

## 2019 Compiled Variety Trial Results with Diana Alfuth's Summaries

<b>Celery 5 growers reported</b>	<b>Conquistador</b>	<b>Golden Self Blanching</b>	<b>Tall Utah</b>	<b>Tango</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.8
Yearly Yield	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.6
Did you eat raw? (yes or no)	yes	yes	4=yes	4=yes
Quality of raw celery 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.5	2.0	1.2
Describe flavor	Good, ok, crisp, mildest of 4	Ok, crisp, sweet, a bit dry	Stringy bitter	Good, crisp, strongest, fibrous, less classic celery
Did you eat cooked? (yes or no)	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 2=no
Quality of cooked flavor 1= good, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.3	1	1	1.3
Describe flavor	Strong celery	Strong celery	Strong celery	Strong celery
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
Would you grow this variety again? (Yes or no)	4=yes	3=no	3=yes,1=no	3=yes, 1=no
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Diana Alfuth's summary: It can be difficult to get good, substantial stems for harvest. Celery is also very responsive to temperature and moisture extremes, resulting in more bitter or concentrated flavor in some years over others. In the trial, Conquistador was rated significantly higher than the other varieties, which may be an indication that it handles environmental differences better. It' was also noted to have the mildest flavor, which is possibly preferred for fresh eating. However, if the goal was to dry it, for example, a stronger flavored variety may be preferred.

## 2019 Cucumber, Long Burpless

<b>Cucumber, Long Burpless</b> 12 growers sent in results	<b>Summer Dance</b>	<b>Suyo</b>	<b>Tanja</b>	<b>Tendergreen</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.5
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.7
Did you eat raw? (yes or no)	yes=10	yes=12	yes=9, 1=no	yes=10, 1=no
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.2
Describe Raw Flavor	Mild, crisp, sm seeds, sweet, smooth, very wet and fresh	Slightly bitter. Mild, reg. cuke taste, crisp, crunchy, crisp, light, strong seed flavor when picked late	Slightly bitter, reg. cuke taste, tough skin, sweet, little mucilaginous but fresh and good	Great, milder taste than others, crisp, freshest, Lg. seeds, watery, light, fresh, sweet
Did you preserve cucumber (yes or no)	3=yes, 7=no	3=yes, 7=no	3=yes, 7=no	3=yes, 8=no
Quality of preserved cucumber 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
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)	7=yes, 3=no	7=yes, =no	1=yes, 6=no	6=yes, 2=no
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Diana Alfuth's summary:

Suyo came in first, with Summer Dance and Tendergreen in the middle, and Tanja coming in last. Even though Suyo came in first, it was noted to have a different skin/exterior appearance that was undesirable to some. Tanja came in last, with most growers saying they would not grow it again, while most would grow the others. Summer Dance and Tendergreen were noted to have milder flavors, with Suyo and Tanja being slightly bitter. Bitterness is usually increased in hot, dry conditions, and this was a very wet, rainy growing season. Evaluating bitterness of these varieties in a more average growing season, or in a dry year, might be useful.

**2019 Lettuce, Mini Romaine****9 Growers sent in results****7 sent rankings**

<b>Lettuce, Mini Romaine</b> 9 growers sent in reports, 7 sent rankings	<b>Breen</b>	<b>Little Gem</b>	<b>Monte Carlo</b>	<b>Truchas</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.3	1.3	2
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.7
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.1
Describe Raw Flavor	Sweet, stronger flavor, no flavor, good, tender	Some bitter aftertaste, bit tough, buttery, sweet	Crisp, mild, moist, crisp, touch bitter, fresh, bland	Crunch, good mild flavor, slightly sweet, slightly more bitter, fresh, nice lettuce
Did you cut lettuce for regrowth? (yes or no)	5=yes, 4=no	4=yes, 4=no	4=yes, 4=no	4=yes, 4=no
Quality of regrown lettuce 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.8	2	1.8	2
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?	7=yes, 1=no	7=yes, 1=no	6=yes, 2=no	7=yes, 1=no
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>

Diana Alfuth's summary:

These were fun to grow for gardeners, and all varieties performed well. Because of their small size, they did well in small gardens as well as containers, and were attractive and colorful to look at. Most gardeners would grow all the varieties again. There were no disease or insect problems with any of the lettuce grown. The top choice, Little Gem, has been around a long time and is usually a good performer in most home gardens. Growers liked the different colors and flavors in a mixed salad!

**2019 Peas, Garden Shelling****9 growers sent in results****8 growers sent rankings**

<b>Peas, Garden Shelling</b> 9 growers sent in results; 8 growers sent in rankings	<b>Little Marvel</b>	<b>Maestro</b>	<b>Strike</b>	<b>Wando</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.9	2.3	2
Quality of raw peas 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.4
Describe Raw flavor	Tasty, less sweet, good, firm, starchy	Sweet, sweetest, delicious	Ok, very sweet, starchy	Tender, less sweet, starchy
Did you cook peas (Yes or No)	2=yes, 4=no	2=yes, 4=no	3=yes, 3=no	3=yes, 3=no
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
Describe cooked flavor	sweet	sweet	Peas were firm, sweet	Soft, less sweet, sweet
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?	4=yes	3=yes	3=yes, 1=no	4=yes
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Diana Alfuth's summary: It was a difficult year to grow peas because of a late start to the growing season and a quick warm-up. Peas can be challenging in any year, and wet years can cause seed and root rot, resulting in poor germination. Use of an inoculant when planting also makes a difference. In this trial, Little Marvel came out in first place by a significant amount, with Strike coming in a distant last place. No diseases or insects were noted. Most gardeners would grow all varieties again.

## 2019 Pepper, Non-Bell Sweet

6 growers sent in result.

Pepper, Non-Bell Sweet 6 growers sent in results	Boris	Cubanelle	Giant Marconi	Melrose
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.3
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.8	1.3	1.3
Did you eat peppers raw? (Yes or No)	6=yes	5=yes, 1=no	6=yes	6=yes
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3
Describe flavor.	Juicy, tad mild, watery, similar to bell pepper, fresh pepper, sweet, meaty	Sweet. Mild, fruity, tough skin, citrusy	Good flavor, sweet, bitter, smoky, mild, meaty, some heat, somewhat sweet	Rich flavor, sweet, mild, sweet but flesh too thin., thin walled.
Did you cook peppers? (Yes or No)	4=y, 2=no	3=yes, 3=no	5=yes, 1=no	4=yes, 2=no
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.3	1.3	1
Describe Cooked Flavor	Very mild, mild	Mild, citrusy	Good pepper flavor, mild, some heat	Thinner skin, deeper flavor, richer taste, mild, sweet
Did you preserve peppers?	2=yes, 4=no	1=yes, 5=no	2=yes, 4=no	2=yes, 4=no
Quality of preserved peppers 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	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	1	1	1
Would you grow this variety again?	2=yes, 1=no	2=yes, 1=no	2=yes, 1=no	2=yes, 1=no
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>

**Diana's summary:** The pepper trial was pretty much a dead heat! No strong winner or loser emerged. All had similar germination, good flavors, and no disease or insect problems. They were evenly ranked for growing again, yield, and both fresh and preserved quality.

**2019 Radish, Elongated**  
**9 growers sent in results**  
**7 growers ranked plants**

Radish, Elongated 9 growers sent in results; 7 growers sent rankings	China Rose	Dragon Hybrid	French Breakfast	White Icicle
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.1
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.6
Quality of raw radish 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.7	2.3	1.1	1
Describe Raw Flavor	Inedible, average, med. Hot, sweet & spicy, hotter, peppery, well balance mild with heat	Hot, good crunch, good little spice, woody, spicy and crunchy, kind of hot	Mild, sweet, good flavor, hot, spicy, slightly bland, flavorful with some heat, mild, fresh, tangy,	Hot, crunchy, mild, nice texture, sweet with bit of heat, spicy, smooth and spicy, mild, bland, stronger
Did you cook radish? (Yes or No)	2=yes, 5=no	2=yes, 7=no	3=yes, 6=no	3=yes, 6=no
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	2	2	2
Describe Cooked Flavor	Turnip/rutabaga, mild	Turnip/rutabaga, mild	Turnip/rutabaga, mild	Turnip/rutabaga, mild
Did you preserve radish? (yes or no)	2=yes, 5=no	2=yes, 7=no	3=yes, 6=no	2=yes, 7=no
Quality of preserved radish 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	2	2.5	2	1.5
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
Would you grow this variety again?	1=yes, 3=no	3=yes, 3=no	7=yes	5=yes, 1=no
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Diana Alfuth's summary: Radishes are another crop that can have different flavors depending on the growing season's temperatures and rainfall. Flavors are usually stronger in hot, dry years. In this year's trial, French Breakfast ranked first by a good margin, and was listed as having the mildest flavor. Personal preference on "heat", however, can determine which varieties were ranked best on flavor. China Rose and Dragon Hybrid tied for last place. Several gardeners noted that China Rose did not develop a root, was mostly tops, and bolted earlier. Almost all gardeners would grow French Breakfast and White Icicle again but would not grow China Rose or Dragon Hybrid.

