North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials

RESULTS 2024

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Written by Tom Kalb, Extension Horticulturist
North Dakota State University Extension

Contact information:
Tom Kalb, Ph.D.
North Dakota State University
2005 N. Kavaney Drive, Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
tom.kalb@ndsu.edu

For more information on the North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials Program, go to https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/.

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December 2024

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Introduction

The First Step to Success

The first step in growing a successful garden is to select a superior variety.

Gardeners who sow **superior** varieties can grow plants that yield abundantly, resist diseases, and produce quality food/flowers. Gardeners who sow **inferior** varieties are headed for frustrations. No matter how hard they work in the garden they may have disappointing results.

The benefits of selecting superior varieties for gardens are great. The National Gardening Association (NGA) estimates approximately one-third of households in North Dakota grow a vegetable garden.[1] This indicates there are approximately 100,000 households in North Dakota with vegetable gardens.

There are significant economic benefits to gardening. A survey of community gardeners in Bismarck showed each household saved an average of $105 on produce expenses per year.[2] Extrapolated statewide, these findings suggest that gardeners in North Dakota save millions of dollars each year by growing some of their own vegetables.

There is an important public health dimension to gardening. Vegetables and fruits are nature's richest source of micronutrients, minerals and dietary fiber. A diet rich in vegetables and fruits is associated with a decreased risk of obesity and certain chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers. Nevertheless, only 7.3% of adults and a lower percentage of children in North Dakota eat the recommended amount of vegetables for a healthy diet.[3,4]

We need to eat more vegetables—growing a productive garden can help with this.

Gardeners in North Dakota enjoy healthy diets and save millions of dollars on food expenses.

A limited amount of vegetable research is conducted at research stations in North Dakota. These plots provide insight into the characteristics of varieties, but they do not test varieties under actual home gardening conditions. The environment at a field research station is dramatically different than at a home garden:

- The soils at field research stations are similar to soils at a farm: relatively fertile and undisturbed. Soils in a backyard garden are intensively managed and have been highly disturbed from home construction and land grading activities.
- Trials at stations utilize tractors, large-scale irrigation equipment and herbicides. Backyard gardeners use shovels, hoes (maybe a roto-tiller), garden hoses and watering cans.
- Trials conducted at stations are out in full sun. Many home gardens have shade for at least part of the day.

The Bottom Line

To identify superior varieties for **gardeners**, it makes sense to determine which varieties perform best in **gardens** under the management of **gardeners**.

Goals

This program has four major goals:

1. Gardeners will be introduced to new varieties.
2. Gardeners will identify superior varieties of vegetables and flowers.

[1] National Gardening Association. 2008. Personal communication with Bruce Butterfield, Market Research Director.

[2] North Dakota State University Extension Service. 2016. Personal communication with Kelsey Sheldon, Burleigh County Program Assistant.

[3] Moore, L.V., F.E. Thompson and Z. Demissie. 2017. Percentage of youth meeting federal fruit and vegetable intake recommendations, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, United States and 33 states, 2013. *J. Acad. Nutr. Diet.* 117(4): 545–553.

[4] Lee, S.H., L.V. Moore et al. 2022. Adults meeting fruit and vegetable intake recommendations—US, 2019. *MMWR Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report* 71:1–9.

3. Gardeners will grow more productive gardens and enjoy healthier diets.
4. Youth will develop skills in science, eat healthier diets, and enjoy increased levels of physical activity.

Selecting Varieties

Seed catalogs are carefully studied to identify varieties that are widely available and appear promising for North Dakota. In many situations, a promising new variety is compared with a variety that is widely grown in the state.

Preparation of Seed Packets

Seeds are ordered in bulk from seed companies. Seeds are then packed into coin envelopes. Labels containing sowing instructions are affixed onto packages. These instructions include variety name, vegetable/flower type, time to plant, and recommended spacing for sowing and thinning. Most seeds are untreated; the most likely exceptions are some sweet corn or melon varieties. No genetically modified organism (GMO) varieties are used.

Distribution of Seeds

A limited number of tomato trials were offered for free in early spring.

Other trials were available in April. Gardeners could choose up to eight of these trials for $1.50 each with a total postage fee of $5.50. A single free trial was offered to many new participants.

Each gardener signed a pledge before receiving seeds, promising to grow and evaluate the varieties fairly.

Besides seeds, gardeners received simple yet detailed instructions on laying out their plots (Appendix 1). Gardeners received row markers and evaluation sheets (Appendix 2). We encouraged a 10-foot plot length for obtaining representative data, but container gardening was allowed.

Fig. 1. Gardeners sowing their research plots.

Gardeners were responsible for managing their crops (Fig. 1). This included fertilizing, watering, mulching, and using pesticides. They were encouraged to use their own practices so the varieties were tested under home garden conditions.

Gardeners were asked to submit their results after the first killing frost. Results could be submitted online or via mail to NDSU for analysis.

Weather in 2024

The growing season began with wet weather in spring that delayed planting (Fig. 2).

In summer, temperatures were fairly normal. Rainfall was inconsistent and less than desired but not unusual for our state. (The average annual precipitation in North Dakota is about 17.5 inches, with higher levels of precipitation coming in the east and lower levels in the west.) Drought was not a factor this year.

Extremely warm temperatures in September and October provided valuable time for most of the late-sown crops to mature.

Frosts came very late in fall. Most gardeners received their first frost 2 to 3 weeks later than normal.

To identify superior varieties for gardeners, it makes sense to determine which varieties perform best in gardens under the management of gardeners.

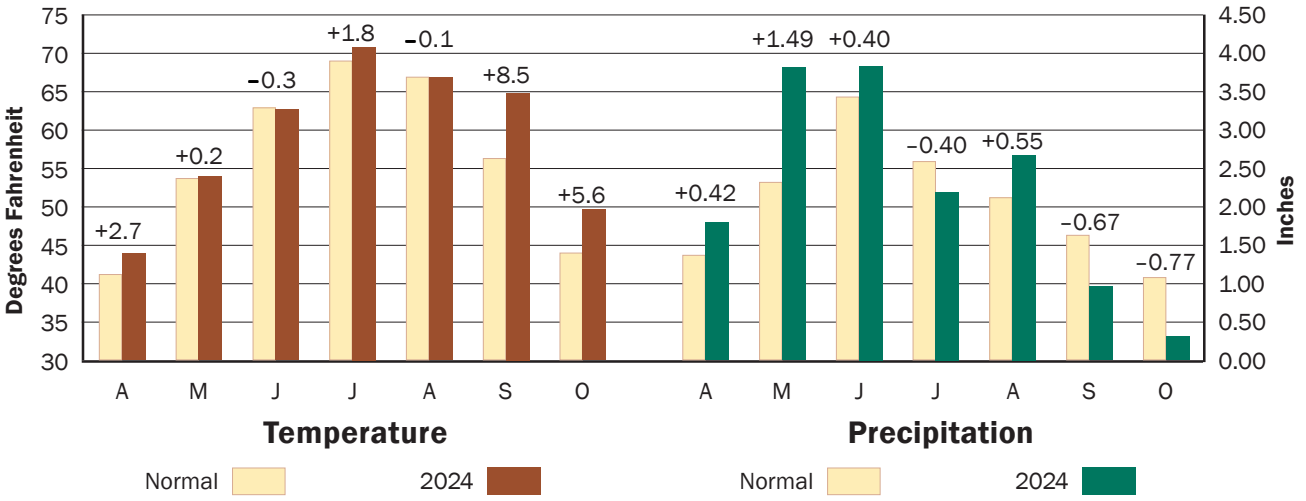


Fig. 2. Statewide monthly temperatures and precipitation amounts in normal years (1901–2000) and 2024. Rainy conditions in April and May delayed plantings. In summer, temperatures were relatively normal. Rainfall was inconsistent and less than desired but not unusual for our state. Extremely warm temperatures in September and October provided valuable time for most of the late-sown crops to mature. Frosts arrived 2 to 3 weeks later than normal in fall. Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information.

Participation in 2024

In 2024, gardeners at 365 sites submitted results from their trials. Results from 1,645 research trials were submitted. Data were obtained in 48 of the state's 53 counties (Fig. 3). Our trials extended into Manitoba, Minnesota, Saskatchewan and South Dakota.

A pleasant finding of this program has been the quality of research conducted by home gardeners. These families demonstrate extraordinary enthusiasm in this project. They carefully fill out report forms and provide insightful comments. We especially appreciate their comments on food quality, which is rarely assessed in variety trials conducted at research stations.

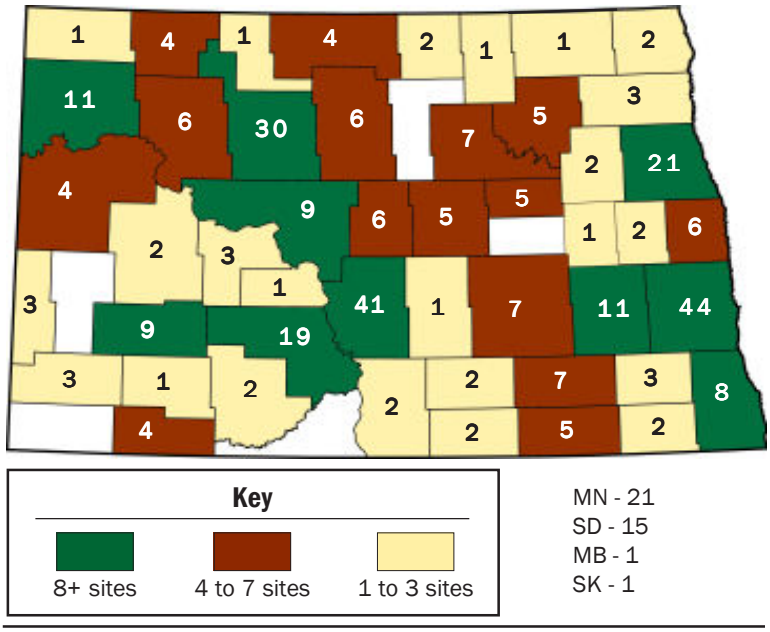


Fig. 3. Gardeners at 365 sites submitted results in 2024. Site numbers are shown above for each county.

Compiling Data

Gardeners compared the two varieties in each trial for germination rate, plant health, earliness, yield and quality of harvested product. We asked them which of the two varieties they preferred and which of the varieties they would recommend to other gardeners (Appendix 2). Comments were strongly encouraged.

Trials with inconsistent data, damaged extensively from pests, or were grown in a manner that one variety received better growing conditions than the other (typically more sun) were eliminated from analysis.

Presentation of Results

Ratings, recommendations and comments of each gardener are presented in this publication. Reports are categorized by the **varietal preferences** of the gardeners. For each trial, we start with the reports of gardeners who preferred "Variety A" and then later present the reports of gardeners who preferred "Variety B."

These reports are separated by **location** going from east to west (see illustration below). We start with Minnesota, go to northeast North Dakota, across the central regions of the state to southwest North Dakota, and then include reports from other states and provinces. Regions in North Dakota were identified by considering landforms, soil types, length of growing season and rainfall patterns.

Then we provide the **ratings** of each variety. Gardeners rated each variety on a scale of 1 to 10. These ratings are shown using a five-star format. Each rating point equals a half star; thus a rating of "8" by the gardener would show as "★★★★☆."

We document whether the gardener **recommends** the variety. A positive recommendation is shown by a smiling face and a negative recommendation is shown by a frowning face.

Garden type (organic or inorganic) was documented. We asked gardeners whether or not they used inorganic fertilizers (for example, Miracle-Gro or 10–10–10) or inorganic pesticides (for example, Sevin or Daconil). Most gardeners did not, and they are listed as "organic" in this report.

Impacts

Evaluations of our project show gardeners in this project are introduced to new varieties and enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets.

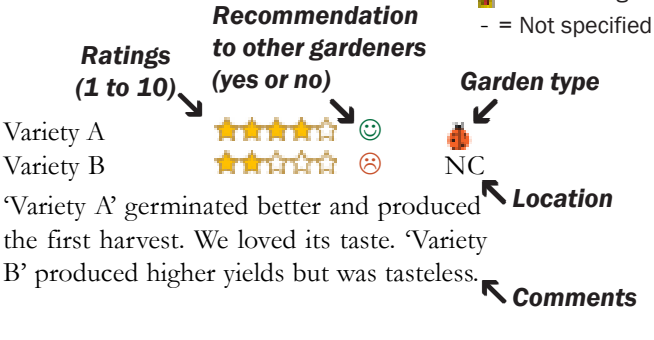
Youth in this project sharpen their skills in science. Youth enjoy healthier diets and increased levels of physical activity.

Impact reports are posted on our website https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/.

Gardeners are introduced to new varieties. They enjoy more productive gardens and healthier diets.

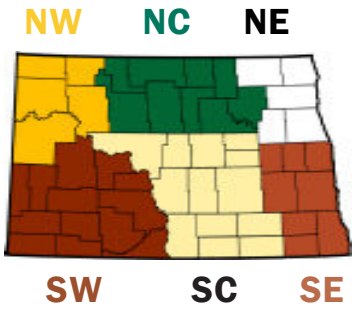
Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Summary of Results

A team of volunteers in North Dakota and surrounding states/provinces evaluated promising vegetable and cut flower varieties. Gardeners at 365 sites submitted results this year. They rated varieties for health, earliness, yield and food/ornamental quality. Reports of 1,645 side-by-side comparisons were submitted.

In each report, they noted which of the two varieties they preferred (Pref) and which of the varieties they would recommend (Rec) to other gardeners. They had the option of recommending one, both or neither of the varieties in each trial.

The gardeners rated the performance of each variety using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 10 = excellent. The preference and recommendation percentages as well as mean ratings for each variety are presented below along with our conclusions for each trial.

Bean, Green Bush

Tendergreen Improved plants were more productive, healthier and sprawled more. *Blue Lake Superior* plants were upright, compact and sturdy. *Blue Lake* beans are famous for their quality, but *Tendergreen Improved* matched its quality.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
B. Lake Superior	37	69	7.29
Tendergreen Impr.	63	83	8.03

(43 sites)

Bean, Yellow Bush

Both varieties produced good crops of delicious beans. *Custard* produced much earlier and higher yields in more gardens. Gardeners were impressed with the quality of *Golden Goal* pods; its pods were golden, straight and smooth.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Custard	58	89	7.26
Golden Goal	42	78	7.30

(28 sites)

Bean, Green Filet Bush

Compass germinated better, had healthier plants, produced first, and had a very high yield per plant. *Grenada* germinated poorly across sites; the reason for this is unknown but disappointing. Both varieties produced slim, tasty beans.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Compass	63	75	7.38
Grenada	37	44	5.58

(56 sites)

Beet, Gold

Most gardeners preferred *Golden Boy*. It germinated better at most sites. *Boldor* received higher scores for the look of its roots. *Golden Boy* received higher scores for the taste of its roots. Yields of the two varieties were similar.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Boldor	46	62	6.77
Golden Boy	54	77	6.92

(22 sites)

Beet, Red

These varieties received similar ratings for yield and root qualities. Both varieties grew well. They were great for pickling and eating fresh. *Bohan* was a very reliable producer across sites and was recommended by more gardeners.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bohan	53	86	8.07
Boro	47	72	7.68

(61 sites)

Carrot, Early

Naval and *Istanbul* grew well and produced similar yields of quality carrots. *Naval* roots were blunt tipped, more uniform, more attractive and tasted sweeter. *Istanbul* roots were pointed, longer and more subject to breaking during harvest.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Istanbul	32	80	7.65
Naval	68	85	8.20

(59 sites)

Carrot Large Nantes Organic

Caravel produced a higher yield at more sites. Its roots were beautiful, large, very uniform and straight. More gardeners preferred the taste of *Caravel*. *Negovia* performed well but did not excel in any trait. Both varieties had strong tops.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Caravel	63	85	8.10
Negovia	38	71	7.68

(71 sites)

Carrot, Red

Rubypak produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and better tasting compared to the roots of *Red Sun*. Every gardener preferred *Rubypak* over *Red Sun*. Red carrots in general were not very popular among growers.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Red Sun	0	50	6.25
Rubypak	100	88	7.25

(8 sites)

Corn, Early Super Sweet

Bolt was impressive. It germinated better than *Catalyst* in the cool, wet soils we experienced this spring. *Bolt* was ready to harvest earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Both varieties produced good yields of ears that tasted good.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bolt	73	80	7.74
Catalyst	27	40	6.53

(22 sites)

Corn, Midseason Super Sweet

Neither variety generated much excitement. Their ratings were okay but not very impressive. *Signature* was preferred by most gardeners. *Signature* produced a higher yield at more sites. Both varieties were susceptible to wind damage.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Hero	42	60	6.09
Signature	58	55	6.41

(29 sites)

Corn, Late Super Sweet

Kate excelled in all traits. *Kate* germinated better. Its stalks were stronger, more vigorous and more productive. *Kate* was delicious. Its ears were well filled out and tasted better than *Crave*. Most gardeners did not recommend *Crave*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Crave	20	40	5.93
Kate	80	73	7.73

(16 sites)

Corn, White Super Sweet

Eden germinated far better than *Natural Bright*. Its stalks were healthy, sturdy and produced higher yields. *Eden* received higher ratings for ear qualities. *Natural Bright* did not excel in any trait; most gardeners did not recommend it.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Eden	78	67	7.78
Natural Bright	22	44	5.44

(9 sites)

Cucumber, Japanese

Both varieties were impressive. They produced cucumbers that were crisp, tasty, thin-skinned and had few seeds. *Sashimi* produced the first cucumbers. *Summer Dance* had vigorous vines that produced higher yields at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Sashimi	44	69	7.42
Summer Dance	56	78	7.69

(63 sites)

Cucumber, Pickling

Avenger and *Super Max* vines were healthy and produced excellent yields. *Avenger* produced the first fruits, but *Super Max* produced higher yields at more sites. *Super Max* cucumbers were uniform, crunchy and tasty.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Avenger	33	71	7.24
Super Max	67	79	7.81

(46 sites)

Cucumber, Slicing

Gardeners split evenly on their preferred variety. Gardeners liked the fruit quality of both varieties. Their fruits were crisp and sweet with small seed cavities. The vines were healthy. *Stonewall* produced higher yields at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Gateway	50	71	6.52
Stonewall	50	67	6.81

(27 sites)

Cucumber, Snack

The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced abundantly. Their fruits had good flavor and crunch. *Green Light* has excelled in our trials for years, but *Snack* matched it in earliness, yield and fruit quality traits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Green Light	47	81	7.70
Snack	53	78	7.66

(76 sites)

Greens, Komatsuna

Many trials experienced major infestations of flea beetles. *Green River* had healthier plants and higher yields at more sites. Nearly all gardeners never grew komatsuna before, and many of them reported the greens were too bitter in taste.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Green River	57	59	6.56
Malachai	43	52	6.22

(30 sites)

Lettuce, Oakleaf

Gardeners liked both varieties and rated them similarly for most traits. *Bauer* resisted bolting better and produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners who preferred *Hampton* often mentioned its crisp and flavorful leaves.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bauer	46	79	7.79
Hampton	54	79	7.36

(14 sites)

Lettuce, Romaine

Both varieties were healthy, productive and resisted bolting. Many gardeners preferred the look of *Bluerock*. Its heads were large, beautiful and bright green. Many gardeners preferred the smooth, slightly sweet taste of *Sunland*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bluerock	52	83	7.89
Sunland	48	87	7.91

(53 sites)

Lettuce, Green Summer Crisp Organic

Both varieties produced well and resisted bolting. Most gardeners preferred *Muir*. *Muir* was ready to harvest earlier and produced a larger crop in more gardens. *Albachiara* leaves were darker green, crisp and flavorful.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Albachiara	42	76	7.93
Muir	58	83	8.17

(47 sites)

Lettuce, Red Summer Crisp Organic

Gardeners liked both varieties. *Chrystal* germinated better, was healthier, grew faster and produced more abundantly. Its plants had ruffled leaves and looked prettier. Both varieties tolerated heat; *Lovelock* showed greater resistance to bolting.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Chrystal	72	84	7.63
Lovelock	28	80	6.75

(26 sites)

Melon, Cantaloupe Early

Both varieties had healthy vines but only fair yields. Growers were evenly divided on which variety had superior fruit quality. *Goddess* melons ripened earlier than *Cleopatra* melons, and *Goddess* was recommended by more gardeners.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Cleopatra	48	62	6.97
Goddess	52	76	6.93

(41 sites)

Melon, Cantaloupe Open-Pollinated

Dakota Sisters germinated better, ripened earlier, produced higher yields and had better flavor. Melons of both varieties were fairly small in size. Yields were reduced due to the cool, wet spring conditions. *Iroquois* did not excel in any trait.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Dakota Sisters	78	72	7.44
Iroquois	22	44	5.94

(26 sites)

Okra, Green

Buffalo Bill 91 matured earlier and produced more pods. Its pods were deep green, very attractive and stayed tender. *Clemson Spineless 80* has always done well in our previous trials, but it was overmatched by *Buffalo Bill 91*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Buffalo Bill 91	69	100	8.38
Clemson Sp. 80	31	62	7.08

(15 sites)

Pumpkin, Midsize

Both varieties produced dark orange, beautiful pumpkins. Their semi-bush vines were surprisingly vigorous. *Spartacus* pumpkins turned orange sooner, and it produced a higher yield. *Spartacus* fruits were rounded; *Hawk* fruits were taller.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Hawk	32	74	7.30
Spartacus	68	89	8.00

(27 sites)

Pumpkin, Large

Everest pumpkins were larger and judged to be more attractive by more gardeners. Gardeners were expecting larger fruits from both varieties. Both varieties were susceptible to powdery mildew.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Everest	55	87	7.55
Gemini	45	78	7.36

(28 sites)

Pumpkin, Gray

Blue Doll pumpkins were larger, and gardeners loved the look of its deeply ribbed fruits. *Blue Ice* ripened earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites. The pumpkins of both varieties were wonderful for decorating and cooking.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Blue Doll	57	83	7.25
Blue Ice	43	79	6.75

(26 sites)

Pumpkin, White

Abominable germinated better and matured earlier. It produced more fruits and bigger fruits. *Abominable* pumpkins were true white with beautiful, contrasting dark green handles. The performance of *Stella Luna* was disappointing.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Abominable	79	89	8.00
Stella Luna	21	26	4.84

(22 sites)

Squash, Gray Zucchini

Mexicana produced an earlier harvest and higher yields overall. *Mexicana* fruits were more attractive to many gardeners. A few gardeners noted the mild flavor of *Hurakan*, but most gardeners did not recommend the variety.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Hurakan	30	45	7.55
Mexicana	70	91	8.18

(12 sites)

Squash, Green Zucchini

Gardeners rated *Dunja* and *Kefren* similarly for all traits. Their vines were compact with an open habit, making them easy to harvest. Yields were abundant. *Dunja* vines were extremely productive and stayed healthy late into the growing season.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Dunja	57	78	7.77
Kefren	43	85	7.54

(31 sites)

Squash, Yellow Summer

The vines of both varieties were healthy and productive. Most gardeners preferred *Butterfingers*. Its vines produced the first fruits. Many gardeners felt *Butterfingers* fruits were more attractive and tasted better than *Goldfinch* fruits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Butterfingers	69	93	7.85
Goldfinch	31	71	7.15

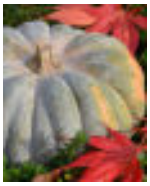
(15 sites)

Squash, Orange Kabocha

Both varieties were productive, but the yields of *Madonna* were amazing. Gardeners liked the beautiful, orange-red color of the fruits of both varieties. *Madonna* fruits were usually slightly smaller in size and good for single servings.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Madonna	53	76	7.67
Sunshine	47	73	7.48

(35 sites)



Squash, Specialty Kabocha

The fruits of both varieties were good for decorating and eating. Gardeners especially liked the green and orange splotchy rinds of *Speckled Hound*. Every gardener with a taste preference preferred *Pink Panther*. Yields were similar.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Pink Panther	60	83	7.50
Speckled Hound	40	83	7.20

(16 sites)

Squash, Spaghetti

Both varieties performed well. Their fruits were uniform in shape, size and color. *Pinnacle* ripened earlier at more sites. *Primavera* produced higher yields at more sites. Taste preferences were evenly split among the varieties.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Pinnacle	44	88	7.63
Primavera	56	76	7.56

(21 sites)

Swiss Chard, Mixed Colors

Bright Lights outshone *Celebration* in all respects. *Bright Lights* germinated better, grew faster and produced a higher yield. Its leaves were more colorful. Nearly all gardeners who expressed a taste preference preferred *Bright Lights*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Bright Lights	74	92	8.92
Celebration	26	64	7.42

(27 sites)

Tomato, Bright Red Heirloom

Gardeners were pleased with the health and yields of both varieties. Most gardeners preferred *Wisconsin 55*. *Wisconsin 55* fruits were larger and had robust flavor. *Crimson Sprinter* got off to a quick start and produced the first fruits.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Crimson Sprinter	44	70	7.20
Wisconsin 55	56	80	7.20

(15 sites)

Tomato, Determinate Heirloom

Both varieties had compact plants yet produced good yields. *Manitoba* vines were healthier, produced earlier and produced more fruits. More gardeners preferred the taste of *Manitoba*. *Sheyenne* did not excel in any measured trait.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Manitoba	68	65	7.10
Sheyenne	32	57	6.46

(75 sites)

Tomato, Small Fruit

Yields were prolific. *Juliet* produced tomatoes earlier and produced more tomatoes overall. Gardeners were excited by the flame-looking stripes on *Red Torch* fruits. Gardeners were split on their taste preferences.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Juliet	56	47	7.47
Red Torch	44	65	7.71

(22 sites)

Watermelon, Red

Sweet Dakota Rose produced the first melons and had higher yields. The melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* were especially sweet, flavorful and crisp. Gardeners liked the taste, larger size and classic, oblong shape of *Jamboree* melons.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Jamboree	21	52	5.76
Swt Dakota Rose	79	72	6.59

(40 sites)

Watermelon, Red Seedless

Several gardeners struggled with the germination and transplanting of these varieties. *Sweet Dawn* matured earlier, had bigger and more attractive melons, and tasted very sweet. Most gardeners did not recommend *Dark Knight*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Dark Knight	22	44	6.67
Sweet Dawn	78	67	7.11

(20 sites)

Marigold, Yellow Cutting

Both varieties grew vigorously and produced large, beautiful flowers until frost. *Giant Yellow* plants grew slightly taller and bloomed earlier at most sites. Its blooms were bright yellow while the blooms of *Hedge Mary Yellow* were golden yellow.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Giant Yellow	57	80	8.00
Hedge Mary Yell.	43	74	7.97

(39 sites)

Sunflower, Fluffy

Both varieties received high ratings from gardeners. Most gardeners preferred *Just Crazy*. They loved the informal, ragged look of its flowers. *Greenburst DMR* plants were taller, healthier and produced more blooms at more sites.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Greenburst DMR	38	75	7.94
Just Crazy	63	81	8.19

(24 sites)

Sunflower, Gold Branching

Golden Ray stalks were taller, sturdier and bloomed earlier. *Golden Ray* flowers were larger and more abundant. The flower spikes of both varieties made fabulous bouquets and were great in cut flower arrangements.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Concert Bell	41	67	7.41
Golden Ray	59	78	7.82

(22 sites)

Sunflower, Gold Single-Stem

Both varieties grew consistently well. *ProCut Bravo* was healthy, vigorous and grew slightly taller. It bloomed earlier at more sites. More gardeners felt *ProCut Bravo* blooms were prettier compared to the blooms of *ProCut Orange DMR*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
ProCut Bravo	53	87	7.87
ProCut Orange	47	80	7.40

(18 sites)

Sunflower, Bicolor Dwarf

Tinies germinated much better, grew taller, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. The bright red and orange blooms of *Little Tiger* stood out in gardens. In contrast, the blooms of *Tinies* appeared in soft and muted colors.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Little Tiger	46	54	5.92
Tinies	54	85	7.23

(15 sites)

Sunflower, Double-Petal Dwarf

Gardeners loved the cute, fluffy flowers of both varieties. *Baby Bear* rated higher than *Teddy Bear* in all traits. *Baby Bear* germinated better, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. *Baby Bear* blooms were pollenless; good for cutting.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Baby Bear	57	93	8.43
Teddy Bear	43	79	6.64

(17 sites)

Sunflower, Gold Dwarf

Smiley germinated better, was healthier, and looked prettier to most gardeners. *Junior* bloomed earlier. *Junior* flowers were bright, and they lasted long as a cut flower. Several gardeners were surprised how short these varieties were.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Junior	36	67	6.83
Smiley	64	75	7.25

(13 sites)

Sunflower, Yellow Dwarf

Munchkin germinated better, grew taller, produced more flowers and was much prettier overall. *Lemon Pixie* lacked vigor and was a disappointment. Most gardeners did not recommend *Lemon Pixie*.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Munchkin	71	71	7.29
Yellow Pixie	29	43	5.43

(9 sites)

Zinnia, Flaming

Both mixes were easy to grow, bloomed prolifically and made wonderful cut flowers. Their flower colors were bold and bright. *South of the Border* bloomed earlier at more sites; it had a greater variety of colors including some bicolors.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Lava Lamp	49	87	8.38
So. of the Border	51	81	8.15

(56 sites)

Zinnia, Fruity Dessert

Gardeners enjoyed both mixes. These mixes contain many of the same varieties, and they performed similarly. The flowers of *Fruity Beauty* were vibrant while the flowers of *Peach Cobbler* came in a greater variety of pleasing colors.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Fruity Beauty	53	89	8.47
Peach Cobbler	47	89	8.21

(22 sites)

Zinnia, Pink

Both mixes were pretty. The plants were tall and healthy, producing many blooms. *Blushing Bride* grew robustly, and its blooms had a blend of soft and charming colors. The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* flowers were brighter and more intense.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Blushing Bride	57	83	8.15
Strawberry Parfait	43	83	7.78

(48 sites)

Zinnia, Purple and Yellow Dessert

Both varieties produced loads of beautiful flowers. Gardeners loved the purple, lavender and white colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake*. *Lemon Meringue* had full, large blooms with sturdy stems. These mixes attracted a lot of pollinators.

