

2021 Compiled Raw Variety Trial Results

| Cauliflower, Colored 6 growers sent results, 4 sent rankings | Amazing | Cheddar | Green Macerata | Purple of Sicily |
|---|--|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.75 | 1 | 1.75 | 1.25 |
| Yearly Yield: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 2.25 | 1.6 | 2.6 | 2 |
| Quality of raw cauliflower 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.67 | 1 |
| Describe flavor | Sweet, avg. cauliflower flavor, good & flavorful | Milder, nutty, good | Stronger taste and smell than others, tasty, like broccoli | Sweet, mellow. |
| Quality of cooked flavor 1= good, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1.33 | 1.5 |
| Describe flavor | Avg. cauliflower taste | Really good, mellow | A bit stronger, bitter, delicious when roasted | Average cauliflower taste |
| Quality of preserved cauliflower 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.75 |
| Would you grow this variety again? (Yes or no) | 3 yes, 1 no | 3 yes, 1 no | 1 yes, 2 no | 2 yes, 2 no |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #3 (2.75) | #1 (1.5) | #4 (3.75) | #2 (2) |

Summary: Steady production despite heat, very consistent and nice sized heads was noted by two growers about Cheddar. Purple of Sicily has sweetest flavor and produced offshoots until frost which increased harvest and made up for small initial head. One grower had cabbage worms as a pest. Another had stunted growth in July and crop failure.

| 2021 Kale 6 growers sent results, 4 sent rankings | Black Magic | Redbor | West Landse | Winterbor |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1 | 1.25 |
| Number of cuttings? | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1 | 1.4 |
| Leaf color? | Grey-green, purple, dk green | Purple, purply, red | Green, purple | green |
| Cooked taste 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1 |
| Describe flavor | Fresh | Mild, fresh | Bit stronger taste | Mid, fresh |
| Raw taste 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1 | 1 |
| Describe flavor | Mellow kale taste with end bite | Fresh kale taste | Sweet with bit of kale bite | Nice crunch, sweetest |
| Did you preserve? (Yes or no) | 1 yes, 3 no | 1 yes, 3 no | 1 yes, 4 no | 1 yes, 3 no |
| Quality of preserved kale 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.66 | 1.2 |
| Would you purchase this variety again? | 2 yes, 1 no | 2 yes, 1 no | 3 yes | 3 yes |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #4 (3.33) | #3 (2.5) | #1 (1.75) | #2 (2) |

Summary:

Winterbor was 1st in 2014 and still is 1st in ranking for 2021. “Loved all varieties” was on comment. Another grower noted that Japanese beetles loved Black Magic. Both Winterbor were green varieties, Redbor was red, and black Magic very dark green.

| 2021 Shallot Trial 8 growers sent results, 5 sent rankings | Ambition | Conservor | BGS-270 | Zebrune |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Yearly Yield: 1 = productive, 2 = acceptable, 3 = unacceptable production | 2 | 1.66 | 2 | 1.33 |
| Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Describe Raw Flavor | Mild | Mild | Mild | Mild |
| Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Describe Cooked Flavor | Mild onion | Mild onion, sweet | Mild onion | mild |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Would you grow this variety again? (Yes or no) | 3 yes, 2 no | 3 yes | 3 yes, 2 no | 3 yes, 1 no |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #1 (1.5) | #4 (2.75) | #2 (2) | #3 (2.5) |

Summary: Not a popular crop at Houlton Garden but some loved all varieties. My harvest was so large that I am still using shallots every week so can attest that all the varieties are good keepers. The averages were very close 2-2.8. Zebrune was noted to be largest but last to mature by three weeks for one grower. Germination was good for most, but some had failures in germination for all varieties. Mild flavor for all.

| 2021 Spinach, Smooth Leaf 7 growers sent results | Bloomsdale | Kolibri | SV146VB | Tundra |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.66 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 2.2 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1.25 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| Describe Raw Flavor | mild | Mild | Mild | mild |
| Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Describe Cooked Flavor | Mild | Mild | Mild | mild |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.2 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Would you grow this variety again? | 2 yes, 3 no | 3 yes, 2 no | 4 yes | 2 yes, 2 no |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #4 (2.8) | #1 (2) | #2 (2.2) | #3 (2.7) |

Summary:

One comment was that the weather was too warm for good results. Another was that Bloomsdale bolted last and Tundra bolted first. Another grower noted early bolting by Tundra. Delightful and mild was flavor remarks for all varieties. Bloomsdale was first for some growers and last for others and last in averages. Newer varieties seem to be preferred over the tried-and-true heirloom.

| 2021, Squash, Yellow Zucchini 7 growers sent results, 6 sent rankings | Easy Pick | Golden Glory | Gold Rush | Yellow Fin |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 1.1 |
| Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.1 | 1.4 | 2 | 1.4 |
| Squash shape 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Did you eat raw? (yes or no) | Yes=2, No=3 | Yes=3, No=3 | Yes=2, No=3 | Yes=3, No=3 |
| Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1 | 1.25 | 1 | 1.25 |
| Describe Raw Flavor | buttery | Bland, sweet | buttery | Bland, sweet |
| Did you eat cooked? (Yes or no) | Yes=4 | Yes=4 | Yes=4 | Yes=5 |
| Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.25 | 1.4 | 1.33 | 1.4 |
| Describe Cooked Flavor | Mild, sweet | Mild, sweet | Mild, sweet | Mild, sweet |
| Did you preserve? (yes or no) (freezing, drying, pickling, etc.) | Yes=1, No=4 | Yes=1, No=5 | Yes=1, No=4 | Yes=1, No=5 |
| Quality of Preserved squash? 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3= not acceptable | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Would you grow this variety again? (yes or no) | Yes=5, No=1 | Yes=3, No=2 | Yes=4, No=1 | Yes=4, No=1 |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #2 (2.4) | #3 (2.8) | #1 (1.8) | #4 (3.33) |