## 2019 Herb Trial – Shiso/Perilla

7 growers sent in results

4 growers ranked plants

Shiso/Perilla 7 growers sent in results, 4 sent in rankings	Asia	Britton	Green	Red
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.8
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.3	2	2
Did you use Shiso/Perilla raw (Yes or No)	3=yes, 3=no	3=yes, 3=no	3=yes, 3=no	3=yes, 3=no
Raw flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	2	2	2	2.3
Describe raw flavor.	Tingly, black licorice, best smelling, favorite flavor, Slight basil/licorice	Soapy, a bit harsh. Least favorite, very slight basil	Chemically, strongest interesting. A bit of a bite 2 <sup>nd</sup> favorite, blandly bitter	Mr. Clean, 3 <sup>rd</sup> favorite, blandly bitter
Did you cook using Shiso/Perilla? (Yes or No)	1=yes, 6=no	1=yes, 5=no	1=yes, 6=no	1=yes, 4=no
Cooked Flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	2	2	2
Describe flavor.	nondescript	nondescript	nondescript	nondescript
Did you preserve Shiso/Perilla? (Yes or No)	1=yes, 5=no	1=yes, 5=no	1=yes, 5=no	1=yes, 5=no
Quality of preserved Shiso/Perilla 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	1.1	1.1	1	1
Would you purchase this variety again?	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 2=no
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>

Diana Alfuth's summary: This was a new crop for many gardeners, and most seem to prefer it as an ornamental plant rather than an edible crop! The deer agree, and seem to leave this plant alone, but the Japanese Beetles were the only ones who wanted to eat it! All varieties ranked equally low, with Britton ranking less low than the rest! About half the gardeners would grow it again, but it isn't clear if they would grow it to eat, or for the decorative quality.

## 2019 Flower Trial: Snapdragon, Tall Mixes

<b>Snapdragon, Tall Mix</b> 14 growers sent in results; 8 sent rankings	Jordan	Madame Butterfly	Rocket	Tall Deluxe
Germination: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6
Plant Size: height/width 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Bloom Size 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2
Number of blooms 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Length of bloom time 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.5	1.2	1.2	1
Rebound after cutting/deadheading 1= good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.3
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 purchase this variety again? Yes/no	8=yes, 1=no	9=yes	7=yes, 1=no	7=yes, 2=no
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>

Diana Alfuth's summary: All four varieties were ranked very equally, and almost all gardeners would grow all of the varieties again. Snapdragons are usually quite reliable, and this season was no difference as none of the varieties had any problems with diseases or insects. Tall Deluxe had the longest bloom time, though the others were very close behind. Deadheading didn't appear to have much effect on any of the varieties. Snapdragons can tolerate cold fall temperatures and a significant amount of frost, providing color late into the season.



## 2018 Compiled Raw Variety Trial Results

### 2018 Bean, Pole -fresh/dried use

10 results turned in

Bean, Pole-fresh/dried use 10 growers reported	Cherokee Trail of Tears	Painted Pony	Rattlesnake	Scarlet Runner
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.3	1	1
Yearly Yield	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.4
Did you eat raw? (yes or no)	5=yes, 5=no	5=yes, 5=no	5=yes, 5=no	5=yes, 5=no
Quality of raw beans 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.9
Describe flavor	Fresh, not sweet,mild	sweet, crisp	juicy, sweet, crisp	Green bean, mild
Did you eat cooked? (yes or no)	8=yes, 2=no	6=yes, 4=no	7=yes, 3=no	6=yes, 4=no
Quality of cooked flavor 1= good, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.7	1.7	1.3	2.2
Describe flavor	stringy, sweet, fresh	clean, mild	sweet, fresh	A bit tough, grassy, dry
Did you dry beans?	5=yes, 5=no	5=yes, 5=no	5=yes, 5=no	5=yes, 5=no
Quality of dried beans 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8
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)	10= yes	8=yes, 2=no	8=yes	6=yes, 1=no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	2 (2)	4 (2.9)	1 (1.8)	3 (2.8)

#1 – Rattlesnake, #2 – Trail of Tears, #3 - Painted Pony, #4 – Scarlet Runner

While ‘Cherokee Trail of Tears’ has one of the more colorful garden variety names, ‘Scarlet Runner’ is the most ornamental, and it ranked lowest for eating. It is often planted and advertised to be an ornamental annual. ‘Rattlesnake’ took top honors, with a flavor described as sweet and similar to a bush bean. ‘Painted Pony’ ranked high for quality of raw beans, yet growers ranked it lower for cooked flavor and therefore it was ranked lower overall. None of the varieties had any significant disease or insect problems, although deer and rabbits were an issue. ‘Rattlesnake’ was a more vigorous climber. ‘Painted Pony’ produced smaller beans, which might be preferred in some cases. A few growers had plants and trellises tip over—a reminder that the plants can get quite heavy and sturdy trellising is needed!

<b>2018 Chard, Swiss</b> <b>5 growers sent in rankings</b> <b>9 growers sent in results</b>	<b>Bright Yellow</b>	<b>Fordhook White</b>	<b>Peppermint</b>	<b>Rhubarb</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.6	1	1.6	1.2
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.2	1.4	1
Did you eat raw? (yes or no)	3=yes, 2=no	3=yes, 2=no	3=yes, 2=no	3=yes, 2=no
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1	1.3	1	1
Describe Raw Flavor	Sweet, fresh	Fresh, bitter	Strong, mild	mild, sweet
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1	1	1
Describe Cooked Flavor	Good, fresh, mild	Meatier, less intense, stronger	Good, fresh, mild	Sweeter, nutty, hearty, mild
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
<b>Would you grow this variety again? (yes or no)</b>	<b>4=yes, 1=no</b>	<b>5=yes</b>	<b>4=yes, 1=no</b>	<b>5=yes</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>4 (3.2)</b>	<b>2 (2.3)</b>	<b>3 (2.6)</b>	<b>1 (2.0)</b>

#1 – Rhubarb, #2-Fordhook White, #3-Peppermint, #4-Bright Yellow

While ‘Rhubarb’ came in first, here wasn’t a lot of variability among the varieties tested. All ranked high and quite evenly for both raw and cooked flavor. ‘Rhubarb’ reportedly had a bit more consistency in stems and leaves. Wet, rainy weather affected yield in some gardens. There were no significant pest problems, except for some grasshoppers and deer. ‘Bright Yellow’ ranked last, but the majority of growers indicated they would still grow it again.

<b>Corn, Sweet Bi Color hybrid</b> <b>5 Growers sent in results</b> <b>4 growers sent rankings</b>	<b>Luscious</b>	<b>Montauk</b>	<b>Native Gem</b>	<b>Xtratender 2171</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.4	1.4	1
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.2	1.8	1.2
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.7	2	2.3	3
Describe Raw Flavor	Best flavor	Avg. f	Avg. flavor	Crisp/sweet
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.8	2	2
Describe Cooked Flavor	Sweet, tender, corn flavor	Corn flavor	Seemed damaged by improper pollination	Lost crop, corny
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1.2	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Would you grow this variety again?	3=yes, 2=no	4=yes, 1=no	3=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 3=no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	1 (1.75)	2 (2.25)	3 (3.0)	3 (3.0)

#1-Luscious, #2-Xtratender, #2-Montauk, #3Native Gem

Luscious came in first by a significant margin, with the best flavor ranking. Montauk was second, but Little Gem and Xtratender were quite ranked quite a bit lower. Xtratender appeared to have a less stable root system, allowing it to blow down in wind. All had similar germination, but Little Gem had less yield with smaller cobs. While no disease problems were reported, Japanese Beetles did feed on some silks, affecting pollination.

<b>Lettuce, Summer Crisp 12 growers sent in results 8 growers sent rankings</b>	<b>Concept</b>	<b>Loma</b>	<b>Magenta</b>	<b>Nevada</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.6
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.6
Quality of raw lettuce 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.8	1.1	1.3	1.5
Describe Raw flavor	Mild, crisp, bitter aftertaste	Mild, sweet crisp,	Mild, sweet crisp, buttery,	Mild, a bit bitter
Did you cook lettuce (Yes or No)	1=yes, 7=no	1=yes, 7=no	1=yes, 7=no	1=yes, 7=no
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
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>5=yes, 2=no</b>	<b>5=yes, 2=no</b>	<b>5=yes, 2=no</b>	<b>5=yes, 2=no</b>

#1-Magenta, #2- Loma, #3- Nevada, #4-Concept

It was a tie for first place in the rankings with Loma and Magenta. All had similar germination rates and yield. The summer had some hot days in July which affected longevity of the plantings. Bolting occurred in different stages among different growers, probably a result of soil type and watering. There were no disease or insect issues on any of the plantings, and an equal number of gardeners would grow each variety again! It looks like you can't go wrong with any of these varieties. There are MANY different varieties of lettuce available to grow, and more so than with most other crops, it's a matter of finding the texture and flavor you like best.