Variety	Pref (%)	Rec (%)	Rating
Blueberry Cheese.	66	91	8.47
Lemon Meringue	34	78	7.81

(42 sites)

Bean, Green Bush

Varieties

Blue Lake Superior

54 days. New! Plants are sturdy, upright and productive. Famous *Blue Lake* flavor. Canning/freezing.

Tendergreen Improved

53 days. High yields of tender, smooth, straight pods. Very popular for fresh use/ freezing.

Data

Gardeners at 43 sites submitted information.

Trait	B.L. Superior	Tendergr. Impr.	Same
Germinated best	15%	**46%**	38%
Healthier plants	17	**46**	37
Harvested earlier	17	**54**	29
Higher yields	23	**40**	37
More attractive pods	31	31	**37**
Tasted better	23	23	**49**
Preference	37	**63**	
Recommend (☺)	69	**83**	
Mean score[1]	7.29	**8.03**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Blue Lake Superior

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☺ MN

Blue Lake Superior produced first. Its plants were bigger and more vigorous. Its pods were more evenly shaped.

Blue Lake Superior 10 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☹ SE

Blue Lake Superior had superior taste, yield and look. We did not enjoy the taste of *Tendergreen Improved*. Possibly we picked just a little late as they seemed to be rubbery and soft much faster than the *Blue Lake Superior* pods.

Blue Lake Superior 7 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 6 ☺ SE

Blue Lake Superior pods looked more attractive and tasted better.

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☺ SE

It was a tough year growing beans from seed in the garden with all the rain we had. Some of the beans had to be resown due to the rain and clay soil we have. *Blue Lake Superior* had a higher yield and its pods were more attractive.

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☺ SE

Both varieties had excellent yields and handled heat well. *Blue Lake Superior* had a long production season that went through September. *Blue Lake Superior* had nice, slender, small beans; it was a great tasting bean.

Blue Lake Superior 10 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 8 ☹ NC

Blue Lake Superior tasted better and had more attractive pods.

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 8 ☺ NC

Blue Lake Superior produced earlier and a higher yield overall. *Tendergreen Improved* produced longer.

Most gardeners preferred *Tendergreen Improved*. It produced earlier and higher yields in more gardens.

Best green bush bean varieties

Top choice
Jade

Strong performers
Annihilator
Antigua
Bush Blue Lake 274
Derby
Espada
Homerun
Lewis
Pike
Provider
Red Tail
Strike
Tendergreen Improved

Prefer Blue Lake Superior (continued)

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 6 ☹ SC

Both grew very well; neither had any disease or pest issues. The first harvest of *Tendergreen Improved* was on July 27, 2 days before *Blue Lake Superior*. Both varieties produced around 13 pounds of beans. Both had large harvests from late July to mid-August and then slowed down considerably until mid-September. *Blue Lake Superior* pods were more green, and I slightly preferred the taste of them. *Blue Lake Superior* plants stayed upright, with less foliage to hunt through for the beans, opposed to the *Tendergreen Improved* plants which continued growing throughout the season making it even more of a challenge in finding the beans in the sprawling plants. Overall, I was quite pleased with *Blue Lake Superior* while *Tendergreen Improved* was not particularly noteworthy.

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☺ SC

Tendergreen Improved plants were more productive but very leggy. I needed a fence to hold the plants up. *Blue Lake Superior* plants were was more compact. Its beans were much straighter and looked nicer.

Blue Lake Superior 4 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 3 ☹ SC

The pods of *Blue Lake Superior* were darker. When canned, they held the same great color.

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 8 ☺ SW

Blue Lake Superior plants were healthier and more productive. *Blue Lake Superior* pods were more attractive.

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 8 ☺ SW

Both varieties grew well. I did have a deer problem, but the plants of both varieties kept thriving. *Blue Lake Superior* produced more.

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☺ SW

Blue Lake Superior produced an earlier and heavier yield despite not as many of its plants germinating.

Blue Lake Superior 7 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 6 ☹ SW

Blue Lake Superior germinated better, was healthier and produced the first yield. Total yields and pod qualities were similar.

Prefer Tendergreen Improved

Blue Lake Superior 6 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 9 ☺ MN

Tendergreen Improved produced longer and had less issue with white mold.

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 10 ☺ MN

Tendergreen Improved produced better.

Blue Lake Superior 5 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 6 ☺ NE

Tendergreen Improved had cute purple flowers.

Blue Lake Superior 5 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☺ SE

Tendergreen Improved produced beans 5 to 7 days earlier. Its plants were a lighter shade of green, taller, fuller and more productive. Its pods were more attractive, more substantial and larger. The pods of both varieties tasted bland.

Blue Lake Superior 7 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 8 ☺ SE

Tendergreen Improved had a little more production.

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 10 ☺ SE

Tendergreen Improved had great taste and produced well.

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 10 ☺ SE

Tendergreen Improved was faster to yield. These two varieties were the best green beans ever.

***Blue Lake Superior* plants were upright, compact and sturdy. The plants of *Tendergreen Improved* were larger, more vigorous, healthier and sprawled more.**

Prefer Tendergreen Improved (continued)

Blue Lake Superior 5 ☹ -
Tendergreen Impr. 10 ☺ SE

Tendergreen Improved sprouted up slightly quicker. Both had near 100% germination. Higher yields and better taste made the *Tendergreen Improved* a clear winner! Its pods were more tender and sweet.

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 9 ☺ NC

Tendergreen Improved had smaller pods, which I like. Both varieties yielded well.

Blue Lake Superior 6 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 8 ☺ SC

Tendergreen Improved produced earlier and tasted better.

Blue Lake Superior 9 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 10 ☺ SC

Tendergreen Improved had a better germination rate.

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 9 ☺ SC

Tendergreen Improved produced very late into the growing season. Its plants continued to look very healthy.

Blue Lake Superior 7 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 9 ☺ SC

The *Tendergreen Improved* plants grew taller and had very pretty purple flowers; it was very striking when they started flowering among all the beans we had planted. Bean production and taste was the same between the two varieties. I preferred both varieties in last year's trials (*Homerun* and *Caprice*) to these varieties. They had longer and more attractive pods.

Blue Lake Superior 4 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 8 ☺ SC

Tendergreen Improved plants were much larger, fuller and healthier. *Tendergreen Improved* had a longer production time. The pods of both varieties were tasty, uniform and straight.

Blue Lake Superior 7 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 10 ☺ SC

Tendergreen Improved pods were more uniform in size, more tender and better tasting.

Blue Lake Superior 6 ☺
Tendergreen Impr. 9 ☺ SC

Blue Lake Superior tasted so amazing, but its pods were much smaller and the plants were much less productive compared to *Tendergreen Improved*.

Blue Lake Superior 6 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 9 ☺ NW

Tendergreen Improved had noticeably better germination and more vigor. It produced the first yield.

Blue Lake Superior 8 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 10 ☺ NW

Tendergreen Improved had a higher germination rate. Its pods were crispy and tasted good.

Blue Lake Superior 6 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 9 ☺ SW

Tendergreen Improved germinated better (25 vs. 9 seedlings for *Blue Lake Superior*); however, both varieties produced the same yield. Both varieties tasted good but *Tendergreen Improved* had the best flavor.

Blue Lake Superior 4 ☹
Tendergreen Impr. 7 ☺ SD

Tendergreen Improved had great plants and beans. I loved them for canning!

No Preference

Blue Lake Superior - ☹ -
Tendergreen Impr. - ☹ MN

The varieties had an artificial, no flavor taste.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Tendergreen Improved*. It produced earlier and higher yields in more gardens. The plants of *Tendergreen Improved* were larger, more vigorous, healthier and sprawled more. *Blue Lake Superior* plants were upright, compact and sturdy. *Blue Lake* beans are famous for their quality, but gardeners in this trial rated the pod quality of these varieties equally.

***Blue Lake* beans are famous for their quality, but gardeners in this trial rated the pod quality of these varieties equally.**

Bean, Yellow Bush

Varieties

Custard

55 days. Slender, beautiful, bright yellow pods are produced continuously. Delicious.

Golden Goal

63 days. New! Golden pods are beautiful and straight. Vigorous plants and good yields. European.

Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Custard	Golden Goal	Same
Germinated best	25%	14%	**61%**
Healthier plants	36	11	**54**
Harvested earlier	**56**	19	26
Higher yields	**48**	19	33
More attractive pods	26	**37**	**37**
Tasted better	27	19	**54**
Preference	**58**	42	
Recommend (☺)	**89**	78	
Mean score[1]	7.26	**7.30**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Custard

Custard 7 ☺
Golden Goal 6 ☺ MN

Custard had healthier plants and produced the first beans. Bugs ate holes in the leaves of *Golden Goal* plants.

Custard 10 ☺
Golden Goal 9 ☺ NE

Both varieties were good and I would like to grow them again next year. *Custard* grew a bit better initially. Both varieties yielded well over an extended time which I didn't expect.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 7 ☺ NE

Both varieties were good producers and had good quality pods. The pods were very good for fresh eating and pickling.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 4 ☹ SE

Both varieties germinated very well, but *Custard* was slightly better. The pods of both varieties developed mold, more-so with *Golden Goal*. Yields were similar in earliness and amount. *Custard* pods were bright yellow and looked healthy. *Golden Goal* pods were a bit dull in color. We enjoyed the taste of *Custard* more.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 7 ☺ SE

Custard produced earlier and more consistent yields.

Custard 10 ☺
Golden Goal 8 ☺ SE

We enjoyed both varieties and got three harvests from each. *Custard* produced a higher yield. The difference in taste wasn't significant.

Custard 10 ☺
Golden Goal 9 ☺ NC

We loved these yellow bush beans. Both varieties were prolific producers. *Custard* had healthier plants by a very slim margin and slightly more attractive pods. *Custard* produced more at the beginning of the season and *Golden Goal* produced more toward the end.

Both varieties were healthy and produced good crops of delicious beans. Their pods were good for both fresh eating as well as pickling.

Best yellow bush bean varieties

Top choice
Custard

Strong performers
Carson
Gold Rush

Prefer Custard (continued)

Custard 10 ☺
Golden Goal 6 ☹ NC

Custard germinated better, produced larger plants and pods, and produced more pods per plant. Both were tasty, but *Custard* pods seemed to have a little more substance.

Custard 10 ☺
Golden Goal 5 ☹ SC

Custard produced three times the yield and matured a few days earlier.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 7 ☺ SC

Custard produced earlier and had more attractive pods.

Custard 10 ☺
Golden Goal 8 ☺ SC

Custard pods were straight (better for pickling), the flavor was fresh, and the flesh was crisp. Both varieties yielded well.

Custard 3 ☺
Golden Goal 2 ☹ SW

Both varieties performed poorly in newly established raised beds. *Custard* had slightly more production and showed greater tolerance of extreme heat and winds.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 7 ☺ SD

I was very happy with both varieties. They both had good yields. *Custard* had nice, long pods and a little better yield. I also planted *Cherokee Yellow* and these two varieties outyielded it.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 7 ☺ SD

Custard germinated better, had healthier plants and higher yields.

Custard 10 ☺
Golden Goal 9 ☹ MB

The plants of *Golden Goal* turned yellow and stopped producing while the plants of *Custard* continued to have green leaves and produced a decent fourth picking.

Prefer Golden Goal

Custard 9 ☺
Golden Goal 10 ☺ MN

Both varieties were good growers and producers. *Golden Goal* had darker yellow, straight, smooth beans. In a blind taste test, *Golden Goal* was the winner.

Custard 6 ☹
Golden Goal 9 ☺ NE

Golden Goal was more flavorful.

Custard 7 ☺
Golden Goal 8 ☺ NE

I loved both varieties. *Golden Goal* produced the first yield.

Custard 5 ☺
Golden Goal 6 ☺ SE

Golden Goal rated higher in all traits.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 9 ☺ SE

Golden Goal had a little better flavor.

Custard 7 ☹
Golden Goal 9 ☺ SE

Golden Goal tasted better. Its yellow flesh was sweet and had good texture. *Custard* had a less sweet taste and a coarser texture. *Custard* produced earlier and higher yields.

Custard 1 ☹
Golden Goal 4 ☹ SE

Neither variety did well. *Golden Goal* gave us one meal of beans. *Custard* did not produce. Maybe they had too much rain and cloud cover early in the season.

Custard 6 ☺
Golden Goal 7 ☺ NC

Golden Goal pods were more attractive. *Custard* plants were healthier and produced higher yields.

Custard 8 ☺
Golden Goal 10 ☺ SC

Golden Goal had higher yields and more attractive pods.

***Custard* produced much earlier and higher yields in more gardens.**

Prefer Golden Goal (continued)

Custard	9 ★★★★★	☺	
Golden Goal	10 ★★★★★	☺	SC

Both varieties had high yields. *Custard* produced slightly earlier. I liked the straight pods of *Golden Goal*.

Custard	8 ★★★★★	☺	
Golden Goal	10 ★★★★★	☺	SK

Both varieties did well. *Golden Goal* had long, straight pods that were easy to pick and tasted good. *Golden Goal* produced a higher yield.

No Preference

Custard	8 ★★★★★	☺	
Golden Goal	8 ★★★★★	☺	SW

These varieties were literally identical in all criteria. They were both very satisfactory producers and worked well in pickling as well as fresh eating.

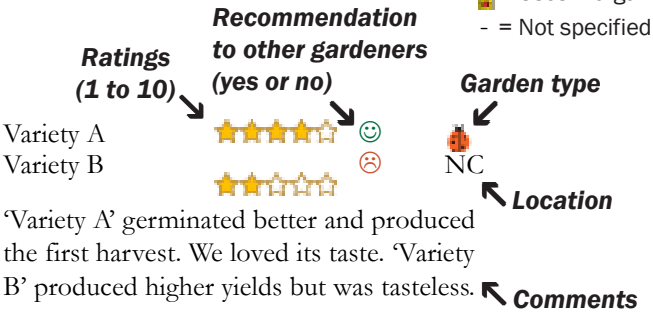
Conclusions

Both varieties were healthy and produced good crops of delicious beans. Their pods were good for both fresh eating as well as pickling. *Custard* produced much earlier and higher yields in more gardens. Gardeners were impressed with the quality of *Golden Goal* pods. The pods were golden, straight and smooth.

Gardeners were impressed with the quality of *Golden Goal* pods. The pods were golden, straight and smooth.

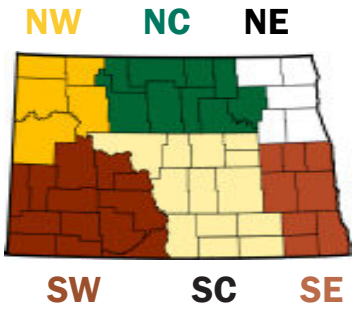
Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Bean, Green Filet Bush

Varieties

Compass

54 days. Pods are slim, smooth and attractive. Good flavor. Plants resist diseases.

Grenada

58 days. High yields of dark green, slender, 6.5-inch pods. Crisp and delicious. Plants resist diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 56 sites submitted information.

Trait	Compass	Grenada	Same
Germinated best	**77%**	7%	16%
Healthier plants	42	13	**45**
Harvested earlier	**65**	19	15
Higher yields	**67**	14	20
More attractive pods	27	31	**41**
Tasted better	27	31	**41**
Preference	**63**	37	
Recommend (☺)	**75**	44	
Mean score[1]	**7.38**	5.58	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	6.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Compass

Compass 8 ☺
Grenada 5 ☹ MN

More than half of *Grenada* either didn't germinate or died very early on. *Compass* pods tasted fresher. The pods of both varieties were small, and some of the *Compass* pods curled tighter or had uneven shape. Plants of both varieties were very petite for a green bean. I was impressed with the enormous yield of both varieties. They had more pods on the plants than I think I have ever seen on a green bean. The yield made it difficult to harvest as it seemed like the pods were in huge clumps so you couldn't just pick one or two pods. I seemed to just grab the whole clump and often ended up removing blooms as well. *Compass* had way more plants, which led to higher yields.

Compass 10 ☺
Grenada 9 ☺ MN

Both were yummy and productive, but I preferred *Compass* because of its slightly better germination and higher production. Both varieties had good yields. *Grenada* had shinier, smoother and tastier pods.

Compass 8 ☺
Grenada 3 ☹ NE

Some of the *Grenada* seedlings germinated but their leaves were either eaten or wilted. I tried to reseed and the same thing happened. Only a few seedlings survived. *Compass* had better germination and thus better yield.

Compass 10 ☺
Grenada 2 ☹ NE

Compass had near 100% germination; *Grenada* had less than 10% germination. *Compass* plants were more vigorous and produced significantly more beans. Only two *Grenada* plants survived to produce beans.

Compass 8 ☹
Grenada 1 ☹ NE

Grenada had very poor seed germination with less than 10% emergence. None of these plants were harvested. *Compass* grew well but I didn't like the ultra-thin pods that were tough skinned.

Compass 9 ☺
Grenada 8 ☺ NE

Compass had slightly more flavor and germinated better.

Compass germinated much better, had healthier plants, produced first, and had a very high yield per plant.

Best green filet bush bean varieties

Top choice
Crockett

Strong performers
Maxibel
Serengeti

Prefer Compass (continued)

Compass 10 ☺ SE
Grenada 1 ☹

The *Compass* beans were the best I have ever grown, so I'll definitely plant them again! *Grenada* did not sprout at all for me.

Compass 8 ☺ SE
Grenada 5 ☹

Only a few *Grenada* plants germinated but they produced a lot of yield. About 70% of the *Compass* seeds germinated. The yield and flavor of *Compass* was amazing.

Compass 8 ☺
Grenada 4 ☹ SE

Compass germinated better and produced the first yield. Its pods tasted better although the pods of both varieties were very good.

Compass 9 ☺ SE
Grenada 7 ☹

Compass grew better and produced more beans.

Compass 9 ☺ SE
Grenada 3 ☹

Grenada didn't germinate well. We got far more plants from *Compass*.

Compass 9 ☺
Grenada 1 ☹ SE

Compass had great tasting, tender beans. It produced a beautiful crop. Only two seedlings of *Grenada* germinated.

Compass 9 ☺ SE
Grenada 2 ☹

Compass germinated much better: 31 plants vs. 5 for *Grenada*. *Grenada* germinated so poorly I questioned whether it was going to come up at all. *Compass* plants were earlier and more robust, and many more plants obviously meant much higher yields. *Grenada* had really nice, plump pods, but there were hardly any of them due to extremely poor germination.

Compass 8 ☺ SE
Grenada 6 ☺

Compass had better pods and germinated faster. Growing conditions in spring included too much rain for my clay soil.

Compass 10 ☺ SE
Grenada 5 ☹

I loved the beans of *Compass*. They were thin and there were so many on each plant. Its yields were longer lasting. *Grenada* germinated poorly.

Compass 8 ☺ NC
Grenada 4 ☹

The *Grenada* beans sprouted earlier, but yields were low. The *Compass* plants were late to fruit, but flushed out two really nice, bountiful harvests. They likely would have produced a third harvest had I planted them earlier [trial was sown June 2]. *Compass* was just a heartier, tastier bean overall. I would love to plant these earlier in the year next year. *Compass* is a great bean for North Dakota.

Compass 10 ☺ NC
Grenada 8 ☹

Compass germinated first and produced the first yield. *Compass* produced a huge yield. *Compass* pods were beautiful and slender. The pods of both varieties tasted very good.

Compass 10 ☺ NC
Grenada 7 ☹

Compass is a keeper! We will be planting them again in the future for sure! *Compass* is possibly the best filet bean we've tried to date. They germinated far better than *Grenada*. *Compass* produced yields at least 2 weeks before *Grenada* and produced much higher yields over a longer period of time. We preferred the more slender pods of *Compass*, and they tasted better than *Grenada* to us.

***Grenada* germinated poorly. It is not clear if this poor germination was due to a bad batch of seeds or if this is an inherit weakness of the variety.**

Prefer Compass (continued)

Compass	8	☺	
Grenada	6	☹	NC

Compass had a germination rate of 67% compared to 17% for *Grenada*. Both varieties had healthy plants that produced long, thin, very tasty pods. *Grenada* produced first but *Compass* produced higher yields overall. I shared the beans with others who felt the beans were very similar to each other in look and taste. Most people became instant fans of filet beans.

Compass	10	☺	
Grenada	6	☹	SC

Compass plants germinated better, had healthier plants, produced first, and had a very high production per plant. Only five seedlings of *Grenada* emerged.

Compass	8	☹	
Grenada	6	☹	SC

Bunnies ate the *Grenada* seedlings. I reseeded and they did great. My bean crop was a disappointment. I did not have a steady, good yield. Nor did they produce much. I will grow filet beans in the future but not these varieties.

Compass	2	☺	
Grenada	1	☹	SC

Only six seeds of *Compass* germinated. *Grenada* had no germination. The *Compass* pods were long, thin, straight and very tasty. There was a nice yield on the few plants.

Compass	10	☺	
Grenada	9	☺	SC

I liked both varieties. Their beans were straight and slim. I liked the straight beans of *Compass* and the green color of *Grenada*. Yields were very similar with *Compass* producing just slightly earlier.

Compass	10	☺	
Grenada	9	☺	SC

Both varieties grew exceptionally well. The plants were healthy and produced lots of beans. *Compass* pods tasted a little better and their skin was a little thinner.

Compass	8	☺	
Grenada	2	☹	SC

Poor production with *Grenada*. Only four plants emerged. Virtually all the *Compass* plants came up. *Compass* plants were easier to harvest. *Compass* had a decent second harvest in fall.

Compass	10	☺	
Grenada	1	☹	SC

Only one *Grenada* seed germinated. *Compass* produced a good yield and its pods were tasty.

Compass	9	☺	
Grenada	7	☺	SC

Grenada had very poor germination for me, so a comparison of the yields won't be accurate. I am simply assuming a low-quality batch of seeds for *Grenada*. Both varieties produced very slim, small- to medium-sized, tasty beans. One of my favorite attributes of both varieties is, if for some reason I didn't get around to harvesting them in a timely manner, the ability of the beans to be left on the plants for at least a few days or more and they would maintain their size without growing overly large with the beans swelling to the point where they aren't all that pleasant to eat, such as the case with many other bush green beans. *Compass* plants remained upright and compact resulting in ease of access to harvest the beans. In the future, for a filet bean I'm going to most likely stick with the tried-and-true *Crockett* which you've recommended and has become a favorite of mine.

Both varieties produced slim, small- to medium-sized, tasty beans.

Compass	3	☹	-
Grenada	1	☹	NW

The skins of the pods for both varieties were tough.

Compass	9	☺	
Grenada	1	☹	NW

Compass germinated at near 100% compared to 2% for *Grenada*.

Prefer Compass (continued)

Compass 8 ☺ SW
Grenada 7 ☺

Deer got to these plants, but they thrived and kept trying to produce. Yields of the varieties were similar. *Compass* pods had slightly better flavor.

Compass 8 ☺ SW
Grenada 6 ☹

Just over half the seeds germinated. This could be due to pressure from birds. *Compass* had amazing yields.

Compass 7 ☺ SD
Grenada 4 ☹

I thought *Compass* performed much better. It had better germination, blossoms and yields. I would not plant these varieties again because their yields are small compared to regular beans.

Prefer Grenada

Compass 7 ☺ MN
Grenada 8 ☺

The seed quality and germination on the *Grenada* was very poor. Only 20% of *Grenada* grew compared to 85% for *Compass*. The poor germination resulted in a slower start for *Grenada*. The greater space between *Grenada* plants may have affected pod size and overall production. *Grenada* pods had better flavor and were longer.

Compass 5 ☺ MN
Grenada 7 ☺

Only one seedling of *Grenada* emerged. *Compass* produced more yield but *Grenada* produced more yield per plant. *Grenada* kept producing well into September. *Grenada* pods were more filled out, longer, crisper and had more flavor.

Compass 8 ☹ SE
Grenada 9 ☺

Compass germinated first with very good vigor and uniformity. *Compass* had twice as many plants. The taste of *Grenada* was far superior to *Compass*. It did not matter that the yield of *Grenada* was lower. Taste is what matters.

Compass 1 ☹ SE
Grenada 6 ☺

Compass didn't thrive in my garden. Very few of its seeds germinated.

Compass 4 ☹ SE
Grenada 6 ☹

The pods of both varieties were tough even after cooking. We did not care for these varieties. *Grenada* pods were more tender and had better flavor. *Grenada* only had three plants emerge. *Compass* had fair germination; not great.

