

2020 Bean, Fillet 16 growers reported	Masai	Maxibel	Soleil	Velour
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.2	2.3	1.4
Yearly Yield	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.5
Did you eat raw? (Yes or no)	6-Y, 6-N	5-Y, 5-N	6-Y, 5-N	6-Y, 5-N
Quality of raw beans 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4
Describe flavor	Nice crunchy bean flavor	Not much flavor, good	Not much flavor, good, sweet bean flavor	Pleasant bean flavor, crisp juicy bean,
Did you eat cooked? (Yes or no)	9-Y, 2-N	9-Y, 2-N	8-Y, 2-N	9-Y, 2-N
Quality of cooked flavor 1= good, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Describe flavor	Bland, crisp, crunchy, good, fresh, tender and crisp, fresh bean	Bland, tender and crisp, fresh bean	Bland, sweeter, ordinary, good, tender and sweet, fresh bean	Bland, dusky green cooked color, furry, crisp, crunchy, good, sweeter, turned green when cooked.
Did you preserve beans?	4-Y, 8-N	3-Y, 9-N	3-Y, N-9	3-Y, 9-N
Quality of preserved beans 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Would you grow this variety again? (Yes or no)	6-Y, 2-N	4-Y, 3-N	6-Y, 2-N	5-Y, 3-N
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(1.6) #1	(2.3) #2	(3.4) #4	(2.6) #3

Maxibel was the clear favorite of many growers while Masai was close behind where more picked it as #1 yet others picked a much lower ranking. The colored varieties seem to not be favored with yellow Soleil well behind other varieties mainly due to poorer germination.

2020 Beet, Red 13 growers sent in results	Detroit Dark	Merlin	Red Ace	Ruby Queen
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.4
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.8
Did you eat raw? (Yes or no)	1-Y, 10-N	12-N	12-N	12-N
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	2	2	2	2
Describe Raw Flavor	beet	beet	beet	beet
Did you eat cooked? (Yes or no)	12-Y	12-Y	12-Y	12-Y
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.5
Describe Cooked Flavor	sweet, good texture, earthy, bit more canned flavor	Bland, Good texture, mildly sweet	Buttery, Good texture., mildly sweet	Sweet, woody, nice reg. beet flavor,
Did you preserve (yes or no)	2-Y, 10-N	2-Y, 10-N	2-Y, 10-N	2-Y, 10- N
Quality of preserved beets? 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Would you grow this variety again? (Yes or no)	9-Y, 3-N	7-Y, 5-N	8-Y, 3-N	10-Y, 2-N
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(2.3) #2	(2.6) #4	(2.2) #1	(2.4) #3

Our second time of trialing red beets has knocked Detroit Red out of first place ranking of 2014. Red Ace. Seems like beets are the 2021 trial with close numbers for all four varieties.

2020 Bok Choy, mini 12 growers sent in results	Asian Delight	Purple Lady	Li Ren Choi	Toy Choi
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.5
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	2.0	1.8	2.1
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.3
Describe Raw Flavor	Cabbage like, fresh, sweet crunchy, crisp	Bitter, dry, mild flavor, crisp	Mild, stringy ribs, little bitter, crisp	Good, cabbage like, crisp sweet
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.2
Describe Cooked Flavor	Bitter, fresh, juicy, crisp, fresh buttery	Mild flavor. Small stringy ribs, fresh	Mild flavor, sweet and crunchy	okay
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.4
Would you grow this variety again?	8-Y, 1-N	5-Y, 4-N	5-Y, 4-N	3-Y, 7-N
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(1.3) #1	(2.9) #3	(2.4) #2	(3.4) #4

Asian Delight was nearly the unanimous first in ranking and Toy Choi was almost unanimously last. Many considered Toy Choi as too small.

2020 Carrot, Colored Trial 15 growers sent in results	Cosmic Purple	Lunar White	Malbec	Solar Yellow
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Carrot formation (smooth vs hairy; forked vs straight roots) 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.4
Did you eat raw? (Yes or no)	13-Y, 1-N	12-Y, 1-N	13-Y, 1-N	13-Y, 1-N
Quality of raw carrots 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.4	2.3	1.5	1.6
Describe Raw flavor	slightly bitter, parsnip, a little dry, normal, hard sweetish carrot	Bitter, fibrous, woody, parsnip, peppery, woody, tasteless	bitter aftertaste, typical carrot, slightly sweet,	veg carrot flavor but bland, not very sweet, normal,
Did you cook carrots? (Yes or no)	10-Y, 1-N	10-Y, 1-N	10-Y, 1-N	10-Y, 1-N
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.6
Describe Cooked Flavor	less bitter, caroty/sweet.	strong, like a parsnip, carrot	typical carrot, sweetish	bitter, favorite, sweet but a bit milder, average
Did you preserve? (Yes or no)	3-Y, 9-N	2-Y, 9-N	3-Y, 9-N	3-Y, 9-N
Quality of preserved carrots? 1=good, 2= acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1	1	1	1
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.2	1	1.1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2
Would you grow this variety again?	7-Y, 6-N	3-Y, 9-N	8-Y, 5-N	5-Y, 8-N
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(2.6) #3	(3.33) #4	(1.5) #1	(2.2) #2

Lunar White was, by far, least favored of all the carrots. Malbec, a newer hybrid, was most favored because of taste and, color, and production.

