were very attractive, bushy and healthy.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Bengala had better roots.

Bengala 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 5★★★☆☆ 😞 SC

The first sowing [June 1] of *Dolciva* did not germinate. All of its seeds in the second sowing [June 15] germinated. *Bengala* was ready to harvest earlier and produced a higher yield.

Bengala 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Neither variety was overly sweet. Both had decent flavor, but I preferred *Bengala* a little more. Yields were similar.

Bengala 8★★★★☆ 😊 -
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Bengala had nicer-looking roots with a size that was easier to work with and store. *Dolciva* roots varied in size; some were very large and several were deformed. Both varieties tasted very good.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Both varieties were very tasty. Our grandchildren enjoyed eating both varieties. We preferred *Bengala* because its roots had a nicer shape and were less forked.

***Bengala* roots were more attractive. They were straight and uniform with rounded tips.**

Prefer Bengala (continued)

Bengala 8★★★★☆ 😊 -
Dolciva 5★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

Dolciva produced a lot of carrots of all different sizes. *Bengala* produced fewer carrots but they were all large and more attractive. *Bengala* carrots were slightly sweeter.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 5★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

The tops and carrots of *Bengala* were really attractive. *Dolciva* struggled with germination.

Bengala 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were tasty. *Bengala* roots were long, slender and just a little sweeter.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

For a main-crop carrot we are looking for yield and storage through the winter. *Bengala* produced first and a higher yield with good, straight roots. *Dolciva* carrots were much sweeter and would be a great treat, but we are leery of a high-sugar variety storing as well as *Bengala*.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Dolciva germinated better and produced more carrots. *Bengala* carrots were slightly sweeter. The carrots of *Dolciva* were slightly more bitter but still tasted good.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Both varieties were very good. *Bengala* had better germination and higher yields. Its roots were less hairy and more attractive compared to those of *Dolciva*.

Bengala 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 9★★★★☆ ☹️ NW

The flavor of *Bengala* was much nicer. We only ate raw carrots for the flavor test.

Bengala 10★★★★★ 😊 -
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both varieties grew well. *Bengala* produced a higher yield and its roots were more attractive.

Bengala 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 4★★★★☆ ☹️ SW

Bengala performed really well. I had a really good yield and no issues with it. *Dolciva* did not work well at all for me.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Bengala had definitely a smaller carrot, but I preferred the taste of it before frost and after. The carrots of both varieties were good cooked.

Bengala 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 🥗
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Bengala carrots were slightly larger than those of *Dolciva*.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 6★★★★☆ ☹️ SW

Bengala had a large yield of uniform roots. I was so surprised about the flavor difference! *Bengala* “nailed it” for sweetness and texture. *Bengala* was much sweeter and had far superior flavor.

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Dolciva 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both of these were good performers. I think every seed germinated. *Bengala* tasted sweeter.

Prefer Dolciva

Bengala 9★★★★☆ 😊 -
Dolciva 10★★★★★ 😊 MN

The roots of *Dolciva* were more attractive.

Bengala 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Dolciva 7★★★★☆ 😊 MN

Dolciva had nice, straight roots.

***Bengala* roots tasted better. They were crunchy and flavorful with an appealing sweetness.**

Prefer Dolciva (continued)

Bengala 8 MN
Dolciva 9

Both varieties had a good flavor and performed well. We preferred *Dolciva* due to its unique citrus hints and smoother roots. These roots made for easy cleaning.

Bengala 8 NE
Dolciva 9

Dolciva had a slight sweeter taste.

Bengala 7 NE
Dolciva 8

Dolciva produced a better yield.

Bengala 4 NE
Dolciva 7

We received 6 inches of rain in July. *Dolciva* tolerated this moisture better. *Dolciva* produced earlier and higher yields. *Bengala* roots were less attractive but tasted better.

Bengala 8 NE
Dolciva 9

Dolciva roots were sweeter. *Bengala* roots were more earthy tasting.

Bengala 7 NE
Dolciva 9

I preferred *Dolciva* because it was definitely superior to *Bengala* in taste when cooked. When raw, *Dolciva* had a more pure carrot flavor. *Bengala* was very good as well, with a bit of zip or zest to it. All *Dolciva* carrots were straight and uniform. *Bengala* had a few malformed carrots with twisting and funny appendages. *Dolciva* didn't yield as much (13.75 pounds) as *Bengala* (20.75 pounds). Both varieties outperformed the *New Kuroda*, *Yaya* and *Bolero* carrots that I planted at the same time and in the same area.

Bengala 8 SE
Dolciva 9

Dolciva had better taste.

Bengala 6 SE
Dolciva 8

Dolciva produced higher yields.

Bengala 9 SE
Dolciva 10

Dolciva had bigger carrots and a better yield. I could not tell any difference in the taste of the two varieties.

Bengala 7 SE
Dolciva 8

We had amazing germination of both varieties. We pulled the *Bengala* roots first and they were nice. *Dolciva* roots were thicker and had a little better flavor. The roots of both varieties were great for fermenting.

Bengala 8 SE
Dolciva 9

The roots of *Dolciva* were firm and sweet.

Bengala 8 SE
Dolciva 9

Bengala germinated at near 100%; *Dolciva* germinated at near 80%. *Dolciva* carrots were straight with no extra legs. *Bengala* carrots were ready to harvest earlier, looked nice but had some extra legs. *Dolciva* carrots were sweeter with overall better taste than *Bengala*.

Bengala 4 SC
Dolciva 5

Both varieties had a bitter taste but produced well. They were okay for cooking but not for eating raw. *Dolciva* roots had a better shape. I would not plant either variety again.

Bengala 2 SC
Dolciva 5

Dolciva had way better germination, which led to a higher yield.

Bengala 6 SC
Dolciva 8

Dolciva tasted better.

***Dolciva* roots were generally bigger and less uniform in shape. Its roots were straight, smooth and sweet.**

Prefer Dolciva (continued)

Bengala 5 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Dolciva was a nicer-looking carrot. It was something I would take to the fair.

Bengala 5 ★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Dolciva 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Dolciva provided a bountiful harvest of straight, tasty roots!

Bengala 5 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Dolciva 7 ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Dolciva roots had a sweeter flavor and was less starchy.

Bengala 6 ★★★★★ 😊 -
Dolciva 7 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

I liked the taste of *Dolciva*. It was juicier and crisper. My husband liked *Bengala* best.

Bengala 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Dolciva tasted a bit better and had straighter carrots.

Bengala 5 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 7 ★★★★★ 😊 SD

Dolciva germinated slightly better and produced a marginally higher yield. *Dolciva* roots were larger, but the roots of *Bengala* were more attractive.

Bengala 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SD

Both varieties germinated well and were healthy. Their carrots were large, long and tasted good. I sampled the carrots in July and October and preferred the taste of *Dolciva* both times. *Bengala* carrots were lighter in color and not as sweet.

Bengala 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Dolciva 10 ★★★★★ 😊 MB

Both varieties produced well and had nice, cylindrical carrots. *Dolciva* roots were sweeter and crunchier. *Dolciva* had larger, bushier foliage.

Bengala 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Dolciva 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SK

Both produced well. *Dolciva* had a little better production and was ready to pick first.

No Preference

Bengala 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Dolciva 6 ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Neither produced very large carrots. They were both tasty.

Bengala 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Dolciva 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Carrots did very well this year. I got a great yield from each of these varieties. Lots of rain this spring washed out some of these seeds before germination, but I was still impressed by the amount of carrots I harvested. There was no discernible difference in the two varieties.

Conclusions

Both varieties received high ratings. *Bengala* performed consistently well across sites. It germinated better and produced higher yields at more locations. *Bengala* showed an edge in root quality. Its roots were straight and uniform with rounded tips. *Bengala* roots were crunchy and flavorful with an appealing sweetness. *Dolciva* roots were generally bigger and less uniform in size and shape. Its roots were straight, smooth and sweet.

Both varieties received high ratings.

Carrot, Bunching

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Orange Blaze

70 days. Easy to grow and easy to harvest. Bright orange, 9-inch roots are very smooth.

Orange Fancy

62 days. New! Stunning, smooth, dark orange roots are crunchy and flavorful. Strong tops.



Data

Gardeners at 53 sites submitted information.

Trait	Orange Blaze	Orange Fancy	Same
Germinated best	22%	24%	54%
Healthier plants	11	11	77
Harvested earlier	20	13	67
Higher yields	33	18	49
More attractive roots	40	28	33
Tasted better	26	28	47
Preference	62	38	
Recommend (😊)	85	65	
Mean score ¹	8.08	7.44	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Orange Blaze

Orange Blaze 4★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 3★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

Both varieties were pretty good. *Orange Blaze* was slightly better. Its yields were higher and its roots were more attractive.

Orange Blaze 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

The lengths of the roots of both varieties ranged from 6 to 11 inches. I have never had carrots that grew so long before. Both had carrots that went down to the bottom of my 10-inch-deep raised bed boxes, and took a 90 degrees turn and kept going to 11 inches. *Orange Fancy* produced a higher yield, but the roots of *Orange Blaze* were more attractive.

Orange Blaze 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

Orange Blaze tasted sweeter, both cooked and fresh.

Orange Blaze 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
 Orange Fancy 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Orange Blaze and *Orange Fancy* both had green, healthy tops. Their roots were consistently straight and 8–9 inches long with some forking likely due to inconsistent rainfall. *Orange Blaze* produced 4.4 pounds greater yield at harvest. My personal taste preference was *Orange Fancy* for its sweetness, but other family members preferred the “intense” carrot taste of *Orange Blaze*. Both varieties were very crisp with a smooth texture. *Orange Blaze* received the higher rating due to the greater yield.

Orange Blaze 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 5★☆☆☆☆ 😞 NE

Orange Blaze carrots had a better taste and nicer shape. *Orange Fancy* had more carrots that developed multiple “legs,” but *Orange Blaze* carrots were nice and straight.

Orange Blaze 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Both varieties performed very well but deer and rabbit pressure early on held the plants back. I preferred the color of *Orange Blaze* carrots.

Both varieties were recommended by a majority of gardeners.

Best Nantes and bunching carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers

Bengala
 Caravel
 Laguna
 Mokum
 Napoli
 Narvik
 Naval
 Negovia
 Yaya

Prefer Orange Blaze (continued)

Orange Blaze 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Orange Fancy 6★★★★☆ 😞 SE

I like a larger carrot. *Orange Blaze* carrots were bigger than *Orange Fancy* carrots.

Orange Blaze 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Orange Fancy 6★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Seedling emergence was nearly perfect; however 58% of *Orange Blaze* seedlings and 95% of *Orange Fancy* seedlings died from hot, dry conditions soon after germinating. The surviving plants produced the straightest and smoothest carrot roots I have seen. There were no forked roots. *Orange Blaze* had good flavor and superior yield. *Orange Fancy* had a little better flavor and was definitely sweeter than *Orange Blaze*.

Orange Blaze 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 6★★★★☆ 😞 SE

The roots of these “bunching” varieties were very tiny still in October. *Orange Blaze* germinated better, was healthier, and was ready to harvest earlier.

Orange Blaze 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Orange Blaze produced a higher yield.

Orange Blaze 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 4★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Orange Blaze carrots were more attractive and tasted better!

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Orange Fancy 6★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Orange Blaze had great roots and tops. *Orange Fancy* was very slow developing compared to *Orange Blaze*.

Orange Blaze 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Orange Blaze roots were brighter orange, straighter and more uniform. *Orange Fancy* roots were duller orange, and there were a few large ones. *Orange Fancy* produced a higher yield. Kids preferred the taste of *Orange Fancy*, while adults preferred the taste of *Orange Blaze*.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★ 😊 -
 Orange Fancy 4★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Orange Blaze roots were consistently straight and delicious with no extra legs. *Orange Fancy* roots had extra nubs and legs. The yields of both varieties were good.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 8★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Orange Blaze had bigger, straighter roots and tasted better.

Orange Blaze 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Orange Fancy 5★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Orange Blaze tasted better. Neither variety germinated well — maybe 50% — *Orange Fancy* germinated a little better.

Orange Blaze 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Orange Fancy 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Orange Blaze had more yield and larger roots. *Orange Fancy* produced earlier yields and more attractive roots.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Orange Fancy 5★★★★☆ 😞 NW

Orange Blaze produced a higher yield and more flavorful carrots.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 8★★★★☆ 😞 NW

Orange Blaze was a little bit better overall. It drew the attention of my children the most.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 8★★★★☆ 😞 NW

Orange Blaze tasted better.

Orange Blaze 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 6★★★★☆ 😞 NW

Orange Blaze was overall just a better variety.

Orange Blaze 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Orange Fancy 5★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Orange Blaze carrots tasted sweeter, whereas *Orange Fancy* carrots had too much tangy bitterness. The length of the *Orange Blaze* carrots was more desirable.

Most gardeners preferred *Orange Blaze*. It received very high scores for its good yields and beautiful roots.

Prefer Orange Blaze (continued)

Orange Blaze 9★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 7★★★★★😊SW

We harvested more *Orange Fancy* carrots, but by weight, *Orange Blaze* produced a 25% higher yield. *Orange Blaze* carrots were larger, straighter and healthier. *Orange Fancy* roots were shorter and some were stumpy. We did a taste test with 15 people, and it was difficult for us to taste any difference between the varieties.

Orange Blaze 9★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 2★★★★★😞SW

Orange Blaze had large, straight carrots with better flavor. *Orange Fancy* had small, thin, short, twisted carrots that were annoying to peel and tasted less sweet.

Orange Blaze 7★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 6★★★★★😊SW

Both varieties produced well. Their carrots had great color and flavor. The carrots of *Orange Blaze* were a little bigger.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★😊🐞🐞
 Orange Fancy 9★★★★★😊SW

Both varieties grew well. *Orange Blaze* tasted a little better than the other; it had a great stand and a nice yield.

Orange Blaze 7★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 5★★★★★😊SD

Orange Blaze had better-looking carrots. They had a nice orange color and good taste.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 9★★★★★😊SD

Both varieties performed the same in all categories. Their roots were nice and straight with good flavor. There were no insect pest issues. The plants were beautiful with full tops. *Orange Blaze* produced more pounds of carrots.

Orange Blaze 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 9★★★★★😞SD

Orange Blaze roots were smoother. *Orange Fancy* had some twisted roots. Both varieties had very healthy plants, and their roots tasted great.

Prefer Orange Fancy

Orange Blaze 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 9★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties produced big yields. *Orange Fancy* carrots were more uniform in size and shape.

Orange Blaze 9★★★★★😊-
 Orange Fancy 10★★★★★😊MN

Orange Fancy roots were more attractive and tasted better.

Orange Blaze 8★★★★★😞🐞
 Orange Fancy 10★★★★★😊MN

Orange Fancy was a little more vigorous, had bigger roots, and its harvest was at least 20% greater. Both tasted very good!

Orange Blaze 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 10★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties performed well. We preferred *Orange Fancy* as they were slightly sweeter, more attractive and easier to clean. *Orange Blaze* roots had deep grooves which made cleanup very tricky.

Orange Blaze 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 9★★★★★😊SE

Orange Fancy had a better yield.

Orange Blaze 7★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 8★★★★★😊SE

Both varieties had good stands. Their long roots made both hard to harvest. *Orange Blaze* roots were 14 inches long and *Orange Fancy* roots were 12 inches long. *Orange Fancy* roots had slightly better texture.

Orange Blaze 9★★★★★😊🐞
 Orange Fancy 10★★★★★😊NC

I liked the darker orange color of *Orange Fancy*. Its roots had a sweeter flavor and were not as large.

Orange Blaze consistently produced long, straight and smooth roots.

Prefer Orange Fancy (continued)

Orange Blaze 8 ★★★★★☆ 😊 -
Orange Fancy 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

The roots of both varieties were really long. *Orange Fancy* was sweeter and had better flavor.

Orange Blaze 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Orange Fancy 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 NC

Orange Fancy had a nicer taste.

Orange Blaze 5 ★★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Orange Fancy 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Orange Fancy had great flavor and color. Our grandkids could pull *Orange Fancy* roots easily as they were not forked. The roots of *Orange Blaze* sometimes had three or four forks per plant.

Orange Blaze 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Orange Fancy 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Orange Fancy had better germination and better yield. Its roots were shorter and stockier compared to those of *Orange Blaze*.

Orange Blaze 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Orange Fancy 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

The roots of *Orange Fancy* were more uniform and tasted better. I preferred its smaller, more intermediate size.

Orange Blaze 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Orange Fancy 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Orange Fancy had longer roots; they were beautiful. The roots of both varieties were sweet and delicious, but *Orange Fancy* roots were just a bit sweeter and more crispy.

Orange Blaze 7 ★★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Orange Fancy 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both had nicely formed carrots, *Orange Fancy* carrots were a bit bigger. *Orange Fancy* had a brighter orange carrot; it was very attractive. Both tasted the same. *Orange Fancy* germinated first; both carrots had nice germination. Both varieties had huge carrot tops and were healthy looking.

Orange Blaze 4 ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Orange Fancy 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Orange Fancy was the clear winner. It had better taste and yield compared to *Orange Blaze*.

Orange Blaze 4 ★★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Orange Fancy 5 ★★★★★★ 😞 SW

Both varieties had the little hair roots that made them less attractive than my *Nantes* that were planted in the same bed. The carrots were all shapes and sizes, so no consistency. Both varieties were not tasty until after the first frost. *Orange Fancy* was slightly better tasting than *Orange Blaze* before the frost.

Orange Blaze 6 ★★★★★★ 😞 🐛
Orange Fancy 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Orange Fancy had bigger roots and a higher yield.

Orange Blaze 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Orange Fancy 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Orange Fancy roots were easier to harvest and more uniform in size. *Orange Blaze* roots were very long, and it was hard to shovel them out even after the soil was heavily watered.

No Preference

Orange Blaze 7 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Orange Fancy 7 ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Carrots of both varieties were shorter and fatter compared to the carrots I buy from the store.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with the health and yields of both varieties. Most gardeners preferred *Orange Blaze*. It received very high scores for its good yields and beautiful roots. *Orange Blaze* consistently produced long, straight and smooth roots. *Orange Blaze* roots were larger than those of *Orange Fancy*. Gardeners liked the uniformity and deeper orange color of *Orange Fancy* roots.

Gardeners liked the uniformity and deeper orange color of *Orange Fancy* roots.

Corn, Early Super Sweet

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Awaken (shA)

67 days. New! Very early. Seedlings show excellent vigor in cool soils. Large ears with good tip fill.

Bolt (shA)

67 days. Very delicious and very early. Tender, sweet and flavorful kernels. Good husks and tip fill.



Data

Gardeners at 36 sites submitted information.

Trait	Awaken	Bolt	Same
Germinated best	21%	21%	59%
Healthier plants	25	29	46
Harvested earlier	29	29	43
Higher yields	41	19	41
More attractive ears	41	30	30
Tasted better	37	26	37
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	83	55	
Mean score ¹	7.55	7.17	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Awaken

Awaken 6★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
Bolt 5★★★★☆ ☹ MN

Awaken had larger ears with sometimes two ears per stalk.

Awaken 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Bolt 6★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Three out of five persons liked *Awaken* best. It had very sweet, plump kernels. The two people that liked *Bolt* said its kernels were less fibrous and didn't get stuck in their teeth. *Bolt* stalks laid down during the storm on August 6.

Awaken 6★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Bolt 5★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Awaken was a little sweeter. Both varieties produced well but their cobs were small.

Awaken 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
Bolt 3★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Both varieties were very sweet, however I was disappointed in their production. *Awaken* produced a higher yield. *Bolt* tried to set five ears on some of the stalks. *Bolt* also produced a couple ears that had two or three "fingers." I have never had corn do this. I have had corn produce side ears in a side husk (*Bolt* did this too) but never a cob that had three different parts!

Awaken 10★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Bolt 9★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Awaken was very sweet. Both varieties tasted good. One person said it was the best sweet corn he ever had. Yields were similar.

Awaken 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
Bolt 4★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Awaken stalks were taller. *Awaken* ears were larger, fuller and more delicious. This trial took a hit when we had tornadoes.

Awaken 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Bolt 7★★★★☆ ☺ SC

This trial was challenged by high rain totals and three windstorms this year. The stalks of *Awaken* stood back up better after the storms. Due to these weather challenges, the ears were not full on either variety. *Awaken* had larger ears. The ears of both varieties were very flavorful and tender.

These varieties germinated well and matured at the same time.

Best early bicolor sweet corn varieties

Top choice
Sweetness

Strong performers
Awaken
Bolt

Prefer Awaken (continued)

Awaken 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Bolt 8★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 SC

Awaken had better flavor and yield.

Awaken 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Bolt 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 NW

Awaken kernels were very tender and sweet. *Bolt* kernels had a chemical taste to them.

Awaken 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Bolt 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 NW

Awaken had better taste, bigger cobs and produced better.

Awaken 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Bolt 4★★★★☆ 😞 🐞 NW

Awaken was tender and sweet.

Awaken 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Bolt 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 SW

Both varieties were good and productive. *Awaken* had larger ears.

Awaken 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Bolt 6★★★★☆ 😞 🏠 SD

Awaken produced earlier and higher yields. Its ears were more attractive and tasted better.

Awaken 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Bolt 7★★★★☆ 😞 🏠 SD

Awaken had larger ears and good flavor. *Bolt* had shorter plants but produced the same amount of ears as *Awaken*. *Bolt* ripened about a week earlier. Every seed of both varieties germinated, and both varieties had beautiful plants. Both varieties handled the strong winds we had during the spring.

Prefer Bolt

Awaken 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Bolt 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NE

Bolt had nice, full ears, was higher yielding and tasted good.

Awaken 6★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Bolt 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 SE

Bolt had fuller ears and tasted better. It produced a higher yield. *Awaken* germinated better.

Awaken 5★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Bolt 6★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 SE

Bolt did not do as well as it has in the past mainly due to extreme lodging just as ears were beginning to fill. In this head-to-head comparison, *Awaken* did perform better and tasted good because it didn't lodge as bad. My experience with *Bolt* in previous years has been exceptional in both taste and ear size and shape. While *Awaken* did taste very good, the ears were still not as attractive as *Bolt* usually is. Both varieties tasted very good and germinated well in cold soils. *Bolt* is still the only variety that compares to *Sweetness* as my overall go-to selection. I will likely switch to *Bolt* going forward since it fits better with my other sh2 varieties and *Sweetness* must be planted much earlier to fit into my growing area to avoid cross pollination.

Awaken 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Bolt 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 SE

Both of these hybrids were good. *Bolt* had 100% germination compared to 94% for *Awaken*. We had a frost on May 29 and the *Bolt* seedlings clearly handled it better. *Awaken* seedlings recovered nicely to have nearly equal health near pollination and harvest. A higher percentage of *Awaken* plants produced an ear. *Awaken* had straighter rows of kernels on the ears and slightly longer ears. A taste test with eight people ended in a tie. People who preferred *Bolt* felt it was more tender and sweeter.

Awaken 4★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Bolt 5★★★★☆ 😞 🏠 SE

Both varieties germinated well but struggled when growing under the wet soil conditions. Neither variety was as good as the sweet corn varieties that I usually plant. *Bolt* had slightly better yield and better-looking ears. *Awaken* had attractive ears and tasted better than *Bolt*.

Awaken was a more consistent performer across locations. It was recommended by many more gardeners.

Prefer Bolt (continued)

Awaken 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Bolt 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

Bolt had fuller ears and tasted better. It produced a higher yield. *Awaken* germinated better.

Awaken 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Bolt 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

These varieties were very similar.

Awaken 8★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Bolt 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

Bolt is a delicious sweet corn. I highly recommend trying it.

Awaken 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Bolt 6★★★★★ 😊 SC

Bolt stalks were healthier and had more attractive ears. *Awaken* ripened first. Both varieties were affected by high winds on August 10. Some stalks went down; I harvested those stalks early; their kernels were tasty even when immature.

Awaken 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Bolt 5★★★★★ ☹️ SC

The ears from these varieties had areas of unfilled kernels from the tip all the way down the entire ear. I had not experienced this in past years. *Bolt* ears were slightly larger.

Awaken 5★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Bolt 8★★★★★ 😊 SC

I thought *Awaken* was much sweeter than *Bolt* even though it was flattened in a windstorm just before maturity. These varieties were side-by-side in the garden and *Bolt* stood straight up through the windstorm. *Bolt* was ready 2 days before *Awaken*, possibly due to the windstorm. *Bolt* was a larger ear with larger kernels so it outyielded *Awaken* with the same number of cobs. The kernels of *Bolt* were plumper than the thinner, sharp-topped kernels of *Awaken*. We chose *Bolt* for its productiveness since we freeze corn for winter use.

Awaken 8★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Bolt 9★★★★★ 😊 SC

Bolt had better establishment of plants, and it ripened earlier.

Awaken 9★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Bolt 10★★★★★ 😊 NW

Bolt had healthier and fuller stalks. We had an early frost in September (the first week) and the ears were not fully grown, so I did not get to taste the varieties.

Awaken 6★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Bolt 8★★★★★ 😊 SW

Awaken had very slender ears while *Bolt* had large, thick ears.

Awaken 9★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Bolt 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

Bolt tasted better, had healthier plants and nice cobs. *Awaken* plants were taller but had more mildew/wet season issues on its leaves. *Awaken* produced multiple cobs that had an extra small cob inside with the fully formed cob.

No Preference

Awaken 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Bolt 10★★★★★ 😊 NW

These were great varieties. Both had amazing yields and great flavor. We are very picky with corn and loved them both.

Conclusions

Awaken and *Bolt* received similar ratings for germination, plant health and earliness. Gardeners liked the sweetness, tenderness and flavor of both varieties. *Awaken* was a more consistent performer across locations. It was recommended by many more gardeners. *Awaken* stalks were vigorous and produced higher yields at more sites. More gardeners preferred the look and taste of *Awaken* ears.

Awaken stalks were vigorous and productive. More gardeners preferred the look and taste of Awaken ears.

Corn, Midseason Super Sweet

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Superb (shA)

74 days. Improved seed quality for reliable stands and high yields. Thrives under difficult conditions.

Xtra-Tender 274A (shA)

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



Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	X-Tender		
	Superb	274A	Same
Germinated best	43%	0%	57%
Healthier plants	36	14	50
Harvested earlier	43	14	43
Higher yields	46	23	31
More attractive ears	69	8	23
Tasted better	57	21	21
Preference	81	19	
Recommend (😊)	75	44	
Mean score ¹	7.81	6.69	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	

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

Prefer Superb

Superb 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 5★★★★☆ 😊 MN

The first harvest of *Superb* was August 25. *Superb* was sweet, tender and had excellent flavor! The yield of both varieties was sub-par and most cobs were extremely small.

Superb 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 6★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Neither variety was as sweet as expected, but both were good. *Superb* produced more cobs.

Superb 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both were really good varieties. Both were sweet and delicious. I preferred the smaller kernels of *Superb*. My husband preferred the deeper, larger kernels of *Xtra-Tender 274A*.

Superb 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 4★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Superb produced very sweet, nice cobs of corn. It produced earlier and higher yields, too.

Superb 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Xtra-Tender 274A 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were very good for all traits.

Superb 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 4★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated well but *Superb* germinated slightly better. *Superb* stalks withstood the wind better. Neither variety produced great yields, but the yield of *Superb* was better. Its ears had more appealing colors. *Xtra-Tender 274A* was sweeter and had better flavor.

Superb 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Xtra-Tender 274A 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties germinated well and had healthy stalks. *Superb* was sweeter and better tasting. *Xtra-Tender 274A* had larger ears but was chewy.

Superb showed strong seedling vigor. This contributed to earlier maturity and higher yields.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
American Dream

Strong performers
Anthem XR
Awaken
Bolt
Kate
Superb
Troubadour
Xtra-Tender 274A

Prefer Superb (continued)

Superb 9★★★★★😊🌱
Xtra-Tender 274A 8★★★★☆😊SC

Superb had better flavor.

Superb 5★★★★☆😞🌱
Xtra-Tender 274A 4★★★★☆😞SC

I had ears that did not fill with kernels over the entire length of the cobs. There were unfilled kernels from the tip to the base. The kernels of *Superb* filled slightly better.

Superb 10★★★★★😊🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 5★★★★☆😞NW

Superb had tender kernels and tasted sweeter.

Superb 10★★★★★😊🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 8★★★★☆😞NW

Superb had bigger, fuller cobs.

Superb 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 4★★★★☆😞SW

Superb performed better. Its stalks were taller and produced larger ears.

Superb 10★★★★★😊🐞
Xtra-Tender 274A 8★★★★☆😊SW

Superb lived up to its name! My daughter-in-law stated that it was the best tasting corn she'd ever had in her life. It had beautifully filled ears, rich color and tasted delicious — what more could one ask for? *Xtra-Tender 274A* was very similar except some ears weren't completely filled.

Prefer Xtra-Tender 274A

Superb 6★★★★☆😞🌱
Xtra-Tender 274A 7★★★★☆😞SE

Both varieties performed well but did suffer lodging in early August. *Xtra-Tender 274A* had better looking and bigger ears. All other metrics were similar. I hoped there would be some better mid-season varieties available.

Superb 6★★★★☆😊🌱
Xtra-Tender 274A 9★★★★★😊SC

Cobs of both varieties were smaller than we like but tasted good. *Xtra-Tender 274A* tasted better. My corn crop this year wasn't my best, but I hope for better next year.

Superb 7★★★★☆😊🌱
Xtra-Tender 274A 10★★★★★😊SW

Xtra-Tender 274A cobs were tender and had great flavor. *Xtra-Tender 274A* produced two to three cobs per stalk; *Superb* produced two cobs per stalk.

Gardeners liked the sweetness, tenderness and color of *Superb* kernels.

Conclusions

Superb has a reputation for strong seedling vigor, and this was demonstrated in our trial. Such vigor contributed to earlier maturity and higher yields. Gardeners liked the sweetness, tenderness and color of *Superb* kernels. *Xtra-Tender 274A* has consistently performed well in our previous trials, but it was clearly inferior to *Superb*. A few gardeners expressed disappointment in the yield and ear size of both varieties.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

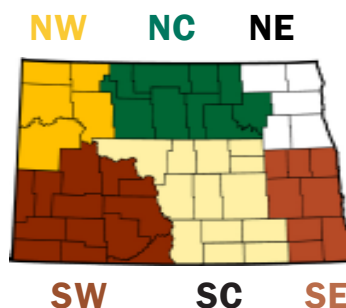
Ratings (1 to 10)
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)
😊
😞

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
SD = South Dakota
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan

Corn, Yellow Super Sweet

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Vision MXR (shA)

74 days. Very popular for its amazing flavor and bright kernels. Germinates in cool soils.

XTH11274 (shA)

74 days. Extra-large ears with incredible flavor and tenderness. Seedlings grow vigorously.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Vision MXR	XTH 11274	Same
Germinated best	27%	18%	55%
Healthier plants	9	9	82
Harvested earlier	45	36	18
Higher yields	20	30	50
More attractive ears	27	55	18
Tasted better	45	18	36
Preference	27	73	
Recommend (☺)	73	82	
Mean score ¹	7.45	8.18	
Median score ¹	7.00	9.00	

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

Prefer Vision MXR

Vision MXR 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
XTH11274 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ NE

Neither variety did very well. Their stalks were short and produced small ears, but *XTH11274* had more undeveloped kernels than *Vision MXR*. I also planted my usual *Peaches and Cream*; it did better than these two but was not as healthy as in previous years. Maybe it was a bad year for corn.

Vision MXR 10★☆☆☆☆ ☺️ 🐞
XTH11274 9★☆☆☆☆ ☺️ NC

We loved this sweet corn. The kids felt like it was the best corn they had ever had, and I agreed. Everyone felt *Vision MXR* tasted better; it had nicer ears. We had some pollination dings with *XTH11274*. Everyone wanted to grow corn like this again.

Vision MXR 10★☆☆☆☆ ☺️ 🏠 SC
XTH11274 7★☆☆☆☆ ☹️

Vision MXR was exceptionally tender and sweet. It had small kernels and was some of the best sweet corn I have ever had. Both varieties had sturdy stalks that each produced at least one good ear of corn.

Prefer XTH11274

Vision MXR 9★☆☆☆☆ ☺️ 🏠
XTH11274 10★☆☆☆☆ ☺️ NE

Both varieties tasted great — loved their flavor. We preferred *XTH11274* because its ears were more attractive (larger and fuller), and it gave a higher yield. Some *XTH11274* stalks had two ears. *Vision MXR* ripened about a week earlier.

Vision MXR 7★☆☆☆☆ ☺️ 🐞
XTH11274 8★☆☆☆☆ ☺️ SE

Both varieties were decent; not real sweet though. *XTH11274* produced more than *Vision MXR*. I would have liked both varieties to be sweeter, but the wind knocked the corn down a few times so it had to stand back up, and that may have had something to do with it.

More gardeners preferred the taste of *Vision MXR*. That variety ripened earlier at more sites, too.

Best yellow super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
Icon

Strong performers
Vision MXR
XTH11274

Prefer XTH11274 (continued)

Vision MXR 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
XTH11274 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

Although *Vision MXR* was slightly ahead of *XTH11274* in several metrics, *XTH11274* was far superior in taste, ear shape, and tenderness. *XTH11274* had great tasting, large, attractive ears. *Vision MXR* had a somewhat bland taste until later in the season by which time it had become tougher to chew.

Vision MXR 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
XTH11274 9★★★★★ 😊 SC

XTH11274 had bigger ears. It was a good variety for canning.

Vision MXR 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
XTH11274 9★★★★★ 😊 SC

XTH11274 had less plant lodging. It ripened slightly earlier and produced more.

Vision MXR 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
XTH11274 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

XTH11274 germinated better and produced the first yield 1 week earlier than *Vision MXR*. The stalks of *XTH11274* were slightly larger. The ears of both varieties had good flavor.

Vision MXR 7★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
XTH11274 9★★★★★ 😊 SC

XTH11274 had healthier plants and produced more than *Vision MXR*. The kernels of *XTH11274* were plumper and had an interesting sweetness — more warm, like brown sugar. The kernels of *Vision MXR* had a bright corn sweetness.

Vision MXR 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
XTH11274 9★★★★★ 😊 SK

XTH11274 grew faster, matured earlier and had bigger ears. *Vision MXR* kernels seemed sweeter. I was happy with the results but the trial may have been different if I seeded earlier [sown June 2].

Conclusions

Both varieties were healthy and grew well. *XTH11274* was preferred by a vast majority of gardeners. These persons were extremely impressed by the large, full ears of *XTH11274*. Gardeners liked the taste of both varieties; most of those with a preference gave an edge to *Vision MXR* for its sweetness. *Vision MXR* ripened earlier at more sites but not in a significant way.

***XTH11274* was preferred by a vast majority of gardeners. These persons were extremely impressed by its large, full ears.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

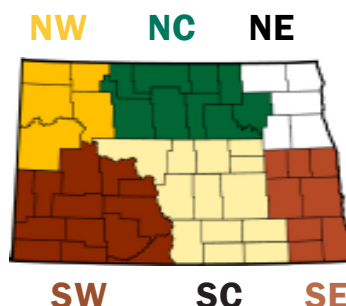
Ratings (1 to 10)
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)
★★★★★ 😊
★★★★☆ ☹️

Garden type
🏠 = 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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Corn, Early Synergistic

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Evolution (syn)

72 days. Germinates well in cool soil.
Enhanced sweetness and tenderness.

Sweetness (syn)

68 days. An early corn of premium quality.
Sturdy stalks produce well-filled ears.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Evolution	Sweetness	Same
Germinated best	33%	13%	53%
Healthier plants	36	29	36
Harvested earlier	36	50	14
Higher yields	71	7	21
More attractive ears	29	36	36
Tasted better	7	64	29
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (☺)	71	71	
Mean score ¹	6.86	6.71	
Median score ¹	7.50	6.50	

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

Evolution 8★★★★★☺ 🐞 NC
Sweetness 5★★★★★☹

The ears of *Evolution* filled nicely. *Evolution* produced earlier and higher yields.

Evolution 8★★★★★☺ 🐞 NW
Sweetness 7★★★★★☺

These two varieties were quite different, and each was better in different ways. *Evolution* had higher yields. It produced 12.0 pounds of unshucked cobs compared to 7.6 pounds for *Sweetness*, but *Evolution* had much heavier husks. *Sweetness* ears were more attractive, but *Evolution* had larger, plumper kernels. *Sweetness* ripened earlier.

Evolution
germinated
better at more
sites. Its stalks
were more
robust and
consistently
produced
higher yields.

Prefer Evolution

Evolution 8★★★★★☺ 🐞 MN
Sweetness 7★★★★★☺

The germination of both varieties was great! *Evolution* produced a higher yield and had more attractive ears. *Sweetness* tasted better.

Evolution 8★★★★★☺ 🏠 MN
Sweetness 4★★★★★☹

Evolution had sweeter, larger cobs. Its stalks seemed a little more vigorous. The ears of *Sweetness* were much closer to the ground.

Evolution 10★★★★★☺ 🐞 SE
Sweetness 9★★★★★☺

Neither of these varieties germinated well, but the cobs were huge. *Evolution* germinated better and produced more cobs, but both varieties were wonderful.

Evolution 7★★★★★☺ 🐞 SW
Sweetness 5★★★★★☺

Evolution plants looked more robust and produced bigger, fuller ears. I planted a cover crop mix in my corn area of my garden several years ago. I have had trouble with black nightshade plants popping up out of the ground everywhere. I did hoe out as much as I could, but it got completely out-of-hand and the corn had to compete with the cover crop and weeds. The corn got plenty of water. I am sure yields would have been much better without the competition.

**Best early
bicolor
sweet corn
varieties**

Top choice
Sweetness

Strong
performers
Awaken
Bolt

Prefer Evolution (continued)

Evolution 8★★★★★😊🐛
Sweetness 5★★★★★😞SD

Evolution grew more vigorously with taller and sturdier stalks and much higher yield. *Evolution* ears were 6–8 inches long and filled out well. It had beautiful ears that lacked flavor; it was suitable for freezing. *Sweetness* had the best sweet corn taste — tender and sweet — but rated poor in ear size and production. These varieties ripened at the same time.

Prefer Sweetness

Evolution 7★★★★★😊🐛
Sweetness 8★★★★★😊SE

Sweetness tasted sweeter and had more tender kernels.

Evolution 4★★★★★😞🐛
Sweetness 6★★★★★😊NC

Sweetness ears looked and tasted better. *Evolution* ripened earlier and produced a higher yield.

Evolution 4★★★★★😞🐛
Sweetness 5★★★★★😞SC

Both varieties germinated and grew well but did not produce as well as I hoped they would. *Sweetness* had small cobs but tasted best. Neither variety suffered from insect pest or smut problems.

Evolution 6★★★★★😞🐛
Sweetness 8★★★★★😊SC

Evolution germinated well in cool soil. It had huge, uniform ears. Its taste was okay but the kernels were chewy. *Sweetness* was much better tasting but vulnerable to bird damage.

Evolution 5★★★★★😊🐛
Sweetness 6★★★★★😊SC

Sweetness was ready to pick 4–5 days earlier. *Sweetness* tasted better, although we didn't think either variety had outstanding taste. *Evolution* produced a higher yield. Its ears were slightly heavier, but its inner cob diameter was higher. *Evolution* was more susceptible to lodging from wind.

Evolution 5★★★★★😞🐛
Sweetness 10★★★★★😊SW

Due to sowing late in the season [July 1], the stalks were not able to produce large cobs. *Sweetness* germinated faster and had healthier, fuller plants. *Sweetness* was able to produce some small cobs; the kernels were plump and juicy, and the flavor was amazing.