Compass 4 ☹ SE
Grenada 6 ☹

Neither variety was very impressive. *Grenada* tasted better. *Compass* had small and hollow pods. Our standard filet variety *Crockett* was superior to both of these varieties.

Compass 7 ☺ SE
Grenada 8 ☺

Many *Grenada* seeds were cracked. This was the poorest green bean seed quality I've ever seen. *Compass* had exceptional seed quality. In my planting on May 11, 23 plants emerged for *Compass* and only 4 plants emerged for *Grenada*. A second planting on June 9 showed *Compass* with superior germination by a 2:1 margin. *Compass* produced a higher yield (12.5 pounds compared to 7.0 pounds for *Grenada*) but a lower yield per plant (0.34 pounds compared to 0.64 pounds for *Grenada*). We taste-tested multiple times and the vast majority of us preferred *Grenada*. I'm giving *Grenada* the benefit of the doubt that its seed quality was a fluke this season.

Compass 8 ☺ SE
Grenada 9 ☺

Grenada pods had better taste, smoother skin and were nice looking. *Compass* germinated better and produced a higher yield.

Compass 5 ☹ SE
Grenada 6 ☺

These beans were tiny. We didn't realize they were full size until they were overripe. *Grenada* had better flavor than *Compass*. Both varieties did yield well.

Some gardeners noted they have evaluated filet bean varieties in the past, most notably *Crockett*, that were superior to both of these varieties.

Prefer Grenada (continued)

Compass	3	☹	
Grenada	8	☺	SE

Grenada produced more and better looking beans.

Compass	7	☺	
Grenada	8	☺	SE

I preferred the flavor and texture of *Grenada*.

Compass	6	☺	
Grenada	7	☺	NC

Compass grew better and produced a higher yield, but *Grenada* tasted better.

Compass	6	☹	
Grenada	10	☺	NW

Grenada had better germination and yield.

Compass	6	☹	
Grenada	7	☹	NW

Only four plants came up for *Grenada*. The germination of *Compass* was better but still sparse. There were lots of beans on the plants that did come. *Grenada* had a nicer looking pod and was a little better tasting.

Compass	8	☺	
Grenada	9	☺	SW

Grenada plants stayed healthy, produced longer, and produced a higher yield overall. The beans of both varieties were skinny, long, and made delicious pickled beans.

Compass	2	☹	
Grenada	5	☹	SW

Both didn't germinate well but *Compass* barely germinated at all. We planted both three different times and had the same result. *Grenada* plants were healthier, but the plants of both varieties were short. The pods were three-fourths the size of the plants. *Grenada* produced 1 week earlier and produced a couple more pods on each plant. *Grenada* had straighter and slightly longer pods. Although *Grenada* outperformed *Compass*, we recommend *Crockett* for a filet bean. Almost all *Crockett* seeds germinated; its plants were healthier and more productive.

Compass	7	☹	
Grenada	8	☺	SW

Both varieties had small beans. *Grenada* had larger bean pods, and they were very tasty. I did have problems with deer and the dry growing season.

Compass	5	☺	
Grenada	6	☺	SW

Grenada pods had better color, shape and more "bean" flavor.

Compass	9	☺	
Grenada	10	☺	MB

Compass produced very small pods which were more difficult to pick. The pods of both varieties were tasty.

No Preference

Compass	4	☹	
Grenada	4	☹	SE

I had issues with germination with both varieties. There was little difference between the varieties. Both varieties produced small filet beans and they tasted similar.

Compass	-	-	
Grenada	-	-	SC

The germination rates of both varieties were so bad there were not enough plants of either variety to make any kind of judgment.

Compass	1	☹	
Grenada	1	☹	SW

I was very disappointed in these varieties as neither germinated even after three plantings.

Conclusions

Compass germinated better, had healthier plants, produced first, and had a very high yield per plant. *Grenada* germinated poorly. It is not clear if this poor germination was due to a bad batch of seeds or if this is an inherit weakness of the variety. Both varieties produced slim, small- to medium-sized, tasty beans. Some gardeners noted they have evaluated filet bean varieties in the past, most notably *Crockett*, that were superior to both of these varieties. The bottom line is most gardeners recommended *Compass* but most gardeners did not recommend *Grenada*.

The bottom line is most gardeners recommended *Compass* but most gardeners did not recommend *Grenada*.

Beet, Gold

Varieties

Boldor

55 days. Dark golden beets. Sunny yellow flesh keeps its color when cooked. Sweet flavor.

Golden Boy

60 days. Bright yellow, globular roots with high sugar contents. Light-green leaves grow upright, staying clean.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Boldor	Golden Boy	Same
Germinated best	17%	**56%**	28%
Healthier plants	13	33	**53**
Harvested earlier	15	23	**62**
Higher yields	**33**	**33**	**33**
More attractive roots	**38**	23	**38**
Tasted better	8	**46**	**46**
Preference	46	**54**	
Recommend (☺)	62	**77**	
Mean score[1]	6.77	**6.92**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**7.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Boldor

Boldor	8	☺	
Golden Boy	6	☹	SE

We grew these two varieties in a raised garden bed. We saw better germination of *Boldor* with greater yield and moderately sized roots. The beets were harvested and brought to a presentation at the Finley Senior Citizens where members participated in a taste test. The members preferred the taste of *Golden Boy* over *Boldor*. We preferred *Boldor* overall due to better germination rates, higher yield, sweeter taste and more attractive roots.

Boldor	7	☺	
Golden Boy	6	☺	SE

Boldor plants were larger and its roots were ready to harvest slightly earlier. The plants of both varieties were healthy but were slow to grow.

Boldor	4	☹	
Golden Boy	2	☹	SC

I can't explain why these didn't grow. I've usually had great success with beets, but even my *Detroit Dark Red* beets are small this year. *Boldor* at least had a couple beets that grew 2 inches or more in diameter. *Boldor* roots were slightly better looking.

Boldor	8	☺	
Golden Boy	7	☺	SC

Boldor roots had sweeter taste and brighter color.

Boldor	5	☺	
Golden Boy	1	☹	NW

Boldor germinated at 100% compared to 30% for *Golden Boy*.

Boldor	8	☺	
Golden Boy	6	☺	SW

Boldor produced higher yields.

***Boldor* received higher scores for the look of its roots. *Golden Boy* received higher scores for the taste of its roots.**

Best gold beet varieties

Top choice
- Touchstone Gold

Strong performers
- Boldor
- Burpee's Golden
- Golden Boy
- Yellow Sunrise

Prefer Golden Boy

Boldor 7 ☺ NE
Golden Boy 9 ☺

Golden Boy was more flavorful and had higher yields.

Boldor 9 ☺ SE
Golden Boy 10 ☺

Golden Boy tasted better.

Boldor 5 ☹ SE
Golden Boy 7 ☺

Golden Boy germinated better, was easier to grow and tasted better.

Boldor 6 ☹ SE
Golden Boy 9 ☺

Golden Boy beets were bigger and better.

Boldor 7 ☹ SW
Golden Boy 9 ☺

Golden Boy roots looked smoother and had nice flavor.

Boldor 6 ☹ SW
Golden Boy 9 ☺

Golden Boy had better yields.

Boldor 8 ☺ SK
Golden Boy 9 ☺

Golden Boy produced a higher yield and I liked its flavor better. *Boldor* roots had a smoother texture which was nice.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Golden Boy*. It germinated better at most sites. *Boldor* received higher scores for the look of its roots. *Golden Boy* received higher scores for the taste of its roots. Yields of the two varieties were similar.

Most gardeners preferred *Golden Boy*. It germinated better at most sites.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

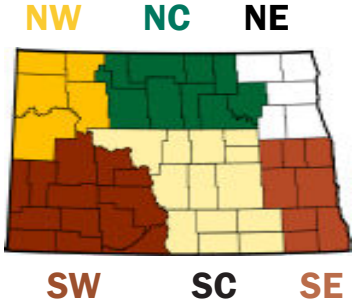
Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ☺
Variety B ☹

Garden type ↙ NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types
= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations
MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Beet, Red

Varieties

Bohan

53 days. Grows vigorously even under stressful conditions. Sweet, very smooth roots.

Boro

50 days. Flavorful, dark red, smooth roots grow quickly. Popular for baby beets. Strong, disease-resistant tops.

Data

Gardeners at 61 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bohan	Boro	Same
Germinated best	22%	17%	**61%**
Healthier plants	21	12	**67**
Harvested earlier	29	30	**41**
Higher yields	32	29	**39**
More attractive roots	27	22	**51**
Tasted better	28	19	**54**
Preference	**53**	47	
Recommend (☺)	**86**	72	
Mean score[1]	**8.07**	7.68	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Bohan

Bohan 7 ☺ 🐞
Boro 5 ☹ MN

Bohan germinated at a higher rate and produced twice the yield compared to *Boro*. The roots of these varieties looked very similar and had a nice color. I liked the taste of *Bohan* better.

Bohan 9 ☺ 🐞
Boro 8 ☺ NE

Bohan had slightly bigger beets.

Bohan 10 ☺ 🐞
Boro 9 ☺ NE

Bohan roots were more flavorful and attractive.

Bohan 6 ☺ 🐞
Boro 3 ☹ NE

Bohan had good quality beets and overall plant health. This trial was planted in a poor part of our garden so the plants struggled.

Bohan 9 ☺ 🐞
Boro 8 ☺ NE

These varieties were very similar. *Bohan* roots had a uniform size.

Bohan 8 ☺ 🐞
Boro 5 ☹ SE

Bohan thrived better than *Boro*. It had better looking plants, produced first and yielded more. The tastes of these varieties were similar, but *Bohan* tasted slightly better.

Bohan 8 ☺ 🐞
Boro 7 ☹ SE

Bohan tasted a tish better.

Bohan 6 ☹ 🏠
Boro 5 ☹ SE

I do not recommend either variety. They had the fewest and poorest quality leaves of any red beets I have ever grown. *Boro* had almost no green leaves. I planted 6 feet of row of each variety. *Boro* produced 4.2 pounds (42 plants) compared to 3.8 pounds (41 plants) for *Bohan*. *Boro* roots were rounder, smoother and more uniform. My wife and I preferred *Bohan* based upon its flavor and greater sweetness.

These varieties received similar ratings for yield and root qualities.

Best red beet varieties

Top choice
- Red Cloud

Strong performers
- Bohan
- Bull's Blood
- Cylindra
- Detroit Dark Red
- Eagle
- Early Wonder Tall Top
- Merlin
- Red Ace
- Sweet Dakota Bliss

Prefer Bohan (continued)

Bohan 9 ☺ 
Boro 8 ☺ SE

Both varieties had very good germination. Their plants looked beautiful. *Boro* roots were larger and smoother. *Bohan* roots had some scab but tasted slightly sweeter.

Bohan 10 ☺ 
Boro 9 ☺ SE

Both were such excellent varieties! *Bohan* had slightly bigger beets. I was super impressed how well both of these did, and they germinated so well. This was an excellent year for beet production.

Bohan 8 ☺ 
Boro 6 ☹ SE

Bohan germinated faster and had healthy leaves. It produced bigger and earlier beets.

Bohan 9 ☺ 
Boro 7 ☹ SC

Bohan roots were larger and more flavorful. The plants of both varieties were both very healthy. *Boro* was ready to harvest first, but both varieties were ready earlier than expected. *Bohan* was sweet and full flavored, but *Boro* seemed to make better pickles.

Bohan 9 ☺ 
Boro 8 ☺ SC

Bohan produced bigger, better tasting roots.

Bohan 10 ☺ 
Boro 3 ☹ SC

Bohan grew and produced very well. I picked it earlier. Its roots had a sweet taste and pickled well. *Boro* did not grow well. Its plants and roots stayed very small.

Bohan 10 ☺ 
Boro 5 ☹ SC

Bohan had beautiful plants and roots. Even if allowed to grow big, *Bohan* roots were not woody at all!

Bohan 10 ☺ 
Boro 6 ☹ SC

Boro struggled to grow. It almost seemed stunted.

Bohan 8 ☺ 
Boro 5 ☹ SC

Bohan yielded 33 pounds; *Boro* yielded 27 pounds. *Bohan* roots were definitely sweeter. This trial was conducted in a high tunnel.

Bohan 5 ☺ 
Boro 1 ☺ SC

Neither variety produced beets of any size. All beets were 2 inches or less in diameter. *Bohan* was better. The problem was likely our attempt at no-till in our clay soil.

Bohan 9 ☺ 
Boro 8 ☺ SC

Bohan produced a higher yield. *Boro* roots looked more attractive. Both varieties were great for pickling or eating fresh.

Bohan 6 ☺ 
Boro 5 ☺ NW

I was very impressed with both varieties but preferred *Bohan* because it tasted so delicious when roasted in the oven. Both varieties had lovely, green tops all summer and were easy to grow.

Bohan 7 ☺ 
Boro 6 ☺ NW

We loved these beets. *Bohan* plants were healthier and produced higher yields. *Boro* produced the first yield.

Bohan 10 ☺ 
Boro 7 ☺ NW

Bohan produced larger roots more quickly than *Boro*. This led to higher yields for *Bohan*. Both varieties produced beautifully round, symmetrical beets with great color. *Bohan* beets were sweeter and less earthy in flavor.

Bohan 10 ☺ 
Boro 8 ☹ SW

Bohan produced a higher yield.

Bohan 10 ☺ 
Boro 9 ☺ SW

I had very good germination and harvested a lot of beets. *Bohan* had larger roots. These varieties tasted the same.

Bohan was a very reliable producer across sites. It was recommended by more gardeners than _Boro_.

Prefer Bohan (continued)

Bohan	9	☺	
Boro	7	☺	SW

Bohan germinated quicker, produced the first yield, produced a higher yield and was more attractive. I preferred the taste of *Bohan*, but both varieties had good flavor.

Bohan	9	☺	
Boro	8	☹	SD

Both varieties had very productive plants with good flavor. *Bohan* was just a tidbit better.

Bohan	10	☺	
Boro	9	☹	MB

Both varieties were vigorous. They produced delicious beets and greens. Some *Boro* beets developed ridges when they exceeded 5 inches in diameter. This made peeling them more time consuming.

Prefer Boro

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	9	☺	MN

Both are good varieties. *Boro* had nicely shaped beets.

Bohan	4	☹	
Boro	5	☹	SE

Both varieties were pretty blah. I usually sow *Detroit Dark Red* and prefer that variety. *Bohan* and *Boro* were slower to grow and not as tasty as *Detroit Dark Red*.

Bohan	9	☺	
Boro	10	☺	SE

Bohan emerged out of the ground first, but *Boro* had a better stand and was more uniform. Both varieties did excellent in the cool days/nights of early summer. *Boro* plants had a great canopy, and despite the very dry summer, its roots were huge. I wasn't able to notice any difference in the taste of the varieties.

Bohan	9	☺	
Boro	10	☺	SE

Boro had attractive roots and vegetation. Its roots had a very smooth texture.

Bohan	8	☹	-
Boro	10	☺	SE

Boro plants grew better and produced the first yield. The sweet taste of *Boro* roots left me wanting another slice while *Bohan* roots had a more earthy aftertaste. *Bohan* produced almost twice the yield of *Boro*.

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	9	☺	NC

Boro looked better.

Bohan	9	☺	
Boro	10	☺	NC

Both varieties germinated very well. *Boro* had larger beets sooner. We liked the fact that you got beets to use really early. We liked the sweeter flavor of *Boro*.

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	10	☺	NC

Both varieties germinated very well with the rain this year. The plants were huge and tall. The beets were 4 inches or larger in diameter by the end of July. The beets were nicely shaped. *Boro* had larger roots, much larger yield and tasted sweeter.

Bohan	7	☺	
Boro	9	☺	NC

Boro was delicious. Its roots had an earthy, fuller taste compared to *Bohan*.

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	10	☺	NC

Boro produced bigger beets. *Bohan* beets were smaller and peeling them was a hassle.

Bohan	7	☺	
Boro	8	☺	NC

Boro was ready to harvest earlier. I grow beets to make beet pickles. Earlier beets meant I could get pickles done earlier.

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	9	☺	NC

Boro had healthier plants and was ready to harvest earlier.

Both varieties had good flavor. They were great for pickling and eating fresh.

Prefer Boro (continued)

Bohan	8	☹	
Boro	9	☺	SC

Boro had a higher yield and better flavor.

Bohan	9	☺	
Boro	10	☺	SC

These varieties were very similar. *Boro* was very tender when cooked. Both varieties had great flavor.

Bohan	9	☺	
Boro	10	☺	SC

Both varieties of beets did exceptionally well and have been my favorite beets I have ever grown. *Boro* had a more buttery flavor, larger beets and deep, dark color.

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	9	☺	SC

Both varieties did great. *Boro* won with higher yields and better taste.

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	9	☺	SC

The plants of both varieties were beautiful and uniform. I tasted both varieties and I really liked both of them.

Bohan	8	☺	
Boro	9	☺	SC

Both varieties were fantastic. *Boro* produced a little earlier. The beets of both varieties reached a nice size and then stayed there. I was able to gradually harvest them as opposed to beets I've grown in previous years that just kept growing into huge beets. I did grow another variety of beets that did significantly worse than *Boro* and *Bohan*.

Bohan	7	☺	
Boro	8	☺	SC

Both varieties grew great in the garden. They tasted the same to me. *Boro* roots were firmer and I think will hold up better in my soups and other recipes. The roots of both varieties would be good for slicing and frying with butter.

Bohan	5	☹	
Boro	9	☺	SC

Boro was clearly better throughout the growing season.

Bohan	6	☹	
Boro	9	☺	NW

Boro yields were sooner and way better. *Boro* produced larger beets as well.

Bohan	7	☺	
Boro	8	☺	SW

Boro tasted better. *Bohan* was more productive and had better looking beets.

Bohan	7	☺	-
Boro	8	☺	SD

Boro had healthier plants and a higher yield.

Bohan	6	☹	
Boro	8	☺	SD

Boro had better yields and taste.

No Preference

Bohan	10	☺	
Boro	10	☺	NC

We didn't notice a difference between the two varieties. Both varieties were great. Germination was great. Flavor was great. We were able to give away beets to several friends. We also froze beet tops for smoothies. We can't wait to plant beets again next year. My wife didn't think she liked beets until she tried them.

Bohan	10	☺	
Boro	10	☺	SC

These varieties were very similar. The roots of both varieties didn't get incredibly large and were very flavorful.

Conclusions

These varieties received similar ratings for yield and root qualities. Both varieties grew well and had good flavor. They were great for pickling and eating fresh. *Bohan* was a very reliable producer across sites. It was recommended by more gardeners.

Both varieties grew well. Neither variety distinguished itself from the other variety in a significant way, whether positively or negatively.

Carrot, Early

Varieties

Istanbul

75 days. Uniform, long, slightly pointed roots with strong, erect tops. Deep orange and flavorful.

Naval

72 days. Long, smooth roots and strong, healthy tops. Matures early and tastes great fresh. Stores well.

Data

Gardeners at 59 sites submitted information.

Trait	Istanbul	Naval	Same
Germinated best	30%	20%	**50%**
Healthier plants	11	11	**79**
Harvested earlier	11	22	**67**
Higher yields	29	24	**47**
More attractive roots	21	**43**	36
Tasted better	17	**50**	33
Preference	32	**68**	
Recommend (☺)	80	**85**	
Mean score[1]	7.65	**8.20**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**9.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Istanbul

Istanbul 10 ☺
Naval 8 ☹ MN

Both varieties had similar growth habits without problems. Both produced nice, orange carrots of nice size. *Naval* had a blockier carrot and *Istanbul* carrots were longer and more pointed. *Istanbul* had a better carrot flavor according to a panel of four judges. It was also more productive.

Istanbul 6 ☺
Naval 5 ☹ MN

Istanbul germinated better, had higher yields and tasted better. *Naval* tasted woody this year. I didn't care for its taste and texture. Some roots of both varieties were slender and had very hairy roots. I haven't seen that before.

Istanbul 9 ☺
Naval 8 ☺ MN

We did not thin these carrots enough so we had some weird looking carrots; not all but several. *Istanbul* had a little better flavor but not too different from *Naval*.

Istanbul 9 ☺
Naval 8 ☺ NE

Istanbul grew nice, straight carrots with very little splitting.

Istanbul 6 ☺
Naval 5 ☺ NE

Istanbul had sweeter, crunchier roots. The roots of both varieties had a typical carrot shape and were not very large in size.

Istanbul 10 ☺
Naval 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties grew well and tasted great. *Istanbul* roots were attractive and compact with smooth texture and no offshoots.

Istanbul 9 ☺
Naval 7 ☹ SE

Istanbul germinated nearly at 100% compared to 60% for *Naval*. Its roots were fairly large, straight and sweet. *Naval* roots were almost too sweet. *Naval* roots had up to five legs.

Istanbul 8 ☺
Naval 5 ☹ SE

We thought *Istanbul* had better taste.

Most gardeners were pleased with both varieties.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
Goldfinger

Strong performers
Caravel
Laguna
Mokum
Napoli
Naval
Negovia

Prefer Istanbul (continued)

Istanbul 10 ☺ SE
Naval 9 ☺

I was very pleased with both varieties. The plants germinated well and looked good. The carrots of both varieties tasted good, but *Istanbul* tasted slightly better.

Istanbul 9 ☺ NC
Naval 6 ☺

Istanbul grew better than *Naval*. It germinated better and its roots grew larger. The roots of both varieties tasted great.

Istanbul 9 ☺ NC
Naval 8 ☺

Istanbul roots were nicer looking.

Istanbul 9 ☺ SC
Naval 8 ☺

These varieties were very comparable but we had a slight preference to *Istanbul* in flavor. The carrots of both varieties looked beautiful. They had nice, smooth roots averaging 8 inches in length. They both were very good eating. *Naval* germinated a couple days earlier.

Istanbul 9 ☺ SC
Naval 8 ☺

Both varieties germinated very well and were healthy. Their roots were 10 to 12 inches long, deep orange, crisp and sweet. *Istanbul* tasted better but it was difficult to differentiate.

Istanbul 8 ☺ SC
Naval 7 ☺

Both varieties developed delicious, nice looking roots. We got a few more carrots from *Istanbul*. We couldn't tell any difference in flavor.

Istanbul 10 ☺ SC
Naval 8 ☺

Both varieties grew well and tasted about the same. *Istanbul* had stronger, fuller plants. It produced a higher yield and its roots were ready to be harvested earlier.

Istanbul 8 ☺ SW
Naval 6 ☹

Istanbul produced higher yields. *Istanbul* roots were larger, crisp and had no external roots. *Naval* roots were rubbery and had a fur of roots on them.

Istanbul 10 ☺ SW
Naval 9 ☺

These are both excellent varieties. Both varieties were delicious and grew well. *Istanbul* carrots were longer, but the carrots were a bit rough, making them harder to peel. *Naval* carrots were smoother and easier to peel, but hard to cut into sticks. *Istanbul* had a carrot that was 12 inches long, and several others that were nearly that long, and I have only dug a few of them.

Naval and _Istanbul_ grew well and produced similar yields of quality carrots.

Prefer Naval

Istanbul 7 ☹ NE
Naval 8 ☺

Naval had better tasting carrots. *Istanbul* had longer, larger roots.

Istanbul 9 ☺ SE
Naval 10 ☺

Both varieties tasted good, but *Naval* tasted a little better. *Istanbul* germinated faster.

Istanbul 8 ☺ SE
Naval 9 ☺

I prefer *Naval* only because of the more uniform and blocky shape of the root making it easier to harvest. I planted 6 feet of row of each variety. A total of 67 *Naval* roots were harvested weighing 10.3 pounds with a very uniform and blocky (wide and shorter) shape with only one root having excessive root hairs and no forked roots. A total of 62 *Istanbul* roots were harvested weighing 10.6 pounds with three roots having excessive root hairs and several forked roots with longer and more tapered roots with long lengths causing roots to break during harvesting. Six people tasted both varieties with two choosing *Naval*, two choosing *Istanbul*, and two choosing both.

Prefer Naval (continued)

Istanbul	6	☺	
Naval	7	☺	SE

Naval seedlings came out of the ground first, but *Istanbul* had more plants germinate, more vigor and a better stand. *Naval* tops stood taller and sturdier. *Istanbul* tops were flimsy and tended to lay over. *Istanbul* had over double the yield of *Naval*. *Naval* roots were easier to dig and its roots looked nicer. *Naval* had straight roots while *Istanbul* had a lot of deformed roots. I did not like the taste of either of these varieties.

Istanbul	8	☺	
Naval	9	☺	SE

Both varieties grew well and produced good yields. I taste tested them with my kids and they preferred *Naval* as it had a slightly sweeter taste.

Istanbul	9	☺	
Naval	10	☺	SE

Both are great varieties. The roots of both varieties were really crunchy and delicious. *Naval* roots were sweeter but had some deformities.

Istanbul	7	☺	
Naval	8	☺	NC

Naval germinated at a rate of 75% compared to 55% for *Istanbul*. *Istanbul* produced twice the yield; some of its roots were as long as 16 inches. *Naval* roots were smaller but had a stronger carrot taste and better flavor.

Istanbul	7	☹	
Naval	8	☺	NC

The plants looked healthy and got taller than in past years. Yields were about the same; the rain helped greatly this year. *Istanbul* roots were larger. *Naval* roots were slimmer and tasted sweeter, but the roots of both varieties tasted good.

Istanbul	5	☺	
Naval	8	☺	NC

Naval had better flavor and uniform roots.

Istanbul	7	☺	
Naval	9	☺	NC

I did a test pull on August 15 and found that *Istanbul* roots were two times larger at that time. I harvested my crop on October 16. The roots of *Istanbul* looked more typical and uniform, while the roots of *Naval* had a better taste. *Naval* produced a higher yield.

Istanbul	7	☺	
Naval	10	☺	SC

We had a great crop this growing season. The carrots of these varieties were huge! We leave most of the crop in the garden until snowfall. *Naval* tasted like a real carrot!

Istanbul	9	☺	
Naval	10	☺	SC

The roots of *Naval* grew a slight bit bigger.

Istanbul	8	☺	
Naval	10	☺	SC

Both varieties grew very well; the best carrot harvest I have ever had. These were the largest carrots I have ever grown. *Istanbul* had bigger carrots and taller greens, but roughly one-eighth of the carrots had funny roots that made the carrots look like people. *Naval* roots were more uniform in shape, sweeter and more flavorful.

Istanbul	8	☹	
Naval	10	☺	SC

Naval roots looked and tasted better.

Istanbul	4	☹	
Naval	5	☹	SC

Germination and yields were only fair. Some of the roots were split open. *Naval* roots were smaller, which I like better.

Istanbul	8	☺	
Naval	10	☺	SC

Both varieties grew great. They had nice, straight roots. *Naval* roots were much easier to harvest without breaking.

Istanbul	9	☺	
Naval	10	☺	SC

Naval produced a higher yield and its roots had a more consistent size.

Most gardeners preferred *Naval*. Its roots were more uniform, more attractive and tasted sweeter.

Prefer Naval (continued)

Istanbul 8 ☺ SC
Naval 9 ☺

Naval tasted somewhat better. Both varieties were productive.

Istanbul 8 ☺ SC
Naval 9 ☺

Either of these varieties would be successful in a home garden in North Dakota. *Naval* roots were more uniform.

Istanbul 4 ☹ SC
Naval 5 ☺

Naval tasted sweeter.