<b>2018 Tomato, Slicing – late blight resistant 10 growers sent in result. 8 growers gave rankings</b>	<b>Defiant PHR</b>	<b>Iron Lady</b>	<b>Legend</b>	<b>Mountain Merit</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	2	1.4	2
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.7
Did you eat tomatoes raw? (Yes or No)	6=yes, 1=no	5=yes, 1=no	7=yes	6=yes, 1=no
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.5	1.8	2	1.5
Describe flavor.	Sweet, juicy, basic, mild, bland	Juicy, bright, acid, flat, bland	Pithy, dry, basic, mild, bland, rich, bland	Sweet, average, flat, bland
Did you cook tomatoes? (Yes or No)	5=yes, 2=no	3=yes, 3=no	5=yes, 2=no	5=yes, 2=no
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.2
Describe Cooked Flavor	Good amount of pulp, sweeter, kept shape, tomatoey	Lots of seeds, tomatoey	Lots of seeds, okay, tomatoey	Good amount of pulp, average, tomatoey
Did you preserve tomatoes?	4=yes, 3=no	2=yes, 4=no	4=yes, 3=no	4=yes, 3=no
Quality of preserved tomatoes 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.3	1	1.3	1.3
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you grow this variety again?	4=yes, 4=no	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 4=no	4=yes, 4=no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	1 (2.3)	3 (2.6)	2 (2.4)	1 (2.3)

#### **#1-Legend, #2 – Mountain Merit, #3-Defiant PHR, #4-Iron Lady**

: These tomato varieties have been bred to be resistant to late blight. Unfortunately, during this growing season, there was no known late blight in the area, so the resistance was unable to be tested this year. However, based on other attributes, Defiant PHR was noted to have the best germination, yield and sweetness when eaten raw. It was smaller than Mountain Merit and was considered a more convenient size by some growers. Mountain Merit was ranked second, and noted to have larger fruits and good yield, but it took longer to ripen. All varieties were rated similarly for cooked flavor. While bred to resist late blight, all varieties had some other disease problems, probably early blight (*Alternaria*) and Septoria leaf spot. Each variety had about half of the growers say they would not grow it again. This may be because the flavor was not as good as other favorite tomato varieties which are not late blight resistant.

<b>Winter Squash, Acorn 9 growers sent in results 7 growers ranked plants</b>	<b>Carnivale</b>	<b>Jester</b>	<b>Thelma Sanders Sweet Potato Squash</b>	<b>Tip Top</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.7	1.7	1.5	2.2
Did you harvest and eat raw? (yes or no)	1=yes, 5=no	1=yes, 5=no	1=yes, 5=no	1=yes, 5=no
Quality of raw squash 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1	1	1	1
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1	1.2	2
Describe Cooked Flavor	Sweet, stringy, sweetest, bland	Meaty, solid, hearty, sweeter than most	Most flesh, mild, slightly sweet, dry nice flavor, solid	Watery, typical acorn flavor, sweet
Did you preserve squash? (yes or no)	2=yes, 4=no	3=yes, 4=no	3=yes, 4=no	2=yes, 4=no
Quality of preserved squash 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>3=yes, 2=no</b>	<b>3=yes, 1=no</b>	<b>4=yes,1=no</b>	<b>2=yes, 3=no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>3 (2.7)</b>	<b>2 (2.3)</b>	<b>1 (1.9)</b>	<b>4 (3.1)</b>

#1-Thelma Sanders Sweet Potato Squash, #2- Jester, #3- Carnival, #4 – Tip Top

: The top ranked acorn squash was Thelma Sanders Sweet Potato Squash. It was noted to be prolific and great tasting with texture like sweet potatoes. Carnival and Jester also were noted to have good flavor and good yields. Tip Top was ranked lowest, both in yield and flavor. No disease issues were reported on any of the varieties, and squash vine borers and squash bugs visited a few of the gardens, with Tip Top being slightly more susceptible. Most gardeners would grow Thelma Sanders Sweet Potato and Jester again, but tastes vary so the other varieties were ranked well by some growers as well.

<b>Herb Trial – Savory 10 growers sent in results 7 growers ranked plants</b>	<b>Midget</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Winter Lemon</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	1.7	2.3	2.3
Yearly Yield: 1 = heavy, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	1.7	1.6	2
Did you use savory raw (Yes or No)	3=yes, 3=no	3=yes, 3=no	2=yes, 2=no	2=yes, 2=no
Raw flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.5	1.3	1
Describe raw flavor.	Slightly sharp	Sharp & aromatic, peppery, herby	Nicely rounded flavor, brighter	mildest
Did you cook using savory? (Yes or No)	3=yes, 3=no	3=yes, 3=no	2=yes, 3=no	2=yes, 2=no
Cooked Flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.5	1	1.5
Describe flavor.	Minty, bright & sharp	Strong, more bitter, a bit peppery, hint of oregano	Mellow and flavorful	Weak lemon taste - 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
<b>Would you purchase this variety again?</b>	<b>2=yes, 4=no</b>	<b>3=yes, 4=no</b>	<b>3=yes, 3=no</b>	<b>3=yes, 1=no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>4 (2.7)</b>	<b>2 (2.1)</b>	<b>3 (2.5)</b>	<b>1 (2.0)</b>

#1-Winter Lemon, #2-Summer, #3-Winter, #4-Midget

: Winter Lemon was ranked highest with Summer almost a tie. Germination was lower on Winter and Winter Lemon, yet yield per plant was pretty equal across all varieties. Winter Lemon ranked highest in raw flavor, described as milder than the other varieties. Midget and Summer flowered earliest. There were no disease or insect problems on any of the varieties. Most growers would grow Winter Lemon again, while growers were split on the other varieties.

<b>Marigold, French 19 growers sent in results 18 growers ranked plants</b>	<b>Alumina Vanilla Creme</b>	<b>Harlequin</b>	<b>Fireball</b>	<b>Queen Sophia</b>
Germination: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.6
Plant Size: height/width 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
Bloom Size 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.3
Number of blooms 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.6
Length of bloom time 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.3
Rebound after cutting/deadheading 1= good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Attractiveness to pollinators 1+good, 2= acceptable, 3= not acceptable	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Any signs of pest protection (yes or no)	3=yes, 15=no	3=yes, 15=no	3=yes, 15=no	3=yes, 15=no
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
<b>Would you purchase this variety again? Yes/no</b>	<b>15=yes, 3=no</b>	<b>15=yes, 3=no</b>	<b>16=yes, 2=no</b>	<b>17=yes, 1=no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2 (2.6)</b>	<b>3 (2.8)</b>	<b>1 (2.0)</b>	<b>2 (2.6)</b>

#1-Harlequin, #2-Alumina Vanilla Crème, #3-Queen Sophia, #4- Fireball

Two-toned harlequin was a favorite by almost a whole ranking. The next three were very close with Alumina Vanilla Crème and Queen Sophia tying for second place. Houlton Elementary School's favorite marigold is many grower's second favorite. Fireball was the top-ranked marigold by a wide margin. It was noted to have a large spread, to be the first to bloom, and to have nice variation in color. Germination was similar among all varieties. None of the plants had any disease or insect problems, and all of them ranked high in plant size, bloom size, number of blooms and length of blooms. Alumina was noted to be less "vanilla" looking and more yellowish. While Fireball was ranked highest, growers had different preferences for attractiveness of blooms, resulting in pretty even rankings among the rest of the choices.



## 2017 Variety Trial Summaries

### **Yellow Bush Beans**

While all 4 varieties were acceptable to most growers, Goldmine came out on top. Every grower said they would grow this variety again. It was described as having clean, sweet, crisp flavor, and good quality when frozen or canned. In second place was Carson, which came out on top for cooked flavor. Several growers did not like the flavor of Cherokee Wax and Rocdor. It was a wet, rainy growing season resulting in some growers having problems with mildew, but that disease was similar among all varieties, as was the incidence of bean beetles.