Evolution 8★★★★★😊🐛
Sweetness 9★★★★★😊SW

The maturity dates on these two were supposed to be about 4 days apart, but I harvested *Evolution* first and then *Sweetness* 8 days after that. *Sweetness* produced larger ears. *Sweetness* is my favorite corn variety of all; I love its longer shelf life.

Conclusions

Evolution germinated better at more sites. Its stalks were more robust and consistently produced higher yields. The ears of *Evolution* were large but disappointing in taste. *Sweetness* ripened earlier at more sites. Its ear size and yields were smaller, but its flavor was clearly superior. Gardeners split when selecting their preferred variety depending on whether they valued yield or taste more.

The ear size and yields of *Sweetness* were smaller, but its flavor was clearly superior.

Cucumber, Burpless

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Burpless Beauty

60 days. Vigorous vines produce high yields of long, deep-green cucumbers that stay crisp. Firm flesh with small seed cavities.

Summer Dance

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



Data

Gardeners at 96 sites submitted information.

Trait	Burpless Beauty	Summer Dance	Same
Germinated best	20%	37%	43%
Healthier plants	25	34	41
Harvested earlier	30	58	12
Higher yields	32	54	14
More attractive cukes	34	45	21
Tasted better	19	33	47
Preference	43	57	
Recommend (😊)	63	78	
Mean score ¹	6.78	7.46	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Burpless Beauty

Burpless Beauty 2★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐞
Summer Dance 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 MN

Summer Dance did not germinate. The fruits of *Burpless Beauty* weren't really pretty.

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Both were great for eating right out of garden. Their fruits were long, slender and tender. *Burpless Beauty* fruits were smoother.

Burpless Beauty 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Burpless Beauty produced higher yields.

Burpless Beauty 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Summer Dance 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Burpless Beauty had a better quantity and quality of fruit. *Summer Dance* did not do well for me this year. I put it on a trellis so the fruits would grow straighter but they still curved and twisted. The flavor of *Summer Dance* was a little better than that of *Burpless Beauty*.

Burpless Beauty 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Summer Dance 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Germination for me was mediocre for both varieties. Both varieties had good flavor, but I enjoyed the taste of *Burpless Beauty* more. *Summer Dance* fruits were longer and thinner while *Burpless Beauty* fruits curled more.

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Summer Dance 3★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SE

Burpless Beauty cucumbers were plentiful and tasty. Many *Summer Dance* cucumbers were curly.

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Burpless Beauty cucumbers had fewer and smaller seeds, and were tastier.

Burpless Beauty 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Summer Dance 3★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SE

Burpless Beauty was my favorite by far. It had lots of blossoms and was a very heavy producer. The vines of *Summer Dance* started to dry up very early in the season.

This was our most popular trial. Ninety-six sites submitted information.

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice
Summer Dance

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

Prefer Burpless Beauty (continued)

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance 8★★★★☆😞SE

Burpless Beauty produced a higher yield and its cucumbers had better flavor. *Summer Dance* produced first but its skin was bitter. This was a poor year for cucumbers in my garden.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 7★★★★☆😊SE

This was a rough gardening year. *Burpless Beauty* germinated better but not by much.

Burpless Beauty 9★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 8★★★★☆😊SE

Summer Dance produced a higher yield, but the fruits of *Burpless Beauty* were straighter.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 3★★★★☆😞NC

The fruits of *Burpless Beauty* had better taste and thin skin. My family members and I were not impressed with *Summer Dance*.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 7★★★★☆😊NC

The cucumbers of *Burpless Beauty* looked and tasted better.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 7★★★★☆😊NC

In the beginning, the younger gardeners thought growing these was a big mistake. The cucumbers curled into funny shapes. Later on, the fruits grew straight and I really enjoyed them. They stayed sweet and didn't get seedy. We got more straight cucumbers from *Burpless Beauty*. I think the varieties would have done better if my garden hadn't been droughty early on and had more regular watering.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 6★★★★☆😊NC

The cucumbers of *Burpless Beauty* were better looking.

Burpless Beauty 6★★★★☆😞🐞
 Summer Dance 4★★★★☆😞NC

Burpless Beauty handled pest pressure better and produced more. Neither variety produced very much. I would recommend a small pickle variety that has time to mature better.

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance 8★★★★☆😊SC

I loved the appearance of *Summer Dance* fruits, but *Burpless Beauty* definitely outproduced it. *Burpless Beauty* produced loads of cucumbers, and had much healthier vines. The fruits of both varieties were very tasty. I picked cucumbers until mid-September and never tasted a bitter one!

Burpless Beauty 9★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 6★★★★☆😞SC

The cucumbers of *Burpless Beauty* were nicer.

Burpless Beauty 6★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 4★★★★☆😞SC

I wasn't sure either variety was going to make it or produce fruit. The growth of both varieties picked up after drier weather but were still slow to produce. Most of the *Burpless Beauty* fruits were curled.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 7★★★★☆😞SC

Burpless Beauty germinated slowly and poorly, but outproduced *Summer Dance* by a lot. *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers looked better and tasted better.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Summer Dance 7★★★★☆😊SC

Burpless Beauty had better production. Both varieties produced sweet and crispy cucumbers.

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance 5★★★★☆😞SC

The fruits of *Burpless Beauty* were more uniform in shape, more attractive, and had no bitterness. *Summer Dance* fruits were more bitter and their vines wilted quicker in the heat of the day.

Many gardeners liked *Burpless Beauty*. Some liked *Burpless Beauty* for its yield. Others liked it for the look or taste of its fruits.

Prefer Burpless Beauty (continued)

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance 2★★★★★😞SC

Burpless Beauty is the best tasting cucumber I have ever had. *Summer Dance* tasted bitter to me even when picked at a smaller size.

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance 8★★★★★😞SC

Both varieties were great tasting; not one cucumber of either variety was bitter. *Burpless Beauty* had a nicer skin color/texture and produced long, thin cucumbers. *Burpless Beauty* produced many cucumbers up until mid-September.

Burpless Beauty 6★★★★★😞🏠
 Summer Dance 5★★★★★😞SC

Both varieties had an average yield and a short harvest season. *Burpless Beauty* cukes were more attractive and tasted better.

Burpless Beauty 7★★★★★😊🏠
 Summer Dance 5★★★★★😊SC

Burpless Beauty produced well.

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🏠
 Summer Dance 7★★★★★😞SC

The vines of *Burpless Beauty* were healthier. They produced earlier and higher yields. The cucumbers of *Burpless Beauty* were less bitter and not so watery.

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🏠
 Summer Dance 7★★★★★😞SC

We used these cucumbers for sweet-and-sour pickles. *Burpless Beauty* had fewer seeds and thinner skins, which was good for slicing. *Burpless Beauty* was also good for cucumber dip with ranch chips. We had an abundant crop this year with the wonderful weather!

Burpless Beauty 7★★★★★😞🐞
 Summer Dance 4★★★★★😞NW

Burpless Beauty had better flavor. *Summer Dance* was more productive, and its cucumbers were more attractive. While both varieties grew fine in my garden, neither was as good as my favorite burpless cucumber variety.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance 7★★★★★😊SW

The cucumbers of *Burpless Beauty* tasted a little bit better and had smaller seeds inside.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★★😊-
 Summer Dance 6★★★★★😊SW

The fruits of *Burpless Beauty* were more attractive.

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🏠
 Summer Dance 7★★★★★😞SW

Burpless Beauty produced nearly an excessive amount of cucumbers. Its fruits had no bitterness and were beautiful in shape. *Summer Dance* got powdery mildew, and I eventually had to pull the plants to prevent the spread of the disease to others.

Burpless Beauty 9★★★★★😊-
 Summer Dance 4★★★★★😞SW

Burpless Beauty kept producing attractive cukes.

Burpless Beauty 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Summer Dance 7★★★★★😊SD

These were excellent cucumbers! *Burpless Beauty* had great flavor with fewer seeds.

Burpless Beauty 10★★★★★😊🏠
 Summer Dance 9★★★★★😊SD

Both varieties were amazing. We furnished eight families with all the cucumbers they could use. The cucumbers of both varieties were very tasty; we never had a bitter cucumber. The cucumbers of *Burpless Beauty* had very small seeds and lots of flesh; these were the best cucumbers I have ever raised.

Prefer Summer Dance

Burpless Beauty 9★★★★★😊-
 Summer Dance 10★★★★★😊MN

Summer Dance produced earlier. Its cucumbers were yummy and beautiful. *Burpless Beauty* produced higher yields.

When the data were added up, *Burpless Beauty* did not excel in any trait.

Prefer Summer Dance (continued)

Burpless Beauty 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

Neither variety germinated very well, but they still produced a lot of cucumbers from the few plants. *Summer Dance* produced earlier and higher yields. *Summer Dance* cucumbers had better flavor but also more seeds. Its fruits started to curve as the season went on. *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers were often bitter.

Burpless Beauty 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

Summer Dance had a slightly better flavor.

Burpless Beauty 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

Summer Dance germinated better. The vines of both varieties stayed green all summer. *Burpless Beauty* produced a higher yield. I did not like that the cucumbers of both varieties got very seedy even when small.

Burpless Beauty 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛🐛
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Both *Summer Dance* and *Burpless Beauty* displayed beautiful vines. *Summer Dance* vines were the first to flower and set fruit. *Summer Dance* was prolific throughout the summer beginning July 20. *Burpless Beauty* was much slower to take off and yielded better in late August. The cucumbers of *Summer Dance* had a very crisp texture with a fresh, sweet and mild flavor. Its skin was smooth and attractive vs. the bumpy skin of *Burpless Beauty*. *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers were crispy with a grassy flavor that was not as sweet as *Summer Dance*.

Burpless Beauty 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Summer Dance germinated better and was a much better producer. Its cucumbers had a more symmetrical shape and were more attractive. *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers tasted a little better.

Burpless Beauty 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Even though it had a lower germination rate (63% compared to 100% for *Burpless Beauty*), its plants were healthier, and its fruit quality was more consistent. The fruits of *Burpless Beauty* were deep green in color, long and straight; but it had a few off-types that were woody and hard with a texture like kohlrabi. The fruits of *Summer Dance* were shorter, more prickly and lighter green in color. The fruits of both varieties were crisp and tasty; our family split on which tasted better.

Burpless Beauty 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

I was surprised by the large difference in the cucumber sizes of these varieties. *Summer Dance* produced thinner cucumbers while *Burpless Beauty* produced cucumbers that were more like large, slicing cucumbers. I enjoyed eating the thinner cucumbers with less seeds.

Burpless Beauty 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Summer Dance produced the first cucumbers and higher yields. Its vines seemed to take the heat better when it got hot. *Summer Dance* fruits got through the heat without getting bitter. Both varieties tasted good.

Burpless Beauty 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SE

Summer Dance had better yield, flavor and appearance. Its fruits were dark green and smooth. *Burpless Beauty* germinated 10 days earlier. The vines of *Burpless Beauty* showed no signs of anthracnose; I needed to trim the infected leaves off *Summer Dance* vines. *Summer Dance* vines produced earlier and kept producing after being infected, leading to twice the yield.

Burpless Beauty 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Summer Dance produced a higher yield. Its cucumbers were more attractive and tasted better.

Summer Dance was superior in this trial – just like it has every summer we have tested it.

Prefer Summer Dance (continued)

Burpless Beauty 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Burpless Beauty failed to emerge. *Summer Dance* produced nice fruit.

Burpless Beauty 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Summer Dance produced ten times more cucumbers. Its fruits were long and lovely with a cylindrical shape. The fruits of *Burpless Beauty* were short, fat and firm.

Burpless Beauty 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Summer Dance fruits were more attractive, smooth-skinned, and had the best taste. Its vines were more susceptible to damage from grasshoppers. The fruits of both varieties were very good for salads and eating fresh.

Burpless Beauty 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Summer Dance cucumbers had a more tender, smooth and glossy skin with smaller seeds and a less bitter taste. These qualities made it more enjoyable raw. The skin of *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers was more that of a pickler. The plants of both varieties got disease, but *Summer Dance* held out longer and produced more yield.

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties did very well and produced excellent cukes with good flavor; their seed cavities were small. *Summer Dance* germinated better and started producing earlier, but then seemed to slow down. *Burpless Beauty* started out slower but became very vigorous and ended up slightly outproducing *Summer Dance* in the end. I really liked the smooth, straight, deep green cukes from *Summer Dance*.

Burpless Beauty 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

For unknown reasons, *Burpless Beauty* did very poorly.

Burpless Beauty 9★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties had very nice plants! *Summer Dance* produced about 1 week earlier. Its cucumbers were beautiful!

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

The cucumbers of *Summer Dance* were straighter. Both varieties were delicious.

Burpless Beauty 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Burpless Beauty did not germinate well for me. *Summer Dance* grew well, produced throughout the summer, and was delicious.

Burpless Beauty 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

These varieties were very similar.

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ N 🐞
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

This trial was planted later [June 11] to be a late crop when they produced. *Summer Dance* had better taste and was first to produce.

Burpless Beauty 2★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ -
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Summer Dance produced great tasting, straight cucumbers. *Summer Dance* produced 2 weeks earlier and four times more fruits than *Burpless Beauty*. Some *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers were curled.

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Summer Dance fruits were crunchier, stayed slender when growing and had smaller seeds. *Burpless Beauty* showed greater resistance to anthracnose. *Summer Dance* kept producing even after its diseased leaves were removed. *Summer Dance* produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall.

Burpless Beauty 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Summer Dance produced much better than *Burpless Beauty*. A frost in June slowed us in the spring; a frost in early September finished the season prematurely.

Summer Dance ripened quickly and produced high yields.

Prefer Summer Dance (continued)

Burpless Beauty 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Burpless Beauty germinated but did not grow and eventually died. *Summer Dance* had only three plants that survived. As of August 20, its vines were healthy and produced a very high amount of cukes.

Burpless Beauty 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Summer Dance was absolutely amazing! It produced incredible yields — never a bitter cucumber! *Summer Dance* produced the first and last cukes! I grew this trial on a trellis and the *Summer Dance* cukes tended to curve less compared to the *Burpless Beauty* cukes.

Burpless Beauty 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Burpless Beauty seemed to have many more blossoms but set fewer cucumbers. *Summer Dance* produced more cucumbers and tasted better.

Burpless Beauty 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Summer Dance cucumbers had a more uniform shape. *Burpless Beauty* had a lot of weird-shaped cucumbers. Both varieties tasted great. The cucumbers of *Summer Dance* had smaller seeds inside.

Burpless Beauty 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Summer Dance was slow to get growing, but once it did, it was very productive. I prefer it for its smooth, slender cucumbers.

Burpless Beauty 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Summer Dance ripened earlier and was a more productive variety. Its fruits had a smaller diameter. The vines of *Summer Dance* wilted quicker.

Burpless Beauty 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The taste of *Summer Dance* was better.

Burpless Beauty 8 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The spines on *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers were more pronounced, so eating the peels was not an option. We just picked the last cucumbers in the high tunnel on November 1.

Burpless Beauty 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Summer Dance 6 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Summer Dance germinated better (twelve plants compared to three plants for *Burpless Beauty*). *Summer Dance* rated higher in all categories including yield and fruit quality. The yields produced this year were far less than I had expected.

Burpless Beauty 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Summer Dance produced 350 pounds of cucumbers compared to 275 pounds of *Burpless Beauty* (as of September 11). The cucumbers of *Summer Dance* were straighter and did not get too large too fast. They had a shiny skin and tasted slightly sweeter than the cucumbers of *Burpless Beauty*. *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers were more variable in size and shape. *Summer Dance* vines were spread out and open, making them easy to pick.

Burpless Beauty 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Summer Dance produced the first fruits and a higher yield. Its vines had a bit better disease resistance as the vines of *Burpless Beauty* showed powdery mildew symptoms about 1 week earlier.

Burpless Beauty 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Summer Dance 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both of these varieties were excellent. They were planted at the end of a raised bed, and they took off like crazy. The vines cascaded over the side and out into the lawn. *Summer Dance* cucumbers grew slightly longer whereas *Burpless Beauty* cucumbers tended to plump up. The cucumbers of both varieties made excellent refrigerator pickles and creamy cucumbers.

Summer Dance cucumbers were longer, straighter, smoother, glossier and more slender than those of Burpless Beauty.

Prefer Summer Dance (continued)

Burpless Beauty 2★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties struggled this year, but *Summer Dance* persevered and produced well! *Summer Dance* was definitely more hardy and produced beautiful, store-size cukes!

Burpless Beauty 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW

Summer Dance cucumbers had great flavor and crispness.

Burpless Beauty 7★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW

Burpless Beauty cukes got overgrown faster than *Summer Dance*. *Summer Dance* produced first, more and longer. *Burpless Beauty* had more vine and less cucumbers. After we got 4 inches of rain in one weekend in September, *Burpless Beauty* developed powdery mildew and *Summer Dance* did not. I garden in raised beds and appreciated that *Summer Dance* had less vines and more cucumbers.

Burpless Beauty 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠 🐛
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

This humid summer was not ideal for any of my cucurbit vines. *Burpless Beauty* vines succumbed to mildew and pretty much died even though I applied fungicide. The vines of *Summer Dance* did not wither due to humidity and were more robust.

Burpless Beauty 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Summer Dance produced many more cukes. It produced tons of cukes!

Burpless Beauty 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Summer Dance 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Summer Dance had better taste.

Burpless Beauty 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Summer Dance 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Summer Dance produced straighter cucumbers and a higher yield.

Burpless Beauty 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Summer Dance germinated better and had healthier vines. *Summer Dance* produced earlier and higher yields. The qualities of cucumbers for these varieties were similar.

Burpless Beauty 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠 🐛
 Summer Dance 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Summer Dance had better crunch; however, both were tasty. *Summer Dance* kept well in the fridge. Overall, it wasn't a great year for cucumbers. They were late to set fruit and didn't produce an abundance.

No Preference

Burpless Beauty 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
 Summer Dance 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

These varieties were so prolific, they were hard to keep up with. Their cucumbers were very similar in size and appearance. The cucumbers ripened fast and would turn yellow if you missed them. They were great for pickling and fermenting. We should have planted less of them! They did stay tight in the vining and didn't seem to creep too far out, which was nice actually. They tolerated picking up the vines and shifting them all around without affecting production.

Conclusions

This was our most popular trial. *Summer Dance* was superior in this trial — just like it has every summer we have tested it. *Summer Dance* ripened quickly and produced high yields. Its cucumbers were longer, straighter, smoother, glossier and more slender than those of *Burpless Beauty*. *Burpless Beauty* had a hard task to dethrone the champion. Many gardeners liked *Burpless Beauty*. Some gardeners liked *Burpless Beauty* for its yield. Others liked it for the look or taste of its fruits. When the data were added up, *Burpless Beauty* did not excel in any trait. We look forward to testing more burpless cucumbers in the future. The large quantity of data from this trial shows burpless cucumbers are popular and easy to grow.

We look forward to testing more burpless cucumbers in the future. The large quantity of data from this trial shows burpless cucumbers are popular and easy to grow.

Cucumber, Pickling Organic

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Double Yield

55 days. Vigorous vines produce high yields over a long season. Fruits are juicy with crisp skin and mild flavor. Heirloom.

Provision

52 days. Beautiful, dark green cucumbers with blunt ends and crisp, sweet flavor. Resists diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 57 sites submitted information.

Trait	Double Yield	Provision	Same
Germinated best	24%	27%	49%
Healthier plants	15	28	58
Harvested earlier	20	71	10
Higher yields	37	49	15
More attractive cukes	32	44	24
Tasted better	16	26	58
Preference	43	57	
Recommend (😊)	60	77	
Mean score ¹	6.60	7.70	
Median score ¹	7.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Double Yield

Double Yield 9★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 7★★★★★😞MN

Double Yield plants were bigger and bushier; they had a ton of blossoms that set and ripened at the same time so I could do pickles all at once. The taste was crisp and not bitter. *Double Yield* also produced more. *Provision* cucumbers were more uniform; none were misshapen.

Double Yield 8★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 7★★★★★😞NE

Double Yield climbed the trellis better, produced smoother fruits, produced longer and had a better yield. If I missed a *Double Yield* cucumber while harvesting and it was allowed to get too big, it would turn yellow.

Double Yield 9★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 8★★★★★😊NE

I preferred the look of *Double Yield* because its cucumbers had a green-and-yellow color compared to the all-green color of *Provision* cucumbers. The cucumbers of *Double Yield* had more crunchiness. *Provision* produced earlier and its cucumbers had better flavor.

Double Yield 6★★★★★😊-
Provision 5★★★★★😞SE

The cucumbers of *Double Yield* looked and tasted better. The cucumbers of *Provision* had dark spines on them. *Provision* vines started out great and produced lots of cucumbers until early August when the vines turned pale. The vines of *Double Yield* survived longer.

Double Yield 6★★★★★😞🐞
Provision 3★★★★★😞SE

Neither produced as well as we had hoped. *Double Yield* was somewhat better.

Double Yield 9★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 7★★★★★😞SE

The yields of *Double Yield* were better and more uniform than the yields of *Provision*. I had plenty of cucumbers to use for pickling when I was ready to do that on the weekends. *Double Yield* cucumbers were more attractive for pickling purposes. This included a better seed size and cavity. *Provision* did not produce as constantly, and its cucumbers got too large too quickly.

Both varieties germinated well and were healthy at most sites. Gardeners enjoyed the taste and crispness of both varieties.

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
Homemade
Pickles

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

Prefer Double Yield (continued)

Double Yield 8★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 7★★★★★😊NC

Double Yield produced a higher yield.

Double Yield 8★★★★★😊-
Provision 7★★★★★😞NC

Double Yield produced lots of cucumbers that were good for pickling. Its cucumbers were better looking than those of *Provision*.

Double Yield 8★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 7★★★★★😊NC

Double Yield produced more cucumbers.

Double Yield 9★★★★★😊🏠
Provision 7★★★★★😊SC

The cucumbers of both varieties were very crispy and tasted awesome! *Double Yield* produced the first cucumbers.

Double Yield 7★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 5★★★★★😞SC

I like small cucumbers for making pickles, and *Double Yield* produced the most uniform size. *Double Yield* produced more cucumbers. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted very good and were not bitter.

Double Yield 10★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 7★★★★★😊SC

Both varieties were healthy and grew well. The picklers of both varieties had a nice size, but I liked the looks of *Double Yield* the best. *Double Yield* kept producing late into the season.

Double Yield 7★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 6★★★★★😊SC

The weather this year wasn't the best for cucumber yields. *Double Yield* produced a higher yield.

Double Yield 5★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 3★★★★★😞SC

Sixteen plants of *Double Yield* came up versus only four plants of *Provision*. *Double Yield* produced higher yields, but the yields of both varieties were far less than I was expecting.

Double Yield 9★★★★★😊-
Provision 7★★★★★😞NW

Double Yield had more cucumbers, and its cucumbers were better looking.

Double Yield 3★★★★★😞-
Provision 2★★★★★😞SW

Double Yield cucumbers had a better shape and did not get fat as fast. These varieties could not hold a candle to the variety *Homemade Pickles*, which is phenomenal.

Double Yield 9★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 7★★★★★😊SW

I needed pickling cukes and *Double Yield* produced many cukes earlier. *Provision* cukes were more attractive as slicer cukes and tasted better.

Double Yield 8★★★★★😊🏠
Provision 6★★★★★😊SD

There were nice cucumbers on both varieties as long as I kept up with watering. It was a very dry summer in north central South Dakota. The consequences of not being a vigilant gardener was misshaped fruits. *Double Yield* was a bit more consistent producer. I did get quite a few quarts of pickles made, so it was a positive experience despite the drought.

Prefer Provision

Double Yield 8★★★★★😞🐞
Provision 10★★★★★😊MN

Both varieties had great germination, and their vines stayed healthy throughout the growing season. I liked the looks of the *Provision* cucumbers. *Provision* cucumbers were greener, more slender and easier to fit more into jars for pickling. A blind taste test at a pot luck dinner found *Provision* as the overall winner.

Double Yield 9★★★★★😊-
Provision 10★★★★★😊MN

Provision produced earlier and higher yields.

Double Yield 7★★★★★😊🐞
Provision 8★★★★★😊SE

The fruits of *Provision* looked better, but the fruits of *Double Yield* tasted better.

***Double Yield* cucumbers were more like a traditional pickler: short and wide in shape with a yellow/white tinge on its skin.**

Prefer Provision (continued)

Double Yield 7★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties were enjoyable to grow. *Provision* tasted better.

Double Yield 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Double Yield cucumbers seemed to yellow sooner, while *Provision* cucumbers could still be eaten when overgrown. *Provision* produced noticeably more.

Double Yield 2★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Double Yield didn't produce a good crop. Its cucumbers grew strangely, were discolored, and didn't taste very good. *Provision* was wonderful!

Double Yield 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Provision 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

These varieties were very similar.

Double Yield 4★★★★☆ ☹️ -
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Provision provided higher yields and its cucumbers were way more attractive. *Double Yield* cucumbers looked more yellow.

Double Yield 1★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

We got almost all our pickling cukes from *Provision*. *Provision* had nice yields, nice cukes and showed no disease. *Double Yield* bloomed first, but it did not set any cukes for most of the summer. We were done pickling before *Double Yield* set cukes.

Double Yield 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Provision performed better overall. Its vines were much healthier, withstood winds better and produced longer into the season. Its fruits were more uniform, bright green, and held their flavor and texture well after being picked. The fruits of *Double Yield* were shorter and wider with more yellow/white on their skins.

Double Yield 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

All the seeds germinated. *Provision* had healthier plants and better yield than *Double Yield* in our high tunnel.

Double Yield 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Provision had better germination, ripened earlier, and produced more cucumbers. *Provision* cucumbers were more uniform, attractive, longer and more slender. My kids loved the taste of both varieties, whether eaten fresh or pickled.

Double Yield 9★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Provision had earlier cucumbers and produced more! Both varieties had very healthy plants, and their cucumbers tasted great!

Double Yield 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Provision produced a lot more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were wonderful to pickle as well as eat fresh; they made some delicious refrigerator pickles. *Double Yield* fruits were somewhat woody at times.

Double Yield 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Provision performed better than *Double Yield* and my usual pickling variety. *Provision* germinated at twice the rate of *Double Yield*, and all of its plants produced several cucumbers simultaneously. Only one *Double Yield* plant survived to maturity after transplanting.

Double Yield 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Provision 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Provision had a very abundant yield and produced longer. *Provision* cucumbers were nice for eating even with the skin on. *Double Yield* cucumbers grew too large too quickly.

***Provision* received higher ratings. It matured earlier and produced more cucumbers at more locations.**

Prefer Provision (continued)

Double Yield 7★★★★☆ 😊 -
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties produced about 300 pounds of cucumbers. *Double Yield* cucumbers had smoother skin and were more yellowish-white in color — unique. *Double Yield* vines were tightly tangled, making them more difficult to pick compared to the vines of *Provision*. *Double Yield* vines were more susceptible to disease.

Double Yield 7★★★★☆ 😊 🍄
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Both varieties were good. *Provision* produced an earlier harvest.

Double Yield 3★★★★☆ 😞 🍄
Provision 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Provision was great. *Provision* produced four times as many cucumbers. Its cucumbers were nice, straight and delicious. I was very disappointed in *Double Yield*. *Double Yield* had beautiful vines, earlier blooms and tons of blooms. However, it set very few cucumbers. The ones that were set were more prone to being curved or misshaped.

Double Yield 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍄
Provision 10★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Both varieties grew well. *Double Yield* produced 30% more yield than *Provision*. The cucumbers of *Provision* were more tasty and crispy.

Double Yield 3★★★★☆ 😞 🍄
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Double Yield had so many blossoms but didn't yield nearly as many fruits as *Provision*. The plants became difficult to manage because of all the blossoms. *Provision* fruits looked better and tasted better.

Double Yield 4★★★★☆ 😞 🍄
Provision 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW
Provision had better germination, higher yield and produced all season long.

Double Yield 8★★★★☆ 😊 🍄
Provision 10★★★★☆ 😊 SW
The plants of both varieties were healthy and vigorous. I had tremendous yields from this trial. *Double Yield* took longer to flower and had tons of flowers. *Provision* set fruits earlier and produced a higher yield.

Double Yield 7★★★★☆ 😊 🍄
Provision 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD
Provision had healthier plants. Its fruits had a more attractive color and did not overripen and turn yellow as quickly as the fruits of *Double Yield*. Both varieties sustained some hail damage.

No Preference

Double Yield 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍄
Provision 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

We have no preference.

Conclusions

Both varieties germinated well and were healthy at most sites. Gardeners enjoyed the taste and crispness of both varieties. *Provision* received higher ratings. It matured earlier and produced more cucumbers at more locations. *Provision* cucumbers were darker green in color and more slender in shape. *Double Yield* cucumbers were more like a traditional pickler: short and wide in shape with a yellow/white tinge on its skin.

***Provision* cucumbers were darker green in color and more slender in shape.**

Cucumber, Slicing

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Gateway

56 days. Vigorous vines resist downy mildew and other diseases. High yields are produced all summer and well into fall.

General Lee

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



Data

Gardeners at 42 sites submitted information.

Trait	General		
	Gateway	Lee	Same
Germinated best	19%	33%	47%
Healthier plants	19	42	39
Harvested earlier	32	47	21
Higher yields	21	44	35
More attractive cukes	18	30	52
Tasted better	14	29	57
Preference	38	63	
Recommend (😊)	71	69	
Mean score ¹	7.06	7.62	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Gateway

Gateway 4★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐞
General Lee 3★☆☆☆☆ 😞 MN

Both varieties grew poorly in the heat and humidity. *Gateway* had better overall taste and yield.

Gateway 4★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 2★☆☆☆☆ 😞 NE

Gateway was a better producer in my garden. Both varieties had good taste but turned bitter fast with the lack of rain and varying temperatures.

Gateway 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 6★☆☆☆☆ 😞 NE

Gateway produced more cucumbers and tasted good. The cucumbers of *General Lee* were a bit sweeter.

Gateway 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 6★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SE

Our family really enjoyed the sweetness and overall taste of *Gateway*. Both varieties didn't produce as many cucumbers as we like. The yield of *Gateway* was very scarce!

Gateway 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 5★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SE

Gateway produced the first fruits; harvesting began on July 13. *Gateway* cucumbers tasted better and their seeds in the fruits were smaller.

Gateway 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 6★☆☆☆☆ 😞 NC

Gateway performed a lot better than *General Lee*. *Gateway* germinated quickly. Its leaves were big, bold and beautiful. *Gateway* also produced a lot more fruits than *General Lee*. *General Lee* took quite a while to produce fruit.

Gateway 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

It took a long time to get a cucumber this year, but once we did, we really got cucumbers! Both varieties produced nice slicers. *Gateway* produced first.

Gardeners liked Gateway, but most preferred General Lee. General Lee received slightly higher ratings in all traits.

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice
General Lee

Strong performers
Bristol
Dasher II
Raceway
Raider
Straight Eight

Prefer Gateway (continued)

Gateway 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 6★★★★☆ 😞 NC

These varieties were similar, but *Gateway* had a better germination rate and healthier vines. This trial benefited from a drip irrigation system and was well watered the entire growing season.

Gateway 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 6★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Gateway germinated better and produced the first cucumbers. Only two *General Lee* plants germinated but they produced well.

Gateway 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
General Lee 6★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The taste of *Gateway* was sweeter with less bitterness. *Gateway* produced more in early summer, and *General Lee* produced more in late summer.

Gateway 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
General Lee 8★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Gateway produced about 3 weeks earlier than *General Lee* and produced well overall. *Gateway* cucumbers were straight with small seeds even if they got a little large.

Gateway 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
General Lee 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Gateway germinated better. *General Lee* produced a higher yield.

Prefer General Lee

Gateway 3★★★★☆ 😞 -
General Lee 8★★★★☆ 😊 MN

I liked the flavor of *General Lee* better. Its cucumbers were crisper and maintained freshness longer. The flavor of *Gateway* cucumbers was not impressive. I planted a zinnia trial next to this trial, and there was always pollinators around the cucumber blossoms. I got tons of cucumbers from both varieties.

Gateway 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 9★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Both varieties were very good. The flavor was very close with the edge going to *General Lee*. Although *Gateway* didn't produce as many cucumbers early in the season, it soon was producing just as many as *General Lee*. I think *Bristol* is better than both of these varieties.

Gateway 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

The vines of *General Lee* got crunchy and brown fairly early in the season, but they still produced quite a few more cucumbers than *Gateway*.

Gateway 2★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
General Lee 5★★★★☆ 😞 SE

General Lee germinated quicker and grew more vigorously. It produced the first cucumbers, but the harvest did not last long as the vines of both varieties succumbed to disease. I think it was anthracnose. *General Lee* vines died a little earlier.

Gateway 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
General Lee 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated at the same time and had very healthy plants. The cucumbers of both varieties were uniform in length and size. Both varieties produced for quite a while. They both produced well during the hot weather and did not get bitter or misshaped. I also used them for pickling; the seed cavities were small and the seeds did not get tough. The cucumber flavor of *General Lee* was great. *General Lee* is a great cucumber for pickling, salads or just eating raw.

Gateway 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
General Lee 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

General Lee vines took off quickly and produced weeks earlier than *Gateway*. We ate many more *General Lee* cucumbers due to its longer production time. The cucumbers of both varieties were good tasting, good looking and uniform.

Gateway is famous for its resistance to downy mildew and other diseases, but General Lee matched or surpassed Gateway in vine health.

Prefer General Lee (continued)

Gateway 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SE
General Lee 10 ★★★★★ 😊

General Lee germinated at 75%; *Gateway* germinated at 50%. *General Lee* fruits were smoother and crisper without being bitter. I had many compliments from people I shared my cucumbers with. The fruits of *General Lee* were the best I've grown lately!

Gateway 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NC
General Lee 8 ★★★★★ 😊

Gateway had shorter cucumbers. We liked the longer length of the *General Lee* cucumbers. We sold these at a farmer's market and the *General Lee* cucumbers were the ones the customers preferred.

Gateway 2 ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SC
General Lee 8 ★★★★★ 😊

General Lee produced so much better and its cucumbers were good tasting. I had to replant *Gateway* and still got only two plants and very few cucumbers from it.

Gateway 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
General Lee 10 ★★★★★ 😊

General Lee was a top-notch variety. It produced earlier with larger yields.

Gateway 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
General Lee 9 ★★★★★ 😊

Yields of both varieties were good. I liked the slender shape of the *General Lee* cucumbers.

Gateway 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SC
General Lee 10 ★★★★★ 😊

Both did well but *General Lee* was better. *General Lee* vines were healthier and produced more cucumbers.

Gateway 5 ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SC
General Lee 8 ★★★★★ 😊

General Lee was better in all traits except germination.

Gateway 9 ★★★★★ 😊 -
General Lee 10 ★★★★★ 😊 NW
These varieties were very similar.

Gateway 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 NW
General Lee 9 ★★★★★ 😊

General Lee produced the first cucumbers, and its cucumbers tasted better.

Gateway 3 ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SW
General Lee 5 ★★★★★ 😊

General Lee cucumbers had better taste.

Gateway 7 ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SW
General Lee 10 ★★★★★ 😊

General Lee produced a better yield that lasted all summer. *Gateway* was more finicky and produced fewer cucumbers.

Gateway 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SW
General Lee 8 ★★★★★ 😊

I planted these in a fairly marginal part of my garden and they did well. Both varieties were great producers and their cucumbers were delicious. I liked the darker skin of the *General Lee* cucumbers. The *General Lee* cucumbers tasted a little better than the *Gateway* cucumbers.

Gateway 6 ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SW
General Lee 8 ★★★★★ 😊

I was surprised at the fast germination and rapid growth with a late-season planting [sowed June 3]. *General Lee* performed better than *Gateway* in heat and wind. *General Lee* had higher and earlier yields of uniform fruit. Its fruits tasted less bitter at the end of the season.

Gateway 2 ★★★★★ 😞 🐛 SD
General Lee 8 ★★★★★ 😊

Gateway struggled in my garden while *General Lee* thrived.

General Lee produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall at more gardens.

No Preference

Gateway 10★★★★★😊🐞
General Lee 10★★★★★😊NC

I didn't notice any differences between the two varieties. They grew like crazy. You better have a lot of room for both varieties. They can take over a big area.

Gateway 9★★★★★😊🐞
General Lee 9★★★★★😊SC

I grew this trial in two gardens. *Gateway* did better in one garden, while *General Lee* did better in the other garden. These varieties grew equally well.

Gateway 2★★★★★😞🐞
General Lee 2★★★★★😞SC

Something went amiss with my cucumbers. They were looking good and then stalled in growth and started getting spots on their leaves.

Gateway 10★★★★★😊🐞
General Lee 10★★★★★😊NW

These varieties were similar in all traits.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked *Gateway*, but most preferred *General Lee*. *General Lee* received slightly higher ratings in all traits. Many gardeners complimented *General Lee* for its crisp, flavorful, smooth-skinned fruits. *General Lee* produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall at more gardens. *Gateway* is famous for its resistance to downy mildew and other diseases, but *General Lee* matched or surpassed *Gateway* in vine health.

Many gardeners complimented *General Lee* for its crisp, flavorful, smooth-skinned fruits.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

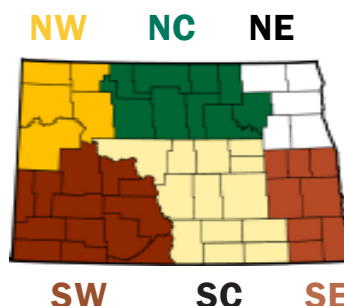
Ratings (1 to 10)
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)
😊
😞

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
SD = South Dakota
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan

Gourd, Ornamental

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Autumn Wings Blend

95 days. A beautiful assortment of 10-ounce, winged and warty gourds. Vibrant colors. Popular.

Gizmo

95 days. Multicolored, winged gourds are 4 inches tall and 7 inches wide. Short vines.



Data

Gardeners at 41 sites submitted information.

Trait	Autumn Wings B.	Gizmo	Same
Germinated best	29%	37%	34%
Healthier plants	30	27	43
Harvested earlier	26	37	37
Higher yields	50	28	22
More attractive gourds	20	37	43
Preference	49	51	
Recommend (☺)	79	87	
Mean score ¹	6.78	7.05	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Autumn Wings Blend

Autumn Wings B. 7★★★★★☺🐞
Gizmo 6★★★★★☺ MN

Both varieties had 100% germination. *Gizmo* had a more compact plant while *Autumn Wings Blend* vines took up more space. *Gizmo* had larger gourds, while the *Autumn Wings Blend* had more gourds and more variety/color variations.

Autumn Wings B. 10★★★★★☺🐞
Gizmo 9★★★★★☺ MN

I loved them both! *Gizmo* had larger, unique fruit that grew off bush-like plants — great for space saving. *Gizmo* produced earlier but fewer fruits. *Autumn Wings Blend* had long vines that produced later. It produced lots of multicolored gourds. The gourds of both varieties were great for decorating.

Autumn Wings B. 5★★★★★☺🐞
Gizmo 4★★★★★☺ MN

These varieties were very similar.

Autumn Wings B. 6★★★★★☺🐞
Gizmo 5★★★★★☺ MN

Autumn Wings Blend germinated better. The plants of both varieties died early.

Autumn Wings B. 9★★★★★☺🐞
Gizmo 7★★★★★☹ SE

Both varieties germinated at near 100%. *Autumn Wings Blend* vines seemed to dry out early, but they produced a lot of gourds in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. They were very cool! All the *Gizmo* fruits were the same shape and color.