Istanbul 7 ☺ SC
Naval 8 ☺

Both varieties had strong tops and deep orange color. Both were quite sweet but I preferred the taste of *Naval*. I think the blunt tip of *Naval* roots makes for an easier harvest versus the more tapered end of *Istanbul* roots which has a higher likelihood of snapping off. *Istanbul* carrots were larger.

Istanbul 6 ☺ NW
Naval 9 ☺

Naval had lovely, straight, perfectly shaped roots with vibrant orange color throughout. *Naval* tasted sweeter, even early in the season. *Istanbul* had less flavor.

Istanbul 9 ☺ NW
Naval 10 ☺

These were very nice carrots. The roots had small cores and were sweet. *Naval* was slightly sweeter.

Istanbul 9 ☹ NW
Naval 10 ☺

Naval roots were a bit sweeter and very straight roots. *Istanbul* had a few more plants with misshapen roots.

Istanbul 5 ☺ NW
Naval 8 ☺

Naval roots looked great, more carrot like, and seemed sweeter. *Istanbul* roots were shorter.

Istanbul 7 ☹ NW
Naval 10 ☺

Naval tasted sweet.

Istanbul 8 ☹ SW
Naval 10 ☺

Naval roots were sweeter and had better flavor. *Naval* produced a higher yield. The carrots of both varieties were large and some of them were hairy.

Istanbul 2 ☹ SW
Naval 3 ☹

Naval had bigger roots. Neither variety tasted great, but *Naval* roots tasted better.

Istanbul 4 ☺ SW
Naval 5 ☺

Naval was overall better in all categories. It had slightly larger carrots. The seeds of both varieties were larger so that's a plus.

Istanbul 9 ☺ SW
Naval 10 ☺

Both varieties had great outcomes of yield and great flavor.

Istanbul 8 ☺ SW
Naval 10 ☺

The germination of these varieties was very close in plant count. *Naval* carrots were much sweeter and had more flavor.

Istanbul 9 ☺ SW
Naval 10 ☺

The roots of both varieties grew large and straight. *Naval* tasted better. This trial was grown in a hoop house; it was a more controlled environment with consistent watering.

Istanbul 8 ☺ SW
Naval 9 ☺

Naval tasted better.

Istanbul 5 ☹ SW
Naval 9 ☺

Naval produced a higher yield. *Naval* roots were more uniform and had a blunt tip, which I prefer.

Naval roots had a straight, cylindrical shape with a blunt tip. _Istanbul_ roots were longer with a pointed tip.

Prefer Naval (continued)

Istanbul	9	☹	
Naval	10	☺	MB

Naval had a higher germination rate. *Naval* carrots were larger even though they were more crowded.

No Preference

Istanbul	10	☺	
Naval	10	☺	NC

Both varieties were very good in every aspect.

Istanbul	3	☹	
Naval	3	☹	SW

Both varieties germinated very late (17 to 19 days). Their roots tasted earthy, not sweet.

Conclusions

Most gardeners were pleased with both varieties. *Naval* and *Istanbul* grew well and produced similar yields of quality carrots. Most gardeners preferred *Naval*. Its roots were more uniform, more attractive and tasted sweeter. *Naval* roots had a straight, cylindrical shape with a blunt tip. *Istanbul* roots were longer with a pointed tip. *Naval* roots were easier to dig without breaking.

***Naval* roots were easier to dig without breaking.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Garden types

= Organic
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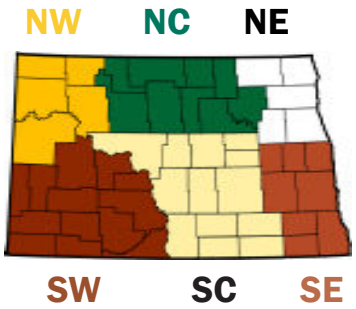

Locations

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SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Carrot, Large Nantes Organic

Varieties

Caravel

80 days. Big roots with broad shoulders. Attractive, sweet and smooth carrots. Strong tops.

Negovia

80 days. Big, smooth, uniform, dark orange roots. Sweet and crunchy. Strong tops. Stores well.

Data

Gardeners at 71 sites submitted information.

Trait	Caravel	Negovia	Same
Germinated best	24%	5%	**71%**
Healthier plants	25	8	**67**
Harvested earlier	25	13	**62**
Higher yields	**44**	19	37
More attractive roots	**39**	27	34
Tasted better	37	22	**41**
Preference	**63**	38	
Recommend (☺)	**85**	71	
Mean score[1]	**8.10**	7.68	
Median score[1]	**8.50**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Caravel

Caravel	10★★★★★	☺	-
Negovia	9★★★★½	☺	MN

Caravel carrots were sweeter.

Caravel	9★★★★½	☺	
Negovia	8★★★★☆	☺	NE

Caravel had larger, crunchier roots. *Negovia* roots were a bit sweeter, but they were similar enough in taste that it was difficult to tell a difference.

Caravel	9★★★★½	☺	
Negovia	8★★★★☆	☹	NE

I liked the taste of *Caravel* better. It was sweeter. *Negovia* had more of an earthy taste.

Caravel	9★★★★½	☺	
Negovia	7★★★½☆	☺	NE

Caravel was a nicer looking and generally bigger carrot.

Caravel	10★★★★★	☺	
Negovia	8★★★★☆	☹	SE

Both varieties tasted amazing! *Caravel* produced much bigger carrots.

Caravel	9★★★★½	☺	
Negovia	8★★★★☆	☺	SE

Both varieties germinated at close to 100%. The plants of *Caravel* were slightly bushier. I harvested both varieties on July 13 and their roots were 4 to 6 inches long. Yields were similar. The roots of both varieties tasted wonderful; *Caravel* was slightly sweeter.

Caravel	7★★★½☆	☺	
Negovia	6★★★☆☆	☺	SE

These varieties are pretty similar. Their roots were not large though; I would consider them medium in size. *Caravel* had better taste. *Negovia* had more roots that had fingers.

Caravel	7★★★½☆	☺	
Negovia	6★★★☆☆	☺	SE

These varieties were similar in most respects. Both were good carrots. *Caravel* seedlings emerged better.

Caravel	10★★★★★	☺	
Negovia	5★★½☆☆	☹	SE

These varieties tasted the same. *Caravel* plants were healthier and its carrots were larger.

Most gardeners preferred *Caravel*. It produced a higher yield and more attractive roots at more sites.

Best Nantes carrot varieties

Top choice
- Goldfinger

Strong performers
- Caravel
- Laguna
- Mokum
- Napoli
- Naval
- Negovia

Prefer Caravel (continued)

Caravel	8	☺	
Negovia	5	☺	SE

Caravel roots were beautiful, very uniform and great tasting! *Caravel* produced a higher yield.

Caravel	7	☹	
Negovia	6	☹	SE

Caravel was a bit sweeter. I thought neither variety was sweet enough. I have had carrots off the shelf that were sweeter.

Caravel	9	☺	-
Negovia	7	☹	SE

Caravel roots had good flavor, good size and a consistent shape.

Caravel	8	☺	
Negovia	7	☺	SE

Both varieties had a large yield of beautiful carrots! There was not a lot of difference in flavor. *Caravel* was a little sweeter, and *Negovia* was a little more tender.

Caravel	9	☺	
Negovia	7	☺	SE

Caravel grew faster. It produced earlier and a higher yield. Both varieties had good yields and tasted good.

Caravel	8	☺	
Negovia	5	☹	SE

Caravel had better production. Neither variety germinated well.

Caravel	7	☺	
Negovia	4	☹	NC

I did not water regularly and grew this trial in a fresh garden that had hard, clay soil. *Caravel* performed better under these conditions, producing larger carrots while *Negovia* seemed to struggle. *Caravel* carrots were delicious, and the few *Negovia* carrots that were large enough to eat were also tasty.

Caravel	10	☺	
Negovia	9	☺	NC

Caravel roots were very straight and had fewer legs. Otherwise, the varieties were similar.

Caravel	10	☺	
Negovia	9	☹	NC

Caravel roots had a larger size.

Caravel	10	☺	
Negovia	8	☺	NC

Caravel roots were larger in circumference making them easier to hold onto when peeling.

Caravel	9	☺	
Negovia	8	☺	SC

Caravel produced much larger carrots—good for chopping and canning. *Caravel* carrots tasted good. *Negovia* produced carrots that were sweeter and a perfect size for eating.

Caravel	9	☺	
Negovia	8	☹	SC

These varieties were similar for all traits except for flavor. *Caravel* tasted better.

Caravel	10	☺	
Negovia	5	☹	SC

Holy smokes, these are bigger and more beautiful than any store-bought carrots I've ever seen! *Caravel* roots were large, straight and absolutely beautiful!

Caravel	10	☺	
Negovia	9	☺	SC

Caravel had much straighter roots; several of its roots were almost twice the length of a pencil! Both varieties produced well. Both were excellent tasting raw or cooked.

Caravel	9	☺	
Negovia	5	☹	SC

Caravel roots were larger, sweeter and straighter!

Caravel	7	☺	
Negovia	6	☺	SC

These varieties produced huge carrots! *Caravel* tasted slightly sweeter.

Caravel	10	☺	
Negovia	9	☺	SC

These varieties were remarkably similar in everything. *Caravel* was ready to harvest a little earlier.

Caravel roots were beautiful, large, very uniform and straight.

Prefer Caravel (continued)

Caravel 10 ☺
Negovia 8 ☹ SC

Caravel roots had a sweeter taste and looked nicer. It produced a higher yield. *Negovia* roots were forked.

Caravel 10 ☺
Negovia 9 ☺ SC

Caravel had more large carrots.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 8 ☺ SC

Both varieties were quick to germinate and had very healthy plants. Both varieties tasted good but *Caravel* tasted better. *Caravel* produced a higher yield.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 7 ☺ NW

Caravel had larger roots, which led to its higher yield. *Caravel* roots were more uniform in shape.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 6 ☺ NW

Caravel grew better and produced higher yields. It was very tasty.

Caravel 10 ☺
Negovia 7 ☹ SW

Caravel was sweeter and had a bigger yield.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 6 ☹ SW

Caravel was sweeter and had a higher yield.

Caravel 10 ☺
Negovia 8 ☹ SW

The taste of *Caravel* was noticeably better.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 8 ☺ SW

Caravel tasted better.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 7 ☹ SW

Caravel was sweeter with a higher yield.

Caravel 10 ☺
Negovia 9 ☺ SW

Both did great. Both were very tasty. I have lots for the winter months to make soups and casseroles. The *Caravel* roots were brighter orange, long and crisp.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 7 ☹ SW

Both varieties performed well in raised beds. *Caravel* roots were much more uniform in size and shape.

Caravel 10 ☺
Negovia 8 ☹ SW

Caravel roots were straight and significantly larger overall. There were some smaller *Caravel* roots, but they were the size of the largest *Negovia* roots. The larger roots were still tender and sweet, not woody. Both varieties were delicious. *Caravel* tasted better raw and *Negovia* tasted better cooked.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 7 ☺ SK

Both varieties were good producers. I preferred the flavor of *Caravel*, and it had a smoother root for cleaning. *Negovia* roots had a nice texture.

Prefer Negovia

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 9 ☺ MN

Negovia had a sweeter taste.

Caravel 5 ☺
Negovia 8 ☺ MN

The rate of germination for both varieties was near 100%. *Negovia* produced a higher yield. *Negovia* roots were larger with more consistent size and shape. *Caravel* had more misshapen carrots. Both varieties were crisp and had good taste but *Caravel* had a sweeter taste.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 10 ☺ MN

Negovia produced bigger carrots, more attractive carrots, and higher yields.

Although both varieties tasted good, more gardeners preferred the taste of *Caravel*.

Prefer Negovia (continued)

Caravel 7 ☹
Negovia 9 ☺ NE

Both varieties displayed long, straight roots with blunt ends. *Caravel* roots were about 8 inches long and *Negovia* roots were 6 to 7 inches long and slimmer than *Caravel*. The best tasting carrot was *Negovia*. *Negovia* carrots were sweet and crisp with a good size for storage. There was some forking in the *Negovia* compared to *Caravel*, but the taste was the determinant.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 9 ☺ SE

Negovia produced a higher yield. Its roots were more attractive and tasted better.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 10 ☺ SE

I have tried carrot trials in the past with no luck, decided to give it a go again and wow, we got such good production, finally! *Negovia* had attractive roots. They were slightly smaller but tasted better.

Caravel 6 ☹
Negovia 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties germinated and produced well. *Negovia* produced the first yield and had more attractive roots.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 10 ☺ SE

I planted these in a raised bed and they were fantastic! Both varieties produced very well. *Negovia* tasted better.

Caravel 6 ☺
Negovia 7 ☺ SE

Negovia tasted a little sweeter than *Caravel*. Both varieties had very healthy, green tops all summer.

Caravel 6 ☺
Negovia 8 ☺ SE

Negovia had a slightly better stand. Its roots were more attractive and resisted splitting.

Caravel 6 ☹
Negovia 9 ☺ SE

We grew these two varieties in a raised garden bed. Overall we saw better germination of *Caravel* and subsequently greater yield. The carrots were harvested and brought to a presentation at the Finley-Sharon Afterschool Club where students and school helpers participated in a taste test. *Negovia* won the taste test over *Caravel*.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties germinated very well. They had deep-green, sturdy tops. *Caravel* was ready to harvest 1 week earlier. *Negovia* roots were straighter and more uniform. Both varieties were delicious. They were both easy to clean, peel and slice.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 10 ☺ NC

Both were good varieties. *Negovia* tasted better.

Caravel 9 ☺
Negovia 10 ☺ NC

The majority of the people tasting these varieties preferred *Negovia*. *Negovia* roots were sweeter, crisper and had a better flavor and texture than *Caravel* roots. Both varieties had nice, straight roots.

Caravel 7 ☺
Negovia 8 ☺ NC

Both varieties had strong, green tops. They withstood this windy location well. Both varieties had deep-orange roots. *Negovia* roots were straighter. My preschool kids liked the taste of both varieties and said they tasted the same.

Caravel 6 ☺
Negovia 7 ☺ SC

We tried to tell the difference in flavor between the two varieties and couldn't tell a difference. Both tasted delicious. *Negovia* roots were more attractive. Their roots did not have offshoots, so they were easier to clean. *Caravel* roots had more offshoots. Other factors between the varieties were similar.

***Negovia* perfomed well but did not excel over *Caravel* in any trait.**

Prefer Negovia (continued)

Caravel 5 ☹
Negovia 8 ☺ SC

Negovia required low maintenance and was a steady grower. Its roots were straight, more attractive and tasted better.

Caravel 7 ☹
Negovia 8 ☺ SC

Negovia was healthier, yielded better and had more attractive roots. I was not real impressed with either variety.

Caravel 5 ☹
Negovia 6 ☹ SC

These were very similar varieties across the board. I couldn't tell any difference in germination between them. The size and yield of the carrots were also pretty equal. To my eye I don't think I could tell them apart if they were presented to me with no names. However, if it comes down to taste then, I think it was clear that *Negovia* was the winner. I prefer a sweeter carrot, so it gets my vote. The taste of *Caravel* was only all right to me.

Caravel 5 ☺
Negovia 6 ☺ NW

Negovia germinated better and produced a higher yield (77 carrots versus 46 for *Caravel*). *Negovia* roots weren't huge but were a decent size and more attractive. Both varieties grew well, had great tops and healthy roots. I tasted both raw and cooked with a roast. They were both very tasty!

Caravel 5 ☹
Negovia 7 ☺ NW

Negovia tasted better. The roots of both varieties were very hairy.

Caravel 8 ☺
Negovia 9 ☺ NW

Negovia was sweeter.

Caravel 5 ☺
Negovia 7 ☺ NW

Both varieties did well in my very poor soil. *Caravel* roots were very tasty; rich in flavor!

Caravel 5 ☹
Negovia 10 ☺ SW

Negovia had a better germination rate and larger carrots.

Caravel 6 ☹
Negovia 9 ☺ SD

Negovia germinated better.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Caravel*. It produced a higher yield and more attractive roots at more sites. *Caravel* roots were beautiful, larger, very uniform and straight. Although both varieties tasted good, more gardeners preferred the taste of *Caravel*. *Negovia* performed well but did not excel over *Caravel* in any trait. Both varieties had healthy, deep-green, strong tops.

Both varieties had healthy, deep-green, strong tops.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type*** ***Location*** ***Comments***

Variety A ☺ NC
Variety B ☹

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Garden types
- = Organic
- = Uses inorganic fertilizers
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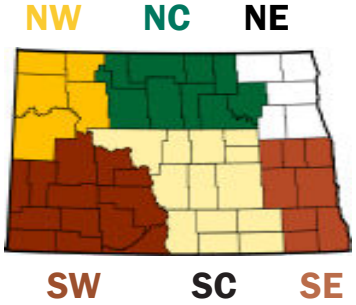

Locations
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Carrot, Red

Varieties

Red Sun

70 days. Beautiful, cylindrical roots with red skins and cores. Short, 7-inch roots.

Rubypak

72 days. Productive and reliable. Resists bolting in spring. Roots brighten when cooked. Strong, healthy tops.

Data

Gardeners at 8 sites submitted information.

Trait	Red Sun	Ruby-pak	Same
Germinated best	25%	13%	**63%**
Healthier plants	0	0	**100**
Harvested earlier	29	**43**	29
Higher yields	29	**57**	14
More attractive roots	25	**38**	**38**
Tasted better	0	**63**	38
Preference	0	**100**	
Recommend (☺)	50	**88**	
Mean score[1]	6.25	**7.25**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Red Sun

None.

Prefer Rubypak

Red Sun 4 ☺
Rubypak 5 ☺ NE

Rubypak produced a higher yield and had more attractive roots.

Red Sun 4 ☹
Rubypak 5 ☹ SE

I planted 6 feet of row of each variety. I harvested at total of 82 *Rubypak* roots with a total weight of 6.3 pounds and a total of 81 *Red Sun* roots with a total weight of 5.5 pounds, meaning *Rubypak* had a greater weight per root. *Rubypak* had very long and narrow, fairly uniform roots with one root having excessive root hairs and three forked root tips. There was one orange root in the row indicating some seed purity issues. *Red Sun* had five roots with excessive root hairs, four forked root tips with very non-uniform shape and size being blocky and long and narrow. From a taste standpoint, three people preferred *Rubypak* and three preferred *Red Sun*. Some thought *Rubypak* was a little sweeter and others thought *Red Sun* was more bitter. Both of these red varieties produced a lower yield and tasted more bitter compared to the orange varieties I grew.

Red Sun 8 ☺
Rubypak 9 ☺ NC

Rubypak germinated better, produced more carrots and tasted better.

Red Sun 7 ☹
Rubypak 8 ☺ NC

The flavor of *Red Sun* was stronger; almost spicy. It also had more odd-shaped carrots and offshoots. *Rubypak* had straighter roots; these were easier to clean and eat.

Red Sun 7 ☹
Rubypak 9 ☺ SC

Rubypak is a great snacking carrot and was sweet; *Red Sun* was slightly bitter. Both varieties germinated well with *Rubypak* germinating a few days earlier. Both were easy to grow and their plants looked very good. *Red Sun* roots were slightly larger; the roots of both varieties averaged 4 to 6 inches in length.

***Rubypak* produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and better tasting.**

Best red carrot variety

Top choice
Rubypak

Prefer Rubypak (continued)

Red Sun	4 ☹	
Rubypak	6 ☺	SC

Rubypak carrots were sweeter. *Red Sun* carrots were straighter but had a "pine-like" taste.

No Preference

Red Sun	8 ☺	
Rubypak	8 ☺	SE

Both varieties grew the same.

Red Sun	8 ☺	
Rubypak	8 ☺	SW

These varieties performed similarly.

Conclusions

Both *Rubypak* produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and better tasting compared to the roots of *Red Sun*. Every gardener preferred *Rubypak* over *Red Sun*. Red carrots in general were not very popular among growers.

***Rubypak* produced higher yields. Its roots were more attractive and better tasting.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ☺ — ***Garden type*** ↙

Variety B ☹ — NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

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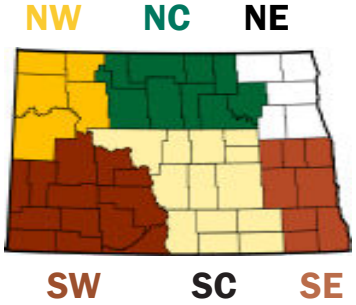

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Corn, Early Super Sweet

Varieties

Bolt (shA)

67 days. Very delicious and very early. Tender, sweet and flavorful kernels. Good husks and tip fill.

Catalyst (shA)

66 days. Earliest super sweet. Strong seedling vigor. Attractive ears with moderate tenderness.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bolt	Catalyst	Same
Germinated best	**56**%	11%	33%
Healthier plants	22	28	**50**
Harvested earlier	**44**	25	31
Higher yields	**40**	20	**40**
More attractive ears	33	20	**47**
Tasted better	33	20	**47**
Preference	**73**	27	
Recommend (☺)	**80**	40	
Mean score[1]	**7.74**	6.53	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Bolt

Bolt 9 ☺
Catalyst 7 ☹ SE

Bolt germinated better than *Catalyst* in cool soil and grew better throughout the season. *Catalyst* ears were longer, but the ears of both varieties had a good appearance.

Bolt 9 ☺
Catalyst 8 ☺ SE

All seeds of both varieties germinated. The plants of both varieties looked amazing! *Bolt* produced a higher yield. *Bolt* cobs were bigger and fatter; *Catalyst* cobs were long and skinny. *Catalyst* tasted a little sweeter.

Bolt 6 ☺
Catalyst 1 ☹ SE

Bolt was slow to germinate but *Catalyst* didn't come up [sown May 12]. The first harvest of *Bolt* was August 4. Its cobs were beautiful, well filled and excellent tasting.

Bolt 8 ☺
Catalyst 5 ☹ SE

Bolt germinated well. Only 10 plants of *Catalyst* emerged. *Catalyst* produced earlier but *Bolt* produced a higher yield. *Bolt* corn was sweeter and more tender.

Bolt 2 ☹
Catalyst 1 ☹ NC

Bolt germinated at 60% and *Catalyst* germinated at 43%. For comparison, *Silver Queen* germinated at 95%. [All corn seeds were sown May 31.] I harvested only two ears per row.

Bolt 9 ☺
Catalyst 4 ☹ NC

We received a lot of rain after I planted. *Bolt* withstood the wet ground and grew very well. *Catalyst* did not.

Bolt 10 ☺
Catalyst 9 ☹ NC

Bolt was some of the best corn we have ever had. It was very sweet and had nice cobs.

Bolt 9 ☺
Catalyst 8 ☹ SC

Bolt had better flavor and higher yield.

***Bolt* germinated better in the cool, wet soils we experienced this spring.**

Best early sweet corn varieties

Top choice
Sweetness

Strong performers
Bolt
Catalyst
Sugar Buns
Temptation

Prefer Bolt (continued)

Bolt	9	☺	
Catalyst	8	☺	SC

Bolt seedlings were 1 inch high when *Catalyst* seedlings broke through ground. Both varieties grew great and had no problem with wind. We picked *Bolt* 2 weeks earlier. Both varieties produced all we could eat. We ate and canned more *Bolt* corn.

Bolt	9	☺	
Catalyst	6	☺	SC

Both varieties produced good yields of ears that tasted very good. *Bolt* was ready to harvest about 14 days earlier.

Bolt	10	☺	
Catalyst	9	☹	SW

Bolt produced bigger, fuller, more tender ears. The ears of *Catalyst* were smaller but many of its stalks had three ears. The varieties tasted very similar.

Prefer Catalyst

Bolt	7	☺	
Catalyst	9	☺	MN

The row of *Catalyst* was fuller, but both varieties germinated well. *Catalyst* stalks were taller. *Catalyst* had higher yields with some of its stalks having two full ears. The ears of both varieties tasted good, but *Catalyst* was just a bit sweeter.

Bolt	9	☺	
Catalyst	10	☺	NE

The ears of both varieties were delicious and attractive. Both produced high yields. *Catalyst* had a slightly better taste.

Bolt	8	☹	
Catalyst	9	☺	NC

Both varieties had several ears with corn smut.

Bolt	2	☹	
Catalyst	4	☹	NC

I did not care for either of these varieties. *Bolt* cobs were only filled about 2 inches. The largest cobs of *Catalyst* were 5 inches, but many of its cobs were 2 inches long.

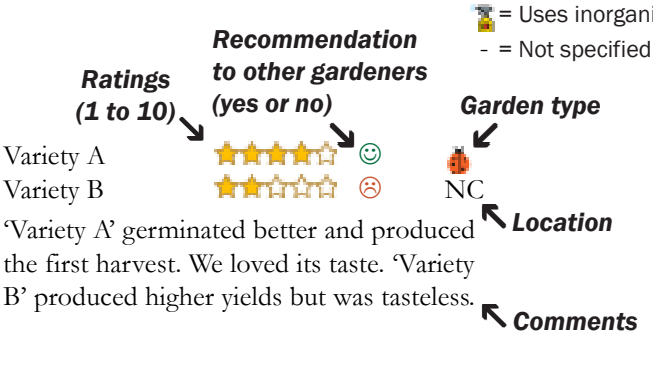
Conclusions

Bolt was impressive. It germinated better than *Catalyst* in the cool, wet soils we experienced this spring. *Bolt* was ready to harvest earlier and produced higher yields at more sites. Both varieties produced good yields of ears that tasted good. More gardeners preferred the taste and appearance of *Bolt* ears compared to the ears of *Catalyst*.

Bolt was ready to harvest earlier and produced higher yields at more sites.

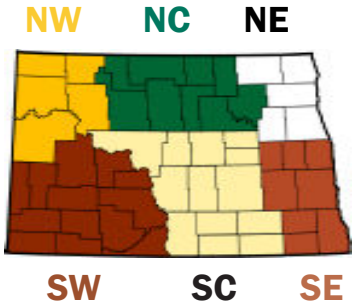
Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Corn, Midseason Super Sweet

Varieties

Hero (shA)

71 days. Vigorous, sturdy stalks produce ears with sweet, tender kernels. Strong tip fill.

Signature (shA)

73 days. Deep, tender kernels with outstanding flavor. Ears have good tip fill and husk cover.

Data

Gardeners at 29 sites submitted information.

Trait	Hero	Signature	Same
Germinated best	18%	23%	**59%**
Healthier plants	10	29	**62**
Harvested earlier	30	30	**40**
Higher yields	21	**47**	32
More attractive ears	21	37	**42**
Tasted better	35	24	**41**
Preference	42	**58**	
Recommend (☺)	**60**	55	
Mean score[1]	6.09	**6.41**	
Median score[1]	6.50	**7.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Hero

Hero 7 ☹ MN
Signature 6 ☹

The yields of both varieties were small (four cobs for each variety). The cobs did not grow very large. *Hero* had slightly better flavor.

Hero 9 ☺ SE
Signature 8 ☹

Hero grew better and produced better. *Hero* tasted a bit sweeter and its cobs filled out better.

Hero 10 ☺ NC
Signature 9 ☺

These varieties were similar.

Hero 8 ☺ SC
Signature 5 ☹

Even though *Hero* didn't produce as well, it had hands-down better flavor.

Hero 5 ☹ SC
Signature 4 ☹

Neither variety did well. The wind blew over the plants twice resulting in small or no cobs. They both looked good on the 4th of July but went downhill from there. This was my worst corn crop ever. *Hero* had a few more full cobs.

