

2013 Seed Trials Results Summary

Green Bean, Bush				
Number of trial results submitted: 15	Blue Lake 274	Contender	Top Crop	Duke
Average of total amount harvested (lbs.)	2.7	4.6	2.75	2.3
Yearly Yield: average rating 1= heavy, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.75	2	1.9	2
Flavor – Average rating 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.45	1.9	1.9	1.25
Purchase this variety again?	80% yes	36% yes	45% yes	67% yes
Rank: 1=best to 4+least	2	3	4	1

Summary : Gardeners planted different amounts of beans so results varied. Duke had poor germination for many gardeners compared to other varieties. Quality reports, including flavor and texture, can vary significantly depending on age of beans when harvested. Interestingly, while duke rated highest in flavor, it would be planted again by fewer gardeners than Blue Lake 274! All plants rebloomed and produced for a long season. Those that had disease or insect problems had them consistently on all varieties. Insect problems included

Broccoli				
Number of trial results submitted: 10	Premium Crop	Packman	Imperial	Waltham
Germination Rate	58%	55%	48%	25%
First Harvest order	Second	First	Third	Last
First Head average ratings (diameter in inches)	5.0	6.1	6.7	7.2
Sidehead production average ratings 1=productive, 2= acceptable, 3= unacceptable	1.75	1.25	1.7	2.3
Taste – average ratings (1=good, 2= acceptable, 3=not acceptable)	1.75	1.5	1.43	2
Insects: 1=none, 2=some, 3= heavy infestation	1.4	1.3	1.25	1.5
Purchase this variety again?	75% yes	93% yes	60% yes	50% yes
Rank: 1 + best to 4 + least	2	1	3	4

Summary: overall, several crop failures, showing that broccoli is a bit tricky to start from seed and grow quality transplants. Replanting of Waltham due to bad initial seed may have affected results. All varieties were disease free. Insects (caterpillars) were reported on only a few crops, but caterpillars were not widespread in the 2013 growing season. Premium Crop was well liked and 75% would plant again. Flavor was good and side shoots were acceptably productive. Heads formed early but were slightly smaller than other varieties tested. Packman was best liked with 83% willing to plant it again. Flavor was good, side shoots large and sweet. Head size smaller than Imperial and Waltham but side shoots were more productive than other varieties tested. Imperial would be planted again by 60% of gardeners. Flavor was slightly better than other varieties. Initial heads were large but first harvest and side shoot harvest later than others. Waltham results varied because of poor germination due to bad seed source and replacement seeds were planted later than other varieties. Fifty percent would plant it again. Initial head size larger though possibly looser than others and side shoot production ranked lowest.

Carrot				
Number of trial results submitted: 16	Nantes	Red-Cored Chantenay	Sweetness III	Touchon
1 st harvest yield – average	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.7
2 nd harvest yield 1= heavy, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.7
Average length of carrots	4.6	3.5	5.75	5
Tops density – average rating 1= strong, 2=good, 3=weak	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
Surface of root – average rating 1= smooth, 2=good, 3=weak	2.1	2.4	2	2
Flavor – Average rating 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.8	2.1	1.6	2.0
Texture – average rating	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.5

Lettuce, Loose Leaf				
Number of trial results submitted: 12	Salad Bowel	Oaky Red Splash	Green Deer Tongue	New Red Fire
Germination Average percent	95	84	10	90
1 st harvest ranking: earliest, middle, last	Middle	Earliest	Last	Middle
Number of harvests (average)	3.2	3.1	2.6	3.5
Average rating of Yearly yield:: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.73	1.64	2.6	1.5
Bolt ranking	Second	Last	First	Third
Flavor – Average rating 1=outstanding, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.36	1.64	2.64	1.5
Purchase this variety again?	89% yes	44% yes	144 % yes	91% yes
Rank: 1 = best to 4 = least.	2	3	4	1

Summary: all varieties were acceptable. Green Deer Tongue had poor germination. There were no disease or insect problems. The growing season was hot and dry. New Red Fire was liked by all and over 90% would plant it again. It had a high germination rate and produced the longest, even through the heat of summer. Flavor was excellent. Described flavor was sweet, nutty, moderately strong, and perhaps a slight peppery tang. Salad Bowel was well liked and almost 90% would plant it again. It had a high germination rate and produced high yields early and into summer. Flavor was very good, described as mild, mellow and sweet. Oaky Red Splash was acceptable and 40% would plant it again. It had a high germination rate and produced moderate yields. Flavor was described as mostly “ok” or plain, mild with several growers indicating slight bitterness. Green Deer Tongue would be planted again by only 30%. It had very poor germination rates and low yields. Flavor was acceptable, noted as stronger than other varieties with indications that the leaves were tougher or stiffer.