Autumn Wings B. 10★★★★★☺🐞
Gizmo 9★★★★★☺ SE

Both produced colorful, odd-shaped gourds. *Autumn Wings Blend* had crazy long vines that took over my patio, but it produced four times as many gourds as the relatively compact *Gizmo*. They were both great, but I liked the crazy vines and the massive yield.

Autumn Wings B. 10★★★★★☺🐞
Gizmo 6★★★★★☹ SE

Autumn Wings Blend germinated better. Its fruits were mature and had hard shells by the end of August. *Autumn Wings Blend* had a high number and nice variety of gourds. These are probably the nicest gourds I have ever raised. *Gizmo* still had only small gourds during the first week of September.

Gardeners had fun and success in growing both varieties.

Best gourd varieties

Top choice
Gizmo

Strong performer
Autumn Wings Blend

Prefer Autumn Wings Blend (continued)

Autumn Wings B. 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

I liked the look of *Autumn Wings Blend*. Both varieties did great.

Autumn Wings B. 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 5★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Autumn Wings Blend had very cool looking gourds.

Autumn Wings B. 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 4★★★☆☆ 😊 NC

Autumn Wings Blend produced a higher yield. *Gizmo* only produced five gourds but they were really unique and beautiful. The vines of both varieties dealt with mildew toward the end of summer.

Autumn Wings B. 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 5★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Autumn Wings Blend had more fruits, was faster maturing, and the fruits had interesting shapes.

Autumn Wings B. 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Such unique colors and shapes. This summer's climate didn't lead to much of a harvest, but *Autumn Wings Blend* produced a higher yield.

Autumn Wings B. 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

It was really neat to see what they produced.

Autumn Wings B. 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 3★★★☆☆ 😊 SC

Autumn Wings Blend had all the same looking gourds. It produced more gourds. *Gizmo* plants looked good but had very few gourds.

Autumn Wings B. 4★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 3★★★☆☆ 😊 SC

It was a tough year for gourds with the cold soil in spring and the early frost in fall. Only one gourd of each variety matured. The *Autumn Wings Blend* gourd was prettier.

Autumn Wings B. 10★★★★★ 😊 -
Gizmo 6★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Autumn Wings Blend was very prolific; it produced way more than *Gizmo*. I even ate some of the young gourds of *Autumn Wings Blend* — they were good when grated into breads and oatmeal! The gourds of *Gizmo* were more fun!

Autumn Wings B. 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 5★★★★☆ 😊 SD

The gourds of *Autumn Wings Blend* had a great shape and size!

Prefer Gizmo

Autumn Wings B. 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

We preferred *Gizmo* because of its fun, unique and abundant fruits.

Autumn Wings B. 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

There were a lot of knobby *Autumn Wings Blend* gourds, but there was not as much variety. *Gizmo* gourds were a hit with the kids. *Gizmo* gourds are unique.

Autumn Wings B. 3★★★☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 5★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Gizmo did much better than *Autumn Wings Blend* in terms of growth and yield. *Autumn Wings Blend* did not do well in our garden.

Autumn Wings B. 3★★★☆☆ 😊 -
Gizmo 9★★★★★ 😊 NC

Gizmo was more successful from the beginning. It germinated better and produced earlier and higher yields. The vines of *Autumn Wings Blend* were weak and had mildew.

Autumn Wings B. 2★★★☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 9★★★★★ 😊 NC

Autumn Wings Blend germinated poorly.

Autumn Wings B. 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 7★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Autumn Wings Blend grew better and produced a higher yield, but I preferred the appearance of the *Gizmo* fruits.

The vines of *Autumn Wings Blend* were much more aggressive, and they produced a massive number of beautiful gourds.

Prefer Gizmo (continued)

Autumn Wings B. 2★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Gizmo 4★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

I had only a little space available to plant a few of the seeds. *Autumn Wings Blend* had only 30% germination. Neither variety did particularly well, although *Gizmo* did produce a handful of fruits.

Autumn Wings B. 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Gizmo plants were healthier, produced more fruits and took up less space.

Autumn Wings B. 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 -
Gizmo 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

I preferred *Gizmo* because of its compact, bush plants taking less room. *Gizmo* produced 2 weeks earlier. All 15 *Gizmo* gourds matured; half of the 30 *Autumn Wings Blend* gourds matured. *Gizmo* gourds were multicolored, larger (5–8 inches across) and had a very fun, star shape. The gourds of *Autumn Wings Blend* were multicolored, bell-shaped and knobby.

Autumn Wings B. 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

I enjoyed the shapes of the *Gizmo* fruits more.

Autumn Wings B. 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

These gourds were fun to grow. I grew them in flower pots and they did quite well! *Gizmo* had bigger gourds.

Autumn Wings B. 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW

Autumn Wings Blend kept producing through the season — in abundance! *Autumn Wings Blend* produced three times as many gourds. The gourds of *Gizmo* were most unusual. Each of its gourds was original looking. The gourds of *Autumn Wings Blend* were all similar in look.

Autumn Wings B. 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Gizmo 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Gizmo fruits were more attractive.

Autumn Wings B. 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Gizmo gourds matured earlier and were larger.

Autumn Wings B. 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Gizmo 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Only one seed of *Autumn Wings Blend* sprouted, but all seeds of *Gizmo* sprouted. *Gizmo* produced several gourds.

Autumn Wings B. 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ -
Gizmo 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

These plants grew slowly. *Gizmo* produced a gourd while *Autumn Wings Blend* did not.

Autumn Wings B. 7★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Gizmo 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Gizmo had loads of unique fruits.

Autumn Wings B. 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

The size and color of *Gizmo* fruits were more attractive to me.

Autumn Wings B. 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Gizmo 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SD

I liked the *Gizmo* shape/color personally, but when I gave them away, *Autumn Wings Blend* seemed to be the preferred one. The shapes of the *Gizmo* gourds were fun with their unique coloring and larger size. *Gizmo* produced fewer gourds per plant, but plenty. If you want to sell gourds, go with *Autumn Wings Blend* due to the higher number of gourds per vine. I planted all the seeds, which all germinated. I gave bags and bags of gourds away, but I still had way too many. It was an easy crop to grow.

Conclusions

Gardeners had fun and success in growing both varieties. The vines of *Autumn Wings Blend* were much more aggressive, and they produced a massive number of beautiful gourds. The blend produced gourds in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. *Gizmo* generated more excitement because of its larger, unique, multicolored, winged gourds. The compact vines of *Gizmo* allows it to be grown in smaller gardens.

Gizmo generated more excitement because of its larger, unique, multicolored, winged gourds.

Lettuce, Green Bibb

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Gatsbi

52 days. New! Crinkly green leaves with a large frame and beautiful, blanched hearts. Vigorous growing. Tolerates heat. Slow to bolt.

Newham

52 days. Uniform, compact heads with an upright, vase-shaped habit. Proven performer. Slow to bolt.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gatsbi	Newham	Same
Germinated best	32%	28%	40%
Healthier plants	36	12	52
Harvested earlier	28	24	48
Resisted bolting better	41	14	45
Higher yields	40	24	36
More attractive	42	17	42
Tasted better	28	24	48
Preference	57	43	
Recommend (😊)	96	72	
Mean score ¹	8.17	7.63	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Gatsbi

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 7★★★★★😊NE

Gatsbi resisted bolting better. It kept producing late into the season. I am still picking as of September 21!

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 3★★★★★😞SE

Gatsbi was far better than *Newham* in all aspects. The taste was soft and enjoyable, the look was fantastic, and the crop was healthy.

Gatsbi 7★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 6★★★★★😊NC

Gatsbi tasted better, and taste wins for me. The varieties produced very similarly and were slow to bolt.

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 8★★★★★😊SC

Both varieties had near 100% germination. Both varieties were healthy. *Gatsbi* had higher yields and looked more attractive.

Gatsbi 10★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 3★★★★★😞SC

Gatsbi produced a lot of lettuce and was low maintenance. *Newham* produced only half as much lettuce. Both varieties were pretty bolt resistant.

Gatsbi 10★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 8★★★★★😞SC

Gatsbi was the best. It had great flavor! *Gatsbi* lasted late into the summer. It flourished with this crazy summer weather!

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 8★★★★★😊SC

Such gorgeous lettuce. I kept cutting, so it really took a long time for either variety to bolt. *Gatsbi* resisted bolting better and produced a higher yield. *Gatsbi* made such a pretty head of lettuce. I replanted in early summer and these varieties lasted a long time.

Both of these varieties were outstanding. *Newham* has always performed well in our trials, but more gardeners preferred the new variety *Gatsbi*.

Best green bibb lettuce varieties

Top choice
Gatsbi

Strong performers
Buttercrunch
Newham

Prefer Gatsbi (continued)

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 7★★★★☆😞SC

Gatsbi did not bolt. It was ready to harvest earlier than *Newham* and produced more lettuce.

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 8★★★★☆😊SC

I harvested multiple heads of each. I left some to see which variety bolted sooner and they ended up pretty similar. *Gatsbi* heads ended up being a little larger, and I did like the look of it a bit better. Both varieties are great *Gem* lettuces and I'd grow both again.

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 8★★★★☆😊SC

Both varieties were outstanding. They were equally productive. Both varieties were very resistant to bolting and still tasted good in July. *Gatsbi* tasted slightly better.

Gatsbi 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 5★★★☆☆😞SC

Gatsbi was better all around. It was healthier, produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Gatsbi 10★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 6★★★★☆😞NW

I am still harvesting *Gatsbi* in late September. *Newham* bolted in mid-summer. I liked the nicely formed heads of *Gatsbi*. Both varieties had good flavor.

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 7★★★★☆😞SW

I loved *Gatsbi*. It produced great lettuce from early June to late August. *Gatsbi* had great flavor, crisp leaves, and was so good in salads and sandwiches.

Gatsbi 9★★★★★😊🐞
Newham 8★★★★☆😊SK

Both varieties grew very well this season. They had good flavor and nice-looking leaves. *Gatsbi* had a compact plant and did not bolt.

Prefer Newham

Gatsbi 5★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 9★★★★★😊SE

Newham was way healthier and produced double the yield that *Gatsbi* produced.

Gatsbi 6★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 7★★★★☆😊SE

Both varieties bolted too fast for me. *Newham* lasted longer before bolting.

Gatsbi 6★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 7★★★★☆😊NC

Both varieties germinated poorly. *Newham* produced a higher yield.

Gatsbi 5★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 8★★★★☆😊SC

Gatsbi tasted better but had a lower yield.

Gatsbi 8★★★★☆😞🗑️
Newham 10★★★★★😊SC

Newham was easier to clean. It collected less dirt with its smoother leaves.

Gatsbi 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 9★★★★★😊SC

I am very happy with both varieties. *Newham* was slightly better in health, yield and taste. Both were delicious and had attractive plants. Neither variety got buggy.

Gatsbi 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 9★★★★★😊SC

Newham germinated earlier.

Gatsbi 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Newham 9★★★★★😊SC

I would grow both varieties again. *Newham* had better flavor.

***Gatsbi* resisted bolting better. It had higher yields and looked more attractive to more gardeners.**

Prefer Newham (continued)

Gatsbi 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Newham 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NW

Newham was really a nice lettuce overall. *Newham* had better flavor, color and texture. The lovely, little heads were easy to wash and stored very well. New heads of *Newham* emerged after the initial harvest. *Newham* took forever to bolt. The ruffled leaves of *Gatsbi* collected a lot of dirt and damage; it was difficult to clean.

Gatsbi 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Newham 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SW

I preferred the leaf texture of *Newham*; otherwise, these varieties were very similar.

No Preference

Gatsbi 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Newham 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

Both varieties were very tasty.

Conclusions

Both of these varieties were outstanding. *Newham* has always performed well in our trials, but more gardeners preferred the new variety *Gatsbi*. *Gatsbi* resisted bolting better. It had higher yields and looked more attractive to more gardeners. Nearly every gardener recommended *Gatsbi*, which indicates it is reliable. *Newham* also received high ratings. Its leaves were smoother and easier to clean than the crinkly leaves of *Gatsbi*.

***Newham* received high ratings. Its leaves were smoother and easier to clean than the crinkly leaves of *Gatsbi*.**

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

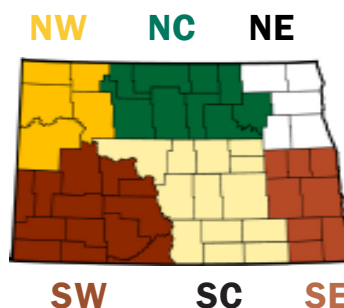
Comments →
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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
- SD = South Dakota
- MB = Manitoba
- SK = Saskatchewan



Lettuce, Green Leaf

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Grazion

52 days. Dark green leaves with wavy margins. Heavy heads. Resists bolting and diseases.

Starfighter

56 days. Heat-tolerant lettuce with dark green, shiny heads. Flavorful. Resists bolting.



Data

Gardeners at 32 sites submitted information.

Trait	Grazion	Starfighter	Same
Germinated best	23%	31%	46%
Healthier plants	20	16	64
Harvested earlier	33	17	50
Resisted bolting better	8	17	75
Higher yields	29	25	46
More attractive	27	15	58
Tasted better	20	36	44
Preference	54	46	
Recommend (😊)	77	77	
Mean score ¹	7.92	7.85	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Grazion

Grazion 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 7★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Both varieties grew well. *Grazion* had better looking leaves.

Grazion 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Grazion had a much better germination rate. *Starfighter* took a week longer to germinate and with poorer results. Plants of both varieties were healthy and had good flavor. I liked both varieties for taste and texture in salads. *Grazion* had much higher yields and resisted bolting for a very long time.

Grazion 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

The flavor of *Grazion* was better; otherwise, the varieties were pretty similar.

Grazion 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Grazion plants stayed in a compact form longer. It took *Grazion* longer to taste bitter. *Starfighter* got rougher on the leaf edges sooner, making it less enjoyable to eat.

Grazion 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 7★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Grazion looked better and tasted better. *Grazion* resisted bolting better. Both varieties produced well in my raised bed.

Grazion 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Grazion produced the first yield; great in this short growing season. Its plants were dense and darker in color. I preferred the complex, savory flavor of *Starfighter*; it was not sweet like *Grazion*.

Grazion 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

The plants of both varieties were beautiful! Hardly any plants bolted. I was able to taste *Grazion* first, and it tasted so good!

Grazion 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starfighter 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

We ate *Grazion* first. Both varieties stayed well without bolting for a long time.

Both varieties were outstanding. They were healthy, resisted bolting, and had good flavor.

Best green leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice
Bergam's
Green

Strong performers
Slobolt
Starfighter
Tropicana

Prefer Grazion (continued)

Grazion 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Starfighter 6★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Grazion was better all-round for germination and yield. Two to three times more *Grazion* seeds germinated. None of the plants bolted before they were eaten (by me or an animal). *Grazion* grew well both in my garden as well as in pots.

Grazion 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Grazion was a better variety overall. It was ready to harvest first, produced more lettuce and tasted better.

Grazion 9★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties grew well in my raised beds. The pelleted seed made them much easier to plant. *Grazion* was better tasting.

Grazion 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Grazion edged out *Starfighter* with resistance to bolting and higher yield. They both had 98% germination and were beauties in the garden and on the plate. Both varieties are great for southwestern North Dakota.

Grazion 8★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Starfighter 6★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Grazion had 90% germination; *Starfighter* had 80% germination. *Grazion* plants were taller and looked healthier. Both varieties were ready to harvest at the same time, but *Grazion* had two more harvests while the *Starfighter* plants were drying up. Harvests were done every 6 days, and I had plenty to share. *Grazion* leaves were greener, but *Starfighter* tasted slightly better as *Grazion* tasted more bitter.

Grazion 9★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both of these varieties produced very well and had good flavor. I shared with family and friends, and everyone enjoyed the crisp, fresh lettuce. *Grazion* was more attractive. It produced nice bunches of crisp lettuce.

Prefer Starfighter

Grazion 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Starfighter 6★★★★☆ 😊 MN

Starfighter plants were taller, healthier and looked more attractive. *Starfighter* produced a higher yield. Neither variety bolted, even in hot July.

Grazion 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Starfighter 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Starfighter seemed more resistant to pests and diseases. Its plants were healthier and produced a higher yield. Both of the varieties were tasty.

Grazion 7★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Starfighter 8★★★★★ 😊 SE

Starfighter germinated approximately 25–30% better.

Grazion 5★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
 Starfighter 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties germinated well and had nice plants. *Starfighter* was good to cut all summer, and it tasted better. Wildlife came and ate all of *Grazion* but didn't touch *Starfighter*.

Grazion 7★★★★★ 😞 🐞
 Starfighter 8★★★★★ 😊 SE

Starfighter resisted bolting better and produced a higher yield. The plants of *Starfighter* looked more attractive and tasted better.

Grazion 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Starfighter 6★★★★☆ 😞 SE

I was disappointed with both varieties. Our family thought *Grazion* was better looking but it was extremely bitter and difficult to get down. The taste of *Starfighter* was delicate and had a sweetness to it. Unfortunately, *Starfighter* did not grow or yield as great a crop.

Grazion 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Starfighter 9★★★★★ 😊 NC

Starfighter was more hardy, suffered less die-off after they were thinned, and was very palatable.

Both varieties were beautiful in the garden and on the plate.

Prefer Starfighter (continued)

Grazion 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞 NC
Starfighter 6★★★★☆ 😊

Starfighter plants were nicer looking.

Grazion 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 SC
Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😊

Grazion produced first, but *Starfighter* had more attractive plants and resisted bolting longer. Both varieties were tasty.

Grazion 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 SC
Starfighter 8★★★★☆ 😊

Starfighter had better taste, produced more lettuce, resisted heat better and was slower to bolt compared to *Grazion*.

Grazion 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 NW
Starfighter 9★★★★☆ 😊

Starfighter tasted better, although the varieties were about the same in appearance.

Grazion 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞 SW
Starfighter 9★★★★☆ 😊

Both were good but *Starfighter* was more tender. I shared with many people, and they all loved the flavor of both varieties.

Conclusions

Both varieties were outstanding. They were healthy, beautiful, resisted bolting, and had good flavor. *Grazion* showed an edge in earliness. *Starfighter* showed an edge in taste.

***Grazion* showed an edge in earliness. *Starfighter* showed an edge in taste.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

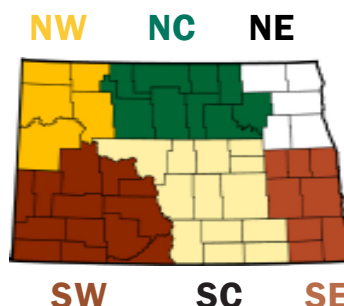
Ratings (1 to 10) →
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
★★★★☆ 😊
★★★★☆ ☹️

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
SD = South Dakota
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan

Lettuce, Green Romaine

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Chalupa

45 days. Medium-sized heads are upright. Ready to harvest early in the season. Sweet flavor. Tolerates heat and resists bolting.

Sunland

56 days. Heat-tolerant romaine with thick leaves, straight ribs and a tight, compact head.



Data

Gardeners at 45 sites submitted information.

Trait	Chalupa	Sunland	Same
Germinated best	10%	38%	53%
Healthier plants	15	35	50
Harvested earlier	21	54	26
Resisted bolting better	26	21	53
Higher yields	21	41	38
More attractive	15	36	49
Tasted better	29	29	42
Preference	44	56	
Recommend (😊)	75	93	
Mean score ¹	7.44	7.87	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Chalupa

Chalupa 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 3★★★★☆ 😞 NE

Chalupa had smaller, compact heads. Both varieties had great taste, but romaine is not my favorite lettuce.

Chalupa 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Chalupa produced nearly perfect heads over the season. It did not bolt at all. *Sunland* germinated better and produced the first yield. If you picked *Sunland* early enough, it would be fine.

Chalupa 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Chalupa produced fuller, tighter heads. When chopped, a head of *Chalupa* produced more lettuce than a similar-sized head of *Sunland*.

Chalupa 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Chalupa was more productive and tasted less bitter. I harvested all season from *Chalupa*.

Chalupa 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Sunland produced larger heads; *Chalupa* had shorter, denser heads. *Chalupa* resisted bolting better. This was the first time I ever grew a romaine variety and was really impressed with the end results. I will grow romaine lettuce again.

Chalupa 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 7★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Chalupa had dense leaves. It was easy to pick and store.

Chalupa 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 5★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Chalupa had smaller leaves which were sweeter and didn't require extra processing to make a salad out of.

Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties, and they were split on which variety tasted better.

Best green romaine lettuce varieties

Top choice
Sunland

Strong performers

Bluerock
Crisp Mint
Fusion
Green Forest
Starhawk

Prefer Chalupa (continued)

Chalupa 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties were good. I give *Chalupa* a slight edge on taste.

Chalupa 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were healthy and produced well, but *Chalupa* tasted just a little better. *Chalupa* was slightly sweeter, and *Sunland* was slightly more bitter.

Chalupa 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 6★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I liked the smaller, compact plants of *Chalupa*. It produced longer into the season.

Chalupa 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 4★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Chalupa was better tasting. Its heads were darker green and tighter. *Sunland* had looser heads and the center spine of some of its leaves turned brown. The texture of *Chalupa* was more tender, whereas the texture of *Sunland* was a bit grainy.

Chalupa 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 3★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Sunland did not grow well. This could have been due to the huge rainfall event we had right after planting.

Chalupa 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 5★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The original trial was planted on May 31. *Chalupa* was ready to harvest earlier and produced a higher yield. I planted a second planting later in July with similar results.

Chalupa 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞 🏠
Sunland 9★★★★★ 😊 SW

Both varieties were very good. We liked the flavor of *Chalupa* better; its leaves were a little more tender.

Chalupa 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Both varieties germinated well, had healthy plants and tasted good. *Chalupa* had more compact plants. I prefer *Chalupa* because it is chewier and would stand up better with dressing. *Sunland* has a more tender leaf.

Chalupa 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

These varieties produced the best romaine lettuce I've ever had. The plants lasted long, too. *Chalupa* was ready to harvest first.

Prefer Sunland

Chalupa 2★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Sunland 9★★★★★ 😊 MN

Sunland germinated better and produced the first yield. *Sunland* leaves were prettier and tasted sweeter.

Chalupa 9★★★★★ 😊 -
Sunland 10★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties germinated at about 50%. The plants that came up were great! We did not have problems with bolting. Both varieties were great tasting, crisp and stored well. *Sunland* had earlier and higher yields, and its plants looked more attractive.

Chalupa 7★★★★☆ 😊 -
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Both varieties germinated at near 100%. *Sunland* was more vigorous. Its leaves were more tender and had a sweeter taste.

Chalupa 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Sunland 9★★★★★ 😊 NE

Sunland germinated better, was ready to harvest earlier and looked more attractive, but it bolted early.

Chalupa 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunland 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties were fantastic and had great flavor. I preferred the looks of *Sunland*.

The heads of *Chalupa* were smaller, full and tight.

Prefer Sunland (continued)

Chalupa 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Sunland produced more yield. Both varieties tasted good. Both varieties seemed to flower early.

Chalupa 1★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Sunland 7★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Sunland produced lettuce the whole season — very nice! Only a couple plants of *Chalupa* germinated.

Chalupa 8★★★★☆ 😊 📦
Sunland 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Sunland grew a little taller and bolted a week later.

Chalupa 9★★★★☆ 😊 📦
Sunland 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Sunland produced way better for me — taller and longer leaf growth. Both varieties were very green, crisp and not a blemish on them. People would comment on how beautiful they were, how delicious they tasted, and how they were free of pests and diseases. *Sunland* was mature first and had a very strong, sturdy, upright base that held the leaves together tight and upright. Both varieties were picture perfect!

Chalupa 3★★★★☆ 😞 📦
Sunland 6★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I was disappointed in this later planting [sown June 1] as it did not perform well. I got very little in the way of an actual head of lettuce. I think the heat took a toll on it. I was trying to do a staggered planting and had planted a different variety [*Bluerock*] earlier that did very well. *Sunland* outperformed *Chalupa* in germination and growth.

Chalupa 9★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Sunland 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Sunland produced earlier and higher yields. *Sunland* tasted better but both varieties tasted very good. *Chalupa* resisted bolting better, but both varieties lasted well into September.

Chalupa 1★★★★☆ 😞 📦
Sunland 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Sunland produced first and had larger heads. *Chalupa* tasted very bitter even early in the season. I had netting over both, which allowed me to pick *Sunland* for a good month. These two varieties were about as opposite as they come for me. *Sunland* was amazing for a long growing season, but I hardly enjoyed any of *Chalupa*.

Chalupa 6★★★★☆ 😊 📦
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Sunland had better taste and head size.

Chalupa 7★★★★☆ 😞 📦
Sunland 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Sunland was better in all categories.

Chalupa 8★★★★☆ 😞 📦
Sunland 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Sunland had bigger leaves and was crisp.

Chalupa 8★★★★☆ 😞 -
Sunland 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Sunland tasted better.

Chalupa 7★★★★☆ 😊 -
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

They both grew really well. I thought they both got a little bitter pretty early.

Chalupa 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Sunland 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

I thought the taste of the varieties was very similar, but I liked the texture of *Sunland* better. *Sunland* was tender while *Chalupa* was tougher.

Chalupa 5★★★★☆ 😞 📦
Sunland 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both did well. I enjoyed them very much. I loved *Sunland*. It had great romaine bundles for salads and sandwiches. *Sunland* had vibrant green leaves with a really good crunch.

***Sunland* was especially impressive and reliable. *Sunland* produced the first yield and produced more lettuce overall at more sites.**

Prefer Sunland (continued)

Chalupa 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MB
 Sunland 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MB

A very dry, hot spring and summer still resulted in nice lettuce, with a lot of watering. *Sunland* germinated slightly quicker and more successfully, and it grew larger. I preferred *Sunland* because I like a big, crisp, thick-leaved romaine, although both varieties tasted excellent.

No Preference

Chalupa 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC
 Sunland 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC

These varieties were very similar.

Chalupa 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC
 Sunland 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC

I was thrilled with the romaine lettuce. We enjoyed an abundance of it all summer. I don't recall any difference in taste.

Chalupa 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW
 Sunland 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SW

We have no preference.

Conclusions

Sunland was especially impressive and reliable. *Sunland* germinated better, produced the first yield and produced more lettuce overall at more sites. More gardeners preferred the looks of *Sunland*. The heads of *Chalupa* were smaller, full and tight. Both varieties tolerated heat and resisted bolting. Gardeners enjoyed the taste of both varieties, and they were split on which variety tasted better.

Both varieties tolerated heat and resisted bolting.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10)
 Variety A
 Variety B

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

Garden type
 NC

Location

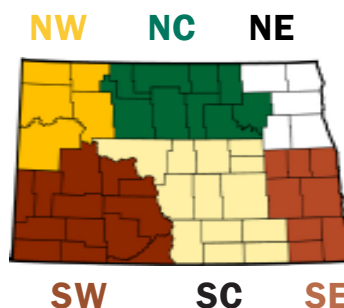
Comments
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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

Locations

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- SK = Saskatchewan



Lettuce, Red Leaf

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

New Red Fire

54 days. Uniform, heavy, large, open heads of attractive, frilly leaves. Intense color and tolerates heat.

Shirane Sky

58 days. Dark red leaves. Heads are open yet compact. Slow to bolt and tolerates diseases.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	New Red Fire	Shirane Sky	Same
Germinated best	41%	12%	47%
Healthier plants	18	24	59
Harvested earlier	41	18	41
Resisted bolting better	13	25	63
Higher yields	38	31	31
More attractive	18	59	24
Tasted better	29	41	29
Preference	53	47	
Recommend (😊)	76	82	
Mean score ¹	7.12	7.41	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer New Red Fire

New Red Fire 10★★★★★😊🐞
Shirane Sky 8★★★★☆😊MN

New Red Fire was a more tender leaf, and I liked the taste better. It lasted a long time in my garden as it did not bolt. It was also a pretty color that added lots of color to salads. *Shirane Sky* leaves were larger and had more green. Both varieties would do well in any North Dakota garden. I liked and used both varieties in a lot of things.

New Red Fire 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Shirane Sky 6★★★★☆😊SE

They both took a lot of heat and still tasted sweet. It took a very long time for them to start to get the bitter sap. *New Red Fire* leaves have the perfect level of crispness and sweetness for a garden salad.

New Red Fire 9★★★★★😊🐞
Shirane Sky 6★★★★☆😞SC

New Red Fire grew faster, looked better in the garden, and tasted better. *Shirane Sky* had a slightly bitter taste.

New Red Fire 9★★★★★😊🐞
Shirane Sky 8★★★★☆😊SC

Both varieties were great. *New Red Fire* had better flavor.

New Red Fire 8★★★★★😊🐞
Shirane Sky 6★★★★☆😊SC

New Red Fire produced more and had better germination. This trial was grown in a high tunnel.

New Red Fire 10★★★★★😊🐞
Shirane Sky 8★★★★☆😊SC

New Red Fire seedlings grew quicker and looked healthier in the beginning. Their growing outpaced *Shirane Sky*, so perhaps they matured quicker, which led to them to bolting sooner. I liked the look of *New Red Fire* a bit more. Both were excellent varieties.

New Red Fire grew faster and produced more lettuce at more sites. Gardeners mentioned it was tender.

Best red leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice

New Red Fire

Strong performers

Merlot
Red Sails
Red Salad
Bowl
Red Velvet

Prefer New Red Fire (continued)

New Red Fire 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Shirane Sky 7★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Both varieties were very good. I harvested lettuce later than I expected. *New Red Fire* had better taste, and it resisted bolting better by a week or more.

New Red Fire 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Shirane Sky 4★★★★☆ 😞 NW

New Red Fire produced more lettuce and it was tender.

New Red Fire 5★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Shirane Sky 4★★★★☆ 😞 NW

Germination of both varieties was poor and slow. Not many plants came up and developed. There was more *New Red Fire*, and it was tender.

Prefer Shirane Sky

New Red Fire 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Shirane Sky 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Shirane Sky leaves were darker. It produced earlier, and I liked it for salads. *New Red Fire* caught up and worked better on sandwiches. Both varieties resisted bolting longer than my other lettuce varieties.

New Red Fire 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Shirane Sky 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

New Red Fire germinated first, but *Shirane Sky* produced much better. *Shirane Sky* was more attractive and tasted better.

New Red Fire 3★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Shirane Sky 6★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Shirane Sky germinated earlier and at a higher rate. *New Red Fire* came up, but then didn't really do much. Both varieties beat the heat.

New Red Fire 2★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Shirane Sky 10★★★★☆ 😊 NW

The leaves of *New Red Fire* were larger but not as crisp. The leaves of *Shirane Sky* were smaller, but I preferred its pretty purple color.

New Red Fire 7★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Shirane Sky 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Shirane Sky looked and tasted better.

New Red Fire 7★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
 Shirane Sky 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Shirane Sky was much less bitter; more enjoyable to eat. *Shirane Sky* resisted bolting better, produced a higher yield and looked more attractive.

New Red Fire 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Shirane Sky 10★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both varieties were excellent. They produced through most of the summer, and when they bolted it was slowly, not suddenly. *Shirane Sky* had thicker/heartier leaves. *New Red Fire* leaves seemed too delicate and lost their volume in salad. *New Red Fire* leaves also wilted faster in the fridge.

New Red Fire 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Shirane Sky 10★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Both varieties were very good. They had great germination and no bolting occurred. I preferred *Shirane Sky* because it was a little crisper.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. The plants were healthy and resisted bolting. *New Red Fire* germinated better, grew faster and produced more lettuce at more sites. Gardeners mentioned it was tender. Gardeners loved the look of the dark red leaves of *Shirane Sky*. It was crisper in texture and was rated higher for taste.

Gardeners loved the look of the dark red leaves of *Shirane Sky*. It was crisper in texture and was rated higher for taste.

Lettuce, Red Summer Crisp

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Cherokee

48 days. Thick, crisp, very dark red leaves. Good flavor. Tolerates heat and is slow to bolt. Long harvest window.

Chrystal

42 days. Bright purple-red leaf edges contrast beautifully with the broad green leaves. Tolerates heat.



Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cherokee	Chrystal	Same
Germinated best	17%	33%	50%
Healthier plants	27	20	53
Harvested earlier	20	47	33
Resisted bolting better	36	25	39
Higher yields	31	21	48
More attractive	38	21	41
Tasted better	10	37	53
Preference	50	50	
Recommend (😊)	77	77	
Mean score ¹	7.63	7.87	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Cherokee

Cherokee 8★★★★★😊🐞
Chrystal 5★★★★☆😞NE

Cherokee looked nicer (darker red) and held up better in a salad — firmer leaves. It was more heat tolerant, although neither variety bolted. Both varieties held up well in the June windstorm. *Cherokee* was a more upright/sturdy plant with more and bigger leaves per plant. *Chrystal* leaves were mostly green. My husband and kids thought *Chrystal* was better tasting and less bitter. I thought *Cherokee* was crisper and had more flavor.

Cherokee 9★★★★★😊🐞
Chrystal 8★★★★☆😞SE

I loved the red color of *Cherokee*. *Chrystal* was sweeter and tasted better.

Cherokee 10★★★★★😊🐞
Chrystal 9★★★★★😊SE

Cherokee had more red color.

Cherokee 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Chrystal 7★★★★☆😊SE

Cherokee was overall a better plant. It was healthier, looked more attractive and tasted better.

Cherokee 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Chrystal 5★★★★☆😞SE

Cherokee germinated best — earlier — and grew faster. It produced more yield and looked more attractive. I had a lot of trouble getting *Chrystal* to grow. I planted *Chrystal* a second time but didn't get a better response. When *Chrystal* finally grew, it was great. *Cherokee* bolted first.

Cherokee 10★★★★★😊🐞
Chrystal 9★★★★★😊NC

Both varieties were very good. *Cherokee* produced longer throughout the season.

Cherokee 10★★★★★😊🐞
Chrystal 9★★★★★😊NC

Cherokee was a very attractive lettuce. It did not bolt as quickly.

Both varieties received high ratings. Gardeners were evenly split on their preferred variety.

Best red Summer crisp lettuce varieties

Top choice
Magenta

Strong performers
Chrystal
Pablo
Sierra

Prefer Cherokee (continued)

Cherokee 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 NC
Chrystal 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞

Cherokee had good flavor but was not as sweet. Its heads had a deep color and were crisper. *Chrystal* heads were more juicy and firm.

Cherokee 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC
Chrystal 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞

Chrystal had larger leaves; it bolted a little sooner. Both varieties looked good all season. *Cherokee* had slightly better flavor.

Cherokee 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Chrystal 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SC

It was very tough to pick a favorite. Both varieties were great. *Cherokee* produced more and looked better. *Chrystal* tasted better.

Cherokee 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SC
Chrystal 5 ★★★★★ 😞 🐞

Chrystal was better earlier in the year but still had a little tougher chew. *Cherokee* had leaves that were more attractive and were more tender and sweet. *Cherokee* also bolted much later.

Cherokee 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Chrystal 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NW

Cherokee had attractive color and was slower to bolt.

Cherokee 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 SW
Chrystal 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞

These were very different. *Cherokee* leaves were deep red and *Chrystal* leaves were green with red edging. They tasted different, but both had excellent flavor. *Chrystal* had better germination, but I loved the look of *Cherokee* — it was so beautiful. Both varieties resisted bolting and did well in succession plantings all summer.

Prefer Chrystal

Cherokee 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN
Chrystal 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞

Both lettuce varieties produced excellent yields and tasted great, especially mixed together. I like to mix red lettuce with green, but prefer more green so went with *Chrystal* as my preference. I would definitely plant both varieties again! Having lettuce all summer was great (usually it bolts in July and we're done).

Cherokee 5 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞 MN
Chrystal 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞

Chrystal had fuller plants so it was harvested first. *Chrystal* tasted slightly sweeter. Its leaves were crunchier and held up better after harvesting. Both varieties were pretty; *Cherokee* is dark maroon while *Chrystal* is green with maroon edges/veining. *Cherokee* would add good color to any salad.

Cherokee 2 ★★★★★ 😞 🐞 MN
Chrystal 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞

Chrystal had better taste and attractiveness. Everyone in the family felt that *Cherokee* tasted very bitter. We didn't care for it as a salad and didn't like it on BLTs. *Chrystal* tasted better but was also slightly bitter. Neither variety bolted much.

Cherokee 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 NE
Chrystal 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠

Both varieties germinated satisfactorily. Both had healthy plants with beautiful leaves. Both varieties were slow to bolt; *Chrystal* bolting slightly later. *Cherokee* had larger plants. *Chrystal* was sweeter (less bitter) longer.

Cherokee 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠 SE
Chrystal 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠

Both varieties were very good tasting. *Chrystal* was easier to harvest as it grew from a single base like romaine. *Chrystal* bolted first but this was not until mid-August. *Cherokee* produced a higher yield. The second cuttings of both varieties tasted very bitter from the heat.

***Cherokee* and its dark red leaves were especially beautiful, but *Chrystal* and its predominantly green leaves tasted better.**

Prefer Chrystal (continued)

Cherokee 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Chrystal 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Chrystal excelled in all traits.

Cherokee 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Chrystal 8 ★★★★★ 😊 NC

Chrystal germinated better, produced the first yield, and performed slightly better. Both varieties tasted bitter to me.

Cherokee 5 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Chrystal 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Cherokee didn't bolt until mid-August. While everyone thought *Cherokee* was a pretty accent lettuce, nobody wanted to eat a whole bowl of it. We thought both varieties were bitter.

Cherokee 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Chrystal 7 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The germination of *Cherokee* was great. I had to replant *Chrystal*. *Cherokee* produced the first heads. Both varieties resisted bolting, and I enjoyed lettuce until late August. I liked the color of *Chrystal* better.

Cherokee 8 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Chrystal 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were beautiful additions to my garden this year. We were amazed how long it took the plants to bolt! By far *Chrystal* outperformed with flavor and crunch!

Cherokee 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Chrystal 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

We loved the coloring of *Chrystal*. Both varieties were delicious and did not bolt at all. We kept picking into early November! It has been a wonderful year for lettuce.

Cherokee 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Chrystal 10 ★★★★★ 😊 NW

I preferred the color of *Chrystal*, although *Cherokee* provided a nice touch of color in salads. *Chrystal* had more crunch and its taste was mild.

Cherokee 7 ★★★★★ ☹️ -
Chrystal 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Chrystal leaves were more attractive and tasted better.

No Preference

Cherokee 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Chrystal 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ MN

I did not like the taste of either variety; both were bitter. I probably planted too late [May 27] for my area, as both tasted bitter, especially compared to my *Buttercrunch* planted earlier.

Cherokee 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Chrystal 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SE

We had great success with both varieties.

Cherokee 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Chrystal 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Both varieties germinated poorly, were very slow to mature, and then got bitter easily.

Cherokee 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Chrystal 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties were amazing! They were beautiful. They produced throughout the summer, were crisp and delicious! It was fun to enjoy fresh lettuce for salads all summer long. I didn't notice differences, and I couldn't have been more pleased with the results.

Conclusions

Both varieties received high ratings; their strengths and weaknesses seemed to complement one another. *Chrystal* was ready to be harvested earlier, but *Cherokee* produced higher yields overall. *Cherokee* and its dark red leaves were especially beautiful, but *Chrystal* and its predominantly green leaves tasted better. The use of *Cherokee* as an accent lettuce for salads was mentioned. Both varieties resisted bolting with *Cherokee* showing exceptional resistance. Gardeners were evenly split on their preferred variety.