### **Mini Cabbage**

Cute and adorable, these attractive little cabbage plants were also very tasty! Caraflex and Tiara were pretty much tied and got top marks for flavor both raw and cooked, from all evaluators. Tiara was reported to have fast growth, and Caraflex resprouted more heads after initial cutting. Alcosa and Omera were significantly behind in the rankings. None of the varieties suffered any disease problems, while all had some issues with caterpillar damage. Growing under a row cover to prevent the butterflies from laying eggs on the plants would eliminate that damage. These mini cabbages are a great option for smaller gardens or when the yield of a large cabbage is too much.

### **Mustard Greens**

While not a lot of gardeners trialed the mustard greens, those that did liked all varieties and would grow any of them again. Mustard greens have a horseradish like, hot and spicy flavor. Southern Giant-Curled appeared to have the hottest flavor, and was ranked first by the growers, but all varieties had acceptable raw and cooked flavor. There were no problems with any diseases or insects. Mustard greens grow quickly and are great flavor additions to salads. Many gardeners, however, have not grown or eaten mustard greens and need more knowledge on how to use them.

### **Mini Pumpkin**

Mini pumpkins were grown mostly for their ornamental purposes, though some of the evaluators cooked them as well. While Jack Be Little came out on top, Baby Boo was close behind. Baby Boo yielded sooner than Jack Be Little. Flavor was acceptable for all varieties with no real standout. There were no diseases reported on any of the varieties with just a couple of insect issues, but nothing significant.

### **Roma/Plum/Paste Tomatoes**

Tomatoes are always popular, but there is also a lot of variability and growers have different preferences in taste. In this trial, Plum Regale came out on top with almost all gardeners indicating they would grow it again. The flavor was good raw and cooked, with high quality when preserved. Unfortunately, it was a bad year for Late Blight, and very few gardeners escaped. While all varieties

reportedly got this disease, Plum Regale appeared to show the most resistance. Amish paste started producing earlier than the other varieties, perhaps getting ahead of the Late Blight infestation, and it was ranked second by the growers. San Marzano, a long-standing variety, actually ranked lowest in both raw and cooked flavor! Because people like different flavors in tomatoes, and different acidity levels, once disease resistance and yield are evaluated, growers should try different varieties to find their favorites.

### **Turnips**

Several of the growers were first-time turnip growers. They considered them easy to grow. Tokyo Cross ranked first, while Round Red was last. None of the growers would grow Round Red again, as the flavor was ranked lowest. Tokyo Cross was largest with robust greens. All varieties experienced similar germination rates and disease levels, which was likely worse this year because of high rainfall amounts and wet soils. A few insects were present, but nothing heavy.

### **Flavored Basil**

There are a wide variety of basil varieties available, and individual preferences drive the variety results. In this trial, growers preferred the Cinnamon, with Lemon a very close second. Licorice was last, which may not be surprising to many of us! Overall the growth was similar, though the Lime basil had a lower germination rate. All growers felt the smell matched the named flavor. Only one gardener had significant disease problems, and no significant insect problems were reported. While interesting and unique, several gardeners felt yields of all varieties were less than that of traditional sweet basil. One gardener commented that Cinnamon appeared to attract the most pollinators!

### **12-18" Mixed Zinnia**

The beauty of flowers is often in the eye of the beholder, but those trialing Zinnias beheld Magellan to be the best! Germination was similar among all varieties, with Magellan having the largest flowers and longest lasting bloom time. Zahara edged the others as being the best cut flower, and most performed acceptably for rebounding after cutting or deadheading. Pollinators were attracted to all equally, and there were very few reports of any disease or insect problems. Zinnias have long been relied on as easy, productive and beautiful annual flowers to brighten the growing season, and all of these varieties continued that tradition.

## 2016 Compiled and averaged Variety Trial results with Diana Alfuth's comments

Carrot				
Number of Trial results submitted: 16	<b>Danvers</b>	<b>Forto</b>	<b>Sweetness III</b>	<b>Tendersweet</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.6
1 <sup>st</sup> harvest yield of carrots per variety 1=excellent, 2=adequate, 3=poor	1.7	1.7	2.1	1.7
2 <sup>nd</sup> harvest yield of carrots per variety 1=excellent, 2=adequate, 3=poor	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.5
Average length of carrot roots per variety in inches	5	6.3	5.9	6.6
Tops-density 1=strong, 2=good, 3=weak	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5
Surface of root 1=smooth, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6
Number of forked carrots 1=little to none, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5
Flavor 1 = sweet, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.8	1.33	1.85	1.46
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>14 yes 3 no</b>	<b>9 yes 4 no</b>	<b>7 yes 5 no</b>	<b>9 yes 3 no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>3 (2.5)</b>	<b>4 (2.8)</b>	<b>1 (2.3)</b>	<b>2 (2.4)</b>

Growers had good success growing all four varieties. Germination and harvest was similar among all varieties. Many growers experienced problems due to heavy rainfalls, resulting in washouts or heavy crusting affecting germination. Some Carrot weevils, which feed on the carrots near the tops of the roots, were reported on all varieties, though they were not a major problem. Some root cracking was also reported, probably due to the heavy rainfalls experienced during root development.

Tendersweet had slightly less forking than the other three varieties. Tendersweet also had the overall longest size carrots. The vast majority of growers would grow all of the varieties again! In the end, the highest ranked variety was Sweetness III, followed closely by Tendersweet, Danvers, and Forto.

Carrots can grow very differently in different types of soil. They will be longer in sandier soils than they will be in clay. Those grown in clay soil may also have more forking. Because carrots germinate slowly, and seedlings are very small, planting with a companion plant, such as radish, helps to see rows. Care should be given when thinning to avoid disturbing desired plants. Thin plants to proper spacing or size and production will suffer. If tops "broom" (get lots of feathery foliage) or roots become hairy, the plants may have become infected with Aster Yellows and flavor will be off and bitter.

<b>Eggplant, Colored</b>				
Number of Trial Results Submitted: 7	<b>Casper</b>	<b>Diamond</b>	<b>Pintung Long</b>	<b>Thai Green</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	1.1	1.8	2
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	2.5	1.6	2.1	2.4
Did you use support for plants yes/no	1 yes 5 no	1 yes 5 no	1 yes 5 no	1 yes 4 no
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1	1.2	1.3	1.7
Describe Raw Flavor		Strong, sweet	Sweet small seeds	sweet
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.3	1.6	2
Describe Cooked Flavor		Mild to strong		sweet
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>2 yes</b> <b>3 no</b>	<b>3 yes</b> <b>3 no</b>	<b>3 yes</b> <b>3 no</b>	<b>1 yes</b> <b>5 no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>4 (3.6)</b>	<b>1 (1.4)</b>	<b>2 (2.4)</b>	<b>3 (2.8)</b>

There were some spotty germination issues, which mostly affected Casper and Thai Green. Germination of Diamond was most reliable. All varieties had similar problems with grasshoppers and Japanese beetles as pests, but none had any disease problems. Flavor of Thai Green was ranked slightly lower than the others, both raw and cooked.

Diamond was the favorite and was significantly higher ranked than the others. Casper was ranked lowest, possibly because of low yield and average flavor. Pintung Long and Thai Green were ranked quite evenly in the middle, though more growers said they would grow Pintung Long again while only one would grow Thai Green.

Eggplant is closely related to tomatoes and potatoes, and can harbor the same diseases, so should be rotated accordingly.

<b>Kohlrabi</b>				
Number of Trial Results submitted: 12	<b>Early White Vienna</b>	<b>Grand Duke</b>	<b>Kossack</b>	<b>Winner</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.8	1.3	1.3
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5
Size of bulbs 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.8
Was the largest bulb woody/bitter? Yes/No	4 yes 5 no	3 yes 6 no	1 yes 8 no	1 yes 8 no
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.5	1.8	1.1	1.1
Describe Raw Flavor	bland, ok, sweet side	bland, sweet, very good, mild radish	bland, crisp , Sweet-favorite,	bland, mild, good, almost as sweet as Kossack,
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1	1	1
Describe Cooked Flavor	bland	Bland, sweet	Bland, juicy and sweet	Bland, mild
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>3 yes 5 no</b>	<b>4 yes 4 no</b>	<b>6 yes 2 no</b>	<b>6 yes 3 no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>4 (3.28)</b>	<b>3 (2.71)</b>	<b>1 (1.5)</b>	<b>2 (2.14)</b>

Germination and yield were similar with all varieties. Winner and Grand Duke had the largest roots, but not by much. As roots got larger, Winner and Kossack were less likely to get “woody” or bitter. Winner and Kossack also had the best flavor, being described more often as sweet. One of the varieties had any disease problems, but all suffered some cabbage looper problems.

Kossack was ranked the highest and would be grown again by the majority of growers. Winner was in second place, with Early White Vienna and Grand Duke tied for third.