Growers seemed almost evenly divided on rankings: 2.4, 2.5, 2.8 and 2.8. Easy pick seemed yellowest, and two growers mentioned this variety had more green skin as the season progressed. Gold

Rush was mentioned by one grower as a summer squash instead of zucchini. Gold Rush is a 1980 AAS Edible – Vegetable winner “with the shape and taste of zucchini:” as stated on AAS winner’s website. Sold as a zucchini by several seed companies. Isn’t it interesting that a squash can be sold under various identities? Golden Glory was attacked the most by squash bugs for one grower.

| 2021 Tomato, Late Blight Resistant Trial 5 growers sent results, 4 sent rankings | Cherry Bomb | Jasper | Lemon Drop | Matt's Wild Cherry |
|---|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.25 | 1.5 | 1 | 1.25 |
| Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1 | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.33 |
| Did you eat tomatoes raw? (Yes or no) | 4 yes | 4 yes | 4 yes | 4 yes |
| Raw flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1.75 | 1.2) | 1.5 | 1.25 |
| Did you cook tomatoes? (Yes or no) | 1 yes, 2 no | 1 yes, 2 no | 1 yes, 2 no | 1 yes, 2 no |
| Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Describe Cooked Flavor | Sweet | Sweet | Mild | Sweet. Good...mild, not too acidic |
| Did you preserve tomatoes? (Yes or no) | 2 yes, 2 no | 2 yes, 2 no | 2 yes, 2 no | 2 yes, 2 no |
| Quality of preserved tomatoes? 1=good, 2= acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Would you grow this variety again? | 2 yes, 2 no | 3 yes, 1 no | 3 yes, 1 no | 3 yes, 1 no |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #2 (2.66) | #3(3) | #1 (2) | #1 (2) |

Summary:

There was some early blight on all varieties for one grower and only Matt's Wild Cherry for another grower. But production was still high on all varieties clear to frost. My experience was germination of all seeds except for one seed of Lemon Drop. One grower had germination difficulty except for Cherry Bomb. Another grower had difficulty picking Cherry Bomb without tearing tomato so harvested clusters. The rankings were very close: 2.0 to 2.7. One comment was "all varieties grew well, tasted delicious and produced tremendous amounts of produce."

| 2021 Fennel, bulb 8 growers sent results, 7 sent rankings | Antares | Florence | Preludio | Orazio |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.6 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 1.4 |
| Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2 | 1.4 |
| Squash shape: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Did you eat raw? (Yes or no) | 3 yes, 3 no | 4 yes, 2 no | 3 yes, 2 no | 4 yes, 2 no |
| Quality of raw squash: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1.25 | 1.4 | 1.25 | 1.4 |
| Describe flavor. | buttery | Bland as expected, sweet | buttery | Bland as expected, sweet |
| Did you eat cooked? (Yes or no) | 6 yes | 6 yes | 5 yes | 6 yes |
| Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Describe Cooked Flavor | Mild, sweet | Mild, sweet | Mild, sweet | Sweet and tender, mild |
| Did you preserve? (Yes or no) | 1 yes, 5 no | 1 yes, 6 no | 1 yes, 5 no | 1 yes, 6 no |
| Quality of preserved squash? 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1 | 1 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Would you grow this variety again? | 4 yes, 2 no | 4 yes, 2 no | 5 yes, 1 no | 6 yes, 1 no |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #3 (2.7) | #2 (2.4) | #1 (1.8) | #4 (2.9) |

Summary:

The varieties seemed very similar and difficult to tell apart. The taste was similar for all varieties. Orazio was first to bulb. Antares was slowest to form a bulb.

| 2021 Celosia, plumed Annual 8 growers sent results, 5 sent ranked varieties | Fresh Look Mixed | Forest Fire Plumed | New Look Plumed | Pampas Plumed Mix |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Germination: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| Plant Size: height/width 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Bloom Size 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Number of blooms 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1 |
| Length of bloom time 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Rebound after cutting/deadheading 1= good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.33 |
| Attractiveness to pollinators 1+good, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2 | 1.9 |
| Any signs of pest protection (yes or no) | 4 no | 4 no | 4 no | 4 no |
| Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1,2 | 1.3 |
| Would you purchase this variety again? Yes/no | 7 yes, 1 no | 8 yes | 6 yes, 1 no | 8 yes |
| Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least | #2 (2.2) | #1 (2) | #4 (3) | #3 (2.8) |

Summary:

One grower's comment seems to sum up this trial: "All were very showy with bright bold colors." Other growers mentioned how easily celosia grew from seed and that these varieties are worth growing again. Pampas Plumed grew so tall that staking was needed. The deer were a problem with one grower.