***Chrystal* was ready to be harvested earlier, but *Cherokee* produced higher yields overall.**

Melon, Cantaloupe

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Atlantis

82 days. Large, 7-pound fruits. Deep-orange flesh is sweet, firm and flavorful.

Olympic Express

75 days. Flesh has great taste, excellent firmness and gorgeous interior color. Six-pound fruits.



Data

Gardeners at 43 sites submitted information.

Trait	Olympic Express		
	Atlantis	Express	Same
Germinated best	50%	18%	32%
Healthier plants	42	11	47
Harvested earlier	48	48	3
Higher yields	39	39	21
More attractive	52	15	33
Tasted better	39	10	52
Preference	78	22	
Recommend (☺)	73	41	
Mean score ¹	7.14	5.54	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Atlantis

Atlantis 9★★★★★☺🐞
Olympic Express 1★★★★★☹ MN

Atlantis performed far and away better. It had substantially larger plants. *Atlantis* produced a high yield of melons with juicy, sweet flavor. More than one person that I shared with said it was the best cantaloupe they've ever had. I struggled to find a melon on the *Olympic Express* plants.

Atlantis 7★★★★★☺🐞
Olympic Express 3★★★★★☹ MN

Atlantis had earlier, larger melons.

Atlantis 3★★★★★☹🐞
Olympic Express 2★★★★★☹ MN

Atlantis germinated better and was healthier, but neither variety produced any fruit.

Atlantis 10★★★★★☺ -
Olympic Express 6★★★★★☹ MN

Atlantis germinated better. It produced larger, more attractive melons. *Olympic Express* melons ripened earlier.

Atlantis 8★★★★★☺🐞
Olympic Express 3★★★★★☹ MN

Atlantis was better in all traits. We only got two plants from *Olympic Express*, and they produced a total of two edible melons.

Atlantis 8★★★★★☺🐞
Olympic Express 1★★★★★☹ NE

Atlantis had a good germination rate and produced sweet, flavorful melons. *Olympic Express* was the opposite. *Olympic Express* had a very poor germination rate. I had to re-start the seeds three times and ultimately ended up with one seedling. I got three healthy *Atlantis* seedlings. The two melons I got from *Olympic Express* were very small with very thick webbing and very little flesh inside. *Atlantis* produced four melons that were sweet and flavorful. Both varieties were planted on arched trellises. *Atlantis* climbed better.

Atlantis 8★★★★★☺🐞
Olympic Express 6★★★★★☹ SE

Even though *Olympic Express* produced more melons, the taste of *Atlantis* was so sweet and good — great flavor.

Atlantis performed far better than Olympic Express.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers

Athena
Dakota Sisters
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Prefer Atlantis (continued)

Atlantis 8★★★★★😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★★😞🐞 SE

Both varieties germinated poorly [sown May 9]. *Olympic Express* germinated better and ripened about 1 week earlier than *Atlantis*. *Atlantis* produced about 20% more melons. *Atlantis* melons were larger and had good color. *Olympic Express* melons were smaller and had greenish color. Both varieties were tasty and very sweet.

Atlantis 2★★★★★😞🐞🏠
Olympic Express 1★★★★★😞🐞 SE

Atlantis germinated well and had healthy plants. It produced six good-sized melons. These melons ripened unevenly and tasted very bland. *Olympic Express* barely germinated and produced no ripe melons. *Olympic Express* set two tiny melons that ripened on the vine. My other melon varieties in the garden did poorly as well.

Atlantis 4★★★★★😞🐞
Olympic Express 3★★★★★😞🐞 SE

Atlantis germinated better and produced the first ripe melons. *Olympic Express* was very slow to grow. We did not have a lot of luck this year with our melons. We harvested only a few melons, and we missed the ripeness window.

Atlantis 8★★★★★😊🏠
Olympic Express 7★★★★★😞 NC
Olympic Express ripened earlier but *Atlantis* produced more melons.

Atlantis 4★★★★★😞 -
Olympic Express 1★★★★★😞 NC
Atlantis was the only variety that produced ripe fruits.

Atlantis 4★★★★★😞🐞
Olympic Express 3★★★★★😞 NC
The melons of both varieties were very small. *Atlantis* had more flowers.

Atlantis 10★★★★★😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★★😞 NC
Most of the *Olympic Express* melons split and rotted as soon as they became ripe.

Atlantis 9★★★★★😊🐞
Olympic Express 3★★★★★😞 NC

We replanted both varieties on June 7. *Atlantis* melons were beautiful and had a great texture. *Atlantis* gave us 4 good melons that ripened on the vine. They were yummy! The melons of *Olympic Express* split before getting ripe enough to eat.

Atlantis 8★★★★★😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★★😊 NC
Atlantis produced larger melons.

Atlantis 8★★★★★😊🏠
Olympic Express 7★★★★★😊 SC
Atlantis had better flavor.

Atlantis 3★★★★★😞🐞
Olympic Express 2★★★★★😞 SC

There were no ripe melons. I sowed on May 30. The seeds germinated well and then stayed small. We had a cold snap in late spring and a frost early in fall. Looking back, I wish I would have started them in the house and waited until mid-June to plant outside. But how do you plan on frost in June? Ha ha. *Atlantis* had a slightly higher germination rate and its plants looked marginally better.

Atlantis 10★★★★★😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★★😊 SC

Both varieties produced several fruits. *Atlantis* fruits were firmer, larger and oblong in shape. *Olympic Express* fruits often rotted on the vine.

Atlantis 9★★★★★😊 -
Olympic Express 8★★★★★😊 SC

Both varieties were very good. Both varieties were sweet with lots of flavor; *Atlantis* had a slightly better flavor. It would be nice to try both again to see if starting the plants earlier and indoors would be beneficial to production.

**Atlantis
germinated
better and had
healthier vines.
It was a more
reliable
producer
across
locations.**

Prefer Atlantis (continued)

Atlantis 10★★★★★😊🐞
Olympic Express 6★★★★☆😊SC

Atlantis was perfect. *Atlantis* ripened earlier, produced more melons, and its melons were a larger size. The melons of *Olympic Express* were smaller (4–5 inches in diameter). The melons of both varieties had excellent sweetness. *Olympic Express* would be ideal for someone who wants a compact plant with smaller melons.

Atlantis 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★☆😊SC

Both varieties produced many ripe melons that tasted good. This may be a coincidence, but slugs ate through more of the rinds of *Olympic Express* melons than the *Atlantis* melons.

Atlantis 5★★★★☆😊🐞
Olympic Express 3★★★★☆😞SC

I had to replant both varieties in early June. Only *Atlantis* produced any melons, and they were very small.

Atlantis 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★☆😞SC

We grew this trial in a high tunnel on trellises. It took both a while to get started but once they found the trellis, the plants from both varieties really took off. We have never had so many cantaloupe! *Atlantis* was a larger fruit with a little darker color. *Olympic Express* tended to be a smaller fruit suited for single servings.

Atlantis 9★★★★☆😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★☆😊NW

Atlantis vines were more vigorous. I think this led to its higher yields. The melons of both varieties were attractive. *Atlantis* melons had better flavor. They were very sweet with a pleasing, soft texture; so juicy!

Atlantis 10★★★★★😊🐞
Olympic Express 8★★★★☆😞SW

Due to planting late in the season [July 1], the plants were not able to produce full-grown fruit. However, *Atlantis* was able to produce some small fruits.

Atlantis 2★★★★☆😞🐞
Olympic Express 1★★★★☆😞SW

Both varieties were slow at germinating [sown May 15]. The plants didn't really grow, and there were no fruits.

Atlantis 9★★★★☆😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★☆😞SD

Both varieties were very good. The melons ripened fast in the heat. It was hard to eat them all so my friends received many. *Olympic Express* produced earlier and higher yields. *Atlantis* tasted better.

Atlantis 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Olympic Express 7★★★★☆😊SD

Atlantis had more melons. Its melons were smaller, not as uniform, sweet and refrigerated better. *Olympic Express* produced four big melons. Its melons had a sweeter taste.

Prefer Olympic Express

Atlantis 9★★★★☆😞🐞
Olympic Express 10★★★★★😊SE

We were so impressed by the size and quality of the *Olympic Express* melons. *Olympic Express* germinated better, produced first, produced one more melon (10% more), and had the largest two melons. Our family couldn't decide which variety tasted better.

Atlantis 7★★★★☆😊🐞
Olympic Express 8★★★★☆😊SE

I chose *Olympic Express* over *Atlantis* due to the firmer texture and sweeter taste of its fruits. Twelve of 15 taste testers preferred *Olympic Express*. *Olympic Express* produced more but smaller fruits. *Olympic Express* produced 14 fruits (total weight of 31.5 pounds) while *Atlantis* produced 5 fruits (total weight of 25.7 pounds). Overall, these hybrids were pretty similar to each other; both had slightly less flavor and productivity compared to other varieties I have grown.

**Atlantis
melons were
attractive,
sweet and
flavorful.**

Prefer Olympic Express (continued)

Atlantis 8★★★★☆ 😊 📦
Olympic Express 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Olympic Express produced melons about 1 week earlier than *Atlantis*. *Olympic Express* produced a higher yield, but *Atlantis* melons were a bit larger.

Atlantis 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Olympic Express 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Olympic Express had more melons, bigger melons and better flavor.

Atlantis 9★★★★☆ 😊 🕒
Olympic Express 10★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Olympic Express produced first and provided high yields.

Atlantis 9★★★★☆ 😊 📦
Olympic Express 10★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Olympic Express melons matured faster.

Atlantis 7★★★★☆ 😊 -
Olympic Express 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW
Olympic Express produced earlier and higher yields.

Atlantis 1★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Olympic Express 3★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Olympic Express produced four melons, all the size of a baseball. *Atlantis* did not produce any melons. Weather was prohibiting good growth.

Conclusions

Atlantis performed far better than *Olympic Express*. It germinated better and had healthier vines. *Atlantis* melons were attractive, sweet and flavorful. *Atlantis* was a more reliable producer across locations. The varieties produced similar yields, and their melons ripened at the same time.

The varieties produced similar yields, and their melons ripened at the same time.

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

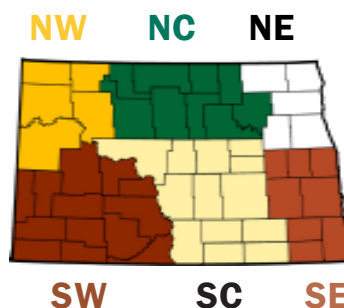
Comments →
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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

Locations

- MN = Minnesota
- NE = Northeast
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- SD = South Dakota
- MB = Manitoba
- SK = Saskatchewan



Okra, Green

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Clemson Spineless 80

60 days. Dark green pods stay spineless and non-woody. Good yields on 4-foot plants. Popular.

Jambalaya 2.0

50 days. Compact plants produce good yields of uniform, shiny, dark green, 5-pointed pods. Early.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Clem. Sp. 80	Jambal. 2.0	Same
Germinated best	14%	50%	36%
Healthier plants	14	64	21
Harvested earlier	21	64	14
Higher yields	15	85	0
More attractive pods	23	46	31
Tasted better	21	36	43
Preference	29	71	
Recommend (😊)	57	79	
Mean score ¹	5.29	6.58	
Median score ¹	6.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Clemson Spineless 80

Clemson Sp. 80 9★★★★★😊🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 7★★★★★😊MN

Clemson Spineless 80 plants were spineless, and its pods were more tender.

Clemson Sp. 80 6★★★★★😊🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 4★★★★★😊SE

This was a very poor year for okra. *Clemson Spineless 80* performed a bit better.

Clemson Sp. 80 8★★★★★😊🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 1★★★★★😞NC

Jambalaya 2.0 did very poor. The plants did not get very high, and they did not yield good fruit. The fruit was tough and woody even when picked small. This could be due to the weather this year, but overall *Clemson Spineless 80* was more reliable for production and growth.

Clemson Sp. 80 9★★★★★😊🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 6★★★★★😞NW

When transplanted in garden, the survival rate was 50% for *Jambalaya 2.0* and 90% *Clemson Spineless 80*. The plants of *Clemson Spineless 80* were healthy and showed vigorous growth.

Prefer Jambalaya 2.0

Clemson Sp. 80 6★★★★★😊🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 7★★★★★😊MN

Jambalaya 2.0 produced more. Plants in the trial were struck with fungus.

Clemson Sp. 80 3★★★★★😞🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 8★★★★★😊MN

This trial was grown in 20-gallon containers. The plants of *Clemson Spineless 80* were large but produced poorly. *Jambalaya 2.0* grew into short, 3-foot plants that produced higher yields. *Jambalaya 2.0* pods were more attractive and tasted better.

Okra demands heat. This growing season was warmer than normal, but neither variety was outstanding.

Best green okra varieties

Top choice
Jambalaya 2.0

Strong performers
Buffalo Bill 91
Clemson
Spineless 80

Prefer Jambalaya 2.0 (continued)

Clemson Sp. 80 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

Jambalaya 2.0 germinated at near 80% compared to 50% for *Clemson Spineless 80*. *Jambalaya 2.0* plants were shorter with a nice green foliage; *Clemson Spineless 80* plants were taller but yellow. *Jambalaya 2.0* produced a lot more pods. Its pods were dark green and perfectly formed but needed to be picked when small or they became very tough. *Clemson Spineless 80* tasted better.

Clemson Sp. 80 1★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 6★★★★☆ ☹️ SE

Clemson Spineless 80 did not germinate. Only three plants of *Jambalaya 2.0* germinated. Last year we had so much okra! What a difference.

Clemson Sp. 80 3★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 7★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Jambalaya 2.0 produced more. Its pods had a more consistent size and were great for pickling.

Clemson Sp. 80 3★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 5★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Jambalaya 2.0 grew better. The pods of *Clemson Spineless 80* did not get tough as fast. Overall, the varieties were very much alike.

Clemson Sp. 80 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 10★★★★★ 😊 SC

I had higher yields with *Jambalaya 2.0*.

Clemson Sp. 80 1★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Jambalaya 2.0 was healthier, more productive and better tasting. Its pods were darker green, crisper and had very nice flavor. *Clemson Spineless 80* plants were 30% taller.

Clemson Sp. 80 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 7★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both varieties started producing very late in the season. *Clemson Spineless 80* produced earlier, but *Jambalaya 2.0* produced much more after it started going. These varieties did not hold up to cold weather well.

Clemson Sp. 80 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Jambalaya 2.0 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

This was my first time growing okra. *Jambalaya 2.0* grew better from the start. Its plants produced more pods.

Conclusions

Okra demands heat. This growing season was warmer than normal, but neither variety was outstanding. The promising variety *Jambalaya 2.0* outperformed the standard variety *Clemson Spineless 80* in all traits. It germinated better. Its compact plants were easy to manage and produced more pods. Gardeners differed on which pods tasted better. More gardeners preferred the darker green, crisper pods of *Jambalaya 2.0*.

The promising variety *Jambalaya 2.0* outperformed the standard variety *Clemson Spineless 80* in all 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)
★★★★★ 😊
★★★★☆ ☹️

Garden type
NC

Location

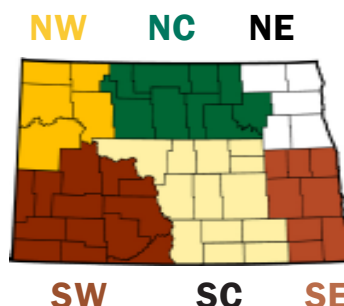
Comments
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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Pumpkin, Large Round

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Big Doris

100 days. Disease-resistant vines produce good yields of uniformly shaped, 30-pound, round fruits with burnt orange color.

Dynasty

95 days. Dark orange, 40-pound fruits. Semi-bush, productive vines resist powdery mildew.



Data

Gardeners at 37 sites submitted information.

Trait	Big Doris	Dynasty	Same
Germinated best	10%	27%	63%
Healthier plants	10	23	67
Harvested earlier	33	37	30
Higher yields	41	38	21
Bigger pumpkins	48	28	24
More attractive	37	17	47
Preference	61	39	
Recommend (😊)	80	77	
Mean score ¹	7.87	7.47	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Big Doris

Big Doris 10★★★★★😊🐞
Dynasty 2★★★★★😞MN

Big Doris was the perfect, large, classic pumpkin, but they were heavy! Beautiful, dark orange color with ridged skin. Very thick stems. Well proportioned. I would plant this one again in a heartbeat. *Dynasty* plants were smaller and bushier with only one pumpkin per plant. *Big Doris* plants were larger and more vining with at least three pumpkins per plant.

Big Doris 9★★★★★😊🏠
Dynasty 8★★★★★😊MN

Dynasty matured much earlier, but its production was lower. *Big Doris* produced later but its pumpkins were beautiful in shape and color. *Big Doris* pumpkins were consistently round — very traditional shape. *Big Doris* plants stayed healthy and green late into the season.

Big Doris 9★★★★★😊🏠
Dynasty 7★★★★★😞NE

Big Doris produced fewer pumpkins, but these pumpkins were much bigger and deeper orange than those of *Dynasty*. *Big Doris* pumpkins were blemish-free and a perfect size for carving. The vines of *Big Doris* were larger and longer. *Dynasty* had a more compact plant with less vining. The pumpkins of *Dynasty* were smaller, lighter orange and round; quite a few of its pumpkins had scars and blemishes.

Big Doris 9★★★★★😊🐞
Dynasty 8★★★★★😊SE

Both varieties produced great-looking pumpkins; *Big Doris* pumpkins ripened earlier and looked a little better. Both varieties produced pumpkins over 20 pounds. *Dynasty* pumpkins were slightly larger, and *Dynasty* produced a higher yield.

Both varieties received solid ratings. Most gardeners preferred *Big Doris*.

Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Large Marge

Strong performers
Big Doris
Big Loretta
Denali

Prefer Big Doris (continued)

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 7★★★★☆ 😞 NC

Big Doris produced more and bigger pumpkins. Pumpkins of both varieties are still green (end of September). Both varieties produced a lot of flowers that just fell off.

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

We had a short growing season due to a late frost in June and an early frost in fall. We only had two full-sized, ripe pumpkins before the killing frost; both were *Big Doris*. *Big Doris* pumpkins were bigger and more attractive. *Dynasty* produced a decent yield.

Big Doris 6★★★★☆ 😞 -
 Dynasty 4★★★★☆ 😞 SC

I had no powdery mildew in my garden except for these pumpkins. *Big Doris* produced a higher yield. Its pumpkins were bigger and prettier.

Big Doris 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

We loved *Big Doris*. Its pumpkins grew beautifully. We were impressed that the fruits stayed firm even with our wet fall. We were worried that they may get soft or run into problems with the amount of moisture that we received that we normally don't get in the fall, but they did great. The shape of *Big Doris* pumpkins was more tall than round for us.

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 7★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Big Doris pumpkins were slightly larger, had a nice shape and were taller.

Big Doris 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

These were great pumpkin varieties. They grew well. The pumpkins of *Big Doris* were bigger with a nice shape.

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 6★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Big Doris produced a higher yield.

Big Doris 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Dynasty 4★★★★☆ 😞 SW

The pumpkins of *Big Doris* looked more attractive. The vines of both varieties had powdery mildew.

Big Doris 5★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Dynasty 3★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Big Doris germinated first and produced the first ripe pumpkins. *Big Doris* pumpkins were bigger and more attractive.

Big Doris 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Both varieties were great. *Big Doris* produced a huge number of great pumpkins.

Big Doris 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Dynasty 6★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Big Doris pumpkins matured faster than *Dynasty* pumpkins by a good 10–12 days. This is important because we never know how long the good weather will hold out.

Big Doris 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Big Doris had heavy handles, uniformly shaped fruit, and many pumpkins. *Dynasty* produced bigger fruits. I picked 35 pumpkins between both varieties.

Big Doris 10★★★★★ 😊 -
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Both varieties produced so many pumpkins. *Big Doris* produced two more than *Dynasty*. I have never had a better crop of pumpkins.

Prefer Dynasty

Big Doris 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Dynasty 10★★★★★ 😞 MN

Both had very pretty fruits. *Dynasty* had higher yields. We preferred the shape of the *Dynasty* pumpkins and they averaged 20 pounds. *Big Doris* pumpkins averaged 16 pounds.

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

Dynasty produced more fruits.

***Big Doris* pumpkins had a classic, round shape with deep orange color and thick handles.**

Prefer Dynasty (continued)

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Dynasty produced a couple more pumpkins.

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Big Doris germinated first at a rate of 90%, but in the next 2 days had a die-off for unknown reasons. I was left with four plants; they thrived and produced 13 large/tall fruit. *Dynasty* germinated a week later at 80% and all survived; they produced 15 large-medium/round fruit. I preferred the shape of the *Dynasty* fruits. I enjoyed watching the pumpkins take over my garden! Both varieties were killed by frost on September 6.

Big Doris 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Dynasty matured earlier and produced bigger fruits.

Big Doris 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 6★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Neither variety produced a lot of pumpkins, but they were large! The *Dynasty* pumpkins had a nicer shape.

Big Doris 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Dynasty had slightly better germination. The pumpkins it produced were exceptional. I would definitely grow this variety again.

Big Doris 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Dynasty produced very nice, round pumpkins of good size.

Big Doris 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
 Dynasty 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties grew well. *Dynasty* had larger plants, more blossoms and more pumpkins. *Big Doris* had lots of blooms but didn't produce pumpkins.

Big Doris 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Dynasty 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The seedlings of both varieties had to be covered for several nights during the cool May weather. They had healthy vines and grew very nice pumpkins. *Dynasty* vines produced earlier and were very productive; its pumpkins were a nice size and shape. Both varieties had powdery mildew.

Big Doris 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Dynasty pumpkins were smaller but had more uniform shape. *Big Doris* pumpkins had better stems and were larger (largest was 22 pounds), but some of the pumpkins had odd shapes/flat sides. I did have some trouble with insects and used Sevin once. All the vines in the trial seemed to die early and the pumpkins turned orange very early — about a month earlier than my other varieties.

No Preference

Big Doris 10★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
 Dynasty 10★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties were excellent.

Big Doris 1★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Dynasty 1★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

Each variety produced two ripe pumpkins and two green/yellow pumpkins. The fruits reached weights of 35 to 40 pounds. I recommend neither variety because their yield is too little for the space required. Both produced a lot of male flowers and just a few female flowers.

Conclusions

Both varieties received solid ratings. Most gardeners preferred *Big Doris*. The pumpkins of *Big Doris* were bigger and judged to be more beautiful at more sites. *Big Doris* pumpkins had a classic, round shape with deep orange color and thick handles. Both varieties produced pumpkins weighing 20 pounds or more. Yields were comparable. *Dynasty* vines were more compact. Both varieties are reported to resist powdery mildew; however, the fungus was detected at several locations.

Both varieties produced pumpkins weighing 20 pounds or more. Yields were comparable.

Pumpkin, Large Tall

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Big Loretta

100 days. Dark orange fruits may grow 50 pounds. Fruits are tall and uniform in shape. Large, strong handles. Ripens early.

Early Giant

95 days. Dark orange, 30-pound, slightly tall pumpkins perfect for carving. Resists powdery mildew. Matures early.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Big Loretta	Early Giant	Same
Germinated best	25%	0%	75%
Healthier plants	37	0	63
Harvested earlier	50	25	25
Higher yields	50	25	25
Bigger pumpkins	53	13	33
More attractive	40	20	40
Preference	67	33	
Recommend (😊)	84	68	
Mean score ¹	7.37	6.26	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Big Loretta

Big Loretta 9★★★★★😊🏠
Early Giant 8★★★★★😊MN

These are two very nice varieties. Both germinated well and had vigorous growth. *Big Loretta* turned orange earlier. It also had fruits that were slightly more rounded. *Early Giant* had slightly larger fruits and a darker orange color. Most pumpkins in the trial weighed between 35–50 pounds; the largest was an *Early Giant* that weighed 61 pounds. I liked the darker orange color of *Early Giant*. My wife liked the slightly more rounded shape of *Big Loretta*.

Big Loretta 8★★★★★😊🏠
Early Giant 7★★★★★😊MN

Big Loretta vines were more branched and viny. The pumpkins of these varieties were very similar in size and shape. The pumpkins were large, well-shaped, and had a little bit of green on the rinds. I liked them both.

Big Loretta 3★★★★★😊🐛
Early Giant 1★★★★★😞NE

Early Giant plants did not produce fruit.

Big Loretta 8★★★★★😊🐛
Early Giant 6★★★★★😞SE

Big Loretta was late producing but much better. Its fruits averaged around 24 pounds, 5 pounds more than *Early Giant*. *Big Loretta* produced higher yields, and its fruits were more attractive. *Big Loretta* vines were long.

Big Loretta 9★★★★★😊🐛
Early Giant 7★★★★★😞SE

Big Loretta had beautiful plants. Its pumpkins made great jack-o'-lanterns and decorations. *Early Giant* pumpkins were a little "skinny" and were not as attractive. We enjoyed eating the seeds of *Big Loretta*, too.

Big Loretta 8★★★★★😊🏠
Early Giant 4★★★★★😞SE

Big Loretta pumpkins were bigger and had a nicer shape.

Big Loretta matured earlier, had bigger pumpkins and produced higher yields.

Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Large Marge

Strong performers
Big Doris
Big Loretta
Denali

Prefer Big Loretta (continued)

Big Loretta 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Early Giant 2★★★★☆ 😞 SE

Big Loretta produced three fruits that were very attractive. *Early Giant* produced none.

Big Loretta 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠 🍷
Early Giant 7★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Big Loretta performed much better in almost every category. It had very large pumpkins.

Big Loretta 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Early Giant 6★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Big Loretta had larger but not as many pumpkins. *Early Giant* matured earlier.

Big Loretta 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Early Giant 5★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Big Loretta vines grew more quickly and produced first. It was fun to watch! *Big Loretta* produced three times more yield, and its pumpkins were larger.

Big Loretta 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Early Giant 7★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Big Loretta pumpkins were more consistently tall. *Early Giant* pumpkins were big but more round. *Big Loretta* matured earlier and produced more pumpkins.

Big Loretta 4★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Early Giant 2★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Neither variety set a fruit.

Prefer Early Giant

Big Loretta 5★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Early Giant 7★★★★☆ 😊 MN

I planted these later than I would have liked [June 2] and got only one pumpkin from *Early Giant* and none from *Big Loretta*. Many other pumpkin varieties in my garden that were planted at the same time produced fine. The vines of *Big Loretta* and *Early Giant* were healthy, grew well and appeared to be very resistant to powdery mildew.

Big Loretta 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Early Giant 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

We got multiple pumpkins off the *Early Giant* plants.

Big Loretta 4★★★★☆ 😞 -
Early Giant 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

I had to prune the leaves so the sun could get to the pumpkins. Once I did that, they matured. *Early Giant* matured first and the skin of its pumpkins was smoother. *Big Loretta* had tons of vines but very few — albeit huge — fruit.

Big Loretta 7★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Early Giant 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

These varieties were very similar! The pumpkins of *Early Giant* were bigger and a little better looking.

Big Loretta 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Early Giant 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties produced nice, 30–60 pound pumpkins. They were great for carving. *Early Giant* pumpkins were a little more upright, whereas *Big Loretta* pumpkins were a little more rounded but still upright. *Early Giant* produced more pumpkins per plant.

Big Loretta 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Early Giant 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The pumpkins of both varieties were nice, but those of *Early Giant* were darker orange and had a better shape.

No Preference

Big Loretta 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Early Giant 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

These two varieties were completely identical in all ways!

Conclusions

Early Giant has performed well in previous trials, but *Big Loretta* stole the spotlight this year. *Big Loretta* matured earlier, had bigger pumpkins and produced higher yields. Pumpkins that weighed 30 pounds or more were common. The dark orange color of *Early Giant* pumpkins was attractive, but most gardeners preferred the overall look of *Big Loretta* pumpkins. The vines of both varieties were healthy, and the vines of *Big Loretta* were especially vigorous.

The dark orange color of *Early Giant* pumpkins was attractive, but most gardeners preferred the overall look of *Big Loretta* pumpkins.

Pumpkin, Extra Large

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Apogee

95 days. Fifty-pound fruits have fine color, good handles and a unique, rough skin. Disease-resistant, vigorous vines.

Denali

95 days. Dark orange fruits with good handles and well-defined ribbing. High yields. Disease-resistant, vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Apogee	Denali	Same
Germinated best	14%	29%	57%
Healthier plants	0	30	70
Harvested earlier	14	43	43
Higher yields	13	38	50
Bigger pumpkins	25	50	25
More attractive	13	38	50
Preference	38	63	
Recommend (☺)	67	100	
Mean score ¹	7.22	8.56	
Median score ¹	8.00	9.00	

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

Prefer Apogee

Apogee 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Denali 7★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Both were easy to grow. *Denali* had more female flowers, but *Apogee* produced more fruit, a higher yield and large pumpkins. The pumpkins of both varieties had a great shape and color when ripe.

Apogee 9★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Denali 8★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Apogee did better. It produced bigger pumpkins.

Apogee 9★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Denali 8★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Apogee had better germination (10 out of 10 seeds germinated; *Denali* had 7 out of 10 seeds germinate).

Prefer Denali

Apogee 2★★★★☆ ☹ 🐞
Denali 9★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Denali produced more beautiful and bigger pumpkins, including one that weighed 32 pounds. *Denali* vines were healthier and more productive.

Apogee 9★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Denali 10★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Both varieties were good. *Denali* was earlier maturing and produced bigger pumpkins.

Apogee 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Denali 9★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Both varieties yielded several 30-pound pumpkins; the heaviest was a 34-pound *Apogee*. *Denali* pumpkins were rounder and more attractive. I am using the large pumpkins for decoration and cooking the smaller *Denali* pumpkins for pie.

Apogee 4★★★★☆ ☹ 🐞
Denali 8★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Denali did better. It produced more pumpkins. Its pumpkins were bigger and more attractive.

Apogee 8★★★★☆ ☹ 🐞
Denali 9★★★★☆ ☺ SW

Both were great. *Denali* produced the two biggest pumpkins.

Both varieties received good ratings, but *Denali* was preferred by more gardeners. Every gardener recommended *Denali*.

Best large pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Large Marge

Strong performers
Big Doris
Big Loretta
Denali

No Preference

Apogee 9★★★★★😊🐞
Denali 9★★★★★😊SC

Both varieties had nice fruit and good yields. We had deer in our pumpkin patch. The deer ate the giant pumpkins but did not eat these; the thicker skin of these pumpkins likely deterred them.

Conclusions

Both varieties received good ratings. *Denali* was earlier maturing and produced bigger pumpkins at more sites. *Denali* pumpkins that weighed 30 pounds or more were common. More gardeners preferred the looks of *Denali* pumpkins as well. Every gardener recommended *Denali*. The unique characteristic of *Apogee* pumpkins is their rough, pebbled skin, but none of our gardeners thought that quality was worth mentioning whether good or bad. Both varieties are reported to resist diseases, and there was no mention of diseases in a summer conducive for powdery mildew and other diseases.

***Denali* pumpkins matured earlier, were bigger, and were judged to be more attractive at more sites.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

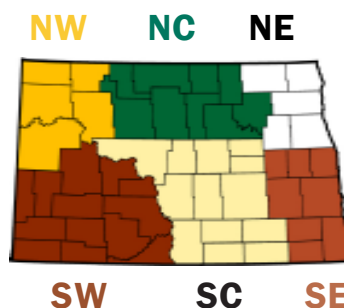
Ratings (1 to 10) →
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
★★★★★😊
★★★★★😞

Garden type →
🐞 = 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
SD = South Dakota
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan

Pumpkin, Giant

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Big Moose

110 days. Bright, orange-red fruits with lighter streaking and ribbing. Avg. 50 to 125 pounds. Long vines.

Grower's Giant

100 days. Fruits will grow 50 to 200 pounds. Good orange color. Disease-resistant, vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Big Moose	Grower's Giant	Same
Germinated best	25%	38%	38%
Healthier plants	13	33	53
Harvested earlier	14	43	43
Higher yields	15	46	38
Bigger pumpkins	31	46	23
More attractive	23	31	46
Preference	36	64	
Recommend (😊)	50	75	
Mean score ¹	5.07	5.57	
Median score ¹	5.00	5.50	

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

Prefer Big Moose

Big Moose 6★★★★☆😊🐞
Grower's Giant 5★★★★☆😊MN

The rain did a number on all my pumpkins this year. *Big Moose* ripened first.

Big Moose 8★★★★☆😊🏠
Grower's Giant 2★★★★☆😞SE

Grower's Giant did not produce fruit. *Big Moose* produced two beautiful pumpkins. One weighed 46 pounds with the other coming in around 10 pounds. They were not as large as I expected or hoped, but they were absolutely beautiful. The 46-pound pumpkin was a particularly wonderful specimen. It was tall and deeply creased.

Big Moose 10★★★★★😊🐞
Grower's Giant 8★★★★☆😊NC

I preferred *Big Moose* because of its vibrant and rough exterior in addition to its size. Each vine was only allowed one fruit. Using drip irrigation, the first fruits were grown until October 15. *Big Moose* was bright orange with a pleasantly rough skin and had a thick vine. *Grower's Giant* was slightly less vibrant but very smooth skin and had thinner vines. *Big Moose* grew a 44-pound pumpkin on its side, *Grower's Giant* grew a 34-pound upright pumpkin.

Big Moose 6★★★★☆😊🏠
Grower's Giant 5★★★★☆😊SC

Big Moose germinated better. It was a different growing year due to weather.

Big Moose 10★★★★★😊🐞
Grower's Giant 9★★★★☆😊SC

While both varieties performed well, I would plant *Big Moose* again. *Big Moose* produced more pumpkins, and they were much larger than those of *Grower's Giant*. One of them was about 75 pounds.

The pumpkins of *Big Moose* had a deeper orange color and better handles.

Best giant pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Grower's Giant

Strong performers
Dill's Atlantic Giant

Prefer Grower's Giant

Big Moose 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 MN
 Grower's Giant 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛

Both varieties produced three pumpkins that were small/medium in size but heavy. The pumpkins of *Grower's Giant* were similar in size and shape; round with light orange speckles. *Big Moose* pumpkins were inconsistent in size and shape; one had warty bumps.

Big Moose 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 NE
 Grower's Giant 3 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛

Big Moose did not germinate.

Big Moose 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 SE
 Grower's Giant 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛

Big Moose did not germinate. The pumpkins of *Grower's Giant* were a lovely, peach-orange, but they were not giant. They carved well but had weak stems.

Big Moose 4 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 SE
 Grower's Giant 5 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛

Big Moose produced the biggest pumpkin at 35 pounds. *Grower's Giant* produced more pumpkins; its largest was 34 pounds.

Big Moose 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 NC
 Grower's Giant 2 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛

Grower's Giant produced more fruits. Its fruits were bigger and more attractive. *Big Moose* only produced two healthy pumpkins. These varieties got the most water we have ever given, and they had lots of rot and disease.

Big Moose 4 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 SC
 Grower's Giant 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛

The season was too short this year. We had a spring frost in June and the fall frost came in early September. The fruits did not have time to get big. *Grower's Giant* yielded better.

Big Moose 8 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 SW
 Grower's Giant 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛

Due to planting late in the season [sown July 1], the plants were not able to produce fully grown fruit. *Grower's Giant* had bigger, healthier plants and was able to produce some fruits.

Big Moose 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛 SD
 Grower's Giant 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛

These pumpkins do not have a tough green rind in their early stage of growth. They start out yellow and if it would rain or was watered well, they would start to mold and rot and totally dissolve into very little plant matter. I planted only one seed of each variety because of space available and each variety produced one very large pumpkin. They each also produced several smaller but nice-sized pumpkins. *Grower's Giant* germinated faster and visually grew the biggest specimen. I enjoyed growing these pumpkins but they are not an upright fruit. They both laid on their side when growing — definitely competition pumpkins.

No Preference

Big Moose 2 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛 NC
 Grower's Giant 2 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛

I did not have very good luck with either variety. Both took over a month to germinate, and even then, only a few seeds did. The plants were weak and small, and they did not produce very large pumpkins. I planted other varieties in the same area, and they did well.

Conclusions

The long, vigorous vines of these varieties make them more suitable for a field rather than a garden. Neither variety received impressive ratings. *Big Moose* has been our recommended giant pumpkin of the past, but more gardeners recommended *Grower's Giant* this year. It ripened earlier and produced bigger pumpkins at more sites. The pumpkins of *Big Moose* had a deeper orange color and better handles.

More gardeners recommended *Grower's Giant*. It ripened earlier and produced bigger pumpkins at more sites.

Spinach, Savoyed-Leaf

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Green Beret

43 days. Dark green, thick and glossy leaves. Good yields. Tolerates heat better than most varieties. Also called SV2157VB.

Sunangel

40 days. Fast-growing plants with dark green, crinkly leaves. Plants are upright. Tolerates heat well.



Data

Gardeners at 57 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green Beret	Sunangel	Same
Germinated best	27%	20%	53%
Healthier plants	15	22	63
Harvested earlier	29	24	47
Resisted bolting better	20	24	57
Higher yields	24	29	47
More attractive	24	24	51
Tasted better	24	17	59
Preference	44	56	
Recommend	66	66	
Mean score ¹	6.81	6.96	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	

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

Prefer Green Beret

Green Beret 9★★★★★😊🐞
Sunangel 8★★★★★😞MN

The seeds were sown on August 14. Both varieties grew well in the early fall. They showed resistance to frosty temperatures of 30–32 degrees. *Green Beret* was more productive. Its plants looked more attractive, and they showed greater resistance to insect pests.

Green Beret 6★★★★★😊🐞
Sunangel 5★★★★★😊MN

I was disappointed in the low germination of both varieties. It was only 35% [seeds were sown June 1]. *Green Beret* produced a more tender leaf and I liked its taste better.

Green Beret 8★★★★★😊🐞
Sunangel 7★★★★★😊NE

Green Beret produced earlier.

Green Beret 8★★★★★😊🐞
Sunangel 7★★★★★😊SE

Green Beret germinated 2 days earlier, grew faster, and had its first yield 4 days earlier. It produced the first yield and a higher yield. Both varieties were tasty. Both varieties bolted; *Sunangel* bolted later.

Green Beret 10★★★★★😊🐞
Sunangel 8★★★★★😞SE

We enjoyed eating both varieties. *Green Beret* had better taste and better resistance to bolting.

Green Beret 6★★★★★😞🐞
Sunangel 5★★★★★😞NC

We were disappointed in both varieties. I thought they bolted very early. We all thought the leaves of *Green Beret* looked more attractive.

Green Beret 10★★★★★😊🐞
Sunangel 4★★★★★😞NC

Both varieties germinated quickly. *Sunangel* bolted almost immediately, and its leaves were very tiny throughout the season. *Green Beret* had large leaves, very little bolting, and a high level of production until the first hard frost.

Both varieties grew well in spring and fall plantings.

Best savoyed-leaf spinach varieties

Top choice
Green Beret (SV2157VB)

Strong performers
Bloomsdale
Long Standing
Emperor
Tye

Prefer Green Beret (continued)

Green Beret 5 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 4 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Neither variety grew well for me this year. Both bolted almost right away [sown June 10].

Green Beret 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Sunangel germinated and grew fast, but *Green Beret* had twice the germination rate. *Green Beret* plants were slightly larger. Both were fast bolters [sown June 23].

Green Beret 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 7 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

These varieties were very similar and grew really well. *Green Beret* was a little more flavorful.

Green Beret 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

Green Beret germinated well but was quick to bolt. There was only two little plants of *Sunangel*.