The rainy summer didn’t appear to affect the Kohlrabi. Growing these plants under a row cover would protect them from Cabbage Looper and Imported Cabbageworm, both of which are common pests of plants in this family.

2016

10 growers sent in results Crop failures brought trial results down to 5 growers.

Lettuce, Heading				
Number of Trial results submitted: 10 but crop failures brought trial results down to 5 growers.	<b>Crisphead</b>	<b>Great Lakes 118</b>	<b>Red Iceberg</b>	<b>Summertime Iceberg</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.6	2	2.8
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.6	1.8	2	2.7
Bolt (rank 1=first to bolt, 2=second to bolt, 3=third to bolt, 4=last to bolt)	2	1.6	3.5	2.5
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.3
Describe Raw Flavor	Mild, butter sweet, sweet	Great, sweet, sweet	Buttery sweet, sweet	sweet
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
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>4 yes 1 no</b>	<b>4 yes 1 no</b>	<b>3 yes 1 no</b>	<b>2 yes 2 no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2 (2)</b>	<b>3 (2.2)</b>	<b>1 (1.5)</b>	<b>4 (4)</b>

The heavy rains this season caused some washouts for those who direct seeded outside. Summertime Iceberg had especially poor germination, as well as lower yield. Red Iceberg was the last to bolt and overall had a good yield. All four varieties had good flavor. No diseases were reported, but one gardener had problems with slugs on all varieties.

The winner was Red Iceberg, while the clear loser was Summertime Iceberg. Great Lakes 118 and Crisphead were in the middle, and most growers would grow them again.

Head lettuce is sometimes difficult to grow in our area because the hot weather causes bolting before heads form. Better success is had when seeds are started indoors and plants are transplanted as soon as the soil can be worked in spring. Slugs can be a problem with lettuce, so controls and prevention are important. Remove hiding places around these plants, such as heavy mulch, and use traps or baits to reduce numbers. Avoid overwatering.

<b>Muskmelon</b>				
Number of Trial results Submitted: 12 but crop failures brought trial results down to 4 growers.	<b>Ambrosia</b>	<b>Goddess Hybrid</b>	<b>Minnesota Midget</b>	<b>Pride of Wisconsin</b>
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.7	1.7	1.8
Fruit Size 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1	1.5	1.3
Did you trellis plants? Yes/no	1 yes 3 no	1 yes 2 no	2 yes 2 no	2 yes 2 no
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1	1	1.7	2
First harvest date	8/14,8/25,8/28,8/17	8/14,8/22,8/30	8/9,8/15,8/25,8/22	8/26,8/20,9/12,8/22
Vine size: 1=overrunning, 2=acceptable, 3=small	1.5	2	1.8	1.7
Flavor of Fresh Fruit: 1=outstanding, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.5	2	1.8	1.7
Texture: 1=excellent, 2=good, 3=poor	1.5	1.7	2	1.8
Did you preserve muskmelon? Yes/no	1 yes 3 no	3 no	3 no	4 no
Flavor of Preserved Fruit: 1=Outstanding, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	2			
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>4 yes</b>	<b>3 yes</b>	<b>2 yes 2 no</b>	<b>2 yes 1 no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>1 (1.75)</b>	<b>2 (2.25)</b>	<b>4 (3.5)</b>	<b>3 (2.5)</b>

Muskmelons can be tricky to grow, and this trial proved that. Two-thirds of the growers had crop failure, either due to poor germination, poor pollination, or other problems. Powdery mildew affected all four varieties, and it was not surprising given the high rainfall and humidity we had during the growing season. Fruit rot also was a factor, and the rainy growing season may have been a factor.

Ambrosia came in first, and had the best germination, good fruit size and yield. All of the growers said they would grow it again. Minnesota Midget came in last, with Goddess Hybrid and Pride of Wisconsin pretty much tied in the middle. Vine size varied and may have been affected by the high rainfall.

Powdery mildew is often a problem on vine crops. Mild cases simply cause some whitish leaves, while advanced cases can kill the plants. Powdery mildew fungus likes warm, humid conditions. Growers who have had problems with it in the past should consider preventative controls, which must be applied BEFORE symptoms appear.

Peas, Edible Pod				
Number of Trial Results submitted: 10	Cascadia	Sugar Lace II	Sugar Snap	Sugar Sprint
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.6
Did the plants rebloom?	8 yes 1 no	4 yes 3 no	6 yes 3 no	4 yes 4 no
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.3
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.3
Describe Raw Flavor	sweet, crisp, good	Sweet, slightly bitter	Crunchy more fiber, not as sweet as Cascadia but good,mild, crisp,	Less sweet, less fiber, ok –a little bitter
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.2	1	1.3
Describe Cooked Flavor	Less dense, sweet, delicious,	Delicious	Sweeter,delicious	Thickest, delicious
Did you freeze/can?	2 yes 7 no	1 yes 6 no	2 yes 4 no	2 yes 7 no
Quality/flavor of frozen/canned peas 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	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	1	1	1
<b>Would you grow this variety again?</b>	<b>8 yes 1 no</b>	<b>5 yes 3 no</b>	<b>7 yes 1 no</b>	<b>4 yes 4 no</b>
<b>Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least</b>	<b>2 (2.2)</b>	<b>3 (2.6)</b>	<b>1 (1.7)</b>	<b>3 (2.6)</b>

Peas are a classic garden plant and overall, growers had good success. Germination was similar with all 4 varieties. There were no disease or insect problems with any of the varieties, although wildlife, especially rabbits and deer, did cause some problems. Cascadia re-bloomed the most, while Sugar Sprint re-bloomed the least.

Sugar Snap slightly edged out Cascadia for the top spot, but Cascadia was ranked very high. Both had high yields and sweet, good flavor, both raw and cooked. Cascadia produced longer into the heat of summer than Sugar Snap, and was reported to have somewhat taller vines, making harvesting easier. Sugar Sprint and Sugar Lace II tied for the bottom spots. Sugar Sprint was the earliest bloomer, but flavor ranked slightly lower than the others, and it did not re-bloom as well.

Because peas don't do well in summer heat, it's important to plant them as early as possible in spring. While they germinate faster in warmer soil, they can tolerate frosts and even snow. Replanting in July provides for a bountiful fall harvest!



## 2016 Herb Trial –

Parsley, Flat Leafed				
Number of Trial Results Submitted: 12	Flat Leaf/Single Italian	Fedelio	Giante D'Italia	Titan
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.6
Flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.5
Describe flavor	Mellow, flavorful, mild, earthy,Slightly floral, strong & juicy, Excellent and first available.	Bitter, mild,sweet, tough, leathery, a little citrusy , parsley	Nice strong parsley, mild, tarry, strong, pure parsley taste, celery-like	Spicy, bland, mild.sweet, soapy, strong scent – less flavor,blah
Did you freeze/dry parsley?	4 yes 6 no	3 yes 6 no	4 yes 7 no	4 yes 6 no
Quality/flavor of frozen/dried parsley 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you purchase this variety again?	5 yes 3 no	4 yes 4 no	6 yes 2 no	6 yes 2 no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	3 (2.6)	4 (2.8)	1 (1.7)	2 (2.3)

Parsley is one of the most common herbs grown in home gardens, and it's used in a variety of ways. As with many herbs, everyone's tastes are different. Some growers had germination problems, especially with Titan. There were no real disease or insect problems, except a few growers had swallowtail caterpillars but damage was minimal.

The top-ranked variety was Giant D'Italia. It was described as having a pure parsley taste. But, all varieties were well-liked. Growers commented that they had a hard time comparing taste. Titan was noted to be a very attractive green plant that would be useful as an ornamental for butterflies.

As with most herbs, growing conditions can greatly affect flavor. Flavors can be more concentrated when grown in dry or infertile conditions and more mild when plants are lush and grow faster.

## 2016 Flower Trial:

Cosmos, Mixed				
Number of Trial Results Submitted: 23	Bright Lights	Psyche	Sensation	Seashell
Germination: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6
Plant Size: height/width 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Bloom Size 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2
Number of blooms 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5
Length of bloom time 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.4
Cut flower 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6
Rebound after cutting/deadheading 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.6
Attractive to pollinators? Flower shape, size and color can affect attraction. Rank in order of most pollinators to least pollinators from 1=best to 4=least	2.6	2	2	2.1
Diseases: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.1	1	1.1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you purchase this variety again? Yes/no	7 yes 4 no	9 yes 4 no	10 yes 4 no	12 yes 1 no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	4 (2.9)	3 (2.5)	1 (2.4)	2 (2.46)

Cosmos are generally easy-to-grow annuals. As with any flower, personal taste plays a role in how they are ranked! Overall, a few growers had germination problems, but no one variety was worse than others. Growers were happy with plant size and bloom size. Seashell appeared to have the most blooms and good bloom size, yet ranked lower for attracting pollinators! There were no disease or insect problems for any of the varieties.