Hero 5 ☺ SC
Signature 1 ☹

Signature did not germinate. Raccoons got to the corn right before I picked it.

Hero 7 ☺ SW
Signature 6 ☺

My plants only had a few good ears and the rest had fungus. The ears of *Hero* were fuller than the ears of *Signature*.

Hero 9 ☺
Signature 4 ☹ SW

Hero consistently produced an amazing ear. The best bicolor sweet corn I have ever tasted is *Hero*.

Signature was preferred by most gardeners. _Signature_ produced a higher yield at more sites.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
American Dream

Strong performers
Anthem XR
Bolt
Catalyst
Enchanted Kate
Troubadour
Xtra-Tender 274A

Prefer Signature

Hero 4 ☹ SE
Signature 6 ☹ SE

Signature had a higher yield and tasted better. *Hero* plants did not grow very tall. Both varieties received some significant wind damage this year.

Hero 7 ☺ SE
Signature 9 ☺ SE

The soil was so wet and cold that only about half the seeds came up. *Hero* produced earlier but *Signature* produced more corn. *Signature* cobs were fuller and better tasting.

Hero 6 ☹ SE
Signature 9 ☺ SE

Signature germinated better and had a higher yield per stalk. It stood up to winds better.

Hero 8 ☺ NC
Signature 10 ☺ NC

Signature stalks were sturdier. We had some serious winds this season, and the *Hero* stalks wanted to tip over in the wind. *Hero* produced more cobs, but its cobs were smaller.

Hero 6 ☺ SC
Signature 8 ☺ SC

Germination of both varieties was sporadic. This may be due to the seed itself or due to the major storm we had (5 inches of rain and hail). *Signature* produced earlier and higher yields. Its ears were big and full compared to the short and smaller ears of *Hero*.

Hero 5 ☹ SC
Signature 6 ☺ SC

Both varieties didn't grow fast enough in our short summer. Their ears were very little and then ants took over. *Signature* produced better looking ears.

Hero 1 ☹ SC
Signature 2 ☹ SC

Neither of these varieties germinated well, grew well or produced well. *Signature* germinated better.

Hero 9 ☺ SC
Signature 10 ☺ SC

Both varieties were delicious but *Signature* was just a tad sweeter and had longer cobs. This was a fabulous variety trial. We have not grown corn in a few years because of poor yields from the packets available at big box stores. This trial restored our joy and enthusiasm for growing corn in the garden.

Hero 7 ☹ SC
Signature 8 ☹ SC

This was my first year in a plot that had soil added to it by the Parks and Rec Department. I hilled the corn, but the plants were still damaged by high winds and some were blown over. Plants of both varieties were not very uniform in height. *Signature* had better germination.

Hero 5 ☹ NW
Signature 9 ☺ NW

Signature grew healthier plants and ears. It tasted good but I would like it sweeter.

Hero 5 ☺ SW
Signature 10 ☺ SW

Signature produced earlier and higher yields, but neither variety was very productive. Perhaps a lack of rain was a factor.

No Preference

Hero 9 ☺ SC
Signature 9 ☺ SC

We saw no difference between these varieties. They both were absolutely delicious and had nicely filled ears.

Conclusions

Neither variety generated much excitement among the growers. Their mean scores and levels of recommendation were okay but not very impressive. *Signature* was preferred by most gardeners. *Signature* produced a higher yield at more sites. Both varieties were susceptible to wind damage.

Neither variety generated much excitement among the growers. Both varieties were susceptible to wind damage.

Corn, Late Super Sweet

Varieties

Crave (shA)

78 days. Large ears have vibrant, tender kernels, dark-green flag leaves and long tip cover.

Kate (shA)

77 days. Tender, glossy kernels have exceptional sweetness. Attractive ears. High yields.

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Crave	Kate	Same
Germinated best	13%	**50%**	38%
Healthier plants	13	**56**	31
Harvested earlier	19	**50**	31
Higher yields	7	**64**	29
More attractive ears	20	**67**	13
Tasted better	13	**47**	40
Preference	20	**80**	
Recommend (☺)	40	**73**	
Mean score[1]	5.93	**7.73**	
Median score[1]	6.00	**9.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Crave

Crave 8 ☺
Kate 1 ☹ NC

Kate was a bit of a failure for me. It did not germinate well, was slow to grow, and then did not produce a single ear of corn.

Crave 6 ☺
Kate 5 ☹ NC

Crave cobs were more evenly filled. These varieties were not very sweet.

Crave 7 ☹
Kate 6 ☹ SC

Crave ears were a bit more uniform in size. Plants of both varieties were not very uniform in height. A few plants were blown over by a wind storm in August despite the hilling of the plants.

Prefer Kate

Crave 9 ☺
Kate 10 ☺ NE

Kate germinated a bit better. Its plants were stronger and did not blow over during a wind storm. Both varieties were high yielding and delicious.

Crave 7 ☹
Kate 9 ☺ NE

Both varieties were very tasty. *Kate* stalks were stronger and more vigorous.

Crave 4 ☹
Kate 10 ☺ SE

Kate germinated in 3–5 days. I had to replant *Crave*. *Kate* was the sweetest corn I've ever tasted in 15 years of growing sweet corn for sale. It had 8- to 10-inch ears that filled to the end of the cob. There was no lodging and emergence was excellent. Everyone that tasted *Kate* from my trial commented how good it was and asked for seed or encouraged me to grow it again next year.

Crave 6 ☹
Kate 10 ☺ SE

Kate tasted much sweeter; its cobs were more filled out.

Kate excelled in all traits. _Kate_ germinated better. Its stalks were stronger, more vigorous and more productive.

Best bicolor super sweet corn varieties

Top choice
American Dream

Strong performers
Anthem XR
Bolt
Catalyst
Enchanted Kate
Troubadour
Xtra-Tender 274A

Prefer Kate (continued)

Crave	6	☹	
Kate	9	☺	SE

I chose *Kate* based upon the superior emergence, superior plant growth and health, higher yields and better taste. On June 18, there were 46 *Kate* plants and 36 *Crave* plants. *Kate* plants grew taller, greener and healthier than *Crave*. *Crave* plants were much shorter, non-uniform in height and stage, and behind in growth. Out of four taste tests of two people each time, *Kate* was preferred six times and *Crave* two times.

Crave	3	☹	
Kate	5	☺	NC

Kate had a better yield and produced first. *Crave* had a ton of aphids on the corn cobs.

Crave	7	☹	
Kate	9	☺	SC

Kate germinated a good week earlier and at a higher rate. This led to higher yields for *Kate*. These varieties tasted the same. This was a great year for growing corn. Everybody I know had a great year with most varieties.

Crave	5	☹	
Kate	9	☺	SC

Kate had nice plants with nice, sweeter cobs. *Crave* was very late to mature.

Crave	5	☺	
Kate	8	☺	SC

Kate was ready to harvest earlier; otherwise, these varieties were similar.

Crave	8	☺	
Kate	10	☺	SC

Kate was excellent tasting sweet corn. The cobs were large and completely filled.

Crave	1	☹	
Kate	5	☹	SW

Both varieties did not germinate well. *Crave* germinated at 0% and *Kate* germinate at 25% [seed was sown June 12]. I would recommend *Xtra Tender 274A* as it germinated much better this year and its cobs were rather large.

Crave	7	☺	
Kate	10	☺	SD

Kate ears were fuller, well filled out and had a sweeter taste. It is a delicious sweet corn! We had 100% germination of both varieties. Plants were the same height, appeared healthy and tasseled at the same time. *Kate* produced 55 ears that weighed a total of 15 pounds frozen. *Crave* produced 50 ears that weighed a total of 12 pounds frozen.

Conclusions

Kate excelled in all traits. *Kate* germinated better. Its stalks were stronger, more vigorous and more productive. *Kate* was delicious. Its ears were well filled out and tasted better than *Crave*. Most gardeners did not recommend *Crave* as it did not excel in any trait.

Kate was delicious. Its ears were well filled out and tasted better than _Crave_.

Corn, White Super Sweet

Varieties

Eden (shA)

74 days. Bright white kernels with exceptional flavor. Large ears on sturdy, disease-resistant stalks.

Natural Bright (shA)

74 days. The finest organic white-kernel variety. Strong seedling vigor and excellent eating quality.

Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Eden	Natural Bright	Same
Germinated best	**67**%	22%	11%
Healthier plants	**44**	11	**44**
Harvested earlier	33	0	**67**
Higher yields	**71**	14	14
More attractive ears	38	13	**50**
Tasted better	**38**	25	**38**
Preference	**78**	22	
Recommend (☺)	**67**	44	
Mean score[1]	**7.78**	5.44	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	5.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Eden

Eden 6 ☹ NE
Natural Bright 2 ☹

Not a fan of the look or taste of white corn. Many people were turned off when served as the white color looks like it's not ripe yet. *Eden* germinated four to one over *Natural Bright*. *Eden* stalks grew taller and looked healthier.

Eden 9 ☺ NC
Natural Bright 8 ☺

These varieties were quite similar in germination and yield, but *Eden* tasted better. *Eden* was one of the best corn varieties I have tasted. Very good!

Eden 5 ☹ NC
Natural Bright 2 ☹

Eden germinated far better than *Natural Bright* for me, but neither produced cobs big enough to eat. I think I may have planted them too late [sown June 2], and possibly overcrowded because I planted them in a traditional Four Sisters garden with beans, squash and sunflowers, and nothing really excelled.

Eden 10 ☺ SC
Natural Bright 6 ☺

Eden grew well. It was good tasting. It did not blow over during a bad windstorm.

Eden 8 ☺
Natural Bright 5 ☹ SC

Eden had near 100% germination while *Natural Bright* germinated at 40%. The ears of both varieties were sweet and had good flavor. There was some smut on the ends of *Natural Bright* cobs.

Eden 6 ☺
Natural Bright 4 ☹ SW

Eden germinated at 100% compared to 50% for *Natural Bright*. *Eden* stalks were thicker. It produced higher yields and its cobs were more attractive. *Natural Bright* was sweeter than *Eden* but had an irregular pattern of kernels on the cobs.

***Eden* germinated far better than *Natural Bright*. Its stalks were healthy, sturdy and produced higher yields.**

Best white super sweet corn variety

Top choice
Eden

Prefer Eden (continued)

Eden	10 ★★★★★	☺	
Natural Bright	2 ★☆☆☆☆	☹	SW

Almost every seed from *Eden* germinated; it seemed like they all came up the same day. Only about five plants of *Natural Bright* germinated.

Prefer Natural Bright

Eden	7 ★★★★☆	☹	
Natural Bright	10 ★★★★★	☺	SC

Natural Bright tasted better. My corn crop struggled this year. Not many plants of *Eden* emerged.

Eden	9 ★★★★★	☺	
Natural Bright	10 ★★★★★	☺	MB

The ears of both varieties were well filled and had a similar size. The ears were extremely tasty and juicy, but *Natural Bright* had extra sweetness and tenderness.

Conclusions

Eden germinated far better than *Natural Bright*. Its stalks were healthy, sturdy and produced higher yields. *Eden* received higher ratings than *Natural Bright* for ear appearance and taste qualities. *Natural Bright* did not excel in any trait and most gardeners did not recommend it. Not many gardeners were interested in growing white sweet corn.

***Eden* received higher ratings than *Natural Bright* for ear appearance and taste qualities.**

Key to Site Reports

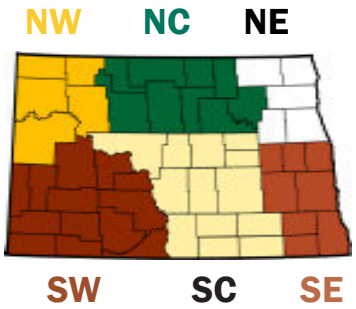
(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type***

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹ NC ← ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ← ***Comments***

Garden types
- = Organic
- = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



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SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Cucumber, Japanese

Varieties

Sashimi

50 days. Fruits are dark, glossy and attractive. Sweet flavor and small seed cavities. Resists powdery mildew. Does not require bees.

Summer Dance

60 days. Straight, glossy cukes of exceptional quality. Productive vines tolerate heat and diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 63 sites submitted information.

Trait	Sashimi	Summer Dance	Same
Germinated best	20%	27%	**53%**
Healthier plants	20	31	**48**
Harvested earlier	**57**	31	11
Higher yields	29	**47**	24
More attractive cukes	20	35	**45**
Tasted better	25	27	**47**
Preference	44	**56**	
Recommend (☺)	69	**78**	
Mean score[1]	7.42	**7.69**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Sashimi

Sashimi 7★★★½☆ ☺ 🐞
Summer Dance 6★★★½☆ ☺ MN

Sashimi had healthier plants and produced first.

Sashimi 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Summer Dance 7★★★½☆ ☹ MN

Less than half of *Summer Dance* seeds germinated. *Sashimi* produced about 2 weeks earlier. Several of its cucumbers curled. The taste of *Sashimi* was mild and light; the taste of *Summer Dance* wasn't bitter but had little taste. Both varieties produced prolifically! I couldn't even keep up with them—a bit overwhelming.

Sashimi 9★★★★½ ☺ 🪴
Summer Dance 8★★★★½ ☺ SE

Summer Dance germinated better and had healthier plants. *Sashimi* produced the first cukes and had a little better flavor.

Sashimi 8★★★★½ ☺ 🪴
Summer Dance 7★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Sashimi was a very prolific producer. It matured a few days earlier. Both germinated very well and were very good tasting. Their cucumbers curled and did not stay straight.

Sashimi 9★★★★½ ☺ 🐞
Summer Dance 8★★★★½ ☺ SE

Summer Dance is always excellent, but I was surprised how *Sashimi* lasted longer. It had a scaly hardness that wasn't attractive, but it didn't affect the excellent taste. I liked how it lasted longer when I didn't pick immediately. *Summer Dance* turned yellow and rotted quicker. *Summer Dance* produced large, good looking cukes.

Sashimi 8★★★★½ ☺ 🐞
Summer Dance 5★★½☆☆ ☹ SE

Both varieties produced in abundance. *Sashimi* produced more cucumbers. Its cucumbers were more uniform in shape and had better flavor.

Sashimi 7★★★½☆ ☺ 🫙
Summer Dance 2★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Sashimi produced higher yields and had more attractive cucumbers. Both varieties tasted good, but I did not like the curved fruits.

Gardeners were impressed with the yields and fruit qualities of both varieties.

Best burpless cucumber varieties

Top choice
- Summer Dance

Strong performers
- Nokya Orient Express II
- Sashimi
- Sweet Slice
- Sweet Success
- Tasty Green
- Unagi

Prefer Sashimi (continued)

Sashimi 7 ☺ SE
Summer Dance 6 ☺

The plants of both varieties had a considerable amount of spots when they were about 4 weeks old. I sprayed with a copper fungicide and that did seem to help. My other cucumber varieties in the same row were very minimally affected by the spots—likely a blight. Some of the cucumbers had spots later in the season. I have grown *Summer Dance* before and the plants didn't have the blight like these did. The cucumbers of both varieties were good tasting.

Sashimi 9 ☺ SE
Summer Dance 7 ☹

There were very few seeds in either variety. Both varieties got foliar diseases but continued to produce fruit until frost. *Sashimi* cucumbers were more attractive and preferred by all who tasted the fruits. *Sashimi* vines showed better disease resistance.

Sashimi 10 ☺
Summer Dance 7 ☹ SE

I preferred the taste and shape of *Sashimi*. Its cucumbers were long and thinner. *Summer Dance* cucumbers had more irregular shapes. *Sashimi* produced a higher yield.

Sashimi 7 ☺ NC
Summer Dance 5 ☹

Both varieties had nearly 100% germination. There were mixed opinions/split decision on which tasted better. Half of those who tried them liked *Sashimi*, and the other half preferred *Summer Dance*. *Sashimi* had better growth, healthier plants and higher yields. Both varieties underperformed though. Was it a bad year for cucumbers in general? We tried multiple varieties in multiple locations in the garden, and none performed as well as in previous years.

Sashimi 9 ☺
Summer Dance 6 ☹ NC

I've never planted burpless cucumbers, but these were fun to grow. *Sashimi* grew very large and attractive cucumbers that were very tasty in salads.

Sashimi 8 ☺
Summer Dance 4 ☹ NC

Both were good varieties. Their cucumbers were delicious and had few seeds. *Sashimi* cucumbers grew bigger and were more plentiful. I like to skin my cucumbers before eating them; after skinning them there wasn't much cucumber flesh to enjoy.

Sashimi 10 ☺
Summer Dance 7 ☺ SC

Sashimi cucumbers had smoother skins and fewer seeds.

Sashimi 8 ☺
Summer Dance 5 ☹ SC

Sashimi was all around better. It produced very long cukes and tasted great!

Sashimi 10 ☺
Summer Dance 9 ☺ SC

These two varieties grew and produced well. *Sashimi* germinated better and produced earlier.

Sashimi 10 ☺
Summer Dance 9 ☺ SC

Sashimi was crispy and sweet! The plants of both varieties were healthy and grew well.

Sashimi 10 ☺ -
Summer Dance 9 ☺ SC

Sashimi cucumbers stayed skinny when I did not pick on a timely basis.

Sashimi 8 ☺
Summer Dance 7 ☺ SC

Both varieties grew well and their cucumbers were delish for eating. I liked the taste of *Sashimi* cucumbers better. *Summer Dance* plants produced a higher yield. A hailstorm damaged the attractiveness of the plants in this trial but didn't seem to cause any problems with growth.

Sashimi 10 ☺
Summer Dance 9 ☺ SC

Sashimi produced fruit a few days earlier. Vines of both varieties appeared to be quite disease resistant. The plants recovered well after a hailstorm in August.

Sashimi produced the first cucumbers.

Prefer Sashimi (continued)

Sashimi	10	☺	
Summer Dance	9	☺	SW

Both varieties were very prolific. I am still getting cukes from them (October 30) in my hoop house. *Sashimi* tasted better.

Sashimi	9	☺	
Summer Dance	8	☺	SW

Sashimi cucumbers were more attractive and evenly shaped. *Summer Dance* vines were healthier, produced earlier and produced higher yields.

Sashimi	3	☺	
Summer Dance	2	☹	SW

Both varieties performed poorly, but *Sashimi* grew better in my new raised beds and being grown under extremely hot and windy conditions.

Sashimi	9	☺	
Summer Dance	8	☺	SD

These cucumbers seemed very similar. Both had a great taste with few seeds. They also produced late in the season. *Sashimi* produced earlier.

Prefer Summer Dance

Sashimi	7	☹	
Summer Dance	9	☺	MN

Sashimi produced fruit 7–10 days earlier than *Summer Dance*. Both produced fruit well into September. Fruits of both varieties were dark green and attractive. *Summer Dance* had better cucumber flavor and was very productive.

Sashimi	7	☹	
Summer Dance	9	☺	MN

I like *Summer Dance*. It has a good, traditional cucumber flavor and looks. *Summer Dance* produced more fruit at first. Its cucumbers were thicker and more uniform. *Sashimi* started producing later and then got very productive. Its fruits were long, straight and skinny (too skinny). *Summer Dance* tasted like a cucumber should. *Sashimi* tasted very mild, almost tasteless; but some in my family preferred its taste.

Sashimi	6	☹	-
Summer Dance	8	☺	MN

Summer Dance was a better producer of fruits early in the season. The cucumbers of both varieties had excellent taste.

Sashimi	5	☹	
Summer Dance	8	☺	NE

Both varieties were started inside under lights. Eight plants of each variety were planted next to a cattle panel trellis. Three of the *Sashimi* plants died soon after transplanting. Both varieties produced 10- to 12-inch cucumbers that were 1.0 to 1.5 inches in diameter. *Summer Dance* was the better tasting with a sweet, crisp and delicious cucumber taste. *Summer Dance* was a very prolific producer all summer long.

The long fruits of both varieties had a tendency to curl if grown without a trellis.

Sashimi	7	☹	
Summer Dance	9	☺	NE

Both varieties produced well but *Summer Dance* was a more prolific producer. I preferred the taste of *Summer Dance* because it was not as watery.

Sashimi	5	☹	
Summer Dance	9	☺	NE

Summer Dance had very healthy, very long vines that produced lots of cucumbers well into the growing season. *Sashimi* had weak, very short vines.

Sashimi	6	☺	
Summer Dance	9	☺	SE

Both varieties germinated about the same and had healthy plants. Their cucumbers were very good in quality. *Summer Dance* just grew like crazy and ended up producing many more cukes (143 versus 77 for *Sashimi*).

Sashimi	1	☹	
Summer Dance	4	☹	SE

Summer Dance produced about four cucumbers while *Sashimi* produced nothing. Both varieties were regularly visited by pollinators, had plenty of watering, some fertilizing, but they did not produce well.

Prefer Summer Dance (continued)

Sashimi 8 ☹ SE
Summer Dance 9 ☺

Summer Dance produced better tasting and better looking cucumbers. Its cucumbers had a slightly smoother skin. *Sashimi* ripened first. Its cucumbers were a bit more bitter in comparison to those of *Summer Dance*.

Sashimi 5 ☹ SE
Summer Dance 7 ☺

Summer Dance fruits were better looking and better tasting. *Summer Dance* fruits were longer and thinner; *Sashimi* fruits were very curly.

Sashimi 9 ☺ SE
Summer Dance 10 ☺

Both varieties grew very well. *Summer Dance* produced higher yields.

Sashimi 5 ☹ NC
Summer Dance 10 ☺

Summer Dance had good germination. Its vines grew and spread producing lots of cukes. Only about half of the *Sashimi* seeds came up. They had cukes on when the vines were small. *Sashimi* vines never grew as large as the *Summer Dance* vines. We liked the taste of both varieties.

Sashimi 6 ☹ NC
Summer Dance 7 ☺

Summer Dance tasted a little better. Neither of the varieties produced very well so it was hard to compare.

Sashimi 8 ☺ NC
Summer Dance 9 ☺

Both varieties produced a high yield. *Summer Dance* was more productive. I pickled both varieties and they tasted great.

Sashimi 5 ☹ NC
Summer Dance 6 ☹

Neither variety produced many cukes. *Summer Dance* produced a few more. I am not sure why the varieties didn't do well. I grew *Sashimi* last year and it did better that time.

Sashimi 4 ☹ SC
Summer Dance 8 ☺

Summer Dance excelled over *Sashimi*. It germinated better, was healthier, produced earlier, produced more cucumbers, and its cucumbers looked more attractive. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted fine.

Sashimi 9 ☺ SC
Summer Dance 10 ☺

Summer Dance had great taste!

Sashimi 7 ☹ SC
Summer Dance 9 ☺

Summer Dance produced a higher yield, so we ate more of them and we liked them.

Sashimi 8 ☺ SC
Summer Dance 9 ☺

They are both great varieties. *Summer Dance* had better taste and smaller seeds.

Sashimi 7 ☹ SC
Summer Dance 9 ☺

Sashimi produced the first cucumbers, but *Summer Dance* produced a higher yield overall. *Summer Dance* cucumbers looked more attractive and tasted better.

Sashimi 8 ☺ SC
Summer Dance 9 ☺

Both varieties produced well, but *Summer Dance* had better germination.

Sashimi 9 ☺ SC
Summer Dance 10 ☺

Both varieties were very desirable. Their cucumbers had excellent flavor. *Sashimi* produced the first cucumbers and its fruits were straighter. *Sashimi* was a little easier to harvest because its plants were more upright and less compressed. *Summer Dance* produced 660 pounds compared to 345 pounds for *Sashimi*. *Sashimi* vines developed burned leaves early in the season, and both varieties had leaf burn by the end of the season (maybe an irrigation problem). *Sashimi* produced more abundantly last year.

Both varieties produced cucumbers that were crisp, tasty, thin-skinned and had few seeds. Gardeners were equally split on which variety tasted better.

Prefer Summer Dance (continued)

Sashimi	8	☺	
Summer Dance	9	☺	SC

Summer Dance produced earlier and higher yields.

Sashimi	2	☹	
Summer Dance	8	☺	SC

Summer Dance had healthier plants and produced more. I had to reseed *Sashimi* and it was very slow to produce.

Sashimi	7	☺	
Summer Dance	8	☺	SC

Summer Dance produced a slightly higher yield.

Sashimi	7	☺	-
Summer Dance	8	☺	NW

These looked like perfect, catalog-worthy varieties until we got the really hot weather. The vines didn't like the heat, but continued producing—they just didn't look as pretty. The two varieties were very similar for us. I cut up cucumbers of both varieties and asked my family to vote; that came out even with most people clearly preferring one over the other. *Summer Dance* was a bit crisper to me.

Sashimi	5	☺	
Summer Dance	6	☺	NW

Summer Dance produced more cukes and had great flavor. It produced all the way into October. Both varieties had very healthy vines and lots of blossoms all summer.

Sashimi	9	☺	
Summer Dance	10	☺	SW

Summer Dance was been my favorite for many years. I love the crunch and flavor of its cucumbers. In this trial, the flavor and crunch of both varieties were superb. The cucumbers were long and straight with thin skin. There was no need to peel the cucumbers.

Sashimi	9	☺	
Summer Dance	10	☺	SW

Both varieties produced high yields. *Summer Dance* cucumbers had a better shape. *Sashimi* cucumbers were more bent.

Sashimi	6	☹	-
Summer Dance	8	☺	SD

Summer Dance plants were healthier and produced higher yields. The cucumbers of both varieties stayed firm with little seed. *Summer Dance* cucumbers seemed to stay slimmer.

Sashimi	4	☹	
Summer Dance	7	☺	SD

Summer Dance vines were healthier and produced higher yields. *Summer Dance* cucumbers were more attractive and tasted better.

No Preference

Sashimi	10	☺	
Summer Dance	10	☺	SE

I thought both varieties were great. They had amazing taste; I could eat the whole cucumber including the skin. The yields were plentiful. The only negative point was the skins seemed to blemish when they were mature.

Conclusions

Gardeners were impressed with the yields and fruit qualities of *Sashimi* and *Summer Dance*. Both varieties produced cucumbers that were crisp, tasty, thin-skinned and had few seeds. Gardeners were equally split on which variety tasted better. The long fruits of both varieties had a tendency to curl if grown without a trellis. Both varieties produced cucumbers late into the growing season. *Sashimi* produced the first cucumbers. *Summer Dance* had vigorous vines that produced higher yields at more sites.

Both varieties produced cucumbers late into the growing season. *Summer Dance* had vigorous vines that produced higher yields at more sites.

Cucumber, Pickling

Varieties

Avenger

55 days. Disease-resistant vines produce good yields of dark green, blocky fruits all summer and well into fall.

Super Max

55 days. Dark green, smooth and blocky fruits. Fruit quality is outstanding all summer.

Data

Gardeners at 46 sites submitted information.

Trait	Avenger	Super Max	Same
Germinated best	28%	25%	**48%**
Healthier plants	20	37	**44**
Harvested earlier	**49**	29	22
Higher yields	24	**44**	32
More attractive cukes	20	38	**43**
Tasted better	15	31	**54**
Preference	33	**67**	
Recommend (☺)	71	**79**	
Mean score[1]	7.24	**7.81**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**8.50**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Avenger

Avenger 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Super Max 4★★☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Avenger had more fruits. Its plants were better looking and withstood the wetter ground better.

Avenger 9★★★★½ ☺ SE
Super Max 8★★★★☆ ☺

You couldn't go wrong with either variety. The cucumbers of these varieties were very similar in appearance and taste. I gave the nod to *Avenger* because it grew faster in the beginning and produced the first fruit.

