

**2020 Herb Variety Trial: Fennel, bulb**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions**

Bulbing fennel can be started indoors or out. To start seeds indoors, seed in mid-April. Barely cover seed and keep moist. Seeds should be planted in plantable pots as fennel seedlings are very, very fragile with one weak taproot. Plant out after all danger of frost is past, as they will freeze. Plant in full sun eight inches apart. If direct seeded, wait until the soil is warm and thin to eight inches apart.

The bulb of fennel is the thickened lower stem, which will be white. Harvest this by cutting the whole plant when it seems well formed. If you wait too long, it will get tough and woody. Eat raw or cooked. The leaves can also be used as an anise flavored herb. If you see black and yellow striped caterpillars on the leaves, do not pick them off. They are the larvae of the black swallowtail butterfly and will not cause much damage. Growing instructions by Norma Rudesill.

You have 10 seeds per variety to start indoors as best practice. Or start outdoors according to instructions. Grow a three- foot row of each variety. You can stagger planting times as long as same amount of each variety is planted at same time.

For more information on growing fennel use this reference: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/herbs/fennel.cfm>

Fennel may be prepared in a variety of ways. Evaluate both leaf and bulb. For evaluation purposes, please use the same method on each variety.

What date did you plant the seeds? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you mulch? \_\_\_\_\_ What kind? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you fertilize? \_\_\_\_ If so, what kind? \_\_\_\_\_ What dates did you fertilize? \_\_\_\_\_

What pest prevention was used? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you grow plants in containers? \_\_\_\_ If so, would you recommend this method of planting again? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please rate your soil.**

Use one or two numbers that best describe your soil type: 1= sandy, 2 = silty, 3= loamy, 4= peaty, 5= clay, 6 = chalky, 7 = potting soil: \_\_\_\_\_

Soil Drainage: 1 = good, 2= adequate, 3= poor: \_\_\_\_ Soil Compaction: 1= low compaction, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable compaction: \_\_\_\_

**Please rate weather during growing season.**

Temperature: 1 = warmer than average, 2= average, 3= colder than average \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Moisture: 1 = wetter than average, two = average, 3= dryer than average \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of growing season: 1= longer than average, 2= average, 3 = shorter than average \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos are welcome. We especially like shots of insects, diseases, and those that compare varieties. Please email digital copies to [p.wastell@gmail.com](mailto:p.wastell@gmail.com).

Do you have suggestions for further vegetable, herb, and flower trials? \_\_\_\_\_

2021 Fennel, bulb Herb Trial	Antares	Florence	Preludio	Orazio
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable				
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable				
Did you eat raw? (yes or no)				
Quality of raw fennel bulb/leaf 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable				
Describe flavor				
Did you eat cooked? (yes or no)				
Quality of cooked Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable				
Describe Flavor				
Did you preserve? (yes or no) (freezing, drying, pickling, etc.)				
Quality of preserved fennel: bulb/leaf? 1-good, 2= acceptable, 3=not acceptable				
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection				
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation				
Would you purchase this variety again? (Yes or no)				
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>				
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems)				

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY October 31, 2021**

Return to: Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Educator  
Pierce County UW-Extension  
P.O. Box 69, 412 W. Kinne St.  
Ellsworth, WI 54011