All varieties were ranked similarly, with Sensation getting a slight edge, and Bright Lights, coming in slightly last. Bright Lights had somewhat different, daintier looking foliage, but bloomed early.

Because cosmos grows quickly and quite tall, it may need staking, especially in windy sites. Too much water or fertilizer may cause faster, weaker growth, making the problem worse. Plants grow strongest in full, all-day sun.

## 2015 Compiled Raw Seed Trial Results

### 2015 Brussel Sprouts

10 results turned in

<b>Brussel Sprouts Trial Evaluation 2015</b>	Franklin	Hestia Hybrid	Jade Cross	Long Island Improved
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.67	1.33	1.33	1.56
Did you transplant seedlings?	8 yes 2 no	8 yes 2 no	8 yes 2 no	8 yes 2 no
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.5	2	1.8	2.5
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.4	1.9	2
Describe Raw Flavor	Ok, peppery, not bitter and cabbage tasting, slight bitter before frost	Ok, not bitter and cabbage tasting, slight bitter before frost	Very Strong like radish, slightly bitter, not bitter and cabbage tasting, slight bitter before frost	Slightly bitter, not bitter and cabbage tasting
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5
Describe Cooked Flavor	nutty, mild, sweet, not as bitter	Between Franklin and Jade, mild to sweet, not as bitter	Smoother taste. mild to sweet, not as bitter	
Quality/flavor of canned/frozen Brussel sprouts 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	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Would you grow this variety again?	6 Yes	5 Yes 1 no	3 yes 3 no	1 yes 5 no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	1.8	2.1	2.5	3.7
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems)	Have a black like mold on some of the plant Cabbage worms Hardy plant – large solid sprouts	Biggest and firmest Cabbage worms 1' height, thick core, huge leaves, no sprouts developed	Best yield Cabbage worms Short plants, small under developed sprouts First to produce	This variety sucks Cabbage worms Short plant 1 ½' tall nice rounded green leaves, no sprouts – just nubbins

## Comments:

Varieties evaluated: Franklin, Hestia Hybrid, Jade Cross, Long Island Improved

Ranking for flavor was similar among all varieties, and there were very few insignificant disease or insect problems. All varieties germinated similarly and no reports of differences in growth. However, there were differences in yield.

Franklin and Jade Cross had the best yields, with Hestia Hybrid close behind. Long Island Improved had lower yields, with reports of large plants, but no sprouts.

The overall winner is Franklin, with all growers indicating they would grow it again. Hestia Hybrid was a close second, with Jade Cross coming in third and Long Island Improved at the bottom.

The late fall and long growing season of 2015 may have affected the results of the Brussels Sprouts trial in that sprouts usually improve in flavor after cold nights and a few frosts, and some growers were not yet harvesting all of their sprouts by reporting time. Overall, 2015 was an excellent year for sprouts because of the long growing season, and adequate moisture.

Sprouts will form and be larger if the top of the plant, the growing point, is pinched off in late summer, sending plant growth hormones to encourage the sprouts to form. We are unsure if any of the growers did that, but assume they would have done it to all varieties equally.

## 2015 Cucumber, Slicing

12 growers sent in results

Cucumber, Slicing Trial Evaluation 2015	General Lee	Tasty Green	Straight Eight	Sweet Slice
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.6
Did you trellis vines?	5 Yes, 4 no	5 yes 3 no	5 yes 3 no	5 yes 3 no
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.9
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.2	1.67	1.2	1.2
Describe Raw Flavor	Stronger, juicy mild, best!, firm, fresh	Juicy mild, more earthy, good, no bitter, bland	Juicy Mild,	Stronger, sweet, nice, sweet flavor, crisp
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	n/a, 2	n/a, 2	n/a, 2	N/a, 2
Describe Cooked Flavor	Bland like zucchini	bland	bland	bland
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3
Would you grow this variety again?	6 Yes 1 no	4 Yes 4 no	5 yes 1 no	6 yes 2 no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	2.1	3.4	2.3	2.9
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems)	Powdery mildew late, more sweet, less seed	Larger seeds, not as intensive taste – like store bought, powdery mildew late,	Powdery mildew late	Very sweet taste

Comments:

Varieties evaluated: General Lee, Tasty Green, Straight Eight, Sweet Slice

A few people had problems with germination, but that's not uncommon for cucumbers. There was a mix of gardeners who grew the cucumbers on trellises or let them ramble on the ground. General Lee was the heaviest yielder, followed closely by Straight Eight. Sweet Slice yielded the least, but not significantly. Flavor was ranked good for all varieties, with Tasty Green slightly lower than the other three.

Disease and insect problems were minor, with some powdery mildew coming on late in the season.

The highest overall ranking went to General Lee, but Straight Eight was very close. Tasty Green and Sweet Slice were tied for third, not too far behind the others. Overall, many gardeners would grow each variety again.

## 2015 Green Bean, Bush

### 13 growers sent in results

Green Bean, Bush Trial Evaluation 2015	Blue Lake 274	Duke	Jade	Kentucky Wonder
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.2	2.2	1.4	1.6
Did the plants rebloom?	9 Yes 2 No	9 Yes 2 No	10 yes 2 no	9 yes 2 no
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.5	2.5	1.6	1.8
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.7
Describe Raw Flavor	Crisp and sweet, crunchy with a lavender Mild, ok, mellow, fresh bean flavor, beany	Crisp and sweet, more juicy, good fresh bean taste, mineral, crisp and mild, beany	Crisp, more juicy with stronger flavor, good fresh bean taste, sweet, flat, crisp	Not as crisp, very juicy with a soy bean taste, ok, beany, commercial
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.3	1.2	1.4
Describe Cooked Flavor	Mid-range taste, mellow	Stronger & sweeter, iron, crisp, sweet	More meaty, sweet	Tasted like canned, deeper bean
Did you can/freeze the green beans?	9 Yes 4 No	8 Yes 3 No	7 Yes 3 No	7 Yes 2 No
Quality/flavor of canned/frozen green beans 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1	1.4	1	1
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4
Would you grow this variety again?	9 Yes, 3 No	4 Yes 5 No	6 Yes 4 No	2 Yes 8 No
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	1.9	2.6	2.0	3.6
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems)	Rabbits ate it down in early study so a poor crop. First to have beans. Larger beans became woody or pithy quickly.	Slugs destroyed ½ of row early. Few plants left so not a good sample. Long, straight, firm bean pods. Best flavor and appearance but worst yield.	Slugs destroyed 1/3 of it early. Beans stay tender when big and it re-blooms well. Big plants, not stable – floppy on stem. Seedy pod even when picked small.	Too tiny. Hard to pick and beans can get tough. Biggest yielder of the trials but none of it was eaten by anything. Slow to germinate. Tough beans.

## Comments

Varieties evaluated: Blue Lake 274, Duke, Jade, Kentucky Wonder

Duke had poorer germination rates than the others, but all varieties had reblooming after initial harvests. Overall yields were similar, with Duke lower, possibly because fewer plants grew. Blue Lake 274 had slightly better overall raw flavor than the others, but all varieties were ranked high. Cooked flavor also favored Blue Lake 274, though the others were also ranked high.

Diseases and insects not much of a problem on any of the varieties.

Top overall rankings go to Blue Lake 274 and Jade. Duke comes in third, with Kentucky Wonder last by a relatively large margin. Few gardeners would grow Kentucky Wonder again. Some felt the beans were small and hard to pick, and the beans were tough. Jade was noted to stay tender even if the beans got a bit bigger, and although ranked high, Blue Lake 274 was noted to get woody quickly.

## 2015 Onions, Bunching

14 growers sent in results.

Onions, bunching Trial Evaluation 2015	Evergreen White	Guardman	Iskikura Improved	White Lisbon
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.9
Did you transplant seedlings?	3 Yes 7 No	3 Yes 7 No	3 Yes 7 No	3 Yes 7 No
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.9	1.6	1.5	2.3
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.4
Describe Raw Flavor	Bland, mild, not crisp, little bite, little after-burn, sweet, mellow, strong bite - tart	Bland, mild, crisp, clean tasting, stronger after-burn, sweet, mellow, hot, crunchy tasty	Spicy, strong, not crisp, Mild after-taste, pungent, mellow, very little flavor	Sweet, mild, crisp, very mellow, nice strong flavor
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.4	1.2	1.3	1
Describe Cooked Flavor	Sweet, mild	Sweet/mild	Flavorful strong, less pungent	Mild sweet, sweet
Diseases: 1= none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1	1	1	1
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1	1	11	1
Would you grow this variety again?	5 Yes 5 No	8 Yes 3 No	6 Yes 5 No	6 Yes 4 No
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	3.1	1.4	2.4	2.1
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems		Strongest grower	Some onions still in ground. Have been as	Some onions still in ground. Have

			big as leeks and still sweet	been as big as leeks and still sweet I'd guess germination to be around 25%
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## Comments

Varieties evaluated: Evergreen White, Guardsman, Iskikura Improved, White Lisbon

Germination rates were similar among the different varieties, and an even mix of gardeners chose to transplant seedlings versus direct seeding. Yearly yield was similar, with White Lisbon slightly less.