Avenger 9★★★★½ ☺ 🐞
Super Max 8★★★★☆ ☺ SE

Not our best year for cucumbers. Maybe we planted even a little "too" late [sown June 5]. *Avenger* did not germinate as well. We enjoyed the taste and look of *Avenger* cucumbers. *Super Max* produced earlier and higher yields.

Avenger 4★★☆☆☆ ☺ 🐞
Super Max 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Avenger produced some cucumbers but *Super Max* produced none.

Avenger 10★★★★★ ☺ SE
Super Max 7★★★½☆ ☺

Avenger had an amazing yield. *Super Max* had an okay yield. *Avenger* cucumbers had a better appearance. The cucumbers of both varieties had good flavor.

Avenger 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Super Max 9★★★★½ ☹ SE

All seeds came up. The vines of both varieties were very healthy. *Avenger* produced the earliest and most cucumbers; *Avenger* produced 5–9 cucumbers per day. The cucumbers of both varieties were beautiful. *Avenger* tasted a little mild yet had more cucumber flavor.

Avenger 7★★★½☆ ☺ SE
Super Max 5★★½☆☆ ☹

I got more cucumbers from *Avenger*.

***Avenger* produced the first fruits at more sites.**

Best pickling cucumber varieties

Top choice
- Homemade Pickles

Strong performers
- Alibi
- Calypso
- Eureka
- H-19 Little Leaf
- Max Pack
- Super Max

Prefer Avenger (continued)

Avenger 9 ☺ 
Super Max 2 ☹ NC

Super Max had very poor germination. I sowed the trial on May 10 and had to replant later. The cold weather may have impacted their germination as other varieties I planted struggled to emerge. *Avenger* had better germination and earlier production.

Avenger 9 ☺ 
Super Max 8 ☺ SC

This trial got hit by a hailstorm, but the plants recovered and kept producing well into October! *Avenger* had slightly better looking plants and a slightly higher yield.

Avenger 9 ☺ 
Super Max 7 ☺ SC

Avenger outproduced *Super Max*, but both varieties were great.

Avenger 9 ☺ 
Super Max 7 ☺ NW

Avenger had better germination.

Avenger 9 ☺ 
Super Max 7 ☹ SW

Avenger made crisper pickles. I would definitely use it again for pickles.

Avenger 9 ☺ -
Super Max 7 ☹ SW

Twenty-six *Avenger* seedlings emerged compared to only one for *Super Max*. *Avenger* had better flavor and made great pickles.

Prefer Super Max

Avenger 5 ☹ 
Super Max 8 ☺ MN

The germination rates were similar and their vines looked healthy. *Super Max* produced about a week earlier and produced two times as many fruits overall. *Super Max* cucumbers were crisper, had better color and shape, and pickled better. *Avenger* cucumbers had a sharper, almost bitter taste.

Avenger 5 ☺ 
Super Max 6 ☺ NE

Super Max excelled in all yield and fruit quality traits.

Avenger 7 ☺ -
Super Max 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties germinated well, had very healthy plants and produced very high yields. *Super Max* cucumbers looked wonderful and were exactly what we hoped for. We used *Super Max* cucumbers mostly for pickling. The size was perfect and the overall taste and freshness were exactly what we were looking for in our recipes. The overall taste of *Super Max* was better.

The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced excellent yields.

Avenger 2 ☹ 
Super Max 3 ☹ SE

Super Max had higher yields and tasted better.

Avenger 7 ☺ 
Super Max 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties produced excellent yields. None of the cucumbers were bitter or got hollow centers. *Super Max* produced earlier and was a great pickler.

Avenger 9 ☺ 
Super Max 10 ☺ SE

Both varieties produced abundantly. I gave away numerous boxes of cukes! Initially *Avenger* produced more; *Super Max* caught up and later exceeded the yield of *Avenger*. *Super Max* had more uniformly shaped fruits, whereas *Avenger* fruits were often bulbous on one end.

Avenger 8 ☹ 
Super Max 10 ☺ NC

Super Max had better germination. Its vines were loaded going into the fall. They never stopped producing even going into October. Although I thought *Avenger* tasted a bit better, there was no difference when it came to making pickles, and that's what I used these for.

Prefer Super Max (continued)

Avenger 4 ☹ NC
Super Max 9 ☺

Super Max cucumbers kept their green color longer as they grew bigger. *Super Max* cucumbers tasted better.

Avenger 8 ☹ NC
Super Max 10 ☺

Super Max was the better producer and had sturdier vines.

Avenger 9 ☺ SC
Super Max 10 ☺

These varieties were similar for all traits.

Avenger 8 ☹ SC
Super Max 9 ☺

I liked the uniformity and nice, green color of *Super Max* fruits. They were good for pickling and fresh eating. *Super Max* produced more.

Avenger 2 ☹ -
Super Max 4 ☺ SC

Super Max produced a higher yield. Its cucumbers looked more attractive and tasted better. The shape of *Avenger* cucumbers was bad; it peaked on one end.

Avenger 8 ☺ SC
Super Max 9 ☺

Super Max produced a higher yield. Other than that, there was not much difference between the two varieties.

Avenger 7 ☹ SC
Super Max 10 ☺

Super Max had better yield and quality.

Avenger 8 ☺ SC
Super Max 9 ☺

Super Max was overall a healthier plant. Neither variety produced abundantly.

Avenger 8 ☺ SC
Super Max 9 ☺

Super Max produced earlier and a higher yield overall.

Avenger 7 ☺ SC
Super Max 8 ☺

Not sure what happened this year but I feel like I had tons of blooms on both varieties but not many cucumbers. My yield was less than in previous years. *Super Max* had a better germination rate.

Avenger 5 ☹ SC
Super Max 9 ☺

Super Max had better germination (17 seedlings compared to 5 for *Avenger*), and thus had a better yield.

Avenger 2 ☹ SC
Super Max 8 ☺

I had 100% germination on *Super Max*; only 50% on *Avenger*. I even replanted *Avenger* and did not get any more to germinate. *Avenger* plants were not as healthy. Wow, the cucumbers produced on these varieties were picklers as the packet said. They held their size for a couple of days so I didn't have to make pickles every day.

Avenger 3 ☹ SC
Super Max 4 ☹

I actually didn't care for either of these varieties. The cucumbers went from a nice, smaller pickling size to a fat cucumber way too fast. They didn't produce very well. *Super Max* germinated faster and I got a few more cucumbers of that variety.

Avenger 8 ☺ SC
Super Max 10 ☺

Super Max had a darker color and seemed to have a thicker skin. I would prefer them for pickling because their thicker skin would be less likely to get soggy on me when pickling.

Avenger 9 ☹ NW
Super Max 10 ☺

Both varieties produced good yields, and their cucumbers were of uniform size. I harvested almost 300 pounds in total. *Super Max* produced more yield and had a crispy taste.

Super Max produced higher yields at more sites.

Prefer Super Max (continued)

Avenger 5 ☺ -
Super Max 10 ☺ NW

I prefer the appearance and flavor of *Super Max*. The verdant green color of its cucumbers was lovely. *Super Max* vines were more productive.

Avenger 8 ☺
Super Max 10 ☺ NW

Super Max vines were healthier and more productive. The fruits had good flavor.

Avenger 6 ☺
Super Max 8 ☺ SW

Both varieties grew well. *Super Max* had better yields.

Avenger 8 ☺
Super Max 10 ☺ SW

Super Max produced earlier and higher yields. I got enough cucumbers for pickling and for slicers.

No Preference

Avenger 10 ☺
Super Max 10 ☺ SE

I could tell no difference between these varieties. They both did very well! They are the best pickling cucumbers I've ever had!

Avenger 7 ☺
Super Max 7 ☺ SC

Both varieties were quick to germinate. It was amazing to watch the vines of these varieties grow almost as if they were racing. Their cucumbers were so delicious.

Avenger 10 ☺
Super Max 10 ☺ SW

Both of these varieties produced a massive amount of fruit from the beginning of July until the end of September. I picked every 2–3 days and always had a great supply from all the plants!

Conclusions

Avenger and *Super Max* both grew well. Their vines were healthy and produced excellent yields. *Avenger* produced the first fruits, but *Super Max* produced higher yields at more sites. More gardeners preferred the fruit qualities of *Super Max*. Its cucumbers were uniform, crisp and tasty.

More gardeners preferred the fruit qualities of *Super Max*. Its cucumbers were uniform, crisp and tasty.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

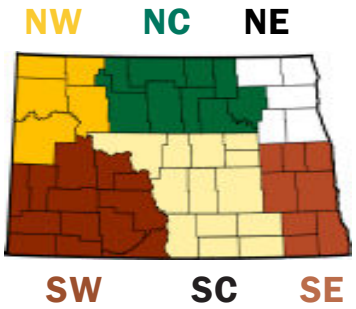
Variety A ☺
Variety B ☹

Garden type ↘

NC ← ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ← ***Comments***

Garden types
- = Organic
- = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations
MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Cucumber, Slicing

Varieties

Gateway

56 days. New! Vigorous vines resist downy mildew and other diseases. High yields are produced all summer and well into fall.

Stonewall

53 days. Dark green, smooth, 8-inch fruits have exceptional quality. Vines resist diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Gateway	Stone-wall	Same
Germinated best	23%	27%	**50%**
Healthier plants	27	27	**45**
Harvested earlier	**42**	**42**	16
Higher yields	25	**50**	25
More attractive cukes	**33**	**33**	**33**
Tasted better	20	30	**50**
Preference	**50**	**50**	
Recommend (☺)	**71**	67	
Mean score[1]	6.52	**6.81**	
Median score[1]	**7.00**	**7.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Gateway

Gateway 9 ☺
Stonewall 8 ☺ SE

Gateway produced a nice, slim, slicing cucumber with a small seed cavity. It did not get bitter during hot weather.

Gateway 8 ☺
Stonewall 7 ☹ NC

Both varieties had nice slicers with small seed cavities and stayed sweet tasting. *Gateway* cukes were thinner skinned and had less prickles. I thought both varieties could have produced more cukes.

Gateway 9 ☺ -
Stonewall 8 ☹ SC

Gateway ripened earlier. Its cucumbers were more attractive and had better flavor.

Gateway 6 ☺
Stonewall 1 ☹ SC

Gateway was good. *Stonewall* failed for me. I replanted and they never came up. I am not sure why.

Gateway 7 ☺
Stonewall 5 ☹ SC

Gateway vines stayed compact while those of *Stonewall* went haywire. *Gateway* produced earlier but *Stonewall* produced more cucumbers. *Stonewall* cucumbers came out of the garden with many scratches/dents. *Stonewall* cucumbers tasted bitter more often than *Gateway* cucumbers.

Gateway 8 ☺
Stonewall 7 ☹ SC

Gateway produced first but *Stonewall* yielded well after it got started. *Gateway* cucumbers were more attractive.

Gateway 10 ☺
Stonewall 8 ☺ SC

Both varieties are suitable for growing in North Dakota gardens. Both varieties appeared to be very disease resistant. *Stonewall* took an inordinately long time to germinate; up to 18 days for some of the plants.

Gardeners liked the fruit quality of both varieties. Their fruits were crisp and sweet with small seed cavities.

Best slicing cucumber varieties

Top choice
General Lee

Strong performers
Bristol
Dasher II
Raceway
Raider
Straight Eight

Prefer Gateway (continued)

Gateway	8	☺	
Stonewall	7	☺	NW

The superior taste of *Gateway* cucumbers outweighed the more attractive appearance of *Stonewall* cucumbers. *Stonewall* produced earlier while *Gateway* produced higher yields overall.

Gateway	7	☺	
Stonewall	5	☹	SW

Gateway plants were healthier and better producers.

Prefer Stonewall

Gateway	5	☺	
Stonewall	7	☺	MN

The germination rate of the varieties was fairly equal and the vines of both varieties showed no disease or insect damage. *Stonewall* produced two times as many cucumbers as *Gateway*. *Stonewall* cucumbers were firmer and had a crisp taste. *Gateway* cucumbers had a more consistent shape and had a mellower, more watery taste.

Gateway	4	☹	-
Stonewall	5	☺	MN

Stonewall had healthier, more vigorous plants.

Gateway	2	☹	
Stonewall	8	☺	SE

Stonewall was better in all traits. Its cucumbers were larger.

Gateway	6	☹	
Stonewall	9	☺	NC

Stonewall outshined *Gateway* in all traits. Its plants were very healthy. I would grow it again.

Gateway	8	☺	
Stonewall	9	☺	SC

We started picking on August 1 and *Gateway* had a few more cucumbers that day. In total, *Stonewall* produced 495 pounds compared to 330 pounds for *Gateway*. Some cucumbers of both varieties got too large and were not included in these totals. Both varieties had good flavor.

Gateway	5	☺	
Stonewall	6	☺	NW

Stonewall produced very quickly and gave us lots of delicious cukes to eat. The taste of both varieties was refreshing. The cucumbers had firm, flavorful textures and did not have too many seeds.

Gateway	6	☺	
Stonewall	9	☺	SW

Both varieties grew well. Their fruit sizes and yields were excellent. *Stonewall* produced first and its cucumbers were more uniform in shape and size compared to *Gateway*.

Stonewall produced higher yields.

Gateway	3	☹	
Stonewall	6	☺	SW

Stonewall produced many more fruit and tolerated extreme heat and wind better in my newly established raised bed and trellis system.

Gateway	5	☹	
Stonewall	7	☺	SD

Stonewall produced earlier and higher yields. Its cucumbers were more attractive and tasted better. *Gateway* plants were healthier.

No Preference

Gateway	8	☺	
Stonewall	8	☺	NE

I did not notice much difference between these varieties.

Gateway	5	☹	
Stonewall	5	☹	NC

Neither produced well enough to compare.

Gateway	8	☺	
Stonewall	8	☺	SC

Both varieties produced high yields. They produced for a long time. Their cucumbers tasted very good.

Conclusions

Gardeners split evenly on their preferred variety. Gardeners liked the fruit quality of both varieties. Their fruits were crisp and sweet with small seed cavities. The vines of both varieties were healthy. *Stonewall* produced higher yields at more sites.

Cucumber, Snack

Varieties

Green Light

42 days. Vines produce high yields of 3-inch, seedless and smooth fruits. Very early. Award winner.

Snack

50 days. Dark green, mini cukes are smooth, sweet and non-bitter. No bees needed. Vigorous vines.

Data

Gardeners at 76 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green Light	Snack	Same
Germinated best	34%	28%	**38%**
Healthier plants	24	24	**52**
Harvested earlier	**43**	**43**	15
Higher yields	**38**	35	26
More attractive cukes	25	33	**42**
Tasted better	15	30	**55**
Preference	47	**53**	
Recommend (☺)	**81**	78	
Mean score[1]	**7.70**	7.66	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Green Light

Green Light 9★★★★½ ☺ 🐞
Snack 8★★★★☆ ☺ MN

Green Light cucumbers tasted a little better.

Green Light 9★★★★½ ☺ 🐞
Snack 8★★★★☆ ☺ MN

We love snack cucumbers and both varieties tasted really good. *Snack* produced earlier while *Green Light* produced higher overall yields.

Green Light 9★★★★½ ☺ 🐞
Snack 6★★★☆☆ ☹ MN

We grew cucumbers in a raised garden bed and they climbed a fence. These varieties did well growing this way. *Green Light* tasted better and germinated at a much higher rate.

Green Light 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Snack 7★★★½☆ ☺ SE

Green Light plants were healthier and produced a little earlier. Both varieties produced a very high yield. The cucumbers of both varieties were both delicious but *Snack* tasted just a little better.

Green Light 10★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Snack 6★★★☆☆ ☹ SE

Green Light germinated better. Its vines grew faster and produced earlier.

Green Light 8★★★★☆ ☺ 🐞
Snack 7★★★½☆ ☺ SE

These are best two varieties of cukes that I've planted. Both varieties produced a lot of cucumbers, and they produced and grew very rapidly. *Green Light* cucumbers were a little slimmer and crunchier, which I liked. The cucumbers of both varieties had a lot of scarring and deformities as the season progressed.

Green Light 7★★★½☆ ☺ 🐞
Snack 4★★☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Green Light produced higher yields than *Snack*. Though both had anthracnose, *Green Light* seemed to fair better than *Snack*. Members of Finley Senior Citizens preferred *Green Light* due to the freshness of its taste, but my partner and I thought *Snack* tasted better.

***Green Light* has always performed well in our trials, and it performed well this year.**

Best snacking cucumber varieties

Top choice
Green Light

Strong performers
Mercury
Muncher
Snack

Prefer Green Light (continued)

Green Light 4 ☹
Snack 1 ☹ SE

Green Light had better looking plants and produced earlier yields. The vines of both varieties lost the battle with cucumber beetles.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 8 ☺ SE

Both varieties did really well. I liked that *Green Light* cucumbers had a smoother, thinner skin. *Snack* cucumbers were a bit prickly.

Green Light 6 ☺
Snack 4 ☹ NC

I planted along a trellis. The plants of both varieties were small. *Green Light* cucumbers were bigger and straighter. The fruits of both varieties had smooth skin, not like regular cucumbers, and tasted good.

Green Light 10 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ NC

We got loads of cukes from both varieties. We love these cucumbers. We liked the shape, size and skin better of the *Green Light* cukes.

Green Light 10 ☺
Snack 7 ☺ NC

Green Light germinated first, had stronger vines, and continued producing into October. Its fruits had a very clean, crisp, cucumber flavor. *Snack* had smaller plants; its cucumbers had a little tougher skin and okay flavor.

Green Light 4 ☺
Snack 3 ☹ NC

Both varieties had nearly 100% germination. As far as taste goes, *Green Light* had only a slight edge over *Snack*. Both varieties underperformed. This may have been a bad year for cucumbers in general. We tried multiple varieties in multiple locations in the garden, and none performed as well as in previous years.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 6 ☺ NC

Both varieties were destroyed by hail, and I was impressed with both varieties for rebounding. *Green Light* recovered better. It produced fruits 1 week earlier. *Green Light* fruits were more uniform. *Snack* had some fruits that were oblong in shape. No differences were noted in flavor. Both varieties tasted good eaten fresh or as refrigerator pickles.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 7 ☺ NC

Green Light had healthier looking plants that produced a little earlier. Both varieties trellised well and withstood winds and inconsistent watering. Both varieties produced a lot of cucumbers and tasted delicious.

Green Light 10 ☺
Snack 3 ☹ SC

Green Light produced more cucumbers. *Snack* vines were less productive and its fruits were odd in shape.

Green Light 5 ☹
Snack 3 ☹ SC

Green Light cucumbers were more attractive and tasted better. *Snack* cucumbers were prickly and required peeling.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 5 ☹ SC

We had a hail and wind storm on August 6. Leaves were stripped off vines, which were on a trellis. *Green Light* vines recovered and produced cucumbers. *Snack* vines did not.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 7 ☺ SC

Green Light had much better germination.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 8 ☺ SC

These varieties were awesome and produced abundantly. *Green Light* produced more cucumbers earlier in the season.

The vines of both varieties were healthy and produced abundantly.

Prefer Green Light (continued)

Green Light	10	☺	
Snack	8	☹	SC

Green Light was such a delicious cucumber; it was very vigorous and prolific. *Green Light* kept producing well into September. The cucumbers of both varieties were very sweet and never bitter, even when they got quite large.

Green Light	9	☺	
Snack	8	☺	SC

Both varieties were high producers and had good flavor and crunch. *Snack* seemed to produce more in the early season (cooler weather) and *Green Light* seemed to take off and produce better in the later season (once it got hot). Production overall was similar with *Green Light* producing about 6% more overall. *Green Light* fruits were a bit more consistent in flavor.

Green Light	9	☺	
Snack	6	☺	SC

Green Light germinated better, produced more and tasted better. I have grown snack cucumbers before, and they are my favorite cucumbers.

Green Light	9	☺	
Snack	6	☹	NW

Green Light cucumbers were better looking. *Snack* cucumbers were more oblong and misshapen. *Green Light* produced a higher yield.

Green Light	7	☺	
Snack	4	☹	NW

Green Light had 100% germination and *Snack* only had 33% despite several hills being replanted. *Snack* plants did grow well though once it germinated. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted alright. I prefer *Green Light* because I don't have a long growing season to mess with low germination rates.

Green Light	10	☺	
Snack	7	☺	NW

We really enjoyed these cucumbers. Our grandkids feasted on them. *Green Light* germinated better.

Green Light	10	☺	
Snack	8	☺	NW

Green Light germinated at a higher rate. *Green Light* plants produced longer. They remained healthy and productive into late September. The cucumbers of both varieties tasted good, but the flavor of *Green Light* persisted even when the cucumbers were left on the vine a bit too long.

Green Light	10	☺	
Snack	9	☺	SW

The cucumbers of both varieties were very tasty; none were bitter! *Green Light* produced more cukes.

The fruits of both varieties had good flavor and crunch.

Green Light	8	☺	
Snack	7	☺	SW

These varieties were quite similar. *Green Light* had a better yield and was a nice-shaped cucumber. *Snack* was shaped more like a pickling cucumber. *Snack* produced a couple days earlier.

Green Light	7	☺	
Snack	5	☺	SW

I don't think it was a good year for cucumbers overall. I planted some picklers and slicers as well, and all the varieties did not do that great. *Green Light* performed better than *Snack*. It germinated at a higher rate, produced more and tolerated the extreme conditions better.

Prefer Snack

Green Light	8	☹	
Snack	10	☺	MN

Both varieties had 100% germination and their vines stayed healthy all season. *Snack* had higher yields. Its cucumbers were long and slender with more crunch.

Green Light	9	☺	
Snack	10	☺	MN

I really liked both of these varieties but the germination rate and flavor of *Snack* was better. Both varieties were healthy. *Green Light* was more productive and its fruits had a more consistent shape and size. I liked the flavor of both varieties but *Snack* was a bit sweeter.

Prefer Snack (continued)

Green Light	7	☺	
Snack	8	☺	MN

Snack leaves were greener and bigger. *Snack* produced first.

Green Light	7	☺	
Snack	8	☺	NE

I liked that *Snack* produced a little earlier and a slightly higher yield overall. The vines of both varieties started to brown and peter out at the end of August.

Green Light	7	-	
Snack	8	-	NE

Snack had more uniform fruits. *Green Light* produced earlier and higher yields. The fruits of both varieties were good eaters but short and stubby compared to fruits of burpless varieties.

Green Light	4	☹	
Snack	10	☺	NE

Snack tasted better and gave a higher yield. The planting on May 14 had poor germination. I replanted on June 7. The majority of seeds of both varieties did not germinate, but *Snack* germinated better.

Green Light	6	☹	-
Snack	8	☺	SE

Snack cucumbers had a wonderful taste that was fresh and crisp. *Green Light* cucumbers got larger than expected and had an hourglass shape. The leaves of *Green Light* turned yellow and had small holes form in them. This may be from the overabundance of rain this year, but the other varieties of cucumber did not do that.

Green Light	4	☹	
Snack	8	☺	SE

Both varieties produced well. *Snack* cucumbers were more uniform in shape and tasted better.

Green Light	2	☹	
Snack	3	☹	SE

Snack cucumbers had a little better taste. I am not a fan of snack cucumbers because I am spoiled by the taste of *Summer Dance*.

Green Light	8	☹	
Snack	10	☺	SE

Snack cucumbers were smoother and shorter. *Green Light* produced the first cucumbers.

Green Light	5	☺	
Snack	8	☺	SE

Uneven rainfall for both varieties led to their skins having streaks and cracks. This was somewhat unattractive but didn't affect taste. *Snack* cucumbers tasted better and had smaller seeds.

Green Light	9	☺	
Snack	10	☺	NC

Snack had nice, small cucumbers that were great for pickles. Both varieties produced very well.

Green Light	9	☺	
Snack	10	☺	NC

Snack produced a little better. We were able to give away lots of cucumbers. Our grandkids loved them.

Green Light	6	☺	
Snack	9	☺	NC

The shape, flavor, size and emergence of *Snack* were all great. *Green Light* cucumbers turned yellow much faster and had the problem where half of the cucumber is super skinny and the other half is fat. *Snack* cucumbers did not have that problem.

Green Light	8	☹	
Snack	10	☺	NC

Both produced healthy plants, and both climbed well on a cattle panel trellis. Both provided high yields. As my garden is 100 miles from my home base, I was not in my garden every day. This caused some of the fruit to be large in both varieties. However, both varieties were delicious no matter the size of the fruit. I ate more cucumbers this summer than in my entire life due to the taste and small seed size of both varieties. I loved them both! The shape of the *Snack* fruit was more attractive.

A few cucumbers of both varieties were misshapen due to poor pollination.

Prefer Snack (continued)

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ NC

This was a really good year for cucumbers, and *Snack* outperformed *Green Light* in all traits. Both varieties were very productive. I used the cucumbers in my salads and both varieties tasted great.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 10 ☺ NC

These varieties were both great and produced a lot of cucumbers. *Snack* produced a little more.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ SC

Snack germinated better and was healthier. It produced earlier and higher yields. I had to replant *Green Light* after hail damaged its vines on June 2. Both varieties were susceptible to leaf spot.

Green Light 7 ☺
Snack 8 ☺ SC

Snack cucumbers were a bit bigger than *Green Light* cucumbers.

Green Light 5 ☹
Snack 10 ☺ SC

Snack was better overall including in production.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ SC

I liked the color and shape of *Snack* fruits.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ SC

*B*oth varieties germinated at near 100%. Both varieties grew well but were not as prolific as I thought they'd be. I got about three cucumbers per plant. *Snack* produced a few more.

Green Light 6 ☹
Snack 7 ☺ SC

Snack produced a higher yield. Its leaves were less prone to burning in the sun. *Snack* cucumbers looked and tasted better.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ SC

It was so easy to wash the *Snack* cucumbers.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ SC

Snack cucumbers were small, crisp and juicy. The plants of both varieties were healthy and grew well.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ SC

Many of the *Green Light* fruits were funny shaped unlike the *Snack* fruits which were straight. Both varieties were very tasty. My children really liked them.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 10 ☺ SC

Snack cucumbers were not as seedy if not picked on a timely basis.

Green Light 9 ☺
Snack 10 ☺ SC

Both varieties were very good. *Snack* had a little better flavor; almost a little sweeter. My grandson, age 10, who is a very picky eater, absolutely loved them both! I would grow these every summer!

Green Light 5 ☹
Snack 8 ☹ SC

Snack produced a higher yield but neither variety produced well. *Snack* cucumbers tasted better.

Green Light 7 ☹
Snack 10 ☺ NW

Snack cucumbers have better looks and flavor. It is a great cucumber for snacking. Overall, *Snack* plants did better. The leaves of both varieties turned yellow in mid-August. I think this was due to the soil in the garden box.

Green Light 8 ☺
Snack 9 ☺ SW

Snack cucumbers had better flavor.

All in all, *Snack* matched *Green Light* in earliness, yield and fruit quality traits.

Prefer Snack (continued)

Green Light	5	☺	
Snack	6	☺	SW

Snack had healthier vines and more attractive cukes. *Green Light* produced earlier and higher yields.

Green Light	7	☺	
Snack	9	☺	SW

The taste and texture of *Snack* was better; even the skin I thought. I liked the lack of large seeds once you cut it or bit into it.