Green Beret 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

Both varieties did very well, and I was able to cut multiple times. *Green Beret* had a slightly sweet taste; *Sunangel* seemed like any normal spinach.

Green Beret 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 5 ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

Green Beret tasted better.

Green Beret 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 4 ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

I liked the taste of *Green Beret* a lot better.

Green Beret 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Green Beret produced more spinach. It had a bushier, less upright habit and was easier to harvest. The health and taste of the varieties were equal.

Green Beret 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sunangel 9 ★★★★★ ☹️ NW

Green Beret leaves were bigger and darker green. They looked better and tasted better.

Green Beret 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 7 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

These varieties were very similar, but you could tell by visual and taste that *Green Beret* was more like a “premium” plant.

Green Beret 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 6 ★★★★★ 😊 SD

Both are very good spinach varieties! I just preferred *Green Beret*.

Green Beret 10 ★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Sunangel 8 ★★★★★ ☹️ SD

Both were excellent, germinated well and produced lots of leaves with great flavor. When the heat hit, *Green Beret* handled the heat better and stayed productive. It was later in summer when *Green Beret* started to bolt.

Prefer Sunangel

Green Beret 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 7 ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Sunangel had larger plants and leaves; it was more robust. *Sunangel* produced easily a week earlier than *Green Beret* and had more tender leaves with great spinach flavor.

Green Beret 7 ★★★★★ 😊 -
Sunangel 8 ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties tasted good. *Sunangel* produced a bit more. These varieties bolted at about the same time.

Green Beret 4 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 10 ★★★★★ 😊 NE

I prefer *Sunangel* because of the ease of growing it. *Sunangel* germinated better than *Green Beret* and therefore produced more. Both varieties tasted good.

Gardeners who preferred *Green Beret* often noted its outstanding taste.

Prefer Sunangel (continued)

Green Beret 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Green Beret germinated better (41% compared to 12% for *Sunangel*). *Green Beret* produced the first yield 6 days sooner than *Sunangel*. *Sunangel* resisted bolting better, had greater longevity and produced a higher yield. *Sunangel* plants were still producing when I cleared out my garden in mid-August.

Green Beret 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 4★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties bolted quickly, but we planted late [June 10]. *Sunangel* bolted later. *Green Beret* produced a higher yield and looked more attractive. *Sunangel* tasted better.

Green Beret 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Sunangel germinated quickly; *Green Beret* took a week longer. Both varieties had healthy, dark green plants; just a different leaf look between varieties. They both had great flavor. As the weather got warmer, there was still no bitterness. Even larger leaves were very good and crisp when used in salads. *Green Beret* resisted bolting for a long time, and I had many meals from that variety.

Green Beret 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties produced excellent yields and were slow to bolt. *Sunangel* maintained better, less bitter flavor as it got larger and matured.

Green Beret 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

These varieties were almost identical in growth. Our entire family thought *Sunangel* was more flavorful.

Green Beret 3★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SE

Sunangel was slower to bolt, but neither variety produced much harvestable leaf material before bolting. *Green Beret* bolted on July 3 and *Sunangel* bolted on July 9.

Green Beret 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐛
Sunangel 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Sunangel had a better taste and look. Both varieties bolted by July 12.

Green Beret 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

The late summer is the only time to plant spinach in North Dakota, and these two varieties work great for that time of planting. Seeds in my trial were sown on August 16 and 24. Both varieties germinated poorly. *Sunangel* had a slight edge with germination, which somewhat equated to higher yields. The plants of both varieties grew well in late summer and fall, producing lots of leaves all the way into November. There was very little flavor differences between the varieties.

Green Beret 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties performed very well and neither was significantly better. *Sunangel* started out more vigorously.

Green Beret 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties grew well. *Sunangel* germinated better but bolted 1 week earlier. Yields were similar. They tasted the same whether eaten fresh or cooked.

Green Beret 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties grew well in my raised bed. They grew at the same rate, and their yields were equal. *Sunangel* held off bolting about 5–6 days longer. Both grew well in the month of July since it was cooler than normal. My students agreed these varieties tasted the same.

Green Beret 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Sunangel 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Sunangel produced a couple days later but did not bolt as much! Both varieties had near 100% germination, healthy plants, large yields, looked similar and were delicious.

Gardeners who preferred *Sunangel* liked its robust plants and large leaves.

Prefer Sunangel (continued)

Green Beret 2 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Sunangel 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Sunangel produced longer and had larger leaves. *Green Beret* germinated better but bolted quickly.

Green Beret 5 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Sunangel 6 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Sunangel germinated slightly better. It produced earlier and higher yields. Both varieties bolted.

Green Beret 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunangel 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Sunangel plants grew bigger and produced more spinach. With its larger leaves, *Sunangel* looked more appealing. The taste wasn't that different, but *Green Beret* was noticeably sweeter.

Green Beret 7 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Sunangel 8 ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

I am not big fan of either variety. *Sunangel* had better flavor.

Green Beret 8 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Sunangel 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

We loved the finer texture and crinkly leaves of *Sunangel*. *Green Beret* resisted bolting better and produced a higher yield.

Green Beret 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunangel 7 ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Sunangel looked and tasted better. I prefer a milder spinach, so these varieties were just okay. *Sunangel* had poor germination but was quite productive. *Green Beret* germinated better and produced a higher yield.

Green Beret 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Sunangel 7 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Sunangel was healthier and produced the first yield. Both varieties tasted great until they bolted. I sure wish they lasted longer.

Green Beret 5 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Sunangel 7 ★★★★★ 😊 SD

Sunangel plants were healthier, fuller and sweet.

Green Beret 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunangel 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SD

Green Beret had rounder leaves and *Sunangel* had pointier leaves. *Green Beret* tasted a bit more bitter when eaten fresh. Both of these varieties did very well, better than my other patch of spinach.

No Preference

Green Beret 2 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🏠
Sunangel 2 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Green Beret grew more robustly with darker color. *Sunangel* plants had a more uniform size. Both varieties bolted over the July 4th weekend [sown June 5]. I wouldn't recommend either variety for warm weather conditions as they were quick to bolt in my raised bed.

Green Beret 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunangel 8 ★★★★★ 😊 NC

These varieties were similar in all traits.

Green Beret 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Sunangel 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ SC

The seeds were sown on May 25. When I got back from vacation, they had already bolted. *Sunangel* produced a higher yield.

Green Beret 9 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunangel 9 ★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both varieties were good.

Green Beret 6 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Sunangel 6 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Germination was poor for both varieties [sown June 20]. Both varieties had healthy plants that produced into September before bolting.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew well in spring and fall plantings. As expected, inconsistent germination and rapid bolting were problems in June sowings. Neither variety stood out from the other for any particular trait. Gardeners who preferred *Green Beret* often noted its outstanding taste. Gardeners who preferred *Sunangel* liked its robust plants and large leaves.

Neither variety stood out from the other for any particular trait.

Squash, Green Scallop

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Green Lightning

40 days. New! Fruits have vivid green striping and great flavor. High yields. Very early.

Starship

45 days. Shiny, dark green fruits maintain their flat shape and scalloped edges, looking like starships. Vigorous bush vines.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green Lightning	Starship	Same
Germinated best	33%	8%	58%
Healthier plants	27	9	64
Harvested earlier	45	27	27
Higher yields	27	27	45
More attractive fruits	36	45	18
Tasted better	10	10	80
Preference	62	38	
Recommend	75	83	
Mean score ¹	8.08	7.33	
Median score ¹	8.50	8.00	

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

Prefer Green Lightning

Green Lightning 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starship 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 NE

Green Lightning had much prettier fruit; though all said, I feel these varieties performed very similarly. All seeds of both varieties germinated. There was a light amount of powdery mildew on both varieties after a heavy rain, but it did not affect the plants much.

Green Lightning 6 ★★★★★★ 😊 -
Starship 5 ★★★★★★ 😊 NE

I liked the look of the *Green Lightning* fruits.

Green Lightning 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starship 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

Green Lightning fruits were beautiful, but the fruits of neither variety were very flavorful. *Green Lightning* produced for a longer time than *Starship*.

Green Lightning 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starship 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties grew very well into September when powdery mildew started. *Green Lightning* produced a few more fruits, and there were a few issues with *Starship* fruits rotting on the vine. The fruits of both varieties had good flesh, but the skin of *Starship* was tougher. I am partial to the look of the *Starship* fruits.

Green Lightning 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Starship 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Green Lightning plants were hardier. The light-green and dark-green mixed coloring of its fruits was quite attractive. The skin of *Green Lightning* fruits stayed soft and was easy to peel longer. I was surprised by the amount produced and how much each variety gave when shredded for use in baking and freezing.

Green Lightning showed an edge in germination and plant health. Its earliness was especially impressive.

Best scallop summer squash varieties

Top choice
Sunburst

Strong performer
Green
Lightning

Prefer Green Lightning (continued)

Green Lightning 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Starship 6★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

The plants of both varieties grew nicely and didn't contract mildew or blight. Several squash were produced from mid-July through the season. *Green Lightning* fruits were striped and prettier than *Starship* fruits, which were plain green. The fruits of both varieties had similar tastes, like zucchini and crookneck squashes.

Green Lightning 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Starship 1★★★★☆ ☹️ NW

Starship did not produce.

Prefer Starship

Green Lightning 8★★★★☆ ☹️ -
 Starship 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

Starship produced more.

Green Lightning 8★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Starship 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

We enjoyed both varieties. *Green Lightning* produced some misshapen fruits, but they tasted fine. *Starship* had a higher yield and healthier plants.

Green Lightning 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Starship 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Green Lightning germinated better and grew better, but *Starship* had a warmer, more intense flavor that I really liked. Neither variety produced a bumper crop; I think that was more due to weather conditions than anything else.

Green Lightning 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Starship 6★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The fruits of *Starship* looked more interesting. My family did not like the taste of either variety.

Green Lightning 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Starship 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

Starship produced a higher yield and had flatter, thinner fruits.

Conclusions

Green Lightning was preferred by most gardeners but for surprising reasons. The All-America winner is best known for the vivid striping on its fruits. Gardeners liked the looks of *Green Lightning*, but even more gardeners preferred the solid green look of *Starship* fruits. *Green Lightning* showed an edge in germination and plant health. Its fruits had a more tender skin. The earliness of *Green Lightning* was especially impressive. The yields and tastes of these varieties were similar and not remarkable.

Green Lightning is best known for the vivid striping on its fruits, but more gardeners preferred the solid green look of Starship fruits.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

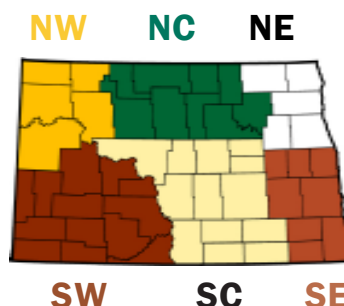
Ratings (1 to 10)
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)
 ★★★★★ 😊
 ★★★★★ ☹️

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
 SD = South Dakota
 MB = Manitoba
 SK = Saskatchewan

Squash, Green Zucchini

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Desert

50 days. High yields of straight fruits. Open plants make harvesting easy. Vines resist powdery mildew.

Kefren

50 days. Open plant habit, sparse spines, and firmly attached stems make harvesting a breeze. Medium-dark green fruits.



Data

Gardeners at 35 sites submitted information.

Trait	Desert	Kefren	Same
Germinated best	10%	32%	58%
Healthier plants	19	26	55
Harvested earlier	33	33	33
Higher yields	25	46	29
More attractive fruits	24	28	48
Tasted better	10	7	83
Preference	39	61	
Recommend (☺)	61	81	
Mean score ¹	7.35	7.84	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Desert

Desert	9★★★★★☺	🐞
Kefren	7★★★★★☺	MN

Desert fruits had thinner skin, small seeds, and was not quite as woody if it grew bigger. Its yields were a little earlier and larger. The fruits of both varieties were good for eating and baking. The lower liquid content of *Desert* fruits would make it good for grating.

Desert	10★★★★★☺	🐞
Kefren	6★★★★★☺	SE

Desert fruits were more uniform in shape and had a softer/thinner skin. The uniformity of *Desert* fruits made them easy to peel.

Desert	10★★★★★☺	🐞
Kefren	8★★★★★☺	NC

Desert had better germination. All fruits in the trial grew straight, and there was no difference in the flavor of these varieties.

Desert	10★★★★★☺	🐞
Kefren	8★★★★★☺	NC

Desert produced earlier. Its fruits had a more consistent shape. *Kefren* vines grew more upright than *Desert* vines. *Kefren* fruits were smooth, not prickly, and meaty with not as many seeds.

Desert	10★★★★★☺	🐞
Kefren	9★★★★★☺	SC

Desert fruits had a better shape and flavor. *Kefren* fruits had a teardrop shape.

Desert	10★★★★★☺	🐞
Kefren	8★★★★★☺	SC

Both varieties produced high yields. I preferred the coloring of the *Desert* fruits.

Desert	5★★★★★☺	🐞
Kefren	2★★★★★☺	SC

Although germination was good, plants for both varieties did not do well. Plants did not get very big and were never robust. I picked the few zucchinis produced when they were small, and they were nice. Water was adequate. *Desert* produced more zucchinis, though not very many, but more than *Kefren*.

Unusually wet weather led to both varieties suffering from powdery mildew late in the season, but gardeners were satisfied with overall yields.

Best green zucchini varieties

Top choice
Green
Machine

Strong performers

Cashflow
Desert
Dunja
Kefren
Payload
Raven
Spineless
Beauty

Prefer Desert (continued)

Desert 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Kefren 7★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Desert tasted better.

Desert 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

I had a higher yield with *Desert*. The zucchinis grew fast and were constantly popping up. *Kefren* did well too, but *Desert* was better.

Desert 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Kefren 6★★★★☆ 😞 SW

It was odd. Zucchini normally germinates with just a thought, but I had only one or two plants come up. It was still plenty of zucchini, but I had planted three mounds of each. *Kefren* ripened first and produced more fruits, but it got powdery mildew. *Desert* seems to still be producing, but we have several nights of frost expected this upcoming week, and I don't think they will finish off.

Desert 10★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Desert had a higher yield.

Desert 7★★★★☆ 😊 -
Kefren 5★★★★☆ 😞 SD

Desert produced more zucchini and over a longer time.

Prefer Kefren

Desert 8★★★★☆ 😊 -
Kefren 9★★★★☆ 😊 MN

These varieties were very similar. *Kefren* produced earlier and produced a little more. Its fruits had fewer seeds.

Desert 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 6★★★★☆ 😊 SE

I liked *Kefren* because its fruits were longer, thinner and had fewer seeds. *Desert* fruits were short and plump. I've had much better zucchini varieties from prior trials, but I may need to replenish some nutrients in my garden soil.

Desert 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Kefren 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

We had terrible germination. *Kefren* germinated better, was healthier, produced a higher yield and had better looking fruits.

Desert 3★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Kefren produced a nice amount of fruits that were tasty.

Desert 2★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 5★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Kefren produced better.

Desert 7★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 10★★★★★ 😊 SC

Kefren had higher yield and slightly better taste.

Desert 8★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Kefren had higher yield.

Desert 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 7★★★★☆ 😞 SC

Neither of these did well for me. The seeds were planted in raised beds with kale and dill and onions. One of those or maybe more than one were not compatible. The zucchini plants were small and the fruits were bulbous on the ends. Most got to be about 3 inches, then turned yellow and fell off. *Kefren* was healthier but still not great.

Desert 1★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 2★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties got a fungus or some disease. The fruits stayed the same size for several weeks. Even though most plants did not die, their leaves were yellow with green patches. *Kefren* produced two 5-inch zucchini.

Desert 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐛
Kefren 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The frost/cold in June and early frost in September made for a slow, short season. There was no powdery mildew. *Kefren* yielded at least twice as many fruits over the season.

**Kefren
germinated
better and
produced
higher yields at
more sites.**

Prefer Kefren (continued)

Desert 5 ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Kefren 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Kefren produced big plants and lots of fruit. *Desert* looked like a petite version of *Kefren* and might be good where you had a small space. *Kefren* produced well until we got a bunch of rain and humidity, and then got powdery mildew. *Kefren* was healthier than *Desert*.

Desert 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

The plants of both varieties were healthy and productive. The open plant habit made it easy to find and pick the zucchini. The vines were producing zucchini well into mid-October. *Kefren* was more productive. The fruits of both varieties were excellent tasting in cooking and baking. They stored at room temperature for a long time.

Desert 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 SC

Kefren produced fruit a bit earlier. Either of these varieties are acceptable. They do lack some disease resistance though. Both were infected with powdery mildew fairly early due to wet and cool weather. Neither of these varieties is as disease resistant as the variety I normally compare all zucchini to, which is *Green Tiger*.

Desert 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Kefren germinated better.

Desert 8 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 NW
Kefren produced 40% more yield than *Desert*.

Desert 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 NW
These varieties were very similar.

Desert 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 🐛
Kefren 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 NW

Both of these varieties were great, and both have lasted a long time without rotting after being picked from the garden. *Kefren* produced just a little bit higher yield.

Desert 7 ★★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
Kefren 9 ★★★★★★ 😊 SW
Kefren ripened earlier and had better-looking fruits.

Conclusions

Kefren germinated better and produced higher yields at more sites. *Kefren* fruits had fewer seeds, but there was no difference in the taste of these varieties. Unusually wet weather led to both varieties suffering from powdery mildew late in the season, but gardeners were satisfied with overall yields.

***Kefren* fruits had fewer seeds, but there was no difference in the taste of these varieties.**

Squash, Yellow Summer

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Butterfingers

52 days. Semi-open, spineless plants produce big yields of quality fruit over a long harvest period.

Multipik

50 days. Vigorous bush plants produce amazing yields of bright yellow fruits.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Butterfingers	Multipik	Same
Germinated best	15%	46%	38%
Healthier plants	0	58	42
Harvested earlier	9	73	18
Higher yields	9	73	18
More attractive fruits	60	30	10
Tasted better	45	27	27
Preference	55	45	
Recommend	55	82	
Mean score ¹	6.09	6.82	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Butterfingers 9★★★★★☺ 🐞
Multipik 7★★★★★☺ NC

Multipik needed to be resown 2 weeks after the first sowing. The vines of both varieties were super healthy, attractive, and produced very well. The taste and texture of *Butterfingers* was better than *Multipik*.

Butterfingers 8★★★★★☺ -
Multipik 7★★★★★☺ NC

The fruits of *Butterfingers* are so attractive. They are smooth and have creamy color. *Multipik* fruits had tougher skins. I'd be happy to share *Butterfingers* fruits with friends and family. *Multipik* plants produced earlier harvests and higher yields overall.

Gardeners were impressed with the color, smooth skin and taste of *Butterfingers*.

Prefer Butterfingers

Butterfingers 7★★★★★☺ 🐞
Multipik 6★★★★★☺ SE

I preferred the looks and taste of the *Butterfingers* fruits. *Multipik* was a more prolific producer.

Butterfingers 10★★★★★☺ 🐞
Multipik 9★★★★★☺ SE

Both varieties were very productive. The fruits of *Butterfingers* were more visually appetizing. *Multipik* fruits were better for grilling.

Butterfingers 8★★★★★☺ 🐞
Multipik 7★★★★★☺ NC

The fruits of *Butterfingers* had sweeter, thick flesh. *Multipik* produced higher yields and its fruits were more attractive.

Butterfingers 4★★★★★☹ 🐞
Multipik 3★★★★★☹ SC

I preferred the color and shape of the *Butterfingers* squash, but its plants didn't produce many fruits.

Best straightneck summer squash varieties

Top choice
Multipik

Strong performers
Butterfingers
Fortune
Zephyr

Prefer Multipik

Butterfingers 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Multipik 9 ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Multipik produced fruits 10–14 days before *Butterfingers*. They had similar flavor, though *Butterfingers* was slightly firmer when sautéed. *Multipik* continued going strong with producing very high yields straight up until frost. It was a true garden workhorse.

Butterfingers 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Multipik 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Multipik had better production. *Butterfingers* had poor production, but its fruits were good tasting and looked nice.

Butterfingers 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Multipik 5 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both of these varieties didn't do great inside of our high tunnel and they suffered from a nutrient tie-up. We fertilized the plants with blood meal. *Multipik* did rebound some and continued to produce after the fertilizer.

Butterfingers 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
 Multipik 5 ★★★★★ ☹️ SD

Multipik is not my favorite yellow squash, but *Butterfingers* did not grow well in my garden.

Butterfingers 4 ★★★★★ ☹️ -
 Multipik 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SD

Multipik thrived in my garden. *Multipik* produced way more fruits, and its fruits looked better than those of *Butterfingers*. I ended up donating a bunch of squash to the community food pantry because it produced so many squash!

Conclusions

Multipik was a garden workhorse. It germinated better, matured earlier and produced loads of fruits. *Multipik* was recommended by the vast majority of gardeners. *Butterfingers* was less productive, but most gardeners preferred it over *Multipik* for the higher quality of its fruits. Gardeners were impressed with the color, smooth skin and taste of *Butterfingers*.

***Multipik* was a garden workhorse. It germinated better, matured earlier and produced loads of fruits.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

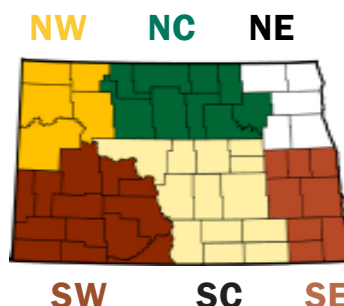
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 ★★★★★ 😊
 ★★★★★ ☹️

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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Squash, Butternut

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Block Party

100 days. New! Disease-resistant vines produce tremendous yields of blocky, 4-pound fruits. Fruits are flavorful and store well.

Quantum

105 days. Uniform, blocky, midsize fruits. Thick necks with small seed cavities. Bright orange, flavorful flesh. Vigorous vines resist mildew.

Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Block Party	Quantum	Same
Germinated best	57%	9%	35%
Healthier plants	29	29	43
Harvested earlier	56	28	17
Higher yields	68	23	9
More attractive fruits	40	10	50
Tasted better	53	16	32
Preference	74	26	
Recommend	77	59	
Mean score ¹	7.71	6.71	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Block Party

Block Party 9★★★★★😊🏠
Quantum 7★★★★★😞MN

Both varieties were healthy, grew well and had good vining growth habits. *Quantum* had slow germination and less vigorous plants to start, but did catch up. *Block Party* produced one-third more fruit; its fruits were slightly smaller than those of *Quantum*. For taste tests, the squash were peeled, cubed and roasted. *Block Party* had a sweeter flavor more typical of squash and was more moist. *Quantum* had a drier texture and more savory flavor. Three of four tasters preferred *Block Party*, the other *Quantum*. I did like both as they were distinctly different in flavor and texture.



Block Party 10★★★★★😊🏠
Quantum 8★★★★★😞MN

Both varieties produced nice, good-tasting fruits. We were hoping for smaller squash, but many of them were 6 pounds. *Block Party* produced a higher yield.

Block Party 8★★★★★😊🏠
Quantum 7★★★★★😊MN

These varieties were very similar. They germinated well, grew quickly and had very healthy plants. Their fruits were about 3–5 pounds each. *Block Party* matured earlier and produced a higher yield.

Block Party 8★★★★★😊🏠
Quantum 7★★★★★😊MN

I preferred *Block Party* because of its earlier maturity, higher productivity and better flavor. *Block Party* had bright orange flesh with a delicious flavor. *Quantum* had nicer looking fruit but was not quite ripe enough at harvest.

Block Party 9★★★★★😊🏠
Quantum 8★★★★★😊MN

Block Party germinated better but *Quantum* yielded a higher volume of squash. *Block Party* had a slightly sweeter taste.

Block Party 7★★★★★😊🏠
Quantum 4★★★★★😞NC

Block Party had better growth, but neither variety grew well. *Quantum* vines did not spread. Only *Block Party* produced fruits; there were seven.

Block Party
yields were
earlier and
much higher
than those of
Quantum.

Best butternut squash varieties

Top choice
Waltham

Strong
performers

Block Party
Butterbaby
Butterscotch
Early
Butternut
Granite

Prefer Block Party (continued)

Block Party 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 3★★★★★😞SC

Block Party produced earlier. The temperature dipped down to 26 at the end of August. I had the vines covered, but the temperatures took a toll on both varieties before they had finished ripening. The earlier, the better for this gardener this year! I'd have loved to have another month frost-free for both of these varieties.

Block Party 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 7★★★★★😊SC

Block Party is such a perfect squash — no disease. Its fruits were beautiful and large. *Quantum* vines spread out quicker and produced more but smaller fruits.

Block Party 7★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 2★★★★★😞SC

Quantum had serious powdery mildew; less production; not worth the space. *Block Party* had lots of fruit.

Block Party 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 1★★★★★😞SC

Block Party grew well in our garden producing the most attractive, blocky, butternut squash. It had excellent flavor as well. *Quantum* seedlings germinated but did not survive.

Block Party 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 8★★★★★😞NW

Block Party had better production. Its fruits were wonderful and sweet.

Block Party 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 9★★★★★😞NW

Block Party rated better for all traits including germination, yield and taste. *Block Party* fruits were nice and sweet.

Block Party 6★★★★★😞-
 Quantum 5★★★★★😞NW

Block Party had nice fruits but they were few in number. *Quantum* produced only one medium fruit and one small fruit.

Block Party 7★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 6★★★★★😊SD

Both varieties grew well. The plants looked very healthy and thrived with the rain this year. *Block Party* produced more fruit.

Prefer Quantum

Block Party 8★★★★★😞🐞
 Quantum 10★★★★★😊SE

Quantum had more flavor. It was slightly sweet and really good tasting.

Block Party 7★★★★★😞🐞
 Quantum 9★★★★★😊SE

Quantum germinated better, produced larger fruits and was ready to harvest earlier.

Block Party 2★★★★★😞🐞
 Quantum 8★★★★★😊SE

Block Party germinated better but really grew poorly. I did not get any mature fruit from that variety. *Quantum* grew much more vigorously and produced a few excellent squash. Neither variety was a super producer.

Block Party 4★★★★★😞🐞
 Quantum 7★★★★★😊SC

Block Party germinated better, but *Quantum* surpassed its growth. The vines of *Quantum* looked healthier, but both varieties produced well. *Quantum* had better production. Both varieties tasted good, but *Quantum* had slightly better flavor.

Block Party 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 9★★★★★😊SW

Both varieties grew well. *Quantum* has been more productive. With the freeze coming, I picked what I could. Both varieties looked like they would happily keep growing for another month [this report was submitted October 10].

The fruits of *Block Party* were blocky and attractive with bright orange, flavorful flesh.

No Preference

Block Party 9★★★★★😊🐞
 Quantum 9★★★★★😊SC

The plants of both varieties were generally clean with very little disease. They produced high yields of good-tasting fruits.

Block Party 7★★★★☆😊🐞
 Quantum 7★★★★☆😊SW

Both varieties produced a lot of squash!
Block Party had more mildew while growing.

Conclusions

Block Party gave us a reason to celebrate, starting with its outstanding germination. *Block Party* yields were earlier and much higher than those of *Quantum*. Its fruits were blocky and attractive with bright orange, flavorful flesh. The vines of both varieties were healthy. *Quantum* was okay but did not excel in any trait. Many *Quantum* fruits did not ripen in time; this is a concern since most gardeners enjoyed a longer than usual growing season this year.

Quantum was okay but did not excel in any trait. Many Quantum fruits did not ripen in time.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

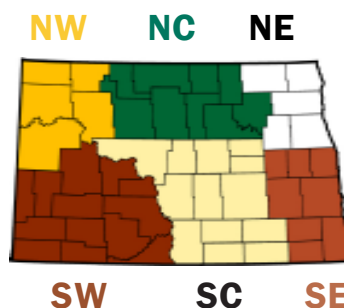
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 ★★★★★😊
 ★★★★★😞

Garden type →
 🐞 = 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, Round Butternut

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Autumn Frost

100 days. Uniquely ribbed, blocky shape. Great flavor, stores well and can be decorative. Semi-bush vines.

Spellcast

100 days. New! Round, flat fruits with deep ribbing. Very beautiful and delicious. Productive, semi-bush vines.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Autumn Frost	Spellcast	Same
Germinated best	29%	25%	46%
Healthier plants	17	13	70
Harvested earlier	19	38	43
Higher yields	29	33	38
More attractive fruits	30	25	45
Tasted better	39	17	44
Preference	65	35	
Recommend	80	75	
Mean score ¹	7.14	7.38	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Autumn Frost

Autumn Frost 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Spellcast 7★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Both varieties germinated well. The plants were fast growing and healthy. Both varieties took a long time to mature. The fruits weighed approximately 5–10 pounds each. *Spellcast* matured earlier but *Autumn Frost* produced a higher yield.

Autumn Frost 10★★★★★ ☺ -
Spellcast 9★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Autumn Frost plants were healthier and produced the first fruits.

Autumn Frost 6★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Spellcast 5★★★★☆ ☹ SE

After roasting, the flavor of *Autumn Frost* was nuttier than the flavor of *Spellcast*. At first, I thought *Spellcast* were pie pumpkins.

Autumn Frost 4★★★★☆ ☹ 🏠 🐞
Spellcast 3★★★★☆ ☹ NC

We liked the taste of *Autumn Frost* better; it was meatier. *Spellcast* reminded us of a cross between spaghetti squash and butternut. Both varieties produced 13 squash, but there was fungal growth on about half of the *Autumn Frost* fruits. The vines of both varieties suffered from powdery mildew; we lost a few plants.

Autumn Frost 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
Spellcast 7★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Autumn Frost produced a greater yield.

Autumn Frost 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Spellcast 8★★★★☆ ☺ SC

These varieties were equally delicious. The fruits of *Autumn Frost* were smaller and better for serving individuals or small families.

Autumn Frost 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
Spellcast 7★★★★☆ ☺ SC

The vines were sturdy and healthy. I liked the looks of the fruits of both varieties. The fruits of *Autumn Frost* were a nice size for two people. Their tastes were similar.

Autumn Frost was preferred over Spellcast by most gardeners because of its sweet and nutty taste.

Best butternut squash varieties

Top choice
Waltham

Strong performers

Block Party
Butterbaby
Butterscotch
Early
Butternut
Granite

Prefer Autumn Frost (continued)

Autumn Frost 9★★★★★😊🐞
Spellcast 8★★★★★😊SC

I prefer smaller-sized squash, and *Autumn Frost* fruits were one-half if not one-third the size of the *Spellcast* fruits. *Autumn Frost* produced more pounds of squash, but an early frost in fall prevented some of these squash from maturing. The taste of these varieties was very similar, and both had relatively small seed cavities with few seeds. *Autumn Frost* fruits were more colorful and attractive than *Spellcast* fruits.

Autumn Frost 7★★★★★😊🐞
Spellcast 5★★★★★😊SC

Spellcast had less flavor and was quite watery and stringy. *Autumn Frost* reminded us more of a traditional butternut; it had better flavor and texture. We are using *Spellcast* as decorations for Halloween and Thanksgiving while we eat the *Autumn Frost*. Some of our *Autumn Frost* had a mildew bloom on the squash but not the leaves; it did not affect the taste of the squash.

Autumn Frost 8★★★★★😊-
Spellcast 7★★★★★😊NW

Spellcast produced six fruits while *Autumn Frost* produced two fruits. The *Autumn Frost* fruits were prettier and tasted much better. *Spellcast* fruits were yellow-green, and its flesh was stringy.

Autumn Frost 8★★★★★😊🐞
Spellcast 7★★★★★😊NW

The flavor and compact vines of *Autumn Frost* made it the winner. My family liked the sweeter, more buttercup-like flavor of *Autumn Frost* compared to the moister, less sweet flavor of *Spellcast*. *Spellcast* vines produced almost double the yield in terms of the number of fruits, and even more in terms of the pounds of fruit compared to *Autumn Frost*. I preferred the frosted look of *Autumn Frost* squash, but *Spellcast* squash would be also very attractive in a fall display.

Autumn Frost 10★★★★★😊🏠
Spellcast 8★★★★★😊NW

Autumn Frost produced the best.

Autumn Frost 5★★★★★😊🏠
Spellcast 3★★★★★😊SW

These varieties were very similar.

Prefer Spellcast

Autumn Frost 7★★★★★😊🏠
Spellcast 8★★★★★😊MN

The vines of both varieties were vigorous and grew well. Both produced good/satisfactory yields. The fruits of *Spellcast* were a bit bigger and had just a bit better taste.

Autumn Frost 6★★★★★😊🐞
Spellcast 10★★★★★😊NE

Spellcast produced abundantly and had nice-looking squash.

Autumn Frost 8★★★★★😊🐞
Spellcast 10★★★★★😊NE

Both varieties germinated at near 100%. *Spellcast* had many long vines that stayed healthy. The fruits of both varieties were beautiful and had a great size.

Autumn Frost 9★★★★★😊🐞
Spellcast 10★★★★★😊NC

Spellcast fruits looked more attractive. The fruits in this trial were not fully ripe when harvested, so I have not tasted them yet.

Autumn Frost 3★★★★★😊🏠
Spellcast 8★★★★★😊SC

Autumn Frost needs more time. Several of its squash were green and really small. They are still not fully ripe as of October 22. The fruits of *Spellcast* were riper but could still ripen more. *Spellcast* fruits were bigger. The fruits of both varieties would be more difficult to peel compared to traditional butternuts.

Spellcast vines were more vigorous and produced much larger fruits.

Prefer Spellcast (continued)

Autumn Frost 2 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐛
 Spellcast 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Spellcast had reliable germination and showed prolific growth. *Autumn Frost* did not germinate after the first planting (May 24), but the second planting (June 13) had 100% germination. The plants of both varieties were healthy. *Spellcast* plants were much bigger. I started pinching its vines in early August because they were all over. *Spellcast* fruits were quite large compared to those of *Autumn Frost*. *Spellcast* fruits were flat and round in shape and turned from white to beige when ripe. *Spellcast* fruits were so attractive that they could be used as décor. *Autumn Frost* started late and it has not produced edible fruit at this point.

Autumn Frost 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Spellcast 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SD

I prefer *Spellcast* because it had good flavor with more meat per squash. *Spellcast* produced a greater number of mature fruits. *Autumn Frost* had darker flesh which tasted better (a bit sweeter), and its seeds were excellent roasted. The fruits of both varieties were adorable.

No Preference

Autumn Frost 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐛
 Spellcast 7 ★★★★★ 😊 NC

The fruits were slow to turn butternut color and remained green for a very long time. Some did not ever get any orange coloring by the time of picking.

Conclusions

Autumn Frost was preferred over *Spellcast* by most gardeners because of its superior, sweet and nutty taste. The flesh of *Spellcast* was less flavorful, moister and stringy. *Spellcast* vines were more vigorous and produced much larger fruits. *Spellcast* matured earlier at more sites, but overall yields were similar. Those gardeners who preferred *Autumn Frost* appreciated the smaller size of its fruits, considering it to be better for serving individuals and smaller families.

Spellcast matured earlier at more sites, but overall yields were similar.

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 →

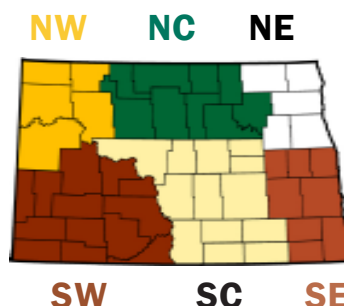
Comments →
 'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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- 🧴 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Squash, Gray

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Blue Harvest

95 days. Very flavorful and attractive. Fruits are 7 pounds, slightly flattened and deeply ribbed. Full vines.

Mint Prince

100 days. Unique, mint color. Eight-pound fruits have a slightly flattened shape and deep ribs. Vigorous vines.



Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blue Harvest	Mint Prince	Same
Germinated best	20%	20%	60%
Healthier plants	0	11	89
Harvested earlier	44	44	11
Higher yields	36	36	27
More attractive fruits	20	30	50
Tasted better	40	0	60
Preference	56	44	
Recommend	82	73	
Mean score ¹	7.09	6.91	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Blue Harvest

Blue Harvest 10★★★★★😊🐞
Mint Prince 7★★★★☆😊SE

Mint Prince was a very cute ornamental, but its flesh was drier and had less flavor. The flesh of *Blue Harvest* was delicious, moister and much sweeter compared to *Mint Prince*. I recommend *Mint Prince* as an ornamental variety while *Blue Harvest* is better to eat.

Blue Harvest 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Mint Prince 4★★★★☆😞SE

Blue Harvest squash were smaller. Its flesh was more flavorful and kept its moisture when cooked. The flesh of *Mint Prince* squash was drier when cooked. *Mint Prince* squash was fun to decorate with.

Blue Harvest 9★★★★★😊🐞
Mint Prince 8★★★★☆😊NC

I loved both varieties, and both were beautiful in their own way! *Blue Harvest* ripened earlier and produced more mature fruit. A lot of the *Mint Prince* fruit did not mature before the frost.

Blue Harvest 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Mint Prince 7★★★★☆😊SC

I preferred the coloring of the *Blue Harvest* fruits. *Blue Harvest* had ten medium-size fruits; *Mint Prince* had nine smaller fruits.

Blue Harvest 8★★★★☆😊🏠
Mint Prince 7★★★★☆😊SC

Mint Prince produced the first fruits, but *Blue Harvest* produced a higher yield. *Blue Harvest* fruits looked good; they had a nice shape and very different ribbing. Several *Mint Prince* fruits got very large much like a pumpkin and were bigger than what I can use for meals.

Prefer Mint Prince

Blue Harvest 8★★★★☆😊🐞
Mint Prince 9★★★★★😊NC

Plants of both varieties were healthy. Their fruits were similar and attractive. I preferred the way *Mint Prince* looked and it produced one more squash.

Most gardeners preferred *Blue Harvest*. Its flesh was delicious, moister and much sweeter.

Best gray pumpkin/squash variety

Top choice
Blue Magic

Strong performer
Blue Doll

Prefer Mint Prince (continued)

Blue Harvest 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Mint Prince 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

Blue Harvest was a complete failure with 0% germination. *Mint Prince* was not far behind as it had as only 40% germination. *Mint Prince* had lots of beautiful vines but not many fruits (three decent-sized fruits and five very small fruits). As for taste, because of the early frost I'm not sure they will amount to anything but decorations.

Blue Harvest 7 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Mint Prince 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Mint Prince germinated more quickly and ripened earlier. We used the fruits as ornamentals and did not eat them.

Blue Harvest 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Mint Prince 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SW

Mint Prince produced extremely large fruits; 15 in total. *Blue Harvest* produced 10 fruits. *Mint Prince* fruits matured earlier and tasted good. *Blue Harvest* fruits were more attractive.

No Preference

Blue Harvest 10 ★★★★★ 😊 -
Mint Prince 10 ★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both varieties were beautiful!

Blue Harvest 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Mint Prince 1 ★★★★★ ☹️ NC

The plants of both varieties looked good but did not produce any fruits.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced very attractive, deeply ribbed fruits. Most gardeners preferred *Blue Harvest*. Its flesh was delicious, moister and much sweeter compared to the flesh of *Mint Prince*. *Mint Prince* was fun to decorate with, but its flesh was drier and had less flavor.

***Mint Prince* was fun to decorate with, but its flesh was drier and had less 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

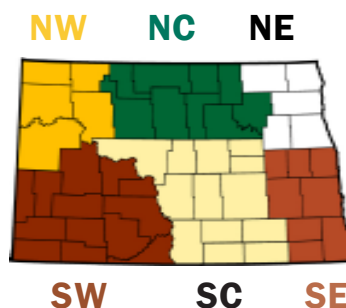
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Squash, Orange Spaghetti

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Hasta La Pasta

73 days. Compact vines produce huge crops of small, single-portion fruits. Tasty and high in vitamin A.