Flavor was ranked pretty even across all varieties. With onions and other spicy foods, such as radishes and hot peppers, "hot" or "bite" is very relative! Each of these bunching onion varieties were described as "mild" or "bland" by some, and "hot" or "strong" by others! In the end, they averaged out to be very similar.

There were no disease or insect problems indicated, and an even mix of gardeners would grow each variety again. Overall, Guardsman ranked first. White Lisbon and Iskikura Improved ranked in the middle, and Evergreen White ranked last.

## 2015 Spinach, Smooth –leaf

### 14 growers sent in results

<b>Spinach, Smooth Leaf Trial Evaluation 2015</b>	Bolero	Red Cardinal	Space Hybrid	Unipack 12
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.6
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
Describe Raw Flavor	Mild, bland, best flavor, very smooth, green, good crunch, good, sweet refreshing	Mild, sweet, typical flavor, slight after- taste, good, not much flavor, slight beet flavor, bland	Mild, bland, good /great green flavor, no distinct taste , good, sweet, raw/earthy	Mild & nutty, bitter, average spinach flavor, mildest of all, good, clear and deep rich green, raw/earthy
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1
Describe Cooked Flavor	Good green flavor	average	average	Average, sweet



Did you freeze/can?	yes	yes	yes	yes
Quality/flavor of frozen/canned spinach 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	2	2	2	2
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 grow this variety again?	8 Yes 2 No	6 Yes 5 No	10 Yes 2 No	7 Yes 3 No
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.6
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems)	Ok, made a really good salad. Rich flavor that you expect from spinach.	Colorful. 1st to bolt, very attractive with red stems. Grew too spindly, went to seed quickly –	Good second cutting. Very nice leaf size. Nice compact plant.	Ok, nice dark color with good return, average spinach plant, Rich flavor

Comments

Varieties evaluated: Bolero, Red Cardinal, Space Hybrid, Unipack 12

Germination was even among varieties and all of the gardeners direct-seeded and did not transplant the seedlings. Yield was acceptable for all varieties, with Bolero producing the most, followed by Space Hybrid.

Raw and cooked flavor was ranked very evenly among all varieties, and there were no noted disease or insect problems. Most gardeners indicated they would grow all the varieties again. Red Cardinal was noted to be very colorful and pretty in salads, but also was the first to bolt.

Overall winner was Space Hybrid, followed pretty closely by Bolero, then Red Cardinal, and finally Unipack 12. While Unipack 12 was ranked last, there were no real criticisms made of it.

## 2015 Tomato, Colored Cherry

10 growers sent in results

<b>Tomato, Colored Cherry Trial Evaluation 2015</b>	Chocolate Cherry	Isis Candy	Sun Sugar	Yellow Mini
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.75	1.5	1.6	1.4
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3
Raw Flavor: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.6	1.6	1	1.1
Describe Raw Flavor	Bland, sweet, no Choc. Or cherry flavor	Sweet/bitter, not as sweet as Sun-sugar. Sort of bland.	Sweet/tangy. Great tomato flavor, sugar sweet	Acid/citrus, great tomato flavor, tart sweet, very

		Sweet early on but lost flavor later in season. Tart - good		light lemon
Cooked Flavor: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	2	2	2	2
Describe Cooked Flavor	Basic tomato	Basic tomato	Basic tomato	basic tomato
Did you freeze/can?	No, yes	yes	yes	No, yes
Quality/flavor of frozen/canned tomatoes 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1	1	1	1
Diseases: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infection	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.6
Insects: 1 = none, 2 = some, 3 = heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you grow this variety again?	1 Yes 4 No	3 Yes 3 No	6 Yes	3 yes 3 No
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	3.4	2.7	1.3	2.3
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems)	Crop failure, Septoria leaf spot, never ripened, blight destroyed and removed from garden. Good but didn't ripen as much. Got late blight and had it in 2 gardens ¼ mile apart. Many splits even if picked early. Early blight	Some liked this best. Lot of cracking first ripe, on 8/10, Don't know what seed was as the tomato was a round tomato like a delicious or something. The plants got late blight. Transplant died. , Early blight	Best , lot of cracking first ripe on 7/29. Never germinated. First to produce ripe fruit and produced fruit into Oct. Early blight	More cracking than normal grape cherry tomatoes. First ripe on 8/2. Got sweeter if overripe – some cracked. Got some blight but not as much as other tomatoes – still harvested some on 10-9, Huge plant and heavy yield. Produced into Oct. Transplant died. Early Blight.

## Comments

Varieties evaluated: Chocolate Cherry, Isis Candy, Sun Sugar, Yellow Mini

Germination was similar among all varieties, and all gardeners caged or trellised their plants. The heaviest yielders were Yellow Mini and Sun Sugar, followed by Isis Candy then Chocolate Cherry.

Sun Sugar was the winner for raw flavor, but Yellow Mini was very close. Chocolate Cherry ranked lowest in raw flavor. There were also notes that flavor varied throughout the season. Cooked flavor was only “acceptable” for all varieties, but Sun Sugar and Yellow Mini were noted as being very good dried.

All gardeners would grow Sun Sugar again. Reports were evenly mixed on growing Isis Candy or Yellow Mini again, and most gardeners would not grow Chocolate Cherry again.

Sun Sugar was the clear winner, and Chocolate Cherry was the clear loser. Yellow mini came in second and Isis Candy third.

The 2015 growing season had lots of rain, which caused a high amount of cracking among small tomatoes throughout the area. Late Blight was also prevalent in the area. All varieties had splitting and cracking, but it may not be fair to evaluate varieties for cracking in such an abnormally wet season

## 2015 Herb Trial – Dill

### 12 growers sent in results

Dill Herb Trial Evaluation 2015	Bouquet	Diana	Mammoth Long Island	Superdukat
Germination: 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.8	1.6	2
Yearly Yield : 1 = heavy , 2 = acceptable , 3 = not acceptable	1.8	1.9	1.6	2.3
Flavor 1=good, 2=acceptable, 3=not acceptable	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.5
Describe flavor	Licorice, good dill flavor, fresh	Good dill smell, fresh flavor	Little, strong dill flavor, fragrant & fresh	Little, good flavor
Did you use seeds?	2 yes 4 No	1 yes 4 No	3 Yes 4 No	1 Yes 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	1
Would you purchase this variety again?	4 yes 3 no	5 yes 2 no	5 yes 2 no	4 yes 2 no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	2.9	2.3	1.9	3
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems		Had the most foliage if one wanted to use leaves.	Had the most seed heads,	

## Comments

Varieties evaluated: Bouquet, Diana, Mammoth Long Island, Superdukat

Flavor was similarly ranked among varieties. There were yield differences, with Bouquet coming in first, and Superdukat yielding significantly less than the others.

Dill is usually quite easy to grow, and there were no disease or insect problems reported. All varieties would be grown again by the majority of gardeners.

Mammoth Long Island came out on top, with Diana coming in second (even though Diana has a better name). Bouquet was a distant third, and Superdukat came in last.

## 2015 Flower Trial: Salvia, Blue

11 growers sent in results

Salvia, Blue Flower Trial Evaluation 2015	Blue Angel	Blue Bedder	Gruppenblau	Victoria Blue
Germination: 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.6

Plant Size: height/width 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.0
Bloom Size 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.8	1.2	1.3	1.1
Number of blooms 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.4
Length of bloom time 1 = good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.7	1.1	1.3	1
Cut flower 1= good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	2.4	1.4	1.3	1.4
Rebound after cutting/deadheading 1= good, 2 = acceptable, 3 = poor	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.3
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 purchase this variety again? Yes/no	4 Yes 4 No	6 Yes 2 No	4 Yes 4 No	7 Yes 1 no
Please rank from 1 = best to 4 = least	2.9	1.5	2.3	2.3
Comments: (include insects identified, other growing problems)	Smaller plants Large bell shaped med. Blue flowers Medium size leaves and lots of flowers. Bloomed all summer. Stayed very clean Nice foliage. Bloom through frost several times	Med. Height Small flower Bloomed all summer All died. Bloomed after hard frost.	Tiny flowers Bloomed all summer	Tall and sturdy Bloomed all summer Dark purple flowers and got almost 4' tall – lovely Bloomed after hard frost.