2020 Lettuce, Butterhead 14 growers sent in results	Buttercrunch	Edox	Red Cross	Sylvesta
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	2.5	1.4	1.6
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.6	2.3	1.9	1.7
Lettuce regrowth after cut 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	2.3	1.9	2
Quality of Raw Lettuce: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.2
Describe flavor.	Crisp/fresh, buttery, crunchy and tender, great, fresh, crisp	Center awesome, uninteresting, a little bitter, bold, slightly peppery	Sweet/crisp, center buttery, delicious, delicate, and stunning color, a little bitter, loved color, mild	Buttery, crisp on inside. Thick outer leaves. Very Good, good, green, crisp
Did you eat cooked? (Yes or no)	1-Y, 10-N	1-Y, 9-N	1-Y, 10-N	1-Y, 9-N
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	2	2	2
Describe Cooked Flavor	sweeter	sweeter	sweeter	sweeter
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1.1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Would you grow this variety again?	All Yes	4-Y, 5-N	7-Y, 4-N	5-Y, 4-N
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(1.1) #1	(3.0) #4	(2.3) #2	(2.7) #3

The all but one vote for #1 was Buttercrunch, a tried-and-true variety that has been grown for years.

2020 Squash, Summer Scallop	Benning's	Early White	Patisson	Sunburst
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11 growers sent in results	Green Tint		Golden Marbre	
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.4
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	2	1.9	1.8
Squash Shape 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Did you harvest and eat raw? (Yes or no)	1-Y, 7-N	1-Y, 6-N	1-Y, 7-N	1-Y, 7-N
Quality of raw squash 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	2	2	1	1
Describe Raw Flavor	Mild	Zucchini like	Nutty	sweet
Did you cook squash? (Yes or no)	All yes	All yes	All yes	All yes
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.5
Describe Cooked Flavor	Mild, sweet flavorful firm texture, blah,	Softer texture, watery, sweet, zucchini like, buttery taste,	Mild, nice texture, buttery smooth, rich, nutty, sweet	Mild, firm nutty flavorful, blah, mild sweet buttery
Did you preserve squash? (yes or no)	3-Y, 6-N	3-Y, 6-N	3-Y, 6-N	3-Y, 6-N
Quality of preserved squash 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	3	3	3	3
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Would you grow this variety again?	3-Y, 6-N	3-Y, 6-N	4-Y, 5-N	3-Y, 6-N
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(3.0) #4	(2.1) #1	(2.5) #2	(2.6) #3

Growers ranked Early White as #1 or #4 but enough had germination that more ranked it highest.

2020 Basil, Large Leaf 17 growers sent in results	Italian Large Leaf	Newton	Nufar	Tuscany
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.6
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.4
Did you use basil raw (Yes or No)	All yes	15-Y, 1-N	14 – Y, 2-N	All yes
Raw flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.5
Describe raw flavor.	Coarse texture, strong aftertaste, nice basil flavor, best flavor, mellow basil taste, spicy-sweet, mild, traditional	Chewy, faint smell, mild taste, nice, bit more anise than Nufar, good basil flavor, less licorice aftertaste, sharp good basil taste, spicy, bitter,	Instant burst of flavor, dissipates quickly, peppery, good true sweeter basil flavor, milder, sharp good basil taste, spicy – bitter aftertaste, mild	Intense licorice, bittersweet, clove scent, taste lingers, sharp, anise flavor, good – fun texture, intense, mellow basil taste
Did you cook using basil? (Yes or no)	9-Y, 5-N	9-Y, 5-N	8-Y, 6-N	9-Y, 5-N
Cooked Flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.1	1.1	1.3	1
Describe flavor.	Spicy, bright, mild, rich, deep	Tasteless, mild, even flavored	Delicate, mild, milder	Deep and intense, licorice, bold flavor, strongest taste, spicy
Did you preserve basil? (Yes or no)	8-Y, 5-N	8-Y, 5-N	8-Y, 5-N	8-Y, 5-N
Quality of preserved basil 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2
Would you purchase this variety again?	All yes	9-Y, 3-N	9-Y, 4-N	9-Y, 4-N
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(1.9) #1	(2.642) #3	(2.7) #4	(2.615) #2

You may think Basil is basil, Right? Not so fast. Italian Large Leaf, our least expensive variety was, by far, tops for most growers.

2020 Flower Trial: Phlox, Annual

16 growers sent in results

12 growers ranked varieties (4-crop failures)

Phlox, Annual 16 growers sent in results; 12 growers ranked varieties (4 crop failures)	Brilliant	Cherry Carmel	Red	Sugar Stars
Germination: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.2
Plant Size: height/width 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	1.7	1.7	2.2
Bloom Size 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.2
Number of blooms 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.3
Length of bloom time 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.6	1.4	2.2
Rebound after cutting/deadheading 1= good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.5
Attractiveness to pollinators 1+good, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Would you purchase this variety again? Yes/no	8-Y, 2-N	6-Y, 5-N	9-Y, 3-N	6-N, 5-Y
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	(2.2) #2	(2.7) #3	(2.1) #1	(3.1) #4

Subjective is difficult when MY favorite is #1 ranked by most growers although Brilliant, another red, was close. Annual Garden Phlox had that beautiful red color all the way to frost.