Orangetti

70 days. Small, orange fruits with brilliant, yellow-orange flesh. Vines produce high yields. Early ripening.



Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Hasta La Pasta Orangetti Same		
Germinated best	20%	30%	50%
Healthier plants	33	25	42
Harvested earlier	60	20	20
Higher yields	50	33	17
More attractive fruits	36	18	45
Tasted better	67	33	0
Preference	64	36	
Recommend	67	50	
Mean score ¹	6.83	6.58	
Median score ¹	8.00	6.50	

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

Prefer Hasta La Pasta

Hasta La Pasta 10★★★★★☺🐞
Orangetti 8★★★★☆☺SE

Both varieties produced high yields. The fruits of *Hasta La Pasta* ripened earlier and had a slightly better taste.

Hasta La Pasta 9★★★★☆☺-
Orangetti 6★★★★☆☹SE

Hasta La Pasta tasted better; it had a bit of a nutty flavor. Neither variety produced tons, but *Hasta La Pasta* produced a few more squash.

Hasta La Pasta 4★★★★☆☹🐞
Orangetti 3★★★★☆☹NC

Hasta La Pasta produced more fruits, but all fruits of both varieties were too small to cook.

Hasta La Pasta 5★★★★☆☺🐞
Orangetti 4★★★★☆☹SC

These squash were neat to grow. The bright orange color of the fruits made them stand out in the garden, and you could find them easily! *Hasta La Pasta* produced four fruits and *Orangetti* produced two fruits. The fruits of *Hasta La Pasta* were larger and tasted better.

Hasta La Pasta 8★★★★☆☺🐞
Orangetti 7★★★★☆☹SW

Hasta La Pasta is still producing [October 10]. I pulled them today as there are several more freezes coming. If we had a longer growing season, it would be great. *Orangetti* got powdery mildew. The disease spread to *Hasta La Pasta* but didn't seem to affect it very much.

Hasta La Pasta 8★★★★☆☺🐞
Orangetti 5★★★★☆☹SW

Hasta La Pasta performed better for me. *Hasta La Pasta* had healthier vines. Its yields were earlier and higher. *Hasta La Pasta* tasted better.

Hasta La Pasta 8★★★★☆☺🐞
Orangetti 5★★★★☆☹SD

Both varieties germinated and produced well. I prefer the look of the *Hasta La Pasta* fruits.

***Hasta La Pasta* matured earlier and produced higher yields. Its fruits were more flavorful.**

Best spaghetti squash varieties

Top choice
Primavera

Strong performers
Pinnacle

Prefer Orangetti

Hasta La Pasta 4 ★★★★★ ☹️ -
Orangetti 5 ★★★★★ 😊 SE

Orangetti produced more fruits and larger fruits. *Hasta La Pasta* fruits were very small but had slightly better taste.

Hasta La Pasta 8 ★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Orangetti 10 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Orangetti had better yield.

Hasta La Pasta 3 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Orangetti 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

Orangetti grew better.

Hasta La Pasta 6 ★★★★★ ☹️ 🐞
Orangetti 8 ★★★★★ 😊 SK

Only three hills of *Hasta La Pasta* germinated compared to six hills of *Orangetti*. *Hasta La Pasta* was slower growing also. *Orangetti* had good production. I need to sow earlier [sown June 2], but this trial produced more than enough.

No Preference

Hasta La Pasta 9 ★★★★★ 😊 -
Orangetti 9 ★★★★★ 😊 SC

The fruits of both cultivars were attractive. I enjoyed their orange skins. *Hasta La Pasta* matured earlier, but overall yields were similar.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Hasta La Pasta*. It matured earlier and produced higher yields. Most of the gardeners who expressed a preference on fruit quality preferred the looks and taste of *Hasta La Pasta*. *Orangetti* did not excel in any trait, and it did not generate any excitement.

Orangetti did not excel in any trait, and it did not generate any excitement.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

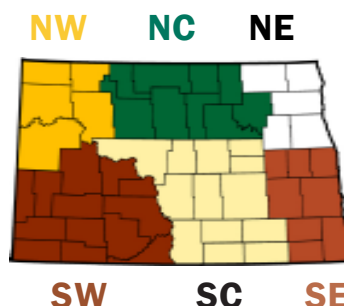
Ratings (1 to 10)
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)
★★★★★ 😊
★★★★★ ☹️

Garden type
🐞 = 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
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SK = Saskatchewan

Squash, Specialty Winter

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Speckled Hound

100 days. Fruits are orange with distinctive, green splotches. Yellow-orange flesh is thick, dense and dry. Vines resist diseases.

Troll

85 days. Compact plants set early yields. Its fruits are blue-green with orange splotches and a gray button on the bottom. Flavorful flesh.

Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Speckled Hound	Troll	Same
Germinated best	36%	9%	55%
Healthier plants	50	0	50
Harvested earlier	67	11	22
Higher yields	44	33	22
More attractive fruits	40	20	40
Tasted better	14	14	71
Preference	80	20	
Recommend	82	55	
Mean score ¹	7.80	6.50	
Median score ¹	7.50	7.00	

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

Prefer Speckled Hound

Speckled Hound 9★★★★★ 😊 -
Troll 5★★★★★ 😞 MN

Speckled Hound produced more squash. Its squash looked and tasted better.

Speckled Hound 9★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Troll 8★★★★★ 😊 NE

I really liked the look of both; they were both excellent for decorating. *Speckled Hound* had longer vines and a flatter fruit; good for stacking. *Troll* had more compact plants and a rounder shape. I cooked one of each, and both were still underripe and had very little flavor. *Troll* had a better texture, comparable to buttercup squash, while *Speckled Hound* had more of an acorn squash-like texture.



Speckled Hound 7★★★★★ 😞 🏠
Troll 1★★★★★ 😞 SC

Speckled Hound was mushy when baked and not very tasty. *Troll* did not produce fruit.

Speckled Hound 6★★★★★ 😊 -
Troll 3★★★★★ 😞 SC

Speckled Hound germinated better, and its vines were healthier. *Speckled Hound* fruits were prettier.

Speckled Hound 8★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Troll 7★★★★★ 😞 SC

Speckled Hound produced a higher yield, and its fruits looked better.

Speckled Hound 8★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Troll 7★★★★★ 😊 SW

Speckled Hound produced the first fruits and had a higher yield.

Speckled Hound 7★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Troll 6★★★★★ 😊 SD

I was not impressed with either as far as taste; there are too many other squash varieties with better flavor available. *Speckled Hound* fruits tasted a bit better; it made good bread. The fruits of both varieties were attractive and good for decorating. Both varieties had manageable vines that are well suited for smaller gardens.

Speckled Hound was healthier, ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites.

Best kabocha squash varieties

Top choice
Delica

Strong performers

Madonna
Pink Panther
Red Kuri
Speckled Hound
Sunshine
Sweet Mama

Prefer Speckled Hound (continued)

Speckled Hound 7★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
Troll 5★★★★☆ ☹️ SD

Speckled Hound had smooth, nice-shaped fruits. They were easier to clean from the shell when baked. *Troll* produced more fruits but they were smaller. *Troll* fruits had rounded bottoms which were harder to clean out when baked. Both varieties had good flavor.

Prefer Troll

Speckled Hound 7★★★★☆ ☹️ -
Troll 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Troll produced many more fruits but they were smaller. I prefer a squash with smaller size because I am the only one who eats squash in my home. The rind of *Troll* squash had more uniform coloring.

Speckled Hound 7★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
Troll 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Troll germinated better, and its vines were more productive. The plants seemed delayed early in the season, and the fruits we got were much smaller than I expected. By the end of September, the plants looked like what I expected in early August. I don't know if it was the growing season or the squash, but I would try both varieties again. The fruits of both varieties had very interesting coloring.

No Preference

Speckled Hound 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
Troll 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

These varieties produced a lot of squash. We ended up with 50 squash total. We have not eaten one yet, so we are not sure which is better. Overall, they look great.

Conclusions

Speckled Hound has done well in previous trials, and it clearly excelled in this year's trial. *Speckled Hound* was healthier, ripened earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. *Troll* is reported to be early ripening, but it ripened later than *Speckled Hound* at nearly all locations. The best quality of *Troll* may be the small size of its fruits, making it suitable for serving individuals and small families. Either variety could be used for decorating; more gardeners preferred the looks of *Speckled Hound* over *Troll*.

The best quality of *Troll* may be the small size of its fruits, making it suitable for serving individuals and small families.

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
🍷 🍷🍷 🍷🍷🍷 -

Location
NC

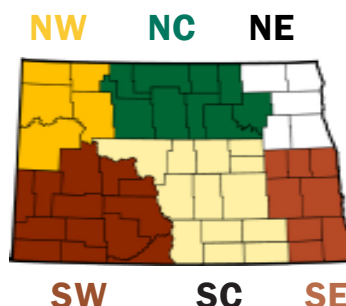
Comments
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

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🍷🍷 = Uses inorganic fertilizers
🍷🍷🍷 = Uses inorganic pesticides
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Swiss Chard, White-Stem

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Fordhook Giant

50 days. The standard Swiss chard. Leaves are green and crinkly with white veins and white stems.

Silverado

60 days. A more refined Swiss chard with dark, glossy and very crinkly leaves. Upright plants are easy to harvest.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Fordhook		
	Giant	Silverado	Same
Germinated best	69%	23%	8%
Healthier plants	67	17	17
Harvested earlier	75	25	0
Resisted bolting better	20	20	60
Higher yields	58	17	25
More attractive	42	33	25
Tasted better	40	10	50
Preference	62	38	
Recommend (😊)	69	54	
Mean score ¹	7.69	5.85	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Fordhook Giant

Fordhook Giant 3★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐛
Silverado 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 MN

Unfortunately this trial was a complete failure, and I am not sure if it was the seeds or weather. *Fordhook Giant* plants were about 3 inches tall and then just died off. Barely any seedlings of *Silverado* emerged and those died off as well. The weather got really hot in June so I'm thinking that affected them. The plants did start growing again when it finally cooled off in September. This trial was very disappointing as I love Swiss chard. I wouldn't plant either variety again.

Fordhook Giant 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
Silverado 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Fordhook Giant was healthier, grew bigger and regrew better after the first harvest.

Fordhook Giant 7★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐛
Silverado 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SE

Only 25% of *Silverado* seeds came up. *Silverado* stalks were wider. Neither variety bolted. My husband thought they both tasted like dirt.

Fordhook Giant 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Silverado 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

I liked the savoy leaves of *Silverado*, but they were harder to clean. I preferred the taste of *Fordhook Giant*.

Fordhook Giant 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Silverado 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SC

Fordhook Giant produced a beautiful crop. It excelled over *Silverado* in all traits.

Fordhook Giant 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐛
Silverado 3★☆☆☆☆ 😞 SC

Fordhook Giant outperformed *Silverado* in germination. Only a few *Silverado* plants germinated, but we had near 100% germination for *Fordhook Giant*. Both varieties were still very productive and beefy in late October. We had never grown white-stem Swiss chard, and both varieties produced very well. The late-season bumper crop was a nice surprise.

***Fordhook Giant* grew faster, produced over a longer time and produced higher yields.**

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bright Lights

Strong performers

Bali
Charbell
Fordhook
Giant
Peppermint
Ruby Red

Prefer Fordhook Giant (continued)

Fordhook Giant 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Silverado 5★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

Fordhook Giant produced for a longer time.
It was overall a nice-looking, tasty plant.

Fordhook Giant 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Silverado 2★★★★☆ ☹️ SD

Fordhook Giant germinated very well and produced beautiful chard. It had healthier plants and was more productive than *Silverado*. *Silverado* had very poor germination.

Prefer Silverado

Fordhook Giant 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Silverado 10★★★★★ 😊 MN

Silverado was healthier and ready to harvest earlier.

Fordhook Giant 8★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Silverado 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Silverado is a great variety. Its stems were 2+ inches wide, and its leaves stayed green to October 21. *Fordhook Giant* stems were only 1+ inches wide, and its leaves were drying on October 1.

Fordhook Giant 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Silverado 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties had excellent germination!
Silverado produced more and quicker.

Fordhook Giant 3★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Silverado 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Silverado showed superior germination, leaf size and taste.

Fordhook Giant 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Silverado 9★★★★☆ 😊 SK

Both varieties produced more than could be consumed and were still producing well after first frost. *Fordhook Giant* plants would get stemmy if not harvested soon enough; whereas *Silverado* plants stayed compact and broader. *Silverado* leaves were nicer looking, crisper and held up better.

Conclusions

Fordhook Giant germinated better and was healthier. It grew faster, produced over a longer time and produced higher yields. A key attribute of *Silverado* is its glossy, crinkly leaves, but more gardeners felt the leaves of *Fordhook Giant* were more attractive, not to mention easier to clean.

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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
🐛 = Organic
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Location
NC

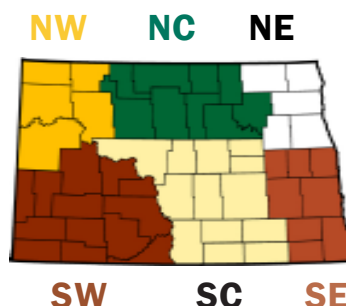
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Watermelon, Hybrid

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Pronto

80 days. Oblong, 20-pound fruits produce big yields early in the season. Very sweet, red flesh.

Top Gun

80 days. Early ripening, slightly oblong shaped, 24-pound melons. Flesh is crisp, juicy and delicious.



Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Pronto	Top Gun	Same
Germinated best	17%	43%	39%
Healthier plants	27	23	50
Harvested earlier	43	43	14
Higher yields	32	50	18
More attractive	25	25	50
Tasted better	30	30	40
Preference	52	48	
Recommend (😊)	63	67	
Mean score ¹	7.13	6.88	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Pronto

Pronto 9★★★★★😊🐞 MN
Top Gun 7★★★★★😊🐞 MN

Pronto melons were larger and tasted better. *Top Gun* produced earlier and higher yields. We would have had a better crop but we planted late [sown on June 6].

Pronto 8★★★★★😊🐞 NE
Top Gun 6★★★★★😊🐞 NE

Pronto yielded more, was earlier, and had better tasting fruit. *Top Gun* melons looked better on the inside. *Pronto* had a gap in the middle of each melon and its flesh was more pale pink compared to the bright red flesh of *Top Gun*. The taste of *Pronto*, pale as it was, was incredible!

Pronto 8★★★★★😊🐞 SE
Top Gun 6★★★★★😊🐞 SE

Both varieties were delicious and produced lots of fruits. *Pronto* produced the first ripe melons and tasted better. *Top Gun* produced a higher yield and its melons were more attractive.

Pronto 8★★★★★😊🐞 SE
Top Gun 7★★★★★😊🐞 SE

The plants on both of these varieties were very healthy and vigorous. Our area started with good precipitation at the beginning of the growing season, but got dry toward the end of summer. As a result, the plants set melons but the melons did not get very large. It took until late September to be able to even taste them. *Pronto* melons were uniform and had better taste; good sweetness. If I were to grow these again, I would start them in the house to give them an earlier start.

Pronto 7★★★★★😊🐞 SE
Top Gun 4★★★★★😊🐞 SE

Pronto germinated better, was healthier, produced the first fruits and a higher yield. *Pronto* produced lots of fruits, but they stayed small.

Gardeners liked but did not love these varieties. They split on which variety was better overall.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sweet Dakota
Rose

Strong performers
Sangria
Stargazer
Sugar Baby

Prefer Pronto (continued)

Pronto	8	★★★★★	😊	🏠
Top Gun	7	★★★★★	😊	SE

Pronto produced the first fruits, larger fruits and better tasting fruits. *Pronto* produced the first ripe fruits on August 16, 2 weeks before *Top Gun*. Each variety produced nine melons, which was an average of one melon per plant. *Pronto* produced larger melons (6.7 pounds on average compared to 5.0 pounds for *Top Gun*). We had taste tests on four different dates with a total of 15 persons. Nine persons preferred *Pronto* for its sweeter flavor, juicier flesh and fewer (but larger) seeds. Its flesh was more pink in color and did not look attractive in some fruits. Four persons preferred *Top Gun* for its darker red flesh, but its flavor was not consistent. Other persons felt the varieties tasted the same.

Pronto	9	★★★★★	😞	🏠
Top Gun	5	★★★★★	😞	SC

Pronto was much sweeter while *Top Gun* produced a higher yield. I got only one melon from the three hills of *Pronto* that were sown, and it was quite sweet. It had an oblong shape and was at least twice the size of a *Top Gun* melon.

Pronto	6	★★★★★	😞	🐞
Top Gun	3	★★★★★	😞	SC

Only one-third of the seeds of each variety germinated. Neither variety grew well for me. All melons were odd in shape. *Pronto* melons were a bit larger. None of the melons had much flesh to eat.

Pronto	7	★★★★★	😊	🐞
Top Gun	6	★★★★★	😊	SC

We only got five ripe watermelons between the two varieties and three were from *Pronto*. Both varieties produced delicious melons, but the melons were a bit heavy on the seeds. *Pronto* melons were slightly larger. There is nothing more delicious than a freshly grown and ripe watermelon! I just wish they would ripen more quickly and that we could get more ripe watermelons in a given growing season in North Dakota.

Pronto	8	★★★★★	😊	🏠
Top Gun	7	★★★★★	😊	SC

Pronto melons had better flavor.

Pronto	10	★★★★★	😊	🐞
Top Gun	2	★★★★★	😞	SW

I started the seeds inside the house. The seeds of *Pronto* germinated quickly and all at the same time. *Top Gun* was slower to germinate; its seeds germinated over several days and not all of them germinated. None of the *Top Gun* seedlings survived transplanting into my garden. *Pronto* produced many large melons that were delicious. There were not ripe when we had frost on September 7 and the vines died. I left the melons in the garden. They ripened by mid-September and were delicious.

Pronto	7	★★★★★	😊	🏠
Top Gun	6	★★★★★	😞	SD

Pronto melons had a good size and they tasted sweeter. *Top Gun* melons were okay, but they had more seeds.

Prefer Top Gun

Pronto	8	★★★★★	😊	🏠
Top Gun	9	★★★★★	😊	MN

Both varieties had healthy plants throughout the growing season. Their melons had a nice shape to them and looked good. We thought *Top Gun* had a sweeter flavor. *Top Gun* also produced more melons, not a lot more but a few more. Overall, both varieties tasted good and performed well.

Pronto	6	★★★★★	😊	🏠
Top Gun	8	★★★★★	😊	NE

The flesh of *Top Gun* was bright red, had a lot of juice, and tasted better. The flesh of *Pronto* was pink with a slight sweetness. The melons of both varieties had a ton of seeds.

Pronto	5	★★★★★	😞	🐞
Top Gun	9	★★★★★	😊	NE

After I transplanted them into the garden only one *Pronto* plant survived. All the *Top Gun* plants lived; therefore we got more watermelons from *Top Gun*. I liked the smaller size of the *Top Gun* watermelons. We got one very large watermelon from *Pronto*.

The flesh of *Pronto* melons was pink, sweet, juicy and had relatively few seeds.

Prefer Top Gun (continued)

Pronto 8★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Top Gun 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Top Gun germinated better, ripened earlier and produced larger melons.

Pronto 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐛
Top Gun 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I had a freak frost early, and it either completely took out or at least severely hampered the plants. *Top Gun* produced one melon that was very large with dark red, crisp and juicy flesh; it was excellent. It had not all that many seeds either. *Top Gun* is worth growing again. *Pronto* melons were too small and immature to critique.

Pronto 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Top Gun 6★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

I did not get very many melons, and the melons I did get were not very big. The taste was okay for both varieties with the *Top Gun* tasting better.

Pronto 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Top Gun 10★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Top Gun produced faster and had high yields for us.

Pronto 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Top Gun 7★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Top Gun vines were healthier, more resistant to a little weed pressure, and produced several fruits per plant.

Pronto 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Top Gun 10★★★★☆ 😊 SW
Top Gun produced earlier and higher yields.

Pronto 8★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Top Gun 9★★★★☆ 😊 SD

I've heard that watermelon will be sweeter in a drought. We had great conditions to test this theory. Both varieties produced a good watermelon, both in flavor and size. *Top Gun* melons were larger and just a bit sweeter.

Pronto 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
Top Gun 9★★★★☆ 😊 SD

I had trouble getting *Pronto* to germinate, but the ones that did, really produced. *Top Gun* was easier to grow and ripened faster.

No Preference

Pronto 4★★★★☆ ☹️ -
Top Gun 4★★★★☆ ☹️ SW

Neither variety produced anything.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked but did not love these varieties. Gardeners split on which variety tasted better, and which variety was better overall. The flesh of *Pronto* melons was pink, sweet and juicy with relatively few seeds. *Top Gun* melons were generally smaller. Its flesh was bright red, crisp and juicy.

Top Gun melons were generally smaller. Its flesh was bright red, crisp and juicy.

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

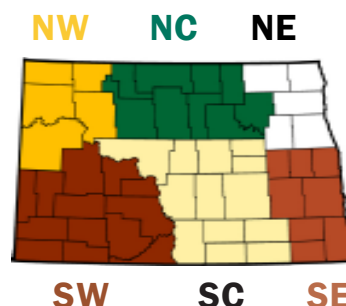
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Watermelon, Open-Pollinated

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Klecky Sweet

85 days. Large, 30-pound fruits are oblong with blunt ends. Flesh is bright red and sweet. Heirloom.

Sweet Dakota Rose

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 15 pounds. A proven performer in our trials.



Data

Gardeners at 25 sites submitted information.

Trait	Klecky Sweet	Swt D. Rose	Same
Germinated best	0%	100%	0%
Healthier plants	7	67	27
Harvested earlier	0	100	0
Higher yields	8	92	0
More attractive	9	91	0
Tasted better	0	86	14
Preference	0	100	
Recommend (😊)	0	92	
Mean score ¹	2.31	7.62	
Median score ¹	1.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Klecky Sweet

No gardeners preferred *Klecky Sweet*.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose

Klecky Sweet 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐛
Swt Dakota Rose 4★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

None of the *Klecky Sweet* seeds germinated. We had only two plants of *Sweet Dakota Rose*. They produced four melons.

Klecky Sweet 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐛
Swt Dakota Rose 4★☆☆☆☆ 😞 MN

Klecky Sweet did not germinate. We got five *Sweet Dakota Rose* seedlings to germinate. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced two fruits, but they were not ripe enough to eat.

Klecky Sweet 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐛
Swt Dakota Rose 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 MN

Klecky Sweet did not produce any melons that were ripe before frost, which was quite late for us this year (week of October 20). The growing season required for *Klecky Sweet* is too long for this part of the country unless the seeds are started indoors.

Klecky Sweet 3★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🏠
Swt Dakota Rose 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NE

Seeds were sown indoors and *Sweet Dakota Rose* germinated best. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced more melons. Approximately 30% of *Klecky Sweet* fruits were odd in color.

Klecky Sweet 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 -
Swt Dakota Rose 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

Seeds were sown indoors. *Klecky Sweet* did not germinate well, and its vines did not grow at all. Neither variety produced fruit.

Klecky Sweet 1★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🏠
Swt Dakota Rose 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

I can always count on *Sweet Dakota Rose* to produce. *Klecky Sweet* was a poor performer in my garden.

Klecky Sweet 3★☆☆☆☆ 😞 🐛
Swt Dakota Rose 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Sweet Dakota Rose had better germination and produced more melons. *Klecky Sweet* had poor germination, and most of its fruits rotted before ripening. Ripening was late this year.

***Klecky Sweet* was a disaster. It germinated poorly, and no gardeners recommended it.**

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sweet Dakota Rose

Strong performers
Sangria
Stargazer
Sugar Baby

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose (continued)

Klecky Sweet 1 ★★★★★ (sad face) 🐛
 Swt Dakota Rose 10 ★★★★★ (happy face) NW
 No *Klecky Sweet* seeds ever germinated!

Klecky Sweet 1 ★★★★★ (sad face) 🐛
 Swt Dakota Rose 10 ★★★★★ (happy face) NW
Klecky Sweet never germinated.

Klecky Sweet 2 ★★★★★ (sad face) 🐛
 Swt Dakota Rose 8 ★★★★★ (happy face) SW
Sweet Dakota Rose melons were large, round, dark green with light green stripes. They were very tasty, but had way too many seeds. *Klecky Sweet* produced a good yield. *Klecky Sweet* melons were medium in size, oblong, and solid dark green in color. I am not sure if they didn't have a long enough growing season to ripen, but even after leaving until the beginning of October, the flesh was light pink and had very little taste. Also, *Klecky Sweet* melons had a crazy amount of huge, white seeds. I much prefer seedless watermelon and likely will not plant either of these varieties again.

Klecky Sweet 1 ★★★★★ (sad face) 🐛
 Swt Dakota Rose 8 ★★★★★ (happy face) SW

I harvested 10 *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons, and they tasted very good. *Klecky Sweet* never germinated. I planted it two times.

Klecky Sweet 8 ★★★★★ (sad face) 🐛
 Swt Dakota Rose 10 ★★★★★ (happy face) SW

Due to planting late in the season [sown July 1], the plants were not able to produce fully grown fruit. *Sweet Dakota Rose* had healthier, bigger plants that produced some small fruits. *Klecky Sweet* plants never bloomed.

Klecky Sweet 6 ★★★★★ (sad face) 🏠
 Swt Dakota Rose 9 ★★★★★ (happy face) SD

I didn't have great luck with *Klecky Sweet*. It produced a larger melon but there were fewer of them. I liked the appearance of its rind. The melons of *Klecky Sweet* took forever to ripen, and I think there's still one out on vine [October 18].

Conclusions

Klecky Sweet was a disaster. It germinated poorly, and no gardeners recommended it. It's unclear if its poor germination is a genetic flaw or if this was only a bad batch of seeds. When *Klecky Sweet* did germinate, it grew slowly and its melons often rotted before ripening. Its flavor was tasteless. *Sweet Dakota Rose* was developed in North Dakota, and this year's trials verify that it is one of the most reliable and delicious watermelons to grow in our state.

Sweet Dakota Rose proved again to be one of the most reliable and delicious watermelons to grow in North Dakota.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

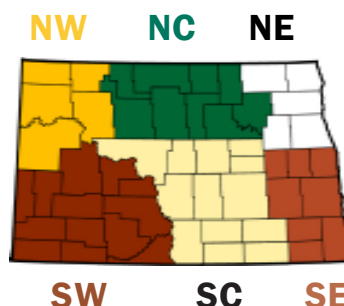
Ratings (1 to 10)
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)
 (happy face) (sad face)

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
 SD = South Dakota
 MB = Manitoba
 SK = Saskatchewan

Sunflower, Bicolor

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Desert Sun

70 days. Radiant flowers with strong stems. Red petals with lemony to gold tips. Branching and pollenless. Grows 66 inches.

Florenza

75 days. Maroon-red petals with yellow tips. Chocolate fragrance. Strong, straight branches. Grows 50 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Desert		
	Sun	Florenza	Same
Germinated best	55%	15%	30%
Healthier plants	65	0	35
Bloomed earlier	85	0	15
More blooms	50	10	40
Prettier in garden	68	11	21
Better cut flower	46	15	38
Preference	90	10	
Recommend	100	43	
Mean score ¹	8.43	6.24	
Median score ¹	9.00	6.00	

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

Prefer Desert Sun

Desert Sun 6★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Florenza 5★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Desert Sun had a nicer plant; it was taller with bigger leaves. *Desert Sun* bloomed earlier.

Desert Sun 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Florenza 7★★★★☆ ☺ MN

These were awesome sunflowers. I loved them so much! Fungus hit them, and *Desert Sun* prevailed a little better. The squirrels were so terrible. They ate the sprouts and again later. Once the flowers were big, the squirrels jumped on the stalks to bend them over and eat the seeds.

Desert Sun 9★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Florenza 8★★★★☆ ☺ NE

Both varieties grew well. Their stalks stayed short and were strong enough to keep the plants upright all season long. *Florenza* branched out more, allowing it to produce more flowers, but some of the flowers were deformed. *Desert Sun* produced more flowers of cutting quality.

Desert Sun 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Florenza 7★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Both varieties did well.

Desert Sun 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
Florenza 6★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Desert Sun had large, beautiful blooms on sturdy stalks.

Desert Sun 9★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Florenza 6★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Desert Sun germinated at near 100% compared to 60% for *Florenza*. The stalks of *Desert Sun* were healthy, much taller and stronger. *Desert Sun* bloomed 1 week earlier. Its flowers were large and spectacular; more showy compared to *Florenza*. The stalks of *Florenza* stayed short and produced small and very pretty, bicolor flowers. *Florenza* never looked that healthy through the year!

Desert Sun 5★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Florenza 1★★★★☆ ☹ SE

Desert Sun had taller plants and larger heads.

Desert Sun had large, beautiful blooms on sturdy stalks. Gardeners loved its colors, and everyone recommended it.

Best tall, bicolor branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Desert Sun

Strong performers
Helios Flame
Shock-O-Lat

Prefer Desert Sun (continued)

Desert Sun 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Florenza 9★★★★☆😞NC

The stalks of *Desert Sun* were taller and very strong! I loved the color of its flowers; so brilliant! The flowers of both varieties were very plentiful.

Desert Sun 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Florenza 8★★★★☆😊NC

Desert Sun bloomed first, and its flowers had more variation in colors.

Desert Sun 8★★★★☆😊🐞
 Florenza 5★★★★☆😞NC

Desert Sun had nicer-looking flower heads and sturdier stalks. It came back better after a windstorm.

Desert Sun 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Florenza 5★★★★☆😞SC

Desert Sun was big, beautiful and fast growing.

Desert Sun 9★★★★☆😊🐞
 Florenza 6★★★★☆😞SC

Desert Sun stood out. Its color variation was amazing. *Desert Sun* bloomed over 2 weeks earlier than *Florenza* and produced larger flowers.

Desert Sun 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Florenza 4★★★★☆😞SC

Desert Sun plants were healthier. They grew faster and taller (8 feet on average). *Desert Sun* bloomed first and kept blooming. The flowers were big (4–5 inches in diameter) and beautiful; very attractive color! The color of its later flowers was just as attractive as the color of the first flowers. *Florenza* plants looked sickly. Its flowers and flower petals were smaller in size.

Desert Sun 9★★★★☆😊🐞
 Florenza 8★★★★☆😊SC

Desert Sun bloomed earlier and had large blooms. Both varieties had strong stalks.

Desert Sun 9★★★★☆😊🐞
 Florenza 6★★★★☆😞NW

Desert Sun was all around better: better germination, bigger plants and much prettier flowers.

Desert Sun 9★★★★☆😊🐞
 Florenza 8★★★★☆😞NW

I preferred the colors of *Desert Sun*. *Desert Sun* had a durable stalk.

Desert Sun 10★★★★★😊🏡🐞
 Florenza 7★★★★☆😊SW

Desert Sun had a bigger wow factor. It was a much taller plant and produced much larger heads than *Florenza*. *Desert Sun* was a lovely variety that grew to about 5.5 feet tall. The heads stood straight up towards the sky. While some heads were too large to use in a vase, the smaller heads kept very well as a cut flower, in some cases over a week. *Florenza* plants were around 4.5 feet tall and the flower was only palm-sized.

Prefer Florenza

Desert Sun 9★★★★☆😊🐞
 Florenza 10★★★★★😊NC

Desert Sun and *Florenza* had many flowers on many branches with thick, sturdy stems. The only significant difference between them was height. I planted all six varieties of the bicolor sunflower trials, and *Florenza* definitely stood out as far as height. *Florenza* grew 7.0–8.0 feet compared to the other varieties, which all grew 5.5–6.0 feet. It was fun to see how tall the *Florenza* plants got!

Desert Sun 4★★★★☆😊🏡
 Florenza 5★★★★☆😊SC

I preferred the color of the *Florenza* blooms.

Conclusions

Desert Sun stood out. It had large, beautiful blooms on sturdy stalks. It bloomed early, and gardeners loved its colors. Every gardener recommended *Desert Sun*. *Florenza* lacked vigor at most sites. Its flowers were small and its plants were shorter. Most gardeners did not recommend *Florenza*.

**Florenza
lacked vigor at
most sites.
Most
gardeners did
not
recommend it.**

Sunflower, Bicolor Mixes

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Daydream Mixture

75 days. This mix has lots of vibrant flowers that bloom all summer and fall. Branching plants grow 72 inches. Low pollen.

Magic Roundabout

82 days. Flowers have burgundy petals with soft yellow tips. Branching plants grow up to 72 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 23 sites submitted information.

Trait	Daydream Mix.	Magic Round.	Same
Germinated best	25%	10%	65%
Healthier plants	35	5	60
Bloomed earlier	38	19	43
More blooms	38	24	38
Prettier in garden	48	19	33
Better cut flower	30	20	50
Preference	60	40	
Recommend	81	67	
Mean score ¹	7.00	6.52	
Median score ¹	7.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Daydream Mixture

Daydream Mixture 8★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Magic Roundabout 7★★★★★ 😊 MN

I loved the yellow ring in the *Daydream Mixture* flowers. *Daydream Mixture* was more attractive. *Magic Roundabout* had more heads and was better for seed production.

Daydream Mixture 4★★★★★ 😞 -
 Magic Roundabout 3★★★★★ 😞 NE

I was disappointed in both varieties. Their flowers were not very attractive (dark red petals did not stand out from the dark disks). Neither variety produced many flowers. *Daydream Mixture* had stronger stalks; its stalks stood more upright. The stalks of *Magic Roundabout* were weaker and several of the plants leaned/fell over.

Daydream Mixture 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Magic Roundabout 8★★★★★ 😞 SE

Daydream Mixture germinated better and produced more flowers that were prettier than *Magic Roundabout*. After heavy rain and wind, most plants in the trial tipped over.

Daydream Mixture 5★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Magic Roundabout 4★★★★★ 😞 SE

Both varieties grew fast and tall — over 8 feet tall! *Daydream Mixture* looked more attractive. Both varieties were infested with bugs and got blown over by wind.

Daydream Mixture 8★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Magic Roundabout 1★★★★★ 😞 NC

Daydream Mixture had better production.

Daydream Mixture 7★★★★★ 😊 -
 Magic Roundabout 5★★★★★ 😞 NC

Daydream Mixture was healthier and produced more flowers. We liked the colors and size of its flowers.

Daydream Mixture 6★★★★★ 😊 🏠
 Magic Roundabout 5★★★★★ 😊 SC

I preferred the colors of the *Daydream Mixture* blooms.

Daydream Mixture 8★★★★★ 😊 🐞
 Magic Roundabout 7★★★★★ 😊 SC

The yellow tones popped out a bit nicer with the *Daydream Mixture* flowers, but both varieties had nice, large flower heads. They looked beautiful in the garden! *Magic Roundabout* bloomed earlier by 1 week.

Daydream Mixture was healthier and produced more flowers at more sites. More gardeners preferred its colors.

Best tall, bicolor branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Desert Sun

Strong performers
Helios Flame
Shock-O-Lat

Prefer Daydream Mixture (continued)

Daydream Mixture 9★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 8★★★★★😊 SC

The colors of *Daydream Mixture* were a little prettier.

Daydream Mixture 9★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 7★★★★★😊 SC

Daydream Mixture had thicker, healthier stems and lasted longer. We liked its colors best. The combination of varieties was nice!

Daydream Mixture 8★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 6★★★★★😊 SC

Daydream Mixture bloomed later but had more flowers. I especially liked the two tones on its flowers.

Daydream Mixture 3★★★★★😞🐞
 Magic Roundabout 2★★★★★😞 SD

Both of them had low germination rates and did not bloom well. Each variety yielded only two or three flowers.

Prefer Magic Roundabout

Daydream Mixture 5★★★★★😞🏠
 Magic Roundabout 6★★★★★😞 NE

Both varieties had lots of brown leaves throughout the season. *Magic Roundabout* produced more flowers. The flowers of *Daydream Mixture* had warmer colors.

Daydream Mixture 8★★★★★😊🐞
 Magic Roundabout 9★★★★★😊 NE

Both of these mixtures were great. They had beautiful colors. The dark, brown/red color of *Magic Roundabout* was so beautiful!

Daydream Mixture 7★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 8★★★★★😊 SE

We chose *Magic Roundabout* because two of its plants flowered into mid-October. Many *Daydream Mixture* plants were suffering from bacterial blight in early August. From a color standpoint, *Daydream Mixture* was a little better, but both varieties had great colors to light up the garden between my two vine-crop rows. It made for some nice color in the garden.

Daydream Mixture 7★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 8★★★★★😊 SE

The fall colors of *Magic Roundabout* were more appealing to me.

Daydream Mixture 9★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 10★★★★★😊 SC

The stalks of both varieties grew 4.5 feet tall and produced lots of flowers. The blooms of *Magic Roundabout* were brighter yellow with an attractive rust color in the middle. *Daydream Mixture* had better plants but didn't produce the prettiest flowers.

Daydream Mixture 7★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 8★★★★★😊 SC

Both varieties were very beautiful. *Magic Roundabout* had a little better germination.

Daydream Mixture 4★★★★★😞🏠
 Magic Roundabout 7★★★★★😊 SC

Magic Roundabout had a better mix of colors and flowered for a longer time. *Magic Roundabout* had 10 blooms per plant compared to 8.2 blooms per plant for *Daydream Mixture*. *Magic Roundabout* had some damping off. Both varieties lodged. These varieties grew to similar heights.

Daydream Mixture 6★★★★★😊🏠
 Magic Roundabout 8★★★★★😊 SD

I enjoyed growing both varieties.

No Preference

Daydream Mixture 10★★★★★😊🐞
 Magic Roundabout 10★★★★★😊 NC

Both varieties germinated very well. They had sturdy/thick stems and numerous flowers on numerous branches.

Conclusions

Neither variety received very high ratings. Most gardeners preferred *Daydream Mixture*. It was healthier and produced more flowers at more sites. More gardeners preferred the colors of *Daydream Mixture* over those of *Magic Roundabout*. *Magic Roundabout* did not excel in any trait.

The fall colors of *Magic Roundabout* pleased several gardeners.

Sunflower, Lemon Yellow

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Butter Chiffon

63 days. Light-lemony petals on a dark disk. Great for small bouquets. Stalks are well branched and grow 60 inches. Pollenless.

Valentine

75 days. Primrose-yellow petals with round tips and dark centers. Blooms are 4 inches wide. Branching. Attracts bees. 66 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Butter Chiffon	Valentine	Same
Germinated best	29%	29%	43%
Healthier plants	36	21	43
Bloomed earlier	43	50	7
More blooms	43	43	14
Prettier in garden	50	14	36
Better cut flower	38	13	50
Preference	79	21	
Recommend	80	73	
Mean score ¹	7.93	6.73	
Median score ¹	8.00	7.00	

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

Prefer Butter Chiffon

Butter Chiffon 8★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 7★★★★★☺MN

Squirrels ravaged my *Butter Chiffon*, but it was by far my personal favorite. I loved the look of *Butter Chiffon*. It was pretty and perfect!

Butter Chiffon 8★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 7★★★★★☺NE

I liked both varieties although they were very different from each other. I preferred the larger blooms and one flower per stem habit of *Butter Chiffon*. *Valentine* produced many flowers per stem, each the size of a baseball. *Butter Chiffon* was healthier.

Butter Chiffon 8★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 6★★★★★☹SE

Butter Chiffon looked more attractive in the garden.

Butter Chiffon 9★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 5★★★★★☹SE

Butter Chiffon simply grew better with better appearance.