## Comments

Varieties evaluated: Blue Angel, Blue Bedder, Gruppenblau, Victoria Blue

Blue Angel had the best germination, with Gruppenblau having the worst. None of the varieties had any problems with diseases and insects.

Victoria Blue and Blue Bedder were ranked very similarly for bloom size and length of bloom time. Blue Angel had smaller plants, with Victoria Blue described as tall and sturdy.

Overall, Blue Bedder came out on top, and Blue Angel came in last. However, there were things people liked about all of them, and most gardeners would grow all of the varieties again. Gardeners should also consider the variety with the proper height for their situation. Victoria Blue was noted as tall, Blue Bedder medium, and Blue Angel smaller. All four varieties were noted as blooming all summer, providing a beautiful display.

<b>RESULTS OF: Beet Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 16	Detroit Dark	Moneta	Red Ace	Zeppo
Yield (Roots) 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.81	2.47	2.0	2.3
Flavor (Roots) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.33	1.6	1.33	1.58
Yield (Leaves) 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.4	1.36	1.5	1.67
Flavor (Leaves) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	2.7	1.78	1.33	1.33
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	1	1	1	1
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1	1.2	1	1
Would you plant this variety again?	14 yes 1 no	9 yes 5 no	14 yes 2 no	9 yes 6 no
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	1	3	2	4

#### Summary:

All varieties were well liked overall. Minimal disease problems with only one report of insects (flea beetles). Most reported flavor was similar among all varieties. Deer and rabbits were problems for some gardens but all varieties were affected evenly.

Detroit Dark: More resilient in face of weather and wildlife challenges.

Moneta: More cylindrical in shape than others.

Red Ace: Good yield for both roots and greens, but ranked lowest in flavor

Zeppo: Would not be planted again by the most gardeners, but no comments were made as to why.

<b>RESULTS OF: Cilantro Herb Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 12	Calypso	Caribe	Confetti	Santo
Yield 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.78	1.64	2	1.75
Flavor 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.5	1.25	1.17	1.75
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	1	1	1	1
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you plant this variety again?	8 yes 2 no	12 yes 0 no	9 yes 3 no	12 yes 0 no
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	2	1	4	3

#### Summary:

All varieties were well liked overall. Gardeners grow them both in-ground and in containers with success. Some gardeners had seeds wash out from heavy rains. After flowering, some gardeners found volunteer seedlings which produced until freezing weather killed them. No disease or insect problems reported.

Calypso: Strong flavor, a favorite of cilantro fans. Flowered later than other varieties.

Caribe: Good producer, well-liked. Some reported a hint of “lemon” in the flavor.

Confetti: Finer leaves than other varieties; milder flavor. Easier to chop, but did not dehydrate as well as other varieties.

Santo: Milder flavor than Calypso. Would be planted again by all. Good producer.

<b>RESULTS OF: Kale Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 13	Red Russian	Ripbor	Toscano (Lacinato)	Winterbor
Yield 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.27	1.55	1.73	1.36
Flavor (Cooked) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.09	1.09	1.18	1.45
Flavor (Raw) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.27	1.3	1.21	1.25
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	1	1	1.1	1
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Would you plant this variety again?	11 yes 1 no	12 yes 1 no	13 yes	13 yes
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	4	2	3	1

#### Summary:

Gardeners enjoyed the variety of colors and textures among the kale plants. Variability among gardeners for yield, probably based on moisture.

Red Russian: Slightly higher incidence of insect damage.

Repbor: Attractive red color

Tuscano: Most palatable

Winterbor: Good uniformity among plants



<b>RESULTS OF: Nasturtium Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 20	Empress of India	Moonlight	Peach Melba	King Theodore
Averages of bloom 1= best, 4= least	2.67	1.1	1.9	2.8
Average of rebound after deadheading 1= excellent; 2= average; 3=poor	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.6
Flavor of edible flowers 1= best, 4 = least	2.5	2	1.4	2.25
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	1	1	1	1
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1	1.1	1	1
Would you plant this variety again?	16 yes 4 no	19 yes 1 no	20 yes	18 yes 2 no
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	3	1	1	4

### Summary:

Slow start for many gardeners due to cold, wet weather conditions. Deer and rabbits also caused problems for some gardeners. Most gardeners did not deadhead and still had acceptable rebloom until frost. Few gardeners ate the flowers.

Empress of India: Leaves smaller and dark green. Flowers dark red orange with yellow center.

Moonlight: One report of flea beetles. Moonlight reported to have most blooms and a sprawling habit that would be good in hanging baskets. Flowers pale, butter yellow.

Peach Melba: Flowers held above foliage more than other varieties. Flowers peachy, yellow with orange/red center.

King Theodore: Larger dark green leaves. Flowers red, red orange.

<b>RESULTS OF: Radish Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 11	Cherry Belle	Easter Egg	Fakir	Helios
Yield 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.55	1.82	1.72	2
Flavor 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	1	1	1	1
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you plant this variety again?	11 yes 0 no	7 yes 3 no	6 yes 5 no	6 yes 4 no
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	1	3	2	4

#### Summary:

All varieties were well liked overall. Weather conditions caused fast growth. No disease or insect problems reported.

Cherry Belle: Reportedly developed the fastest; slightly more splitting reported which may have been a result of soil types and excessive rainfall. Good size and color.

Easter Egg: Was a seed mix so didn't develop evenly and some variability. Overall mild flavor.

Fakir: Two-tone color. Some splitting

Helios; Interesting color; strong ("hot") flavor; uniform size. Skin tougher as they got older.

<b>RESULTS OF: Romaine Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 17	Annapolis	Paris Island	Flashy Trout Brook	Salvius/Helviu s
Yield 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	2.31	1.62	1.64	1.67
Flavor 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.77	1.23	1.53	1.5
Rank of time to bolting 1=first to bolt; 2=second to bolt; 3=third to bolt; 4=last to bolt	1	1	1	4
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	1	1	1	1
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you plant this variety again?	14 yes 3 no	16 yes 1 no	16 yes 1 no	17 yes
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	4	2	2	1

#### Summary:

Gardeners had distinct tastes when ranking varieties—they either really liked or really disliked certain varieties. Heavy rains and cool weather hampered germination. Wildlife also affected some gardeners' crops.

Annapolis: Bitter, crunchy, nice red color, mild. Less bolting for some gardeners.

Paris Island: Tasty, crisp, sweet

Flashy Trout Brook: Some bitterness, soft texture. Attractive leaves. Thicker leaves and best heads reported.

Salvius: Coarser leaves.

<b>RESULTS OF: Squash Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 10	Costata	Dunja	Magda	Safari
Yield 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	2.3	2	1.8	1.75
Flavor (Cooked) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.66	2	1.43	1.17
Flavor (Raw) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.66	2.33	1.28	1.57
Texture 1=excellent; 2=good; 3=not acceptable	1.57	1.83	1.29	1.5
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	2	2	2	2
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you plant this variety again?	3 yes 1 no	2 yes 1 no	3 yes 1 no	4 yes 3 no
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	2	2	1	4

#### Summary:

Many gardeners had crop failures, where plants died before production. Some were victims of wildlife and others deaths were unexplained. Squash vine borer suspected in several cases. Poor germination from cool soil and heavy rains in many cases.

Costata: More male flowers reported by one gardener. Best yield. May tolerate insects better.

Dunja: Best raw flavor and texture reported

Magda: Pear shaped fruit.

Safari: Would be planted again by fewest number of gardeners; least yield.

<b>RESULTS OF: Sweet Bell Pepper Trial Evaluation 2014</b> Number of Trial Results Submitted: 8	Snapper	Sweet Chocolate	Sweet Sunrise	Yankee Bell
Yield 1= heavy; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.95	2	1.88	2.13
Flavor (Cooked) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.33	1.5	1.33	1.43
Flavor (Raw) 1=good; 2=acceptable; 3=not acceptable	1.33	1.57	1.28	1.28
Diseases 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy	1	1	1	1
Insects 1=none; 2=some; 3=heavy infestation	1	1	1	1
Would you plant this variety again?	5 yes 2 no	4 yes 4 no	5 yes 2 no	7 yes 1 no
Rank (average) 1=best, 4=least	3	3	1	2

#### Summary:

Overall a poor year for growing peppers in the area. Cool and wet conditions early on had plants slow to grow and mature. Several crop failures and result reports were minimal so hard to make recommendations.

Snapper: Longer time to ripen reported.

Sweet Chocolate: Some greater incidence of blossom end rot reported; thicker skin; smaller fruit

Sweet Sunrise: Crispy

Yankee Bell: Thick flesh

## 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 <sup>st</sup> harvest yield – average	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.7
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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.