Tomato, Slicing				
Number of trial results submitted: 15	Celebrity	Legend	Bush Champion II	Container’s Choice
Order of first ripe fruit	Second	First	Fourth	Third
Fruit size in inches of diameter – average	4	3.2	3.3	3.2
Yield (fruit count)	30	29.5	28.5	33
Plant size in feet – average height	3.15	3	2.9	3.16
Raw flavor – average rating 1= outstanding, 2=acceptable, 3=poor	1.6	1.7	1.57	1.64
Cooked Flavor – Average rating 1=outstanding, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Texture – average rating 1=excellent, 2=good, 3 = poor	1.36	1.4	1.5	1.5
Purchase this variety again?	100% yes	62% yes	64% yes	71% yes

Winter Squash, Butternut				
Number of trial results submitted: 10	Waltham	Early Butternut	Avalon	Pilgrim
Germination : 1=most, 2=medium, 3= poor	1	1	2	2
Fruit shape/color	Typical/Tan	Typical/Tan	Typical/Tan	Typical/Tan
Yield (fruit count): average number	6.4	6.8	10.7	5.2
Plant size in feet – average height	3.15	3	2.9	3.16
Raw flavor – average rating 1= outstanding, 2=acceptable, 3=poor	1.6	1.7	1.57	1.64
Cooked Flavor – Average rating 1=outstanding, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Texture – average rating 1=excellent, 2=good, 3 = poor	1.36	1.4	1.5	1.5
Purchase this variety again?	83% yes	43% yes	67% yes	60% yes
Rank: 1=best to 4=least	1	4	2	3

Summary: Results of the squash trial were varied, perhaps because of the late start to a challenging growing season. There were many gardeners with germination and survival problems with all varieties. Each variety had highs and lows in each category. Avalon had the most production in most cases, but some gardeners had more production with other varieties than they did with Avalon. Likewise with plant size, indicating that growing conditions such as soil fertility and water availability likely affected results. Squash bugs were the most common insect, and they affected all varieties equally. Only a few disease problems were reported and they affected all varieties equally. Waltham” Eighty-three percent of gardeners would grow this variety again. Production, flavor, and texture were ranked high. Early Butternut: Only 43% of gardeners would grow this variety again. It ranked lower for flavor and texture as well as lower production. Avalon: Eighty-three percent of gardeners would grow this variety again. Production was highest but it ranked slightly lower (though still acceptable) on flavor and texture. Pilgrim: Sixty percent of gardeners would grow this variety again. Overall, the plants were smaller. Flavor and texture were acceptable.

Basil, Sweet				
Number of trial results submitted: 13	Christmas	Aroma 1	Profumo	Finissimo Verde A Palla
Germination :% of plants alive 2 weeks after planting	44%	53%	59%	58%
Average of Yearly Yield: 1+ heavy, 2+ acceptable, 3 + not acceptable	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.9
Average of Flavor: 1= good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable.	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.4
Flavor description	Peppery	Strong	Medium, Mild	Mild
Purchase this variety again?	75% yes	67% yes	89% yes	67% yes
Rank from 1 + best to 4 = least	2	3	1	3

Summary: Many gardeners had crop failures with failed germination, possibly due to a late start to growing season. Many growers suggested starting indoors or using transplants. All varieties were rated acceptable or heavy yielders. There were no problems with disease or insects. Flavor can be

Sunflower, Dwarf				
Number of trial results submitted: 13	Teddy Bear	Firecracker	Waooh	Music Box Mix
Plant height in inches - average	32.5	39	30	28
Plant width in inches - average	20	24	19	17
Bloom color	Solid yellow	Mostly yellow with dark center	Gold with dark center; some reddish	Gold with hint of red
Bloom size in inches - average	4.5	5.1	3.75	3.88
Bloom number - average	110.3	10.7	25.5	12.4
Rebound after cutting/deadheading – average rating: 1= excellent, 2 = average, 3 = poor	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Purchase variety again?	66%yes	63% yes	78% yes	63% yes
Rank average: 1 = best to 4 = least	1.8	2.6	2.8	2.8

Summary: Overall some crop failures due to heavy rains washing out seeds. Music Box Mix had slightly lower germination than others. Firecracker was earliest bloom. Firecracker was tallest with some reaching 6 ' and not considered dwarf by gardeners. Waooh had the most blooms though they were smallest in size. Firecracker blooms were largest. Most gardeners described blooms as yellow or gold though a few had reddish hints on "Waooh and Music box. Many gardeners did not cut flowers so ratings for cut flower quality were few. These varieties of sunflowers tend to be messy as cut flowers.