Butter Chiffon 10★★★★★☺-
Valentine 8★★★★★☺NC

We loved both varieties, but *Butter Chiffon* was better overall. *Butter Chiffon* bloomed first, produced more flowers, looked more attractive and was a better cut flower.

Butter Chiffon 8★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 5★★★★★☹NC

Butter Chiffon was prettiest.

Butter Chiffon 8★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 7★★★★★☺NC

Butter Chiffon had slightly bigger blooms.

Butter Chiffon 10★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 1★★★★★☹NC

Butter Chiffon is absolutely beautiful with a lot a flowers and is not too big. I'd definitely like to grow this again.

Butter Chiffon 9★★★★★☺🐞
Valentine 7★★★★★☺SC

I loved both of these varieties. *Butter Chiffon* bloomed earlier.

The blooms of *Butter Chiffon* were lovely with their lemony, delicate petals.

Best tall, light yellow branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Buttercream

Strong performer
Butter Chiffon

Prefer Butter Chiffon (continued)

Butter Chiffon 8★★★★☆☺🐛 SW
Valentine 7★★★★☆☺🐛

Butter Chiffon flowers were a little bigger, and they had bigger centers. We liked their feathery petals. *Butter Chiffon* plants were a little taller than *Valentine* plants.

Butter Chiffon 10★★★★★☺🐛 MB
Valentine 9★★★★☆☺🐛

Butter Chiffon had such delicate, pale yellow flowers which were smaller and feathery. *Valentine* had a contrasting dark chocolate center which was striking. They had different characteristics, but I prefer *Butter Chiffon* because of its size and more delicate appearance.

Prefer Valentine

Butter Chiffon 3★★★★☆☹🐛 MN
Valentine 6★★★★☆☺🐛

Butter Chiffon was a scraggly plant. Both varieties were difficult to use as cut-flower arrangements as the lighter flowers were more prone to bug markings.

Butter Chiffon 5★★★★☆☹🐛 NE
Valentine 9★★★★☆☺🐛

In the hot, dry planting season, *Valentine* germinated better and faster than *Butter Chiffon*. *Valentine* had more blooms per plant, but the blooms were smaller. I did prefer the color of *Butter Chiffon* though. Its blooms were a warmer yellow while those of *Valentine* were a lighter/cooler yellow.

Butter Chiffon 7★★★★☆☹🐛 SC
Valentine 10★★★★★☺🐛

Valentine had stems with 10+ flowers and was much taller. *Butter Chiffon* stems had only 1 to 4 flowers. *Valentine* dried up much earlier than expected.

Valentine bloomed early and produced many flowers.

No Preference

Butter Chiffon 8★★★★☆☺🐛 NW
Valentine 8★★★★☆☺🐛

Overall, they were equal. *Butter Chiffon* was healthier and produced more flowers.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked *Valentine*, but they strongly preferred the beauty of *Butter Chiffon*. The blooms of *Butter Chiffon* were lovely with their lemony, delicate petals. *Valentine* bloomed early and produced many flowers.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

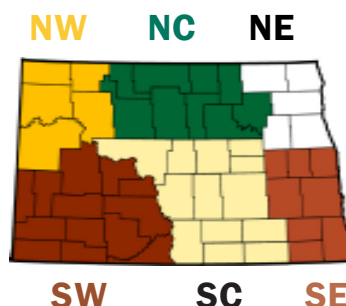
Ratings (1 to 10)
Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)
☺
☹

Garden type
🐛 = 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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SK = Saskatchewan

Sunflower, Soft Bicolor

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Gypsy Charmer

60 days. Petals have lemon base, red mid-band and lemon tips. Pollenless. Branching. 60 inches tall.

Strawberry Blonde

60 days. Blooms have burgundy/pink petals with lemony tips. Pollenless. Branching. 60 inches tall.



Data

Gardeners at 36 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gypsy Charm.	Strawb. Blonde	Same
Germinated best	9%	59%	31%
Healthier plants	3	57	40
Bloomed earlier	10	70	20
More blooms	10	41	48
Prettier in garden	6	52	42
Better cut flower	0	56	44
Preference	19	81	
Recommend	43	83	
Mean score ¹	5.63	7.38	
Median score ¹	5.50	8.00	

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

Prefer Gypsy Charmer

Gypsy Charmer 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 7★★★★☆ ☺ SE

The flowers of *Gypsy Charmer* were larger, which I preferred.

Gypsy Charmer 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 9★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Both varieties are great; still blooming on October 21. *Gypsy Charmer* blooms have a little more color. The plants of both varieties should be staked.

Gypsy Charmer 10★★★★★ ☺ 🏠
Strawberry Blonde 5★★★★☆ ☹ NC

Gypsy Charmer had prettier, healthier blooms.

Gypsy Charmer 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 5★★★★☆ ☺ SC

Gypsy Charmer bloomed first and produced more flowers. I just loved its colors! Absolutely beautiful. *Gypsy Charmer* was perfect for small bouquets. Both varieties were so pretty in my pollinator garden.

Gypsy Charmer 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 3★★★★☆ ☹ SW

Poor germination of *Strawberry Blonde* made *Gypsy Charmer* the better choice overall.

Prefer Strawberry Blonde

Gypsy Charmer 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 8★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Strawberry Blonde bloomed first.

Gypsy Charmer 1★★★★☆ ☹ 🏠
Strawberry Blonde 10★★★★★ ☺ MN

Strawberry Blonde was a beautiful flower for the garden and for cutting. *Gypsy Charmer* had a very low germination rate, and the plants were small and scraggly. *Strawberry Blonde* did so well, and *Gypsy Charmer* was a big disappointment.

Gypsy Charmer 1★★★★☆ ☹ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 9★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Strawberry Blonde had 19 plants that germinated; *Gypsy Charmer* had 8 that germinated. *Strawberry Blonde* outperformed *Gypsy Charmer* in all traits. It was fun to grow and cut. There were not a lot of blooms of either variety.

***Gypsy Charmer* has performed better in previous trials, but it got blown away by *Strawberry Blonde* this year.**

Best tall, soft bicolor branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Ruby Eclipse

Strong performer
Strawberry Blonde

Prefer Strawberry Blonde (continued)

Gypsy Charmer 4★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

I preferred the appearance of *Strawberry Blonde*.

Gypsy Charmer 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Blonde 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

I liked the blooms of *Strawberry Blonde* better. It attracted many pollinators to the garden. I may have crowded my rows a little. There were a lot of insect pest problems, and it was wet early in the season, so the plants of both varieties were not especially healthy.

Gypsy Charmer 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
Strawberry Blonde 6★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ SE

Neither variety had very colorful blooms. Neither was a stunning addition to my garden. *Strawberry Blonde* was a little more colorful.

Gypsy Charmer 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SE

The blooms were pretty, but they didn't stand out alongside the boring yellow ones I always grow. *Strawberry Blonde* was marginally prettier. The birds and squirrels loved the seeds.

Gypsy Charmer 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

A windstorm knocked the sunflowers over. *Gypsy Charmer* never recovered. It lost all of its leaves and produced no blossoms.

Gypsy Charmer 7★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Strawberry Blonde bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Gypsy Charmer 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties germinated well. They had sturdy/thick stems and numerous flowers on numerous branches. The colors of the *Strawberry Blonde* flowers were unique for sunflowers.

Gypsy Charmer 4★☆☆☆☆ 😊 -
Strawberry Blonde 8★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ NC

Strawberry Blonde germinated better. Its stalks were tall, healthy, bloomed first and produced more flowers. The flowers of these varieties looked identical to each other.

Gypsy Charmer 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Strawberry Blonde bloomed quicker, made a great cut flower, required minimal maintenance, and was easy to grow.

Gypsy Charmer 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

We preferred the colors of *Strawberry Blonde*. *Gypsy Charmer* bloomed first.

Gypsy Charmer 5★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Blonde 6★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

I preferred the colors of *Strawberry Blonde*.

Gypsy Charmer 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Strawberry Blonde had near 100% germination and was very uniform.

Gypsy Charmer 9★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were beautiful!

Gypsy Charmer 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 8★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW

Strawberry Blonde bloomed earlier, and its flower heads were smaller.

Gypsy Charmer 4★☆☆☆☆ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Blonde 7★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NW

Strawberry Blonde had almost 100% germination and flowered first.

Gypsy Charmer 5★☆☆☆☆ ☹️ 🏠
Strawberry Blonde 10★☆☆☆☆ 😊 SW

Strawberry Blonde grew faster and produced more flowers.

Strawberry Blonde germinated better, was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. It was a better cut flower, too.

Prefer Strawberry Blonde (continued)

Gypsy Charmer 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 6★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Strawberry Blonde was healthier and a more prolific bloomer.

Gypsy Charmer 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 6★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Strawberry Blonde had nicer-looking flowers.

Gypsy Charmer 7★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

Even though they were planted late in the season [July 1], both varieties germinated well and produced flowers. *Strawberry Blonde* germinated more, had healthier plants and produced more flowers. Its flowers were bigger and fuller.

Gypsy Charmer 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞 🗑️
Strawberry Blonde 6★★★★☆ ☹️ SW

Neither was overly pretty (too washed out of colors), and both varieties dropped their petals quickly even before being cut.

Gypsy Charmer 5★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞 🗑️
Strawberry Blonde 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

Strawberry Blonde had smaller plants (4 feet) and flowers. Its flowers had a dark center with red petals that faded to yellow at the tips. My *Gypsy Charmer* plants struggled to germinate.

Gypsy Charmer 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🗑️
Strawberry Blonde 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Strawberry Blonde grew better and looked more attractive.

Gypsy Charmer 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🗑️
Strawberry Blonde 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

In this challenging season, early blooms were key. *Strawberry Blonde* bloomed 10 days earlier. *Strawberry Blonde* was also excellent as a cut flower.

No Preference

Gypsy Charmer 3★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
Strawberry Blonde 3★★★★☆ ☹️ SC

Both varieties grew to the same height and looked about the same. Their colors were lackluster; definitely “soft bicolor.” Neither variety did that well or looked that healthy.

Conclusions

Strawberry Blonde outperformed *Gypsy Charmer* in all traits. It germinated better, was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. *Strawberry Blonde* was a better cut flower, too. *Gypsy Charmer* has performed better in previous trials, but it got blown away by *Strawberry Blonde* this year. Some gardeners were pleased but not excited with the soft tones in the colors of the flowers in this trial.

Some gardeners were pleased but not excited with the soft tones in the colors of the flowers in this trial.

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

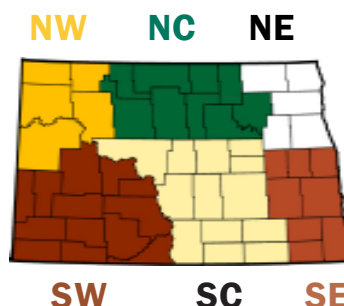
Comments
‘Variety A’ germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. ‘Variety B’ produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types

- 🐞 = Organic
- 🗑️ = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- 🚫 = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified

Locations

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- SK = Saskatchewan



Sunflower, Double-Petal Dwarf

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Baby Bear

60 days. Compact, branching plants with lots of orange, double-petal flowers. Pollenless. Grows 30 inches.

Teddy Bear

60 days. Large, fluffy, golden blooms. Short, branching plants bloom early. Minimal pollen. Grows 30 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Baby Bear	Teddy Bear	Same
Germinated best	40%	24%	36%
Healthier plants	41	18	41
Bloomed earlier	62	29	10
More blooms	45	27	27
Prettier in garden	27	23	50
Better cut flower	56	13	31
Preference	57	43	
Recommend	86	73	
Mean score ¹	7.95	7.32	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Baby Bear

Baby Bear 7★★★★★😊🐞 MN
Teddy Bear 5★★★★★😞🐞 MN

Both varieties came down with some type of fungal or bacterial issues. *Teddy Bear* had very deformed flowers; I am not sure if that contributed. *Baby Bear* was the clear winner in height, health, flower appearance, ease of use for cut flowers, and bloom abundance.

Baby Bear 8★★★★★😊🐞 MN
Teddy Bear 6★★★★★😊🐞 MN

Both were lovely and did well as cut flowers. I personally preferred the look of *Baby Bear* over *Teddy Bear*. *Baby Bear* looked the best in an arrangement. *Baby Bear* kept producing flowers and was less likely to lose petals.

Baby Bear 7★★★★★😊🐞 NC
Teddy Bear 5★★★★★😊🐞 NC

Baby Bear bloomed earlier and made a great bouquet. Its flowers were cute and lasted a long time as a cut flower.

Baby Bear 8★★★★★😊🐞 NC
Teddy Bear 6★★★★★😞🐞 NC

Baby Bear was a lovely cut flower. It lasted 5 days in my vase.

Baby Bear 9★★★★★😊🐞 SC
Teddy Bear 8★★★★★😊🐞 SC

I loved both of these varieties. *Baby Bear* produced more flowers.

Baby Bear 9★★★★★😊🐞 SC
Teddy Bear 7★★★★★😊🐞 SC

I liked the look better of the flower on *Baby Bear*.

Baby Bear 10★★★★★😊🐞 SC
Teddy Bear 5★★★★★😊🐞 SC

Baby Bear had single-stem flowers which I prefer for cutting as opposed to the multi-stem flowers of *Teddy Bear*. Both varieties were pretty.

Baby Bear 10★★★★★😊🐞 SC
Teddy Bear 8★★★★★😞🐞 SC

Teddy Bear had a hard time coming up and was about half the height of *Baby Bear*. *Baby Bear* looked a little nicer with its uniform heads and height.

***Baby Bear* consistently grew well and bloomed earlier. Its flowers were cute and outstanding for cut flower arrangements.**

Best double-petal dwarf branching sunflower variety

Top choice
Baby Bear

Prefer Baby Bear (continued)

Baby Bear 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Baby Bear flowers seemed a little more “fluffy,” but the flowers of both varieties were wonderful. *Baby Bear* bloomed first and these blooms attracted bees, which was wonderful for the rest of the garden. *Teddy Bear* lasted a bit longer than *Baby Bear* when used as a cut flower. These flowers were so full you didn’t need more than a couple to make a bouquet pop with color.

Baby Bear 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 3★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Baby Bear bloomed much faster. It was so, so cute. *Teddy Bear* is missing the cute center contrasting color.

Baby Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 5★★★★☆ 😞 SW

Baby Bear was by far the best. It grew taller and had more flowers.

Baby Bear 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 7★★★★☆ 😞 SD

I loved *Baby Bear*. Its flowers were very pretty and worked well for a cut flower. There were multiple blooms on each plant, and the flowers lasted longer on the plants. I will plant *Baby Bear* again. A winner for sure!

Prefer Teddy Bear

Baby Bear 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

I really loved both varieties, but my family preferred the fluffy texture of *Teddy Bear*. I noticed my kids would often touch them as they walked by the row. Both were beautiful!

Baby Bear 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Teddy Bear 9★★★★☆ 😊 NE

Teddy Bear plants did not dry up as fast toward the end of the season. It kept blooming into late September.

Baby Bear 4★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 5★★★★☆ 😊 SE

We had a better success growing *Teddy Bear*. Both varieties dried out over a weekend.

Baby Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

I loved *Teddy Bear*. It was very pretty with lots of blooms. Both varieties were pretty as cut flowers.

Baby Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

Teddy Bear had larger stems for cut flowers and lasted longer in a flower vase before wilting. *Baby Bear* bloomed first.

Baby Bear 4★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Teddy Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Teddy Bear had a unique look — very soft petals.

Baby Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I prefer the shorter plant of *Teddy Bear*.

Baby Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

Teddy Bear bloomed a week earlier and had double the flowers. Its flowers lasted longer. Both varieties were very pretty. They were healthy and withstood gale-force winds.

Baby Bear 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Teddy Bear 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Teddy Bear was better in all traits.

No Preference

Baby Bear 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Teddy Bear 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

I loved both of these! *Baby Bear* germinated more evenly, and its plants were more uniform in size. *Baby Bear* bloomed first and was finished blooming by the time *Teddy Bear* bloomed. Both lasted as cut flowers for a long time, dropping very little pollen.

Conclusions

Baby Bear consistently grew well, and most gardeners preferred it over *Teddy Bear*. *Baby Bear* bloomed earlier at more sites. Its flowers were cute and outstanding for cut flower arrangements. Gardeners enjoyed the fluffy flowers of *Teddy Bear*, and most of them recommended it as well.

Gardeners enjoyed the fluffy flowers of *Teddy Bear*, and most of them recommended it.

Sunflower, Orange Single-Stem

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Jua Maya

50 days. Golden flowers with a pure black disk. Blooms are pollenless and great for bouquets. Very early blooming.

ProCut Orange Excel

53 days. Improved earliness compared to the classic orange sunflower. Strong stems and 5-inch, pollenless blooms.



Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jua Maya	PC Or. Excel	Same
Germinated best	33%	44%	22%
Healthier plants	30	50	20
Bloomed earlier	25	63	13
More blooms	30	40	30
Prettier in garden	10	60	30
Better cut flower	0	67	33
Preference	27	73	
Recommend	45	73	
Mean score ¹	5.91	7.09	
Median score ¹	6.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Jua Maya

Jua Maya 6★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 5★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Jua Maya stalks were healthier and grew taller.

Jua Maya 7★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 5★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Jua Maya performed better overall. *ProCut Orange Excel* bloomed first, but had small heads and shorter plants.

Jua Maya 5★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 2★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Jua Maya showed more flower production.

Prefer ProCut Orange Excel

Jua Maya 5★★★★☆ ☹ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 8★★★★☆ ☺ MN

ProCut Orange Excel had a deeper color and bigger heads. *Jua Maya* was a lighter orange/yellow and smaller heads. I loved the big flowers for cuttings. After the big flower was cut, smaller flowers grew on the stem and were beautiful.

Jua Maya 4★★★★☆ ☹ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 5★★★★☆ ☹ NE

Jua Maya seemed a little more spindly and had more wind damage; the stalks laid down. *ProCut Orange Excel* was slightly less susceptible to wind. Other *ProCut* varieties we've grown in the past were better.

Jua Maya 7★★★★☆ ☹ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 9★★★★☆ ☺ SE

I got more and better blooms from *ProCut Orange Excel*. The blooms of *ProCut Orange Excel* lasted longer in a bouquet.

Jua Maya 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 10★★★★☆ ☺ NC

ProCut Orange Excel bloomed first, looked more attractive and was a better cut flower. Its flowers had better size and color.

Jua Maya 6★★★★☆ ☹ 🏠
PC Orange Excel 8★★★★☆ ☺ SC

ProCut Orange Excel plants were more uniform and sturdy.

***ProCut Orange Excel* bloomed first, looked more attractive and was a better cut flower.**

Best single-stem sunflower varieties

Top choice
ProCut series

Strong performers
Sunrich series
Vincent's series

Prefer ProCut Orange Excel (continued)

Jua Maya 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐛
PC Orange Excel 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

ProCut Orange Excel was deeper orange in color and had larger heads — like a dinner plate! They were beautiful and I wish they lasted longer in the garden as they all bloomed and now are just flowerless. The stem was hard to cut as it was thick and strong to hold up those big heads of flowers.

Jua Maya 4★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
PC Orange Excel 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

ProCut Orange Excel was better in all traits.

Jua Maya 5★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
PC Orange Excel 7★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Both were very slow to germinate. *ProCut Orange Excel* grew better; I liked growing a shorter variety of sunflowers.

Conclusions

ProCut Orange Excel won this trial. It bloomed first, looked more attractive and was a better cut flower. Its plants were sturdy and uniform. Gardeners preferred the deeper orange color of *ProCut Orange Excel* over the more golden color of *Jua Maya*. *Jua Maya* did not have any significant shortcoming, but most gardeners did not recommend it.

***Jua Maya* did not have any significant shortcoming, but most gardeners did not recommend it.**

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(reports are presented from east to west)

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Variety A
Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
★★★★★ 😊
★★★★☆ 😞

Garden type →
NC

Location →

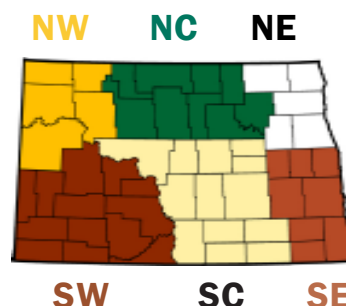
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'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

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Zinnia, Flaming Mixes

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Lava Lamp

80 days. Fiery mix of yellow, orange and red varieties. Large, bright blooms. Grows 36–48 inches.

South of the Border

80 days. A bold blend of red, orange and yellow varieties. For bouquets and butterflies. Grows 36–48 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 80 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lava Lamp	So. of the Border	Same
Germinated best	21%	25%	54%
Healthier plants	22	17	61
Bloomed earlier	28	40	32
More blooms	29	26	44
Prettier in garden	34	19	47
Better cut flower	35	5	60
Preference	56	44	
Recommend	94	85	
Mean score ¹	8.32	7.92	
Median score ¹	9.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Lava Lamp

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★★😊MN

Lava Lamp had healthy, vigorous plants with nice, long stems for bouquets. *Lava Lamp* flowers had a better variety of colors and were vibrant. *South of the Border* plants were slightly shorter and a little more scraggly in appearance. *South of the Border* flowers were mostly only yellow and red.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★★😊MN

Lava Lamp had taller, fuller plants and looked more appealing. About 25% of the *South of the Border* seeds didn't come up. *South of the Border* had more variety in its blossoms.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊NE

Both varieties began germinating inside under lights in 2 days. Both varieties were attractive in the garden standing approximately 30 inches tall with flowers that were approximately 4 inches across. Both varieties produced numerous flowers per plant and included single and double blooms. These mixes were bee and butterfly magnets. *Lava Lamp* had a greater color diversity with orange, red and gold flowers compared to the red and gold flowers of *South of the Border*. This greater color diversity was the outstanding difference, but both mixes were beautiful.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊NE

I liked the blooms, height and sturdiness of *Lava Lamp*. It made great cut flowers. *Lava Lamp* had a greater variety of colors and densities in its blooms.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 6★★★★★😊NE

Lava Lamp had beautiful, full, large blooms. It had better germination and produced twice as many flowers.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊NE

Lava Lamp had bushier plants with plenty of flowers. Both varieties were healthy. *South of the Border* had more multicolored blooms.

This was our most popular flower trial for the second year in a row.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
Benary's Giant

Strong performers

Blushing Bride
California Giants
Cut and Come Again
Dessert Menu
Giant Dahlia
Lava Lamp
Merlot Mix
Oklahoma
South of the Border
State Fair

Prefer Lava Lamp (continued)

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★☆ 😊 NE

The plants and flowers of both varieties looked very nice. I prefer the colors of *Lava Lamp*. Both varieties got hard hit with sclerotinia so I had to carefully remove the plants.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

These varieties were amazing. The plants grew fast and tall — over 6 feet! *Lava Lamp* produced more flowers.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 6★★★★☆ 😊 SE

The bloom colors of *Lava Lamp* were impressive. I loved its orange/pink flowers. *Lava Lamp* produced more flowers. I cut heavy on it all summer with amazing results. Both varieties had a high germination rate, healthy plants and were good as cut flowers.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 6★★★★☆ 😊 SE

I loved the oranges of *Lava Lamp* versus the lackluster yellow/red colors in the *South of the Border* mix. The blooms of *Lava Lamp* stayed vibrant after the blooms of *South of the Border* faded in fall.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

South of the Border had mainly red and yellow flowers that were larger but shorter stemmed than *Lava Lamp*. *Lava Lamp* had blooms that stood taller and had more orange flowers. These orange blooms were more attractive to me, and the taller flowers made it a more attractive cut flower.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

The blooms of *Lava Lamp* were fuller with more variety in color. *Lava Lamp* plants were fuller and wider. *South of the Border* plants were taller and fell over easier. Monarchs loved them both.

Lava Lamp 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 6★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Lava Lamp blooms had better colors and were more attractive.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties were absolutely beautiful. I preferred the shape and color of the *Lava Lamp* flowers. Plants in this trial are still blooming on September 29.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

They both grew beautifully! I thought *Lava Lamp* allowed me to cut longer stems. However, some of my favorite colors were in *South of the Border*.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 2★☆☆☆☆ 😊 NC

Lava Lamp had much better emergence and more vigorous growth; because of this, it had more blooms! *Lava Lamp* flowered 2 weeks earlier and had four times more flowers than *South of the Border*.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 5★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Lava Lamp had good color. It was nice for cut flowers. Bees and butterflies loved the flowers.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Lava Lamp was more vibrant and attracted lots of pollinators. This trial was planted in pots, and the combination of varieties was very attractive.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were definitely stunning! Gorgeous flowers! *Lava Lamp* had slightly better/more flowers. The plants of both varieties were healthy, and their flowers were long lasting.

Lava Lamp 6★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 5★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I preferred the colors of *Lava Lamp*.

Both mixes received very high ratings, similar to what they received last year.

Prefer Lava Lamp (continued)

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🏠
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 SC

Lava Lamp plants were a little taller. Its blooms were a little more vibrant and did not dry out as quickly.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🏠
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😞 SC

I loved the huge blooms of *Lava Lamp*. I was shocked how big they were. They looked amazing. The plants of both varieties were healthy.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😞 SC

These varieties had stunning colors! I received many compliments for their vibrancy in bouquets! *Lava Lamp* had a little more color variation and much bigger blooms.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🏠
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 SC

Both varieties had attractive flowers. *Lava Lamp* had more orange, which we liked. Both varieties were much taller than we expected them to be, both reaching over 5 feet in height. The monarchs and swallowtails appeared to enjoy both varieties equally.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 SC
Lava Lamp had a greater variety of colors.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 SC

Lava Lamp lasted so much longer in a vase. *South of the Border* had smaller plants and was more attractive in my garden.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 NW

I preferred the colors of *Lava Lamp*.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★★😊 NW

South of the Border got a disease on some of the plants.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊 -
So. of the Border 6★★★★★😞 SW

Lava Lamp plants were taller and had a better variety of color. Its flowers were very pretty!

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😞 SW

Lava Lamp plants were taller. They produced larger and nicer flowers.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🏠
So. of the Border 9★★★★★😊 SW

They were very similar in size and health of the plants. *South of the Border* had an interesting variegated flower — one with multiple colors. *Lava Lamp* outshined with the height of its plants (almost 6 feet). It had stunning flowers and still, on October 2, I am enjoying the zinnia bed!

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🏠
So. of the Border 7★★★★★😞 SW

Both varieties had beautiful red, yellow and orange flowers. The hummingbirds, bees and monarch butterflies were attracted to them. *Lava Lamp* had bigger and more flowers per plant.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 6★★★★★😊 SW

They were both beautiful. We had this trial in our front flower boxes that drain well. They required more watering than I would have cared for. They looked sad when I was gone and my husband forgot to water them.

Lava Lamp 6★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 2★★★★★😞 SW

These were planted in tire planters. Neither variety germinated well or grew great, but *Lava Lamp* did significantly better. *Lava Lamp* grew 38 inches tall and averaged four flowers per plant. *South of the Border* only reached 20 inches high and were very scraggly with dry, brown leaves. *Lava Lamp* produced vibrant orange, red and yellow flowers. *South of the Border* produced deep red flowers only. Compared to the Pink Mixes Zinnia trial, these varieties did poorly. I have never grown zinnias from seed before.

Most gardeners preferred *Lava Lamp*. Its combination of oranges, reds and yellows were a riot of colors.

Prefer Lava Lamp (continued)

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊 -
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 SW

Lava Lamp had the first blossoms.

Lava Lamp 7★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 5★★★★★😞 SW

Lava Lamp had more flowers. We were expecting taller stems and larger flowers from these varieties, but both looked nice in the fall.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🏡
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 SW

Everyone loved the deep orange color of *Lava Lamp*.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 9★★★★★😊 SD

These were gorgeous! I loved having them in my garden! *Lava Lamp* had more blooms, but they were both terrific!

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★😊 SD

Both varieties had strong, healthy plants and produced an abundance of flowers. *Lava Lamp* plants grew 3 feet tall with blooms extending up to the 4-foot level. It made a huge, vibrant presence in the garden. *South of the Border* plants grew 2.5 feet tall with blossoms to the 3-foot level. *Lava Lamp* had more colors. Its reds, yellows, orange and magenta colors were a beautiful riot of colors. *South of the Border* had only reds and yellows. It just was not as festive or eye-catching.

Lava Lamp 7★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 6★★★★★😊 SD

Both of these varieties performed similarly, but not as good as my other zinnia varieties. Oddly, their flowers seemed tattered/insect damaged. I do think the weather made a difference. Butterflies liked the flowers of both varieties. *Lava Lamp* germinated better.

Prefer South of the Border

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊 -
So. of the Border 10★★★★★😊 MN

South of the Border bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Lava Lamp 6★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★★😊 MN

South of the Border bloomed earlier.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 9★★★★★😊 MN

I planted these flowers around a fence. Both varieties were healthy and looked good. *South of the Border* had bigger flowers.

Lava Lamp 4★★★★★😞🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★★😊 NE

Both varieties germinated poorly (less than 50%). The health of *South of the Border* was marginally better but neither fared well in the storms and wet conditions. Plants fell over and there was leaf rust. *South of the Border* started blooming on July 19 compared to August 3 for *Lava Lamp*. The flowers of both varieties had vibrant colors, lasted long, and attracted butterflies. *South of the Border* stayed nicer into the fall.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★★😊🏡
So. of the Border 9★★★★★😊 SE

I really loved both varieties. The plants were similar in height, and their blooms were beautiful and vibrant.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★★😊 SE

These are great varieties; still blooming on October 21. The plants need to be staked. *South of the Border* bloomed slightly earlier.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★😊 -
So. of the Border 10★★★★★😊 SE

South of the Border had a greater mix of colors and was more vibrant.

Lava Lamp 4★★★★★😞🐞
So. of the Border 9★★★★★😊 SE

South of the Border had vibrant colors and produced more flowers.

The colors of both mixes were bold, warm and bright.

Prefer South of the Border (continued)

Lava Lamp 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

They both were beautiful with plentiful blooms. I am still using them as cut flowers in October. Many plants reached 3 feet tall. The colors were spectacular. *South of the Border* had a greater variety of colors. We have planted zinnias from seed for many years; these were some of the best!

Lava Lamp 5★★★★☆ 😞 -
So. of the Border 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

South of the Border bloomed first and had a lot more flowers.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 9★★★★★ 😊 SE

These varieties were beautiful! They were similar in height and size; neither had a problem with diseases or pests. Some of the *South of the Border* blooms had multicolored petals; this included red-and-yellow petals and red-and-orange petals.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

South of the Border had more blooms. *Lava Lamp* germinated better (near 100% compared to 80% for *South of the Border*). *Lava Lamp* bloomed slightly earlier. The plants of both varieties were healthy and their flowers had spectacular colors. This was my first time planting zinnias, and I was excited to see them do so well and be so beautiful!

Lava Lamp 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked the bicolor blossoms of *South of the Border*. Both varieties made bouquets into October. I mixed them all together in the vase.

Lava Lamp 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 8★★★★★ 😊 NC

South of the Border had more blooms, but both varieties had lots of them. I loved the vibrant colors of red and gold with *South of the Border*.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 -
So. of the Border 9★★★★★ 😊 NC

South of the Border bloomed earlier and had a slightly more variety of flowers.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

South of the Border had more blooms. Its flowers were bright with bicolor doubles. Bees and butterflies preferred it.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 9★★★★★ 😊 NC

South of the Border had more flowers.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

South of the Border germinated better.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 9★★★★★ 😊 NC

Both varieties performed well. The flowers were very beautiful and bright — hummingbirds loved them.

Lava Lamp 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 6★★★★☆ 😊 NC

South of the Border had a burnt orange flower that was so unique and beautiful. *Lava Lamp* plants were healthier and produced more flowers.

Lava Lamp 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★★ 😊 SC

I preferred the colors and plant size of *South of the Border*.

Lava Lamp 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 9★★★★★ 😊 SC

South of the Border was healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. It had sturdy stems which worked good for large bouquets. I shared pails of these flowers with the florist in Carrington. She was so happy to get them for her floral shop. A friend here in Carrington makes bouquets for the nursing home residents. She was able to pick several times and really appreciated the supply. These flowers were enjoyed by many people here in Carrington.

Gardeners loved *South of the Border* for its vibrant red and gold flowers as well as for its blooms with multicolor petals.

Prefer South of the Border (continued)

Lava Lamp 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were very beautiful. I cut both for arrangements and loved them! I prefer *South of the Border* because it is still vibrant late in the season while *Lava Lamp* is starting to dry up.

Lava Lamp 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

South of the Border bloomed first and had more blooms. *Lava Lamp* had more color variety and deeper reds.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
So. of the Border 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I preferred *South of the Border* because of its bright colors, but both varieties were beautiful!

Lava Lamp 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I liked the color combinations of *South of the Border* better. A rabbit decimated the seedlings of *South of the Border*, but they came back beautifully. I was so impressed by their resiliency.

Lava Lamp 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were beautiful. They had big blooms in shades of yellow, orange and red.

Lava Lamp 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
So. of the Border 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

South of the Border had better germination and more flowers than *Lava Lamp*. Both varieties had vibrant flowers. Maybe this was an off year for zinnias. These were the only ones we grew, and they were half the height that our zinnias usually grow and were late to bloom.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Both varieties bloomed beautifully. *South of the Border* had more uniform germination and earlier blooms.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The colors in the *South of the Border* were more pleasing to my eye. I loved its mix of golds and reds. *Lava Lamp* had more orange tones.

Lava Lamp 8★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★☆ 😊 SW

South of the Border had larger flowers and bright colors.

No Preference

Lava Lamp 10★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Both varieties did very well. They germinated well, produced numerous single and double blooms, had pretty colors and maintained healthy foliage through the first frost.

Lava Lamp 10★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
So. of the Border 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The flowers of both varieties were abundant, brilliant and beautiful. I had several cuttings during the summer and fall.

Conclusions

This was our most popular flower trial for the second year in a row. The results closely matched what happened last year. The colors of both mixes were bold, warm and bright. Both mixes received very high ratings from gardeners. The mixes were easy to grow, bloomed prolifically, attracted bees and butterflies, and made wonderful cut flowers. Most gardeners preferred *Lava Lamp*. Its combination of oranges, reds and yellows were a riot of colors. Gardeners loved *South of the Border* for its vibrant red and gold flowers as well as for its blooms with multicolor petals.

The mixes were easy to grow, bloomed prolifically, attracted pollinators, and made wonderful cut flowers.

Zinnia, Pink

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Blushing Bride

80 days. Charming blend of *Polar Bear* and *Pink Luminosa*. Big blooms for bouquets. Grows 36–48 inches.

Strawberry Parfait

80 days. Mix of *Ice Queen* (bi-color rose/white), *Polar Bear* and *Rose* varieties. A *Dessert Menu* mix. Grows 36–48 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 72 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blush. Bride	Strawb. Parfait	Same
Germinated best	26%	23%	51%
Healthier plants	16	24	60
Bloomed earlier	32	35	32
More blooms	22	29	49
Prettier in garden	16	32	52
Better cut flower	22	18	60
Preference	49	51	
Recommend	83	84	
Mean score ¹	7.70	7.81	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Blushing Bride

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😞 MN

I liked both varieties. They were showy and stood out in the garden. Germination was way better with *Blushing Bride* than *Strawberry Parfait*; about twice as much. *Blushing Bride* produced more flowers. The size of the *Blushing Bride* blossoms and its colors made the variety stand out more. They lasted well into the fall, and I was able to harvest seeds for next year. I did find out planting the zinnias in my vegetable garden attracted pollinators to my vegetables with blossoms. I will plant them next year in my garden.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😞 MN

I liked the color of *Blushing Bride*. Its long stems made for nice cut flowers. *Strawberry Parfait* had poor germination.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 MN

I pinched them back when they were young. A fungus got to them badly at that point, but it turned out okay because the plants developed multiple shoots with a lot of flowers! *Blushing Bride* came out of the disease a little better, but both came out of the disease well. The flowers of both varieties were so pretty, and the monarchs loved to stop by. That was awesome!

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😞 MN

Both varieties had a similar number of flowers into September. *Blushing Bride* plants continued their good growth and flowering into October, while the plants of *Strawberry Parfait* started losing vigor and began to break down. *Strawberry Parfait* plants had some leaf spotting early in the season (late June), which did not seem to affect performance. Monarch butterflies visited the zinnia patch in September; 15–20 monarchs hung around for a little over a week.

Both mixes were very showy and pretty.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
Benary's
Giant

Strong performers

Blushing
Bride
California
Giants
Cut and
Come
Again
Dessert Menu
Giant Dahlia
Lava Lamp
Merlot Mix
Oklahoma
South of the
Border
State Fair

Prefer Blushing Bride (continued)

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🏡
 Strawberry Parfait 6★★★★☆☹NE

Blushing Bride had better germination and more blooms.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☺SE

Both produced beautiful blooms; we are still cutting them for arrangements in October. Their blooms lasted long as cut flowers (1 week in a vase). The colors of *Blushing Bride* were more vibrant.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆☺SE

This trial was planted in a different location than last year, and the varieties surpassed the previous year — they were taller, more robust (stronger), and their colors were distinct. The colors of *Blushing Bride* were softer and coordinated better with my garden. I handed out cut flowers at my office, and my teammates also selected *Blushing Bride* as their favorite flower.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☹SE

Strawberry Parfait bloomed on July 11; *Blushing Bride* bloomed on July 16. *Blushing Bride* had a greater diversity of colors. Both varieties produced a tremendous amount of blooms.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆☺SE

Blushing Bride bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🏡
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☺SE

Blushing Bride bloomed a little earlier. Its flowers were very pretty with soft pinks and white colors. Both varieties produced lots of flowers and were good for cutting.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☺NC

Both varieties grew beautifully and were a great addition to the garden. *Blushing Bride* germinated better.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🏡
 Strawberry Parfait 6★★★★☆☺NC

Both varieties germinated quickly and grew well. *Blushing Bride* plants were fuller, taller and had many more blooms. *Blushing Bride* bloomed earlier and had larger flowers. *Strawberry Parfait* caught up and its flowers were nice.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☺NC

Blushing Bride had some blossoms that were more of a purple shade — not all pink and white. Both varieties produced lots of flowers. I made bouquets into October by mixing flowers from both varieties in the vase.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆☺NC

The flowers of both varieties were very beautiful in my garden. *Strawberry Parfait* had a couple more colors. *Blushing Bride* lasted a little longer as a cut flower.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☺NC

These were beautiful flowers and worked so well as pollinators for a garden. Their colors were almost identical to each other. These varieties performed similarly across the board except *Blushing Bride* did bloom quicker than *Strawberry Parfait*.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☺NC

The colors of *Blushing Bride* were soft and complemented each other. I loved the cream color in the mix. *Blushing Bride* had more double blooms and stronger stems.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 5★★★★☆☹NC

Blushing Bride plants were sturdier and quicker blooming.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★★☺🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆☺NC

Blushing Bride was better for cut flowers. I preferred its colors, too.

***Blushing Bride* had a blend of soft and charming colors.**

Prefer Blushing Bride (continued)

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 4★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Blushing Bride was better in all traits, including color.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The plants of both varieties were healthy. I noticed more of the *Blushing Bride* flowers. Oh my, these varieties make such an attractive mix — they looked beautiful together!