Green Light	6	☹	
Snack	8	☺	SD

Green Light cucumbers had a tendency to get fat even when they were small.

Green Light	8	☺	
Snack	10	☺	SD

Snack cucumbers were a little crisper and better tasting. Both varieties were healthy. *Green Light* produced 1 week earlier.

Green Light	9	☺	
Snack	10	☺	MB

Snack had more vigorous vines and was a more prolific producer. *Snack* had very nice, small, crunchy fruits with very tender skins.

No Preference

Green Light	10	☺	
Snack	10	☺	SE

Both varieties were very good. I honestly cannot differentiate between the two. The cucumbers of both varieties had a great taste, and both varieties produced more than we could eat or give away. These cucumbers were great snackers, skin and all.

Conclusions

The vines of both *Green Light* and *Snack* were healthy and produced abundantly. Their fruits had good flavor and crunch. A few cucumbers of both varieties were misshapen due to poor pollination. *Green Light* has always performed well in our trials, and it performed well this year. All in all, *Snack* matched *Green Light* in earliness, yield and fruit quality traits. *Snack* is a promising variety that warrants further testing.

Snack is a promising variety that warrants further testing.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘ ***Garden type*** ↙

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺ NC

Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

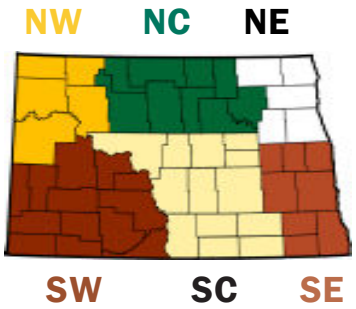
'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

↖ ***Location***

↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

- = Organic
- = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



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Greens, Komatsuna

Varieties

Green River

35 days. Dark green leaves and narrow petioles. Use in salads when young. Steam, stir fry or use in soups when mature. Heat tolerant.

Malachai

30 days. Upright, large, dark green plants tolerate heat and grow rapidly. Delicious and nutritious.

Data

Gardeners at 30 sites submitted information.

Trait	Green River	Malachai	Same
Germinated best	22%	15%	**63%**
Healthier plants	26	13	**61**
Harvested earlier	23	23	**54**
Higher yields	33	13	**54**
More attractive	25	21	**54**
Tasted better	21	21	**58**
Preference	**57**	43	
Recommend (☺)	**59**	52	
Mean score[1]	**6.56**	6.22	
Median score[1]	**7.00**	6.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Green River

Green River	5	☹	🐞
Malachai	4	☹	MN

Green River plants were bigger and more attractive. Bugs ate holes in the leaves and caused damage to both varieties.

Green River	10	☺	-
Malachai	6	☹	MN

Green River plants were healthier and looked more attractive. *Green River* is still growing new shoots in early September. *Malachai* leaves wilted and turned brown in August.

Green River	7	☺	🐞
Malachai	6	☹	NE

They were both severely attacked by flea beetles! *Green River* plants were fuller than those of *Malachai*. I probably won't plant it again. Our family didn't enjoy the taste, and the flea beetles were really thick on them!

Green River	5	☹	🐞
Malachai	4	☹	SE

Green River leaves were darker green. *Malachai* plants had a slightly larger canopy. Both had significant flea beetle infestations throughout the season.

Green River	7	☺	🐞
Malachai	2	☹	SE

Only half as many *Malachai* seedlings came up, and the variety simply did not perform well.

Green River	3	☺	🐞
Malachai	2	☹	NC

Green River was less bitter and had better flavor. It had a strong mustard taste; its younger leaves tasted better. Flea beetles destroyed the trial, and no yield data was collected.

Green River	7	☺	🪴
Malachai	5	☹	NC

Green River had healthier plants and a higher yield. This is not my favorite crop. I donated the foliage to a local chicken farmer. The final crop was ruined by flea beetles.

Many sites experienced major infestations of flea beetles.

Best komatsuna greens variety

Top choice
Green River

Prefer Green River (continued)

Green River	5	☹	
Malachai	4	☹	SC

I disliked both varieties. Their leaves tasted bitter and suffered damage by insects. I was not familiar with this vegetable. I did not properly thin the plants and did not harvest before the plants became overly mature.

Green River	9	☺	
Malachai	8	☺	SC

Both varieties were great. *Green River* tasted better.

Green River	8	☺	
Malachai	7	☺	SC

These varieties were similar. Their plants looked good and tasted the same. *Malachai* was ready to harvest slightly earlier.

Green River	7	☺	
Malachai	6	☺	SC

We prefer *Green River* because it had longer, narrower leaves and much thinner stalks. We had never grown this vegetable before. There was plenty to share around the neighborhood!

Green River	7	☺	
Malachai	5	☺	SC

This was the first time I ever planted komatsuna. It was okay, but I don't think I will plant it again. A plus for komatsuna was it still was producing in mid-October. *Green River* seemed to have less damage from bugs.

Green River	8	☺	
Malachai	4	☹	SW

Green River had bigger yields and healthier looking plants. It was more tolerant to heat and drought. The first cutting of *Malachai* was fine, but after that the leaves had holes in them. *Green River* looked healthy at the end of the season.

Prefer Malachai

Green River	6	☹	
Malachai	7	☹	MN

These were very pretty greens, but we did not like the flavor of them. They tasted too bitter for us. We would not plant them again. There wasn't too much difference between the varieties.

Green River	7	☺	
Malachai	8	☺	NE

Malachai was healthier and produced the first yield.

Green River	6	☹	
Malachai	8	☺	SE

Malachai looked better, tasted better (stronger), and produced nearly double the yield of *Green River*.

Green River	9	☹	
Malachai	10	☺	SE

Malachai grew faster and its leaves looked more attractive.

Green River	6	☺	
Malachai	8	☺	SE

Both were interesting, but the taste took some getting used to. *Malachai* tasted a little better, and it matured more quickly.

Green River	5	☹	
Malachai	10	☺	NC

Malachai tasted better and didn't go to seed. *Green River* went to seed right away.

Green River	8	☺	
Malachai	9	☺	NC

These varieties were nearly identical in every way. *Green River* tasted a little bitter in comparison. I may substitute komatsuna for Swiss chard next year.

Green River	7	☹	
Malachai	8	☺	SC

Malachai continued to produce tender leaves late into the season. These varieties resisted pocket gopher damage. Diatomaceous earth and neem oil worked to combat flea beetles.

Green River had healthier plants and higher yields at more sites.

Prefer Malachai (continued)

Green River 9 ☺ SC
Malachai 10 ☺

Malachai had slightly better germination. I had never tried komatsuna, and it was wonderful! It germinated easily, produced the entire summer, and never bolted. I am hooked.

Green River 5 ☹
Malachai 6 ☹ SC

Flea beetles were hard to keep off these plants.

No Preference

Green River 8 ☺
Malachai 8 ☺ SE

I don't have enough experience to tell them apart. Both were great! Both varieties experienced flea beetle damage early on, but new growth was good. The taste was new to us, but we liked the nutty flavor and chard-like consistency.

Green River 10 ☺
Malachai 10 ☺ SC

The plants of both varieties were awesome. They grew equally well and tasted the same. I couldn't tell any difference between them.

Green River 1 ☹
Malachai 1 ☹ SC

Neither variety could survive the damage caused by flea beetles.

Green River 2 ☹
Malachai 2 ☹ SW

Both varieties grew great. These plants brought little black bugs into my garden very early in the season. I didn't like the taste of komatsuna, and my friends didn't like it either. It tasted bitter and I will not plant it again.

Conclusions

Many of these trials experienced major infestations of flea beetles. *Green River* had healthier plants and higher yields at more sites. Nearly all gardeners never grew komatsuna before, and many of them reported the greens were too bitter in taste.

Nearly all gardeners never grew komatsuna before, and many of them reported the greens were too bitter in taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘ ***Garden type*** ↙

Variety A ☺ NC ↖ ***Location***
Variety B ☹

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
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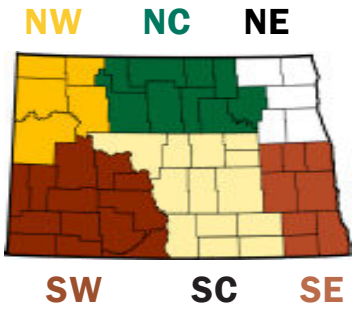

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Lettuce, Oakleaf

Varieties

Bauer

43 days. Leaves are darker green and thicker than other oakleaf varieties. All-America Selections winner.

Hampton

55 days. Shiny, dark green, thick leaves. Upright habit allows for single-cut or multiple cuts. Organic.

Data

Gardeners at 14 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bauer	Hampton	Same
Germinated best	**43%**	14%	**43%**
Healthier plants	29	21	**50**
Harvested earlier	23	23	**54**
Resisted bolting better	42	8	**50**
Higher yields	38	15	**46**
More attractive	23	31	**46**
Tasted better	31	31	**38**
Preference	46	**54**	
Recommend (☺)	**79**	**79**	
Mean score[1]	**7.79**	7.36	
Median score[1]	7.50	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Bauer

Bauer 10 ☺ SE
Hampton 9 ☺

Bauer had excellent germination while the germination of *Bauer* was very spotty. *Bauer* resisted bolting better. Both varieties tasted delicious. *Bauer* leaves were crisper with better texture.

Bauer 8 ☺
Hampton 5 ☹ SE

Bauer had higher yields, larger heads and did not bolt as soon.

Bauer 7 ☺
Hampton 6 ☺ SE

Bauer had better production.

Bauer 8 ☺ SC
Hampton 6 ☹

Bauer had better taste, less bolting and a better yield.

Bauer 9 ☺
Hampton 5 ☹ SC

Bauer came up better and produced longer.

Bauer 10 ☺
Hampton 8 ☺ SW

Seeds were sown June 1. *Bauer* germinated earlier and was healthier. The weather got hot and neither variety produced.

Prefer Hampton

Bauer 7 ☹ SE
Hampton 8 ☺

Both varieties were healthy and were done producing by the time it got hot. Yields were similar. *Hampton* was darker green, looked better and clearly tasted better.

Bauer 8 ☺
Hampton 9 ☺ SE

Hampton tasted great and had a longer life in the refrigerator. This is an important aspect when you live in rural areas. *Hampton* leaves were crunchy and snappy while *Bauer* leaves were buttery soft. This was a great year for lettuce.

***Bauer* germinated at a higher rate and resisted bolting better. *Bauer* produced higher yields at more sites.**

Best green leaf lettuce varieties

Top choice
Bergam's Green

Strong performers
Royal Oakleaf
Slobolt
Starfighter
Tropicana

Prefer Hampton (continued)

Bauer	7	☹	
Hampton	8	☺	SE

Bauer grew great early in the season and tasted better than *Hampton*, but it could not withstand the heat. *Hampton* produced a higher yield overall.

Bauer	7	☺	
Hampton	8	☺	SC

Hampton tasted better.

Bauer	6	☹	
Hampton	7	☺	SC

Hampton was healthier, looked more attractive and tasted better.

Bauer	7	☺	
Hampton	8	☺	SW

Hampton produced a higher yield and had more flavor.

Bauer	8	☺	
Hampton	9	☺	SW

Hampton had slightly more vigorous plants early in the season. Grasshoppers later ate all the plants.

No Preference

Bauer	7	☺	
Hampton	7	☺	SE

The plants of these varieties looked and performed identically!

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties. They rated them similarly for most traits and recommended them equally. *Bauer* germinated at a higher rate and resisted bolting better. *Bauer* produced higher yields at more sites. Gardeners who preferred *Hampton* often mentioned its crisp and flavorful leaves.

Gardeners who preferred *Hampton* often mentioned its crisp and flavorful leaves.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Garden type ↙

Variety A		☺	
Variety B		☹	NC

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

↖ ***Location***

↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

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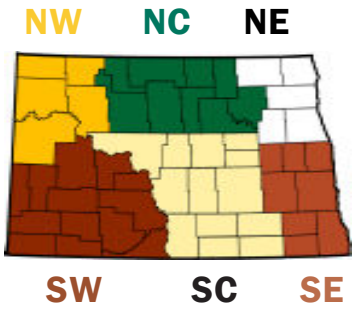

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Lettuce, Romaine

Varieties

Bluerock

65 days. Heads are large, upright and tolerate heat. Beautiful, blistered, medium-green leaves.

Sunland

56 days. New! Heat-tolerant romaine with thick leaves, straight ribs and a tight, compact head.

Data

Gardeners at 53 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blue-rock	Sunland	Same
Germinated best	22%	24%	**54%**
Healthier plants	15	11	**74**
Harvested earlier	25	14	**61**
Resisted bolting better	19	14	**67**
Higher yields	27	30	**43**
More attractive	27	14	**59**
Tasted better	23	34	**43**
Preference	**52**	48	
Recommend (☺)	83	**87**	
Mean score[1]	7.89	**7.91**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Bluerock

Bluerock 7 ☺
Sunland 6 ☺ MN

Bluerock plants were healthier and better looking. *Sunland* leaves had some brown tips.

Bluerock 8 ☺
Sunland 7 ☹ MN

I didn't note much difference between the varieties, but *Bluerock* had a little better taste.

Bluerock 9 ☺
Sunland 6 ☹ NE

Bluerock had a sweeter taste and its heads formed better.

Bluerock 9 ☺
Sunland 7 ☺ SE

The plants of both varieties looked really nice and produced at the same time. The row of *Bluerock* grew thicker. *Bluerock* had a little milder flavor.

Bluerock 10 ☺
Sunland 7 ☺ SE

The plants of both varieties were extremely healthy and looked almost identical. *Bluerock* grew slightly faster and was a little bit bigger in overall leaf size. *Bluerock* produced slightly higher yields. The majority of our family thought *Bluerock* had a delicate and fresher taste. *Sunland* leaves were a bit more bitter and tough.

Bluerock 8 ☺
Sunland 4 ☹ SE

Bluerock grew faster and was less bitter tasting.

Bluerock 9 ☺
Sunland 8 ☺ SE

Bluerock had nice, bright green plants. It germinated great and grew very well, leading to higher yields. The leaves of both varieties looked nice and tasted so good!

Bluerock 10 ☺
Sunland 9 ☺ NC

The taste and texture of *Bluerock* was preferred by most people. Both were excellent varieties which I was able to keep using most of the summer. I also liked that *Bluerock* germinated slightly better.

Both varieties produced good yields of delicious lettuce.

Best green romaine lettuce varieties

Top choice
Fusion

Strong performers
Bluerock
Crisp Mint
Green Forest
Newham
Starhawk
Sunland

Prefer Bluerock (continued)

Bluerock 10 ☺ SC
Sunland 9 ☺

Bluerock had somewhat better flavor. It lasted longer without getting bitter and tough.

Bluerock 9 ☺ SC
Sunland 8 ☺

Although *Sunland* tasted a little sweeter/better, *Bluerock* tasted great and outproduced *Sunland*. *Bluerock* plants grew so large and lush. *Bluerock* won the Best of Show at our county fair for all vegetable categories.

Bluerock 9 ☺ SC
Sunland 8 ☺

Both varieties were very close in all categories. *Bluerock* produced slightly earlier and resisted bolting better. I had plenty of lettuce and couldn't give it all away.

Bluerock 9 ☺ SC
Sunland 8 ☺

These varieties were similar. *Sunland* bolted a few days earlier.

Bluerock 7 ☺ SC
Sunland 5 ☹

Bluerock produced better. *Bluerock* was crunchier and I liked its color.

Bluerock 10 ☺ NW
Sunland 9 ☺

Bluerock plants had a better shape, a tighter formation. The 10-foot rows were too much for my family. Next time I will plant less.

Bluerock 10 ☺ NW
Sunland 9 ☺

Bluerock was ready first.

Bluerock 9 ☺ NW
Sunland 8 ☺

Bluerock was a better producer. *Sunland* leaves felt softer, but the taste of the two varieties was the same.

Bluerock 9 ☺ NW
Sunland 8 ☺

Both varieties were great. *Bluerock* was ready to eat a day or so earlier. *Bluerock* leaves looked greener and more attractive.

Bluerock 10 ☺ SW
Sunland 9 ☺

Bluerock was tastier, but the bugs got to it more. Both varieties were hardy and lasted a long time in the fridge after being cut. This trial was grown in a hoop house and had consistent watering.

Bluerock 9 ☺ SW
Sunland 8 ☺

Both varieties grew well in a raised garden bed. *Bluerock* had better bundles of lettuce leaves and grew back faster when cut for more produce. Both varieties were easy to harvest and great in salads or BLTs.

Bluerock 10 ☺ SW
Sunland 9 ☺

These varieties were very similar. Both produced well, grew well and stayed tasty as long as I picked them regularly.

Bluerock 9 ☺ SD
Sunland 6 ☺

Bluerock had a better yield.

Bluerock 7 ☺ SK
Sunland 6 ☺

Both varieties had good flavor and were not bitter. *Bluerock* produced a higher yield.

Prefer Sunland

Bluerock 7 ☺ MN
Sunland 8 ☺

Bluerock had twice the germination compared to *Sunland*. Both varieties were healthy and yielded well. *Sunland* had a sweeter taste. *Bluerock* had a stronger aftertaste; it was almost bitter.

Bluerock 9 ☺ NE
Sunland 10 ☺

Sunland tasted slightly sweeter.

More gardeners preferred the look of *Bluerock*. Its heads were large, beautiful and bright green.

Prefer Sunland (continued)

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	9	☺	NE

Both varieties produced healthy, robust lettuce heads with straight, medium-dense ribbing and thick leaves making a nice, crispy texture. *Sunland* had a smoother taste which was preferred by our family. This lettuce was great in salads and on sandwiches. *Sunland* had greater plant germination and healthy plants.

Bluerock	7	☺	
Sunland	8	☺	SE

Sunland had slightly larger plants, looked more attractive, and had a higher yield.

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	9	☺	SE

Overall, these varieties were pretty much the same. *Sunland* had a slightly higher yield.

Bluerock	7	☺	
Sunland	8	☺	SE

I preferred *Sunland* as I found it was crunchier.

Bluerock	5	☺	
Sunland	6	☺	SE

Plants of both varieties were stunted for a long time and then bolted when heat came. There were tough emergence conditions in our garden this spring. *Sunland* emerged better.

Bluerock	5	☹	
Sunland	8	☺	SE

Only half as many *Bluerock* seeds germinated. *Sunland* produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Bluerock	8	☹	
Sunland	10	☺	SE

Sunland resisted bolting better, produced a higher yield and had great flavor. The plants of both varieties were beautiful. Bugs ignored them.

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	10	☺	SC

I had great results with both varieties. *Sunland* had more yield, tasted better, and continued to grow after I trimmed it.

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	9	☺	SC

Sunland had about 100% germination compared to about 10% for *Bluerock*. *Sunland* plants were 50% fuller with larger overall growth and leaves. *Sunland* was ready to pick 3 days earlier. The plants of both varieties had strong, thick leaves. *Sunland* tasted slightly better, although both had a very nice flavor; a little "smoky"—delicious! Bolting was minimal.

Both varieties were healthy, productive and resisted bolting.

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	9	☺	SC

Sunland had better, sweeter flavor. *Bluerock* was crisper.

Bluerock	4	☹	
Sunland	5	☹	SC

Sunland tasted better, but I did not like either variety.

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	10	☺	SC

These varieties were very similar with the exception of *Bluerock* bolting earlier. *Sunland* had a longer harvest season and larger leaves. I enjoyed both varieties for weeks when covered with a sunshade.

Bluerock	5	☹	
Sunland	6	☺	SC

Taste is #1 for me and *Bluerock* tasted a bit bitter. *Sunland* had a higher yield. *Bluerock* was ready to harvest earlier, resisted bolting better and looked more attractive.

Bluerock	4	☹	
Sunland	8	☺	SC

Sunland performed much better. *Sunland* had many more plants and its leaves were more tender.

Prefer Sunland (continued)

Bluerock	6	☹	
Sunland	10	☺	NW

The cool and rainy spring led to my best crop ever. *Sunland* produced a higher yield. *Sunland* leaves were large and crisp with no bitterness.

Bluerock	7	☺	
Sunland	8	☺	SW

Sunland took a couple days longer to bolt than *Bluerock*.

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	9	☺	SW

Sunland heads were more attractive and more tender.

Bluerock	6	☹	
Sunland	7	☹	SW

Sunland had more flavor.

No Preference

Bluerock	8	☺	
Sunland	8	☺	SC

These varieties were very similar. Both were tasty and slow to bolt.

Bluerock	10	☺	
Sunland	10	☺	SC

Both of these varieties were so awesome. They both tasted unbelievable. They were so green and pretty and produced for quite a long time!

Bluerock	3	☹	
Sunland	6	☺	NW

This was a very bad year for my lettuce. Five separate hail events kept the lettuce always trying to recover. Still, *Sunland* did okay. *Bluerock* did not germinate well.

Bluerock	9	☺	
Sunland	9	☺	SW

Grasshoppers ate the plants before they bolted.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties very much and recommended them highly. *Bluerock* and *Sunland* were healthy, productive and resisted bolting. More gardeners preferred the look of *Bluerock*. Its heads were large, beautiful and bright green. More gardeners preferred the taste of *Sunland*. *Sunland* had a smooth, slightly sweet taste.

More gardeners preferred the taste of *Sunland*. It had a smooth, slightly sweet taste.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

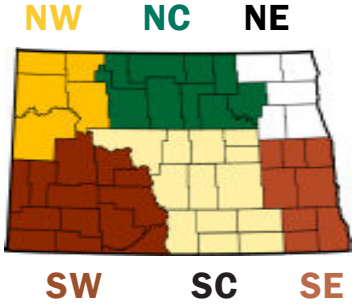
Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

- = Organic
- = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
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Lettuce, Green Summer Crisp Org.

Varieties

Albachiara

52 days. Bright green heads with thick leaves. Sweet and crisp. Heads tolerate heat.

Muir

50 days. Extremely tolerant to heat. It has light-green, wavy, crisp leaves with excellent flavor.

Data

Gardeners at 47 sites submitted information.

Trait	Alba-chiara	Muir	Same
Germinated best	15%	37%	**49%**
Healthier plants	23	35	**43**
Harvested earlier	20	**40**	**40**
Resisted bolting better	17	12	**71**
Higher yields	17	37	**46**
More attractive	15	20	**65**
Tasted better	27	17	**56**
Preference	42	**58**	
Recommend (☺)	76	**83**	
Mean score[1]	7.93	**8.17**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**9.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Albachiara

Albachiara 9 ☺
Muir 8 ☺ SE

Albachiara produced a slightly higher yield. Both varieties were delicious when picked early. They were excellent for our summers. Neither variety bolted even in heat after the leaves turned bitter.

Albachiara 7 ☺
Muir 6 ☺ SE

Albachiara was better in all categories, including production.

Albachiara 10 ☺
Muir 9 ☺ SE

These varieties were very similar, but *Albachiara* stayed fresh and green longer.

Albachiara 8 ☺
Muir 7 ☺ SE

I really enjoyed both varieties, but my entire family thought *Albachiara* tasted better. I was pleasantly surprised with how delicate and soft its leaves were. The entire row of *Muir* germinated very well, but *Albachiara* had spots where nothing grew. *Muir* germinated better, was healthier and grew better. Its leaves were larger and ready to harvest first. *Muir* produced a larger crop. I didn't notice a significant difference with bolting.

Albachiara 10 ☺
Muir 9 ☺ NC

Excellent germination on both varieties. Two families could not eat all of this lettuce, and we eat a lot of lettuce. We thought *Albachiara* tasted better by a slim margin. Neither lettuce ever became bitter.

Albachiara 6 ☹
Muir 5 ☹ NC

I did not particularly like either variety as they tasted too bitter even though I kept watering sufficiently. *Albachiara* tasted a bit better. The varieties were very similar.

Albachiara 9 ☺
Muir 5 ☹ NC

Albachiara grew better in the heat. *Muir* plants seemed limp. I had two pickings of *Albachiara* before I harvested *Muir*. *Albachiara* had great crispness and flavor. *Muir* tasted a big sour.

Both varieties received high ratings. They produced well through the summer and resisted bolting.

Best green Summer crisp lettuce varieties

Top choice
Muir

Strong performers
Albachiara
Nevada

Prefer Albachiara (continued)

Albachiara	9	☺	
Muir	6	☹	NC

Albachiara had a tight head, crisper leaves and a healthier base. *Muir* rotted at its base at the end of the season. Flea beetles attacked on June 21 but the plants of both varieties recovered. *Albachiara* seed was more difficult to sow due to its black color.

Albachiara	10	☺	
Muir	4	☹	SC

Albachiara heads were fuller and tastier.

Albachiara	9	☺	
Muir	8	☺	SC

Both varieties produced good looking heads of lettuce. Either variety would be the Best of Show at our county fair. My personal choice was *Albachiara* because of its darker green color. Both varieties did great in the 90-degree temperatures of July and August. *Muir* started to have a bitter flavor late in summer. Lettuce tasted good until September under refrigeration.

Albachiara	10	☺	
Muir	9	☺	SC

Both varieties produced well. They did well in heat and never bolted. We enjoyed both for a long time.

Albachiara	10	☺	
Muir	9	☺	SC

Albachiara tasted a little sweeter. Neither variety bolted.

Albachiara	9	☺	
Muir	8	☺	SC

Muir had more plants but the *Albachiara* plants were larger. *Albachiara* was ready to harvest earlier. Neither variety bolted—bunnies got to them before then. Both varieties tasted good.

Albachiara	9	☺	
Muir	7	☺	SC

Albachiara germinated better. We kept cutting both varieties for weeks through mid-August. They never bolted.

Albachiara	9	☺	
Muir	7	☺	NW

I wish *Albachiara* would have germinated better. It was a very attractive and crisp lettuce. *Albachiara* tasted better than *Muir*.

Albachiara	10	☺	
Muir	9	N	SW

Both were great varieties. I enjoyed them in salads all summer. *Albachiara* was really good at producing, and it had great flavor.

Prefer Muir

Albachiara	5	☺	
Muir	6	☺	MN

Muir germinated much better, produced higher yields, and had more attractive, bigger leaves.

Albachiara	4	☹	
Muir	10	☺	SE

Muir seedlings emerged earlier and were healthier. Its yields were earlier and more abundant. *Muir* plants resisted bolting better and tasted better.

Albachiara	9	☺	
Muir	10	☺	SE

I planted these varieties in a raised bed and they produced a fantastic yield. *Muir* produced the first yield and had a better taste.

Albachiara	5	☹	
Muir	8	☺	SE

Muir was slightly better in all respects.

Albachiara	9	☹	
Muir	10	☺	SE

Muir was a great performer. It was healthier and produced earlier and higher yields.

Albachiara	8	☺	
Muir	9	☺	NC

They were both excellent and yielded well with good taste. *Muir* produced an earlier and higher yield.

More gardeners preferred the taste of *Albachiara*. Its leaves were darker green, crisp and flavorful.

Prefer Muir (continued)

Albachiara 8 ☺
Muir 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties were grown side by side in a small, tarp-like greenhouse. Both continued to produce after cutting with the *Albachiara* dying off first. The look and taste of *Muir* was better for me. After harvesting, both varieties were still crisp and tasty in a refrigerator up to 6 weeks later. I loved this lettuce!

Albachiara 8 ☺
Muir 10 ☺ NC

Muir came in nice and thick, whereas *Albachiara* had some empty spots in the row.