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The colors complemented themselves. Hummingbirds liked the blooms also. The creamy white blooms of *Blushing Bride* were pretty to pair with other flowers.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The blooms of *Blushing Bride* had nicer colors and a greater variety of colors. *Strawberry Parfait* had more white flowers.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Blushing Bride bloomed first and had more blooms. Both varieties were wonderful for pollinators.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The colors of *Blushing Bride* were stunning. The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* were not as varied this year. Both varieties had large, attractive blooms. The plants of both varieties were strong and weathered all the storms very well. They are still producing beautiful flowers into mid-September.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 6★★★★☆ 😊 SC

These varieties had beautiful, full blooms that were long lasting in the garden and good for cut flowers! *Blushing Bride* had bigger blooms with more saturated color and stronger stems.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties had really pretty flowers. I liked the colors of the *Blushing Bride* flowers a little better.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

I prefer the mix of colors in *Blushing Bride*.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 5★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The flowers of *Blushing Bride* were larger and fuller.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Strawberry Parfait was mostly white zinnias; very few pink.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Strawberry Parfait 5★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The stems of both varieties broke near the ground; slightly less so with *Blushing Bride*.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 4★★★★☆ 😊 SD

The colors of *Blushing Bride* were very pretty. *Strawberry Parfait* had mostly white blossoms and were not as showy. The plants of both varieties grew 26–36 inches tall and were healthy.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★ 😊 🍷
 Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 MB

Blushing Bride produced very large, double blooms, which were predominantly white with some pink pastels. I prefer double or semi-double zinnias and large showy plants. *Strawberry Parfait* was also excellent but had more single flowers.

The plants were tall and healthy, producing many blooms all summer until frost.

Prefer Strawberry Parfait

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 MN

These varieties were very similar and beautiful! They had very large flowers. We loved them both! I preferred *Strawberry Parfait* because it had one beautiful plant with gorgeous light yellow/cream-colored blooms. It was so elegant!

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😊 MN

Strawberry Parfait had nicer, taller plants and more blooms.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 MN

Both were pretty varieties. I enjoyed them well into fall.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 NE

I preferred the shape of the *Strawberry Parfait* blooms. Both varieties had about 80% white blooms.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😊 NE

The blossoms of *Strawberry Parfait* looked nicer; better color. *Blushing Bride* lasted longer in a vase.

Blushing Bride 4★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 5★★★★☆ 😊 NE

I liked the look of the colors in *Strawberry Parfait* better. The flowers of both varieties were pretty in bouquets.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Strawberry Parfait plants were healthier. They had more and bigger blooms. *Blushing Bride* bloomed at least 7 days earlier.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

I preferred *Strawberry Parfait* because it had more pink and double-petal blooms. *Blushing Bride* had too many white and single-petal blooms.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties produced beautiful blooms, but I was more often intrigued by *Strawberry Parfait*. The flowers of *Strawberry Parfait* had so much variety in head shapes and colors, and they seemed to be a bigger pollinator hit. The wind did knock more of the *Blushing Bride* plants over, but the stems did recover.

Blushing Bride 5★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😊 SE

I prefer the color of *Strawberry Parfait* over *Blushing Bride*.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Strawberry Parfait was better in all traits.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Strawberry Parfait germinated better, had taller plants and bigger flowers.

Blushing Bride 5★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Strawberry Parfait produced fuller blooms and were more pink than white in color. *Blushing Bride* produced many flowers, but they were more similar to coneflower [single-petal] blooms.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Strawberry Parfait had large, healthy plants and blooms that attracted pollinators! I will definitely be looking to plant these varieties in the future.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties had great germination and were easy to grow! *Strawberry Parfait* produced flowers with more pink shades, which I preferred. *Strawberry Parfait* had more flowers and long stems.

The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* were brighter with more shades of pink.

Prefer Strawberry Parfait (continued)

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Both varieties did very well and looked nice in the garden. *Strawberry Parfait* looked more attractive because it had more beautiful pink flowers while *Blushing Bride* had more white flowers.

Blushing Bride 5★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 6★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Strawberry Parfait blooms lasted longer.

Blushing Bride 4★★★★☆ 😞 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😞 NC

I had twice as many plants for *Strawberry Parfait* but only two pink flowers! *Blushing Bride* had only one pink flower. I wouldn't call them pink mix zinnias. The flowers of *Strawberry Parfait* were bigger.

Blushing Bride 1★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 4★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Neither variety performed well, but *Strawberry Parfait* looked more normal.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

I liked the colors of *Strawberry Parfait* more. Both varieties had a lot of white blossoms.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Strawberry Parfait had more attractive, taller, sturdier plants. Its blooms were bigger and brighter.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

The flowers of *Strawberry Parfait* seemed to last longer. Both varieties had beautiful plants and flowers. I cut them many times.

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were slow to start but were awesome once they started budding. *Strawberry Parfait* showed more variety of color.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Both varieties were very stunning. I've received several compliments on them. *Strawberry Parfait* was a little more vibrant. *Blushing Bride* was slightly muted and got brown spots quicker.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Strawberry Parfait germinated first and almost all seeds germinated. *Blushing Bride* had only about 50% germination. *Strawberry Parfait* was a prolific bloomer and had more colors.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 NW

Strawberry Parfait had a higher germination rate and more blooms. *Strawberry Parfait* did have a yellow flower on one plant.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😞 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Strawberry Parfait produced more flowers. We were expecting taller stems and larger flowers from both varieties.

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The flowers of *Strawberry Parfait* were more vivid.

Blushing Bride 7★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

These were planted around a flowering crab tree. The plants developed very shallow roots and many fell over. The plants of both varieties averaged five flowers per plant. *Blushing Bride* plants grew to 40 inches while *Strawberry Parfait* plants grew to 30 inches. The blooms of *Strawberry Parfait* had more vibrant colors — fuchsia and white — which I preferred. The blooms of *Blushing Bride* were more muted — light purple and pink. *Strawberry Parfait* bloomed first. Both varieties were very pretty and very similar in most aspects. Both varieties had browning and drying of leaves.

The blooms of both varieties attracted pollinators and were great for cut flowers.

Prefer Strawberry Parfait (continued)

Blushing Bride 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The plants of *Strawberry Parfait* had greater branching and produced more flowers. It had more single-petal blooms which pollinators preferred. *Blushing Bride* bloomed earlier. It was better for cutting because it had bigger, more double-petal blooms.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 SD

They performed the same and there was very little difference in the blooms. All flowers were a light shade of pink and white. There was a small difference in the shades of pink on the *Strawberry Parfait*. Both varieties were super productive with lots of blooms and were good for cut flowers.

Blushing Bride 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 7★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Strawberry Parfait was an attractive and easy-to-grow zinnia. *Strawberry Parfait* looked more attractive due to having a higher flower density. Both varieties showed good resistance to powdery mildew.

Blushing Bride 4★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SD

Strawberry Parfait grew better and continued to bloom through October.

No Preference

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 NE

If I didn't know the difference, I would've thought they were both the same variety! I couldn't tell a difference. Both produced very healthy plants with very beautiful pink and white flowers!

Blushing Bride 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

They are equal to me. The flowers were beautiful.

Blushing Bride 10★★★★★ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Both varieties were beautiful in the garden, lasted days in vases as cut flowers, and bloomed until the end of October! Both varieties withstood numerous strong winds and storms this year without tipping at all.

Blushing Bride 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 9★★★★☆ 😊 NW

I was expecting more pinks than what was produced. They were still very nice.

Conclusions

Both mixes were very showy and pretty. The plants were tall and healthy, producing many blooms all summer until frost. The blooms attracted pollinators and were great for cut flowers. Gardeners this year were evenly split on their preferred variety. *Blushing Bride* had a blend of soft and charming colors. The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* were brighter with more shades of pink. Some gardeners were not happy with what they felt were too many white flowers.

Gardeners this year were evenly split on their preferred variety.

Zinnia, Red Shades

Varieties (descriptions from catalogs)

Berry Tart

75 days. A radiant blend of *Cherry Queen*, *Coral Beauty*, *Meteor* and *Scarlet Flame*. A *Dessert Menu* mix. Height 36 inches.

Merlot Mix

80 days. A refreshing mix of *Meteor*, *Purple Prince* and *Scarlet Flame*. Height 36 inches.



Data

Gardeners at 59 sites submitted information.

Trait	Berry Tart	Merlot Mix	Same
Germinated best	29%	22%	49%
Healthier plants	21	19	60
Bloomed earlier	33	40	27
More blooms	27	29	44
Prettier in garden	29	24	47
Better cut flower	21	18	61
Preference	54	46	
Recommend	88	84	
Mean score ¹	8.15	7.85	
Median score ¹	8.00	8.00	

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

Prefer Berry Tart

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 8★★★★★😊MN

Berry Tart plants were taller and bushier with longer stems. *Berry Tart* had a broader variety of unique red shades and consistent, regular blooms through more of the summer. I would plant these again!

Berry Tart 8★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 4★★★★★😞MN

Berry Tart bloomed first and produced more flowers. It was more attractive in the garden. The blooms were petite, only 1.5 inches in diameter. I would grow these with other flowers. This trial was grown in containers.

Berry Tart 6★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 5★★★★★😞MN

Berry Tart had sturdy plants and darker-colored blooms.

Berry Tart 5★★★★★😊
Merlot Mix 3★★★★★😊NE

I liked the colors of *Berry Tart* better. *Berry Tart* was healthier, bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Berry Tart 8★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 7★★★★★😊SE

Both varieties did very well and looked very nice in the garden. *Merlot Mix* germinated better, but both produced a similar amount of flowers. I really liked the red and coral color combinations as opposed to the red and more hot-pink flowers of *Merlot Mix*.

Berry Tart 8★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 7★★★★★😊SE

I really enjoyed the coral color in the *Berry Tart* mix. Some of the colors of *Merlot Mix* clashed. *Berry Tart* flowers lasted over a week on my desk at work.

Berry Tart 8★★★★★😊🏠
Merlot Mix 7★★★★★😊SE

Berry Tart germinated much better. Its plants were healthier and produced more flowers. I preferred the pinks and reds of *Berry Tart* over the purples and darker-colored flowers of *Merlot Mix*.

These were two gorgeous zinnia mixes.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
Benary's Giant

Strong performers

Blushing
Bride
California Giants
Cut and Come Again
Dessert Menu
Giant Dahlia
Lava Lamp
Merlot Mix
Oklahoma
South of the Border
State Fair

Prefer Berry Tart (continued)

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 9★★★★★😊SE

These were two gorgeous zinnia varieties. Both were strong, lasted days as cut flowers, attracted lots of pollinators, and bloomed until late October. *Berry Tart* flowers were slightly redder.

Berry Tart 9★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 8★★★★★😞SE

The flowers of both varieties had such deep colors.

Berry Tart 9★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 8★★★★★😊SE

I preferred the colors of *Berry Tart*. It produced more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden.

Berry Tart 9★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 7★★★★★😊SE

Berry Tart had more plants, taller plants and more flowers.

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 5★★★★★😞SE

Berry Tart had gorgeous, vibrant flowers!

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 7★★★★★😞NC

Merlot Mix produced more blooms, but they were mostly single-petal flowers and many were missing petals due to winds. *Berry Tart* did not have as many blooms, but most were double flowers. *Berry Tart* withstood strong winds, had strong stems and its blooms had bold colors.

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 9★★★★★😊NC

Berry Tart was a little more vibrant.

Berry Tart 7★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 3★★★★★😞NC

I preferred the colors of *Berry Tart*. Its flowers stood out well in the garden and when cut. *Berry Tart* germinated extremely well and withstood several storms.

Berry Tart 7★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 6★★★★★😊SC

I preferred the colors of *Berry Tart* more. *Merlot Mix* had bigger blooms and more attractive foliage. The leaves of *Merlot Mix* were darker with more defined veins.

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 9★★★★★😊SC

They both were amazing! The coral color of *Berry Tart* was fun and unusual, yet the *Merlot Mix* had vibrant reds. It was hard to pick my favorite! I am new at flower gardening and have enjoyed these zinnias very much. I shared them with friends and family and loved having fresh-picked flowers in the house!

Berry Tart 7★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 4★★★★★😊SC

I preferred the colors of *Berry Tart*.

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 8★★★★★😊SC

I loved the *Berry Tart* flowers. They are unique. I received many compliments on them.

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 6★★★★★😞SC

I preferred *Berry Tart* because its plants were a little taller. Its blooms had more reds and were bright. Both varieties attracted a lot of butterflies.

Berry Tart 7★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 6★★★★★😊SC

Berry Tart bloomed quicker and had nicer-looking flowers; vibrant reds.

Berry Tart 9★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 8★★★★★😊NW

I preferred the colors of *Berry Tart*.

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🐞
Merlot Mix 9★★★★★😊NW

Both varieties were great! They attracted pollinators and were very nice as cut flowers.

Both mixes produced loads of beautiful flowers all summer until frost.

Prefer Berry Tart (continued)

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 9★★★★☆😊SW

Both were very nice zinnias. *Berry Tart* came up first, had a nice stand, and produced multiple flowers on a stem.

Berry Tart 7★★★★☆😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 6★★★★☆😞SW

Berry Tart had more branching and more flowers. *Merlot Mix* had more colors and a higher percentage of single-petal blooms, which pollinators seemed to prefer. The flowers of both varieties kept very long in arrangements. I don't know if it was the weather, but the blooms were not as impressive as I expected, and I expected to see more pollinators for the size of the plot.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 7★★★★☆😊SW

Better germination and more blooms with *Berry Tart* made it my favorite.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 8★★★★☆😊SW

Berry Tart bloomed first, and I liked its colors more.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 7★★★★☆😊SD

Both varieties have very attractive flowers with vibrant color. They have really taken off this fall with cooler weather and more moisture. *Berry Tart* germinated better.

Berry Tart 8★★★★☆😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 6★★★★☆😞SD

I planted these in a raised bed garden. The germination was great, but because they had dew on them almost every morning, they had lots of brown spots on leaves. Both varieties had pretty flowers. *Berry Tart* had larger flowers, brighter flowers and was more beautiful.

Berry Tart 10★★★★★😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 8★★★★☆😊MB

Berry Tart produced tall, bushy and vigorous plants which made for a showy planting. Its blooms came in an assortment of red shades: deep red, dark coral, dark pink and bright red. It was a standout in my garden. *Merlot Mix* had fewer plants germinate successfully, and therefore fewer flowers. Its plants were slightly shorter and less densely branched, which would make them a very nice plant at the front of a border.

Prefer Merlot Mix

Berry Tart 8★★★★☆😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★😊MN

Merlot Mix had beautiful colors and nice, long stems for cut flowers. It produced a great crop of flowers. Both varieties were very showy in vases.

Berry Tart 4★★★★☆😞🏠
 Merlot Mix 6★★★★☆😊MN

Merlot Mix germinated better, bloomed first, bloomed more and bloomed the longest.

Berry Tart 8★★★★☆😞🏠
 Merlot Mix 9★★★★☆😊NE

I felt the *Merlot Mix* flowers were more attractive with their colors.

Berry Tart 7★★★★☆😞🏠
 Merlot Mix 8★★★★☆😊SE

I loved the fun, fuchsia-purple blooms that *Merlot Mix* had. *Berry Tart* stems had longer internodes.

Berry Tart 7★★★★☆😊🏠
 Merlot Mix 9★★★★☆😊SE

Merlot Mix was the best bloomer of the zinnias I planted. It is now a favorite of mine.

Berry Tart 5★★★★☆😞🏠
 Merlot Mix 6★★★★☆😊SE

Merlot Mix had better, fuller blooms in greater shades of red.

The plants of both mixes were strong and healthy.

Prefer Merlot Mix (continued)

Berry Tart 8★★★★☆ ☹️ 🏠
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

The flowers of *Merlot Mix* were more attractive. Both varieties grew well.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 SE

Merlot Mix plants were healthier, slightly taller and produced more blooms. I preferred the colors of *Merlot Mix*.

Berry Tart 6★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Merlot Mix 8★★★★☆ 😊 SE

Merlot Mix bloomed earlier, and its flowers had better color.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

The flowers of *Merlot Mix* were deep, deep purples. The flowers of *Berry Tart* were more coral, not berry, and did not “pop.”

Berry Tart 8★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Merlot Mix 9★★★★☆ 😊 NC

Merlot Mix produced slightly more flowers, but both varieties produced lots of flowers — I loved them. Both varieties had flowers in many different colors. The plants of both varieties were full and had nice foliage.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

These flowers were absolutely beautiful. The colors were vibrant, and they made excellent pollinators for a nearby garden. I will most definitely be planting these again next year. *Merlot Mix* germinated a tad bit better than *Berry Tart*.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 NC

I liked *Merlot Mix* better because of its richer colors.

Berry Tart 7★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Merlot Mix 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Merlot Mix had healthier, more attractive plants. Its blooms were slightly larger with a greater variety of colors.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 SC

Both varieties produced lots of flowers and still have flowers that are attracting butterflies [October 5]. *Merlot Mix* had a larger variety of colors.

Berry Tart 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Merlot Mix 9★★★★☆ 😊 SC

Merlot Mix bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. Its flowers were more variable in color and more attractive.

Berry Tart 5★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 SC

Merlot Mix produced a few more flowers. Both varieties were beautiful in the garden. I received compliments from my neighbors! I brought a bouquet of both varieties to the office and received compliments on their beauty and how long they lasted.

Berry Tart 6★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Merlot Mix 8★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Merlot Mix was healthier and looked more attractive.

Berry Tart 6★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Merlot Mix 9★★★★☆ 😊 SW

Merlot Mix produced larger and more flowers than my other zinnia varieties.

Berry Tart 9★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

I preferred the colors of *Merlot Mix*.

Berry Tart 5★★★★☆ 😊 -
 Merlot Mix 6★★★★☆ 😊 SW

The colors of *Merlot Mix* were more vibrant. The stems of both varieties broke near the ground.

Berry Tart 8★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Merlot Mix 10★★★★★ 😊 SW

I loved the brighter colors in *Merlot Mix*. *Berry Tart* flowers were big and beautiful, but the salmon/coral hues weren't as eye-catching.

The flowers of both mixes attracted lots of pollinators and lasted several days as cut flowers.

Prefer Merlot Mix (continued)

Berry Tart 8 ★★★★★☆ ☹️ 🐞
 Merlot Mix 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 SW

Merlot Mix rated better for all traits. Its flowers were pretty with their layered petals.

Berry Tart 9 ★★★★★☆ 😊 🐞
 Merlot Mix 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 SD

Both varieties were beautiful! *Merlot Mix* produced more blooms.

Berry Tart 9 ★★★★★☆ 😊 🏠
 Merlot Mix 10 ★★★★★★ 😊 SD

Both varieties had strong plants with lots of beautiful blooms. They were outstanding in the health of the plants and the color of the blooms. They handled the winds with strong stems. The flowers were covered with all kinds of pollinators all summer and attracted many different types of butterflies! I cut many flowers from the plants and they kept on producing more blooms. *Merlot Mix* had beautiful, striking red blooms that stood out from the other flowers.

Conclusions

These were two gorgeous zinnia mixes. They produced loads of beautiful flowers all summer until frost. The plants were strong and healthy. The flowers attracted lots of pollinators and lasted several days as cut flowers. These mixes contain the same deep red varieties (*Meteor* and *Scarlet Flame*). Their difference is that *Berry Tart* contains lighter reds (*Coral Beauty* and *Cherry Queen*) while *Merlot Mix* contains purples (*Purple Prince*). Gardeners split on whether they preferred the addition of light red or purple seeds to the mixes.

These mixes contained the same deep red varieties. Gardeners split on whether they preferred the addition of light red or purple seeds to the mixes.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

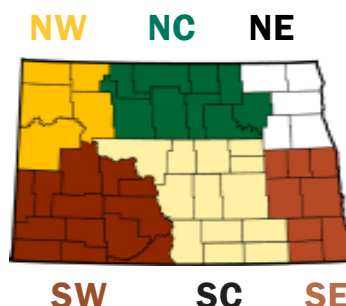
Ratings (1 to 10) →
 Variety A
 Variety B

Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no) →
 ★★★★★☆ 😊
 ★★★★★☆ ☹️

Garden type →
 🐞 = 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
 SD = South Dakota
 MB = Manitoba
 SK = Saskatchewan

Appendix 1

Welcome Letter

NDSU

EXTENSION

Dear Gardener,

Welcome to our research team! It will be fun to work with you this summer. Enclosed are the seeds you ordered. If you are missing anything, please let me know. Let's go over some key points:

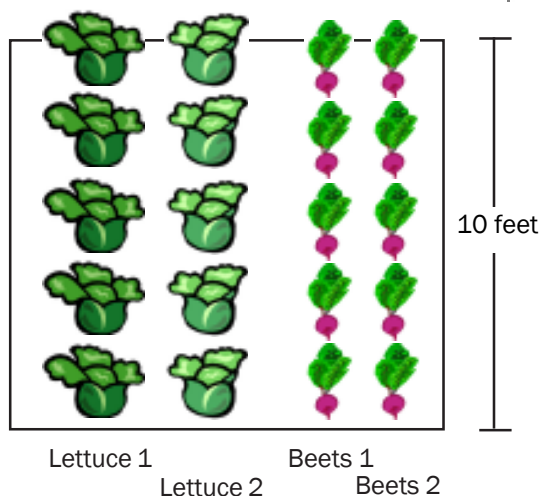
1. Each trial compares two varieties. **You must plant both varieties.**
2. To make it a fair comparison, you need to **treat both varieties in the same manner.** They must get the same amount of sunlight and general care (watering and fertilizing).

3. We want to see how these varieties perform under real home garden situations. The packets have instructions on how to sow your seeds, but you may **use your own gardening practices.** For example, I sow my cucumber seeds in a row but you can plant them in hills if you wish. It's up to you.

4. When possible, **grow the varieties for each trial in rows near each other.** Look at the diagram (top right). Notice the varieties being compared in the lettuce and beet trials are grown next to each other. In this way, they are most likely to get the same amount of sunlight and care.

Cucumber, melon and pumpkin vines can "run" and become intertwined. Try to keep the vines of each variety within the row so you do not get confused when harvesting and evaluating each variety.

5. You have enough seeds to grow at least 10 feet of each variety. It's okay if you don't have enough space for 10-foot rows, but try to get a fair look at both varieties.



6. **Use the plot labels** that are enclosed. This will help you remember which variety is which. I strongly encourage you to **make a plot diagram after you are done planting** for your future reference in case the plot labels get removed accidentally (this happens with kids).
7. An example of a completed evaluation form is enclosed. Use this as a guide to help you when evaluating the varieties.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Kalb, II

Tom Kalb
Extension Horticulturist
2005 N. Kavaney Dr., Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
tom.kalb@ndsu.edu

**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

2025 Trial #00

Cantaloupe

Name: Jenny Gardener

Date Sown: May 30

Did you use a chemical fertilizer (for example, 10–10–10, Miracle-Gro)? Yes No

Did you use a pesticide for insects or diseases? Yes No
If yes, was it organic? Yes No

Which variety:	Apollo	Zeus	Same	Comments
Germinated best?		X		Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor
Had healthier plants?		X		Apollo vines turned gray in fall
Produced the first ripe melons?	X			Three days earlier than Zeus
Produced higher yields?		X		Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6
Had more attractive melons?		X		Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh
Tasted better?		X		Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet

Overall Performance Rating	Apollo	Zeus
Rate each variety on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 5 = good and 10 = excellent. <i>Don't give both a "10". Be very critical!</i>	5	9

Preference

Circle the variety you prefer. *Don't circle both—make a choice!* Apollo Zeus

Please state the reason(s) for your preference:
 Zeus was outstanding. Good yields of large, sweet fruits. The vines looked healthy all summer. Apollo ripened early, but the vines were weak and the melons tasted bland.

Recommendation

Circle the varieties you recommend for North Dakota gardeners:

Apollo Zeus Both Neither

Appendix 3

Acknowledgements

Researchers

North Dakota State University Extension is very thankful to the following gardeners who provided results from their research plots:

Debbie Alber	Tanya Cloer	Jennifer Goettle and Eric Klein
Annell Alger	Amy Currie	Deb Goplen
Rhonda and Larry Amundson	Samuel Dahl	Lance and Mona Granrud
Lisa Anderson	Tammy Dahme	Renae Gress
Jo Ashley with Jennifer, Parker, Hawkins and Steel Hubrig	Jeanne and Bruce DeKrey	Sandi Groff
Farrah Azure	Annette Delaney	Connie Groop
Duane Balsdon	Danielle Dinger	Ann Guanella
Britney Barnett	Debbie Dockter	Greg and Erin Gullickson
Sydney and William Bauman	Joann Donley	Dan Gulya
Kristy Beck-Nelson	Jessica Douglas	Anita Haakenson
Ronald Beneda	Loren Drege	Nathan, Donice, Cara and Stacy Haeuser
Erin Berentson	Cara Dyck	Sara Hager
Bernadette Birkemeyer	Greg Endres	Mark and Shelli Halbakken
Anne Blankenship	Cheryl Engebretson	Stephanie Hall
Mark Blonigan	Louis Ferhat	Heidi Halland
Melodi Boke	Jennifer and Ryan Fiedler	Kimberly Gaab Hamburger
Royann Bold	Nancy Fields	Brenda Hanson
Sarah Boonstoppel	Alice Fitterer	Brittany Hanson
Sharron Brady	Monica Fitterer	Jan Hanson
Megan Brejcha	Shelby Fogarty	Naomi Hanson
David and Janice Breker	Daniel Folske	Corliss Haugen
Emma Brown	Flo and Jackie Friedt	Ray and Roxanne Hawley
Krista Bryan	Susan Froemke	Flora Hedstrand
Jessica Buck	Elizabeth Frohlich	Sarah Hegseth
Tara Bulow	Terry and Jeanne Fuller	Cristin Heidecker
Mandy Burbank	Darci Gahner	Betty Heinrich
Austin and Emily Burkett	Jeff Gale	Miranda Heinz
Shawna Bush	Debra Gallagher	Lisa Heitzmann
Rebecca Cahalan	Angie and Phil Gapp	James Helbling
Denisse Cameron	Ashley Geerts	Niki Helbling
Julie Canham	Janice Geffre	Amber Hendrickson
Debra Chaki	Patty Gefroh	Jennifer Hershey
Deb Chambers	Carol Giannonatti	Jane Heth
Anitha Chirumamilla	Sherwood Gibbs	Julie Hinds
Roger Christenson	Emily Gibson	Alicia Hoffarth
Jacob Cline	Michelle Gilley	Valerie Hoffman
Lori Cline	Sheila Glass	Liana Hoffman
	Ruth Glen	

Researchers (continued)

Beth Hokanson	Kim Lee and Darrin Frohlich	Dan and Cindy Olson
Bill and Connie Hourigan	Mary Leibel	Katrina Olson
Linda Hovda	Aspen Lenning	NaTanya, Evan and Mariska Olson
Emily How and Austin Alcoser	Larry Leshovsky	Jenny Olwage
Jennifer Hubrig	Marcia Liebig	Kathy Osborne
Keith Hunke	AJ Limberger	Kelly Parker
Lane, Taylor and Laura Huseby	Rebecca Lipp	Olivia Peek
Alex Jacobsen	Neil Litton	Kari Perreault
LaMonte, Emma and Ryker Jacobson	Jennifer Lofswold	Ginger Petersen
Ronald and Toni Jacobson	Lynnette and Gary Long	Sarah Petersen
Jenny Jaggi	Alyce Ann Lunde	Theresa Petersen
Joyce James	Rae Ann Lynne	Jodi Peterson
Nancy Jensen and the Bismarck Plant Materials Center	Margaret Marcusen	Kathy Peterson
Nancy L. Jensen	Polly Markegard	Mary Pettersen
Anthony Johnson	Megan and Rhett Martin	Shelley Porter
Rebecca Johnson	Theresa Martin-Johnson	Meagen Powell
Durand Jones	Connie Mason	Rojee Chipalu Pradhan
Lesley Jones	Valerie McGee	Krystal Prellwitz
Brenda Jorgenson	Peter and Bernadette Meberg	Deborah Reinowski and the Anamoose/Drake School
Marcia Jurgens	Ginny Mehlhoff	Val Reinsel
Tom Kalb	Dan Mehus	Tara Reisenauer
Lacy Kavanagh	Martha Meyer	Bernadette Ritzke
Thomas Keeling	Jeffrey Miller	Shanna Rogness
Brooke Kemmet	Terri Miller	David Rohrich
Douglas Kerr	Janice Mills	Vanessa Rovig
Tesa Kingkade	Sara Mittelsteadt	Cathy Ruebel
Chad Klindtworth	Scott and Sheri Monroe	Dean and Ronda Rustad
Scott Knoke	Donna Mosher	Rena Rustad
Christina Weber Knopp	Kraig and Kate Motzko	Christina Sabot
Sarah Komprood	Patty Munro	Lauren Sako
Laura Kourajian	Katie and Eli Muth	Mylan Sand
Carol Krabbenhoft	Ardene Myers	Kyla Sanders
Aleta Krack	Amanda, Andrew and Cassie Neaveill	Laurie Sandness-Boeshans
Christan Krajeck	Dorothea Nelson	Bev Satnan
Donna Kristianson	Gabriele Nelson	Aaron Sawatzky
Emily Kubischta	Judy Nelson	Mark Scheele
Tavia Kuntz	Paulette Nelson	Sylvia Schell
Russ and Mary Kuzel	Joyce Ness	Darlene Schlenker
Suzanne Lahlum	Steve Neu	Bruce Schmidt
Kelsey, Reuben, Desmond and Jacob Lako	LouAnn Nider	Paige Schmidt
Tina Langhans	Bill Niehaus	Sadie Schmidt
Joyce Larson	Forrest and Emily Nielsen	Susan Schmitt
Mary Lass	Sheri Nissen	John Schneider
	Anna Ojczyk and Shaun McCoy	
	Christine Olson	

Researchers (continued)

Mark Schumaker and the Lord's
Cupboard Food Pantry
Jamie, Declan and Gemma
Schwan
Emily Schwartz
Kristi Schweiss
Marissa and Parker Scott
Jennifer Seamands
Carol Sebo
Angela Seligman
Chelsea Sherman
Daniel Sherman
Maralee Shoup
Rebecca Shuster
Crystal Sidner
Jean Siirila
Tish Skarloken
Kathryn Slavick
Don Smith
Julie Sperlich
Courtney Sprenger
Connie Sprynczynatyk
Rosie Sprynczynatyk
Jeff and Rhonda Stachler
Andrea and Harold Stewart
Jon Stika
Larry Stockert
Dawn Storandt
Telissa Stumpf
LeAnn Suhn
Liz Suhr
Lee Svangstu
Shelly Swandal
Dave and Ruthie Swenson
Heather Szklarski
Stephanie Szymanski
Bonnie Thomas
Melanie Tischleder
Maria, Andrew, Elizabeth and
James Toomey
Brent Trela
Kim Triebwasser
Erica Turnquist
Dawn Ueckert
Christine Uggerud

Beth Undem
Belinda Urlacher
Jill Vandal
Kimberly Vannett
Megan Vig
Beverly Virnig and Rob Olstad
John, Ella and Emma Voeller
Lillian Volochenko
Shirl Vonasek
Angie Waletzko
Prairey Walkling; Mary Hercher;
Emily, Abbilynn Marshall
and Audrey Marshall; Luke
Tryon and Sophia Tryon; and
Nolan and Norah Brennan
Stephanie Weiand
Ken and Kathleen Weinzierl
Wengler Family
Jill, Bennett and Hadley
Wettstein
Jane White
LuAnn Wick
Karen Wickham
Audrey Wieland
Roger and Cindy Wippler with
grandson Leon and his Mom
Shannay Witte
Brian Wolf
Patty Wolk
Laura Wollmann
Julie Woodbury
Carrie Zimmer
Brenda, Landon and Rick Zinke

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COVER: Terry Donovan, .../
196506958@N06/

53176736555/. **BEAN:**
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seacoateatlocal/36094591445;
danbruell, .../mr-morshee/
28679579807/; gravity_grave,
.../laureenp/5042670724/;
Sarah R, .../reid-bee/
7671668504/; Alice
Henneman.../alicehenneman/
6120192853/. **BEET:**
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calliope/7564086796/; All-
America Selections; eileeninca,
.../eileeninca/5664741029/;
shannonpatrick17, /
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2741977165/. **CUCUMBER:**
Timothy Takemoto, .../
nihonbunka/12878137/; All-
America Selections; All-America
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Myers, .../greg_myers/
51608847225/. **LETTUCE:**
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18349858178/. **MELON:**
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isaachsieh/2974054622/;
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10054547606/; Ralph from
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11168291055/. **SPINACH:**
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Icons

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Variety Descriptions

This is an academic report
published for educational
purposes only. No profits are
made in this program. The
descriptions of varieties in this
report were obtained from
information in catalogs of
numerous companies, including
Burpee, Fedco, Harris, High
Mowing Organic, Johnny's
Selected, Jordan, Jung, Osborne
Quality, Prairie Road Organic,
Seedway, Stokes, Sunflower
Selections, Territorial, Urban
Farmer, Veseys and A.P. Whaley.
These descriptions are used for
educational purposes only.

Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

2026

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 works with over 200 gardeners every summer to evaluate promising cultivars. The following cultivars have excelled in these and other trials in the Midwest:

ASPARAGUS. Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Millennium, Purple Passion.

BEAN. *Bush:* Annihilator, Antigua, Bush Blue Lake 274, Compass, Crockett, Derby, Homerun, Jade, Lewis, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Red Tail, Royal Burgundy, Strike, Tendergreen Improved. *Pole:* Fortex, Monte Gusto, Orient Wonder, Seychelles, Stringless Blue Lake S-7. *Soybean:* Envy, Tohya. *Wax:* Borsalino, Carson, Custard, Gold Rush.

BEET. *Red:* Bohan, Bull's Blood, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Eagle, Early Wonder Tall Top, Merlin, Red Ace, Red Cloud, Sweet Dakota Bliss. *Gold:* Boldor, Burpee's Golden, Golden Boy, Touchstone Gold, Yellow Sunrise.

BROCCOLI. Green Magic, Gypsy.

CABBAGE. *Chinese:* Blues. *Head:* Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

CARROT. *Orange:* Baltimore, Bengala, Bolero, Candysnax, Caravel, Cupar, Goldfinger, Hercules, Imperator 58, Laguna, Mokum, Napoli, Narvik, Naval, Negovia, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes, Yaya. *Other:* Gold Nugget, Purple Haze.

CAULIFLOWER. Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

CORN. *Super Sweet:* American Dream, Anthem XR, Awaken, Bolt, Icon, Kate, Superb, Troubadour, XTH11274, Xtra-Tender 274A. *Sugary enhanced:* Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Temptation. *Synergistic:* Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select, Sweetness. *Ornamental:* Fiesta. *Popcorn:* Dakota Black.



CUCUMBER. *Pickling:* Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf, Max Pack, Super Max. *Slicing:* Bristol, Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Green Light, Mercury, Muncher, Nokya, Orient Express II, Raceway, Raider, Salad Bush, Sashimi, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green, Unagi.

EGGPLANT. Classic, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express, Traviata.

GOURD. Autumn Wings Blend, Gizmo.

GREENS. Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Tokyo Bekana, Vegetable Amaranth, Win-Win Choi.

KALE. Black Magic, Dazzling Blue, Red Russian, Russian Frills, Vates, Winterbor.

KOHLRABI. Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner Improved.

LETTUCE. *Leaf:* Bergam's Green, Merlot, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. *Bibb/Butterhead:* Alkindus, Buttercrunch, Gatsbi, Nancy, Newham, Red Cross, Skyphos, Sweet Valentine. *Summer Crisp:* Albachiara, Chrystal, Magenta, Muir, Nevada, Pablo, Sierra. *Romaine:* Bluerock, Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Starhawk, Sunland. *Lollo:* Dark Red Lollo Rossa.

MELON. *Muskmelon:* Aphrodite, Athena, Dakota Sisters, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. *Specialty:* Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan.

OKRA. Buffalo Bill 91, Candle Fire, Clemson Spineless 80, Jambalaya 2.0.

ONION. Ailsa Craig, Candy, Patterson, Rossa di Milano, Talon, Walla Walla.

PEA. Shell: Early Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro Improved, Wando. **Snap:** Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap. **Snow:** Avalanche, Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sweet Horizon.

PEPPER. Bell: Bell Boy, Dragonfly, Early Sunsation, King of the North, Lunchbox Mix, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze, Red Knight. **Frying/Roasting:** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. **Hot:** Cheyenne, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, PS11435807, Tiburon.

POTATO. Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

PUMPKIN. Jack-o'-lantern: Autumn Gold, Bellatrix, Big Doris, Big Loretta, Cargo, Cronus, Denali, Early Dakota Howden, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Large Marge, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie, Warty Goblin. **Giant:** Dill's Atlantic Giant, Grower's Giant, Polar Bear. **Ornamental:** Abominable, Blaze, Casperita, Jack Be Little, Blue Doll, Porcelain Doll.

RADISH. Amethyst, Bacchus, Champion, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Red Head, Rover, Roxanne, Sora, White Icicle.

RUTABAGA. American Purple Top.

SPINACH. Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Escalade, Gazelle, Green Beret (SV2157VB), Lizard, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, Tyee.

SQUASH, SUMMER. Crookneck: Gentry, Sundance. **Scallop:** Green Lightning, Sunburst. **Straightneck:** Butterfingers, Fortune, Multipik, Zephyr. **Zucchini:** Cashflow, Desert, Dunja, Gold Rush, Green Machine, Green Tiger, Kefren, Mexicana, Payload, Portofino, Raven, Spineless Beauty, Yellowfin.

SQUASH, WINTER. Acorn: Autumn Delight, Black Bellota, Carnival, Table Ace, Table King. **Buttercup:** Bonbon, Burgess,

Uncle David's Dakota Dessert. **Butternut:** Block Party, Butterbaby, Butterscotch, Early Butternut, Granite, Waltham. **Delicata:** Cornell's Bush Delicata, Zeppelin. **Other:** Blue Magic, Delica, Pinnacle, Primavera, Red Kuri, Sunshine, Speckled Hound, Sweet Mama.

SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.

SWISS CHARD. Bali, Bright Lights, Charbell, Fordhook Giant, Improved Rainbow, Oriole, Peppermint, Ruby Red.

TOMATO. Small: Fargo Yellow Pear, Juliet, Red Torch, Sungold, SunSugar, Supersweet 100. **Fresh market:** Big Beef Plus, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity Plus, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus, Mountain Merit, Red Deuce, Roadster. **Paste:** Granadero, Roma VF, Viva Italia. **Heirloom:** Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, German Johnson, Manitoba, 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:** Sweet Dawn.

Seed Sources

The following is a sample of companies offering seeds. This list is provided for educational purposes only; no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Many of these companies offer free seed catalogs.

A.P. Whaley Seed, www.ahwaley.com.

Baker Creek Seed, www.rareseeds.com.

Burpee Seed, www.burpee.com.

Fedco Seeds, www.fedcoseeds.com.

Gurney's Seed and Nursery, www.gurneys.com.

Harris Seeds, www.harriseseeds.com.

High Mowing Seeds, www.highmowingseeds.com.

Johnny's Selected Seeds, www.johnnyseeds.com.

Jordan Seeds, www.jordanseeds.com.

Jung Seed, www.jungseed.com.

Osborne Seeds, www.osborneseed.com.

Pinetree Garden Seeds, www.superseeds.com.

Prairie Road Org. Seed, www.prairieroadorganic.co.

Seed Savers Exchange, www.seedsavers.org.

Stokes Seeds, www.stokeseeds.com.

Territorial Seed, www.territorialseed.com.

True Leaf Market Seed, www.trueleafmarket.com.

Vesey's Seeds, www.veseys.com.



All gardeners are invited to join our team of backyard researchers. Go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

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