Albachiara 9 ☺
Muir 10 ☺ NC

I really liked both of these varieties. They produced very well into early October, even during the hot months.

Albachiara 7 ☹
Muir 9 ☺ NC

Muir kept its green color longer and had a bit more flavor.

Albachiara 6 ☺
Muir 7 ☺ SC

Muir was healthier and produced earlier.

Albachiara 6 ☹
Muir 8 ☺ SC

Muir germinated better. It had bigger plants and yields. *Albachiara* tasted a little less bitter.

Albachiara 8 ☺ -
Muir 9 ☺ SC

Muir was healthier and produced the first yield.

Albachiara 8 ☺
Muir 10 ☺ SC

Both varieties had hardy plants that kept on producing. *Muir* germinated and tasted better.

Albachiara 3 ☹
Muir 8 ☺ SC

Muir was better overall, hands down. The leaves of both varieties were crisp and had no bitterness.

Albachiara 8 ☺
Muir 9 ☺ SC

These varieties were very close in all categories, but *Muir* had a slight edge in production. Both varieties really produced well.

Albachiara 9 ☺
Muir 10 ☺ SC

Both varieties were beautiful. They were tolerant of heat and resisted bolting. *Muir* was mild and crunchy with thicker leaves. *Albachiara* had more intense flavor.

Albachiara 8 ☺
Muir 9 ☺ SC

I liked both varieties. They had decent flavor but nothing exceptional. *Muir* had slightly larger plants.

Albachiara 8 ☹
Muir 9 ☺ SW

Muir was crisper and tasted better. The blending of both varieties in a salad was outstanding.

Albachiara 4 ☹
Muir 5 ☹ SW

Neither variety could tolerate temperatures in the 90s for many days.

Albachiara 9 ☺
Muir 10 ☺ SW

Muir was slower to bolt. *Albachiara* produced the first and higher yields. Both varieties tasted good.

Albachiara 7 ☺
Muir 9 ☺ SW

Both varieties did extremely well. My customers raved about them. *Muir* produced more with absolutely no bolting. It is a lovely lettuce variety.

Most gardeners preferred *Muir*. *Muir* germinated better and was healthier at more sites.

No Preference

Albachiara	6	☹	
Muir	6	☹	NE

These varieties were similar. Both produced good early but recovery after the first cut was poor.

Albachiara	10	☺	
Muir	10	☺	SC

These varieties were so tasty, green and amazingly beautiful. They grew so fast. I am super impressed. The production also lasted quite long!

Albachiara	8	☺	
Muir	8	☺	SW

There was very little difference between these varieties. *Albachiara* plants were slightly healthier.

Albachiara	9	☺	
Muir	9	☺	SW

I purposely planted these late so I could enjoy fresh lettuce into fall and I was not disappointed! Not only did they germinate well (I think every seed I planted sprouted), but they survived the worst part of the drought and heat and did not bolt! I usually plant butterhead lettuce so I was a little skeptical, but after my first taste I was hooked. These are crisp, flavorful leaves that can take any type of dressing without wilting. If it were not for my row markers I would not have known the difference, even in flavor. Both varieties had great flavor and great crunch!

Conclusions

Both varieties received high ratings. They produced well through the summer and resisted bolting. Most gardeners preferred *Muir*. *Muir* germinated better and was healthier at these sites. *Muir* was ready to harvest earlier and produced a larger crop in more gardens. *Muir* has always performed well in our trials. More gardeners preferred the taste of *Albachiara*. Its leaves were darker green, crisp and flavorful.

Muir was ready to harvest earlier and produced a larger crop in more gardens. _Muir_ has always performed well in our trials.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘ ***Garden type*** ↙

Variety A		☺	
Variety B		☹	NC

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

↖ ***Location***

↖ ***Comments***

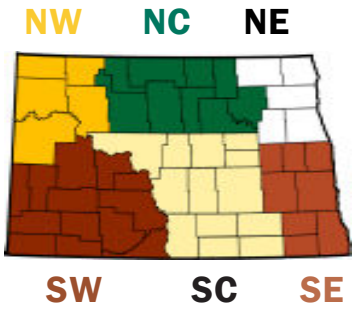
Garden types

= Organic

= Uses inorganic fertilizers

= Uses inorganic pesticides

- = Not specified



Locations

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Lettuce, Red Summer Crisp Org.

Varieties

Chrystal

42 days. Bright purple-red leaf edges contrast beautifully with the broad green leaves. Tolerates heat.

Lovelock

48 days. Bright green leaves with red tips. Heads are filled with sweet, juicy leaves. Tolerates heat.

Data

Gardeners at 26 sites submitted information.

Trait	Chrystal	Love-lock	Same
Germinated best	**63%**	17%	21%
Healthier plants	**50**	13	38
Harvested earlier	**54**	17	29
Resisted bolting better	13	26	**61**
Higher yields	**58**	17	25
More attractive	**54**	8	38
Tasted better	38	21	**42**
Preference	**72**	28	
Recommend (☺)	**84**	80	
Mean score[1]	**7.63**	6.75	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Chrystal

Chrystal 10 ☺ 🐞
Lovelock 8 ☺ MN

Chrystal produced abundantly while *Lovelock* had smaller plants and fewer leaves. *Chrystal* plants had more color, had ruffled leaves and looked prettier. *Chrystal* had better, milder flavor. *Lovelock* had a sharper, bitter aftertaste. *Lovelock* resisted bolting better.

Chrystal 4 ☹ 🐞
Lovelock 3 ☹ NE

I am not a fan of the taste of these varieties; kind of bitter. *Chrystal* was slightly more robust.

Chrystal 7 ☺ 🚿
Lovelock 5 ☺ NE

Chrystal excelled in all traits.

Chrystal 9 ☺ 🐞
Lovelock 7 ☹ SE

Chrystal was longer lasting in the garden. It resisted bolting better and produced higher yields. *Lovelock* plants were smaller.

Chrystal 9 ☺ 🐞
Lovelock 7 ☹ SE

Chrystal grew taller and fuller. Its heads were redder on leaf edges—much more attractive. *Chrystal* tasted better. Neither variety bolted, but it got so dry that leaves began turning brown. I dug up the plants in late July.

Chrystal 7 ☺ 🖼
Lovelock 6 ☺ NC

Chrystal had better germination and tasted better. Both varieties resisted bolting.

Chrystal 9 ☺ 🐞
Lovelock 7 ☺ SC

Chrystal was producing beautifully by mid-June! Its yields were larger overall. *Chrystal* stayed tender even as it got more mature. Neither variety bolted.

Chrystal 9 ☺ 🐞
Lovelock 8 ☺ SC

Chrystal had better flavor, yields and appearance. Both varieties are good for North Dakota.

Chrystal germinated better, was healthier, grew faster and produced more abundantly. Its plants had ruffled leaves and looked prettier than the plants of _Lovelock_.

Best red Summer crisp lettuce varieties

Top choice
Magenta

Strong performers
Chrystal
Pablo
Sierra

Prefer Chrystal (continued)

Chrystal 10 ☺
Lovelock 6 ☹ SC

Chrystal had larger leaves and regrew faster after a cutting (harvest).

Chrystal 9 ☺
Lovelock 8 ☺ SC

Chrystal produced better and its heads were more attractive. *Lovelock* tasted better.

Chrystal 10 ☺
Lovelock 7 ☺ SC

We planted these two varieties in a new raised bed with a shade cloth. We had meals from these plants until September. *Chrystal* had a more ruffled leaf tip with a little more red color which was so pretty!

Chrystal 7 ☺
Lovelock 5 ☺ SC

Chrystal produced an earlier yield.

Chrystal 10 ☺
Lovelock 9 ☺ SC

These two varieties were virtually equal; amazing in so many ways. *Chrystal* tasted a little better. *Chrystal* plants were smaller but had a beautiful, full red color. *Lovelock* plants were larger and not unattractive.

Chrystal 7 ☺
Lovelock 6 ☺ SC

Chrystal produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Chrystal 6 ☺
Lovelock 5 ☺ NW

Chrystal was the healthier variety. It produced an earlier and larger crop. Both varieties had a great taste.

Chrystal 8 ☺
Lovelock 7 ☺ SW

Chrystal had more flavor. *Lovelock* resisted bolting better.

Chrystal 8 ☺
Lovelock 7 ☺ SD

Chrystal had a little better taste.

Prefer Lovelock

Chrystal 6 ☺
Lovelock 7 ☺ MN

Lovelock plants were better looking. *Chrystal* germinated better, but the plants got brown tips and were more susceptible to bolting.

Chrystal 8 ☺
Lovelock 9 ☺ NE

Lovelock tasted sweeter.

Chrystal 4 ☹
Lovelock 6 ☺ NC

Lovelock gave more yield. Neither variety bolted. *Lovelock* had a milder, nutty taste. *Chrystal* was not red and *Lovelock* was not very red.

Chrystal 6 ☹
Lovelock 9 ☺ SC

Lovelock had a mild flavor all through the season and didn't start to bolt until late October. *Chrystal* tended to have a slight bitterness/stronger flavor and bolted in early September. Both varieties were attractive with *Chrystal* having larger leaves than *Lovelock*.

Chrystal 5 ☹
Lovelock 9 ☺ SW

There was 90% germination on *Chrystal*, 60% on *Lovelock*. While *Chrystal* did well early on, it literally melted in the heat. *Lovelock* stole the show and produced throughout all the heat and wind. *Lovelock* had a very long production season and showed greater resistance to bolting.

Conclusions

Gardeners liked both varieties but strongly preferred *Chrystal*. *Chrystal* germinated better, was healthier, grew faster and produced more abundantly. Its plants had ruffled leaves, more color and looked prettier. Gardeners who expressed a taste preference were more likely to prefer *Chrystal*. Both varieties tolerated heat but *Lovelock* showed greater resistance to bolting. *Lovelock* had a very long production season.

Both varieties tolerated heat but *Lovelock* showed greater resistance to bolting. *Lovelock* had a very long production season.

Melon, Cantaloupe Early

Varieties

Cleopatra

70 days. Salmon-colored flesh is firm and delicious. Good yields of slightly ribbed, 5-pound fruits.

Goddess

68 days. Early ripening, high-quality melon. Firm, flavorful flesh. Heavy yields of 4-pound fruits.

Data

Gardeners at 41 sites submitted information.

Trait	Cleopatra	Goddess	Same
Germinated best	18%	24%	**58%**
Healthier plants	20	20	**60**
Harvested earlier	38	**62**	0
Higher yields	**38**	**38**	24
More attractive	31	28	**41**
Tasted better	38	**41**	21
Preference	48	**52**	
Recommend (☺)	62	**76**	
Mean score[1]	**6.97**	6.93	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Cleopatra

Cleopatra 9 ★★★★★½ ☺ 🐞
Goddess 4 ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ MN

Both varieties germinated well and their vines were healthy. *Cleopatra* had higher yields and larger fruits. *Cleopatra* tasted better, but neither variety had much flavor.

Cleopatra 6 ★★★☆☆☆ ☺ 🐞
Goddess 5 ★★½☆☆☆ ☺ SE

Cleopatra tasted much sweeter. *Goddess* ripened first, but both varieties produced melons much later than expected. Our yields were low—about two fruits per plant.

Cleopatra 7 ★★★½☆☆ ☺ 🐞
Goddess 3 ★½☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Cleopatra produced more melons and had good taste.

Cleopatra 8 ★★★★☆☆ ☺ 🐞
Goddess 5 ★★½☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Cleopatra is one of the best tasting cantaloupes I've ever grown. I received several positive comments from neighbors and relatives on the taste and quality of this variety. *Goddess* was an okay variety but not one I would plant again. Both varieties were easy to grow and did well on a trellis in a raised bed garden.

Cleopatra 8 ★★★★☆☆ ☺ 🐞
Goddess 6 ★★★☆☆☆ ☺ NC

Cleopatra fruits were smaller, but the taste of its fruits was much sweeter. *Goddess* was a good producer of more and somewhat larger fruits. I had never grown cantaloupe before and will definitely grow it again.

Cleopatra 10 ★★★★★★ ☺ 🐞
Goddess 9 ★★★★★½ ☺ SC

Both varieties were very good. *Goddess* was slightly earlier. Most melons for both varieties ripened from August 19 to 23. We picked 287 pounds of *Cleopatra* (larger fruit) and 150 pounds of *Goddess*. The skin of *Cleopatra* melons was a little smoother and had more even mottling. The melons of both varieties had great taste. They were ripe to the rind. The rind was not thick for either variety.

Both varieties germinated well and had healthy vines. Their yields were fair but not great.

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Dakota Sisters
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Prefer Cleopatra (continued)

Cleopatra 4 ☹
Goddess 2 ☹ SC

It might be the year, but based on yields neither variety was worth the garden space. The cooler spring led to the late planting [sown June 8]. I've had better production in past years. I am unimpressed this year with melons in general.

Cleopatra 9 ☺
Goddess 8 ☺ SC

Cleopatra was sweeter and had smoother flesh. Its vines were more productive. We had to spray for beetles that showed up after a wet stretch. We now have a freezer full of melon for smoothies. This trial made me a cantaloupe lover.

Cleopatra 8 ☺
Goddess 7 ☺ SC

Cleopatra produced melons 2 to 3 days earlier. The melons of both varieties were small (4 to 6 inches in diameter) and tasted the same.

Cleopatra 10 ☺
Goddess 1 ☹ SC

Goddess germinated very poorly and didn't produce well at all.

Cleopatra 8 ☺
Goddess 7 ☺ NW

Goddess plants outnumbered *Cleopatra* by 2:1. Yields per plant were about the same, but the higher plant population of *Goddess* led to its higher yields. *Cleopatra* melons were larger and rounder with consistent netting. *Cleopatra* melons tasted noticeably sweeter; both varieties had great texture.

Cleopatra 6 ☺
Goddess 5 ☹ SW

Cleopatra produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Cleopatra 8 ☺
Goddess 7 ☺ SD

Cleopatra produced bigger and better looking melons. I wished the melons of both varieties had more flavor.

Cleopatra 8 ☺
Goddess 7 ☹ SD

These varieties had very similar melons. *Goddess* melons looked more attractive but *Cleopatra* had better flavor and sweetness. *Goddess* ripened earlier but *Cleopatra* produced a higher yield.

Prefer Goddess

Cleopatra 9 ☺
Goddess 10 ☺ MN

Both varieties produced very well. We loved the taste of both varieties but *Goddess* was just a touch sweeter. It ripened faster although it got overripe quicker.

Cleopatra 4 ☺
Goddess 5 ☺ NE

Goddess produced earlier and more melons.

Cleopatra 1 ☹
Goddess 7 ☺ NC

Goddess produced three melons and *Cleopatra* produced no melons. *Goddess* melons were small but healthy looking and very sweet.

Cleopatra 8 ☹
Goddess 9 ☺ SC

Goddess melons ripened first and had better flavor.

Cleopatra 5 ☹
Goddess 8 ☺ SC

Goddess produced higher yields and had a nice taste. I harvested only one melon per plant for *Cleopatra*.

Cleopatra 7 ☹
Goddess 8 ☺ SC

We got more ripe melons from *Cleopatra*, but *Goddess* tasted better. The flavor of *Cleopatra* was okay, but we were hoping for a sweeter flavor from *Cleopatra*. *Goddess* was slightly sweeter and we enjoyed its flavor more.

Cleopatra 8 ☹
Goddess 9 ☺ SC

Goddess ripened earlier and produced more melons than *Cleopatra*. Its melons looked and tasted better, too.

Gardeners were evenly split in their preferences when comparing the fruit appearance and taste qualities of these varieties.

Prefer Goddess (continued)

Cleopatra	4	☹	
Goddess	10	☺	SC

Goddess outperformed *Cleopatra* by far. *Goddess* vines were much healthier and produced many more cantaloupe. *Goddess* fruits had a nice, large size.

Cleopatra	7	☹	
Goddess	8	☺	SC

Melon production was less than in other years. June was quite cool and the vines had trouble growing. The flavor of *Goddess* melons was sweeter and their texture was smooth and creamy. The melons of both varieties did not store well.

Cleopatra	8	☹	-
Goddess	10	☺	SC

Cleopatra seedlings started to grow but wilted away the first week after coming up. I replanted and they grew just fine. The vines of both varieties were hearty. *Goddess* produced the first yield and a higher yield overall. The melons of both varieties were sweet and firm. My husband and I couldn't taste any difference between the two.

Cleopatra	5	☹	
Goddess	7	☺	SW

Goddess produced consistently all season.

Cleopatra	7	☺	
Goddess	10	☺	SW

Goddess had the best tasting cantaloupes. The flesh of *Goddess* was firm and not mushy.

Cleopatra	7	☺	
Goddess	8	☺	SW

Twelve seedlings of *Goddess* germinated compared to only two seedlings of *Cleopatra*. Their melons were about the same size, but *Goddess* melons were firmer and much sweeter.

Cleopatra	5	☹	
Goddess	6	☺	SW

Both varieties had 100% germination. The plants of both varieties were beautiful. I liked that the plants did not spread too much. *Cleopatra* produced earlier and more melons. *Goddess* melons were bigger and more flavorful.

Cleopatra	8	☺	
Goddess	10	☺	SD

Both varieties were very good. Their vines were healthy and their melons looked very nice. *Goddess* ripened first but *Cleopatra* wasn't long after. *Cleopatra* tasted a little sweeter, but when slicing *Goddess* flesh off the rind I noticed it had better flavor all the way through.

Conclusions

Both varieties germinated well and had healthy vines. Their yields were fair but not great. Gardeners were evenly split in their preferences when comparing the fruit appearance and taste qualities of these varieties. *Goddess* ripened earlier than *Cleopatra* and was recommended by more gardeners.

Goddess ripened earlier than _Cleopatra_ and was recommended by more gardeners.

Melon, Cantaloupe Open-Poll.

Varieties

Dakota Sisters

80 days. Deep-orange flesh is sweet, thick and aromatic. Developed in North Dakota. Organic.

Iroquois

68 days. Heirloom produces lots of early, mini cantaloupes. Sweet and delicious. Compact vines.

Data

Gardeners at 26 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dakota Sisters	Iroquois	Same
Germinated best	**45%**	14%	41%
Healthier plants	30	25	**45**
Harvested earlier	**84**	11	5
Higher yields	**47**	26	26
More attractive	**63**	11	26
Tasted better	**56**	17	28
Preference	**78**	22	
Recommend (☺)	**72**	44	
Mean score[1]	**7.44**	5.94	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Dakota Sisters

Dakota Sisters 8★★★★☆ ☺
Iroquois 5★★½☆☆ ☹ NE

Both varieties grew great and produced a lot of small- to medium-sized melons. *Dakota Sisters* ripened sooner.

Dakota Sisters 9★★★★½ ☺
Iroquois 1★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SE

Two seedlings of *Dakota Sisters* germinated under very wet conditions whereas all *Iroquois* seedlings died. *Dakota Sisters* plants produced more melons than what I usually see from any variety. *Dakota Sisters* melons were tasty, sweet and juicy.

Dakota Sisters 4★★☆☆☆ ☹
Iroquois 2★☆☆☆☆ ☹ SC

It might be the year, but based on yields neither variety was worth the garden space. The cooler spring led to the late planting [June 8]. I've had better years. I am unimpressed this year with melons in general.

Dakota Sisters 9★★★★★ ☺
Iroquois 8★★★★☆ ☹ SC

Dakota Sisters ripened earlier, produced higher yields and had better flavor.

Dakota Sisters 10★★★★★ ☺
Iroquois 7★★★½☆ ☺ SC

Dakota Sisters produced a better yield. Its melons were beautiful and tasty. *Iroquois* normally is beautiful but had some odd shapes this year.

Dakota Sisters 10★★★★★ ☺
Iroquois 9★★★★½ ☺ SC

Both varieties were very good. I thought *Dakota Sisters* produced a better looking melon.

Dakota Sisters 10★★★★★ ☺
Iroquois 6★★★☆☆ ☹ SC

There was very slow germination for both varieties due to cool temperatures. I replanted three times. The late germination resulted in lots of small/unripe fruit. The flesh of *Dakota Sisters* was creamy and sweeter. The flesh of *Iroquois* had a grainy texture.

***Dakota Sisters* was the clear winner. It germinated better, ripened earlier, produced higher yields and had better flavor.**

Best cantaloupe varieties

Top choice
Aphrodite

Strong performers
Athena
Dakota Sisters
Goddess
Solstice
Superstar

Prefer Dakota Sisters (continued)

Dakota Sisters	4	☹	
Iroquois	2	☹	SC

I felt both varieties grew very small fruit. The melons were about the size of a softball and not as sweet as I would have liked them to be. *Dakota Sisters* produced more fruits.

Dakota Sisters	7	☺	
Iroquois	4	☹	NW

The seeds were direct sown right before the cold rains in June. All plants were stunted. *Dakota Sisters* was the only variety to get any sizable melons. I do think sowing indoors would have helped both varieties.

Dakota Sisters	5	☺	
Iroquois	4	☺	SW

These varieties did not do well in my garden. I have not had good luck with melons in general and when they produced, the melons were very small because they got going late. *Dakota Sisters* did better.

Dakota Sisters	8	☺	
Iroquois	7	☺	SW

These varieties performed similarly.

Dakota Sisters	7	☺	
Iroquois	3	☹	SW

Dakota Sisters germinated better, produced earlier, produced more melons and tasted better.

Dakota Sisters	8	☺	
Iroquois	7	☹	SD

This was not my best year for melons. I had trouble with powdery mildew late in the season. I had better luck growing *Dakota Sisters*.

Dakota Sisters	9	☺	
Iroquois	8	☺	MB

It was not a good year for melons. I had a very cool, wet spring for more than a month so heat-loving plants had a slow start and did not seem to grow much for a long time. I almost gave up on them ever blossoming. Both varieties produced only four full-sized melons. Later fruits that formed did not have a chance to develop before frost. I have grown *Dakota Sisters* in previous years and had a very good crop. *Dakota Sisters* melons had sweet flavor and nice texture although the melons of both varieties were good.

Prefer Iroquois

Dakota Sisters	6	☹	
Iroquois	7	☹	SE

Iroquois matured on August 27, 3 days before *Dakota Sisters*. *Iroquois* melons were larger. I would not recommend either variety because of the lack of good flavor. There was a slight amount of powdery mildew on the vines of both varieties in late August.

Dakota Sisters	8	☺	
Iroquois	9	☺	SE

Iroquois melons were much larger, sweeter and juicier. *Dakota Sisters* produced the first ripe melons but *Iroquois* produced higher yields. Even though we only had three plants emerge (two *Iroquois* and one *Dakota Sisters*), we got over 60 cantaloupe! They were delicious!

Dakota Sisters	6	☹	
Iroquois	10	☺	NC

Iroquois was very productive and its melons were more attractive. *Dakota Sisters* ripened earlier.

Dakota Sisters	6	☹	
Iroquois	8	☺	SW

Iroquois was sweeter whereas *Dakota Sisters* was mellower. *Iroquois* is a really good cantaloupe.

Conclusions

Dakota Sisters was the clear winner. It germinated better, ripened earlier, produced higher yields and had better flavor. Melons of both varieties were fairly small in size. Yields were reduced due to the cool, wet spring conditions. *Iroquois* did not excel in any trait.

Melons of both varieties were fairly small in size. Yields were reduced due to the cool, wet spring conditions.

Okra, Green

Varieties

Buffalo Bill 91

55 days. New! Open, nearly spineless plants are easy to harvest. Dark green pods stay tender.

Clemson Spineless 80

60 days. Dark green pods stay spineless and non-woody. High yields on 4-foot plants. Popular.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Buffalo Bill 91	Clemson Sp. 80	Same
Germinated best	33%	20%	**47%**
Healthier plants	23	23	**54**
Harvested earlier	**54**	23	23
Higher yields	**69**	15	15
More attractive pods	**54**	15	31
Tasted better	**38**	31	31
Preference	**69**	31	
Recommend (☺)	**100**	62	
Mean score[1]	**8.38**	7.08	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Buffalo Bill 91

Buffalo Bill 91 9 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 8 ☺ NE

Both varieties grew like crazy and we harvested well into the fall. The pods of *Buffalo Bill 91* were a little softer when harvested.

Buffalo Bill 91 9 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 7 ☹ SE

This was my first time growing okra so it was exciting to watch them grow and harvest. The plants of both varieties were very healthy. *Buffalo Bill 91* plants were ready to harvest first. Its pods were brighter green while the pods of Clemson Spineless had more of a yellow hue to them. *Clemson Spineless 80* pods were stringy, tough and harder to chew.

Buffalo Bill 91 9 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 8 ☺ SE

Buffalo Bill 91 produced slightly higher yields.

Buffalo Bill 91 9 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 8 ☺ SE

This was such a fun trial to grow. We were all amazed to see how well the plants grew! *Clemson Spineless 80* germinated better which made for more plants, but *Buffalo Bill 91* grew more pods per plant. We enjoyed *Buffalo Bill 91* because it didn't get as woody as quickly, although *Clemson Spineless 80* definitely grew larger pods. The pods of *Clemson Spineless 80* got spots on them at the end of the season.

Buffalo Bill 91 10 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 7 ☹ SE

Both varieties germinated at a rate of near 100%. *Buffalo Bill 91* produced about double the yield of *Clemson Spineless 80*. *Buffalo Bill 91* pods were deeper green in color and more slender. Whether pickled or cooked, *Buffalo Bill 91* pods tasted better. Its pods stayed very crunchy.

Buffalo Bill 91 8 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 5 ☺ NC

Buffalo Bill 91 had more uniform, straight fruits. It was better for pickling.

Every gardener recommended *Buffalo Bill 91.* The variety has dethroned our previous champion variety, *Clemson Spineless 80.*

Best green okra varieties

Top choice
Buffalo Bill 91

Strong performers
Clemson Spineless 80
Jambalaya

Prefer Buffalo Bill 91 (continued)

Buffalo Bill 91 9 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 8 ☹ NC

Both varieties were excellent and a gardener would not go wrong either way. However, with the shorter growing season having quicker germination and fruit production were major advantages for *Buffalo Bill 91*. *Buffalo Bill 91* produced significantly more pods. Its pods could grow bigger without being woody and tough, and the dark green coloring made it easy to spot okra growing on the stalk leaving less okra to become too woody to eat. The pods of both varieties were attractive with little scarring or blemishes.

Buffalo Bill 91 10 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 5 ☹ SC

Buffalo Bill 91 was a prolific producer. It had nice plants and prettier pods.

Buffalo Bill 91 8 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 2 ☹ SW

Clemson Spineless 80 didn't compare at all in germination and production.

Prefer Clemson Spineless 80

Buffalo Bill 91 8 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 9 ☺ NE

Buffalo Bill 91 produced a higher yield but *Clemson Spineless 80* pods were wider, softer and tasted better.

Buffalo Bill 91 7 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 8 ☺ SE

Clemson Spineless 80 had taller plants, produced higher yields and tasted better than *Buffalo Bill 91*. Neither variety had plants as nice as some other varieties we have grown.

Buffalo Bill 91 7 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 8 ☺ NC

This was our first experience growing okra. If harvested small, the pods of *Clemson Spineless 80* were more attractive and flavorful, but they got woody quickly. Its pods were straight, firmer and had more flavor. *Buffalo Bill 91* pods were curled sometimes but stayed tender longer.

Buffalo Bill 91 6 ☺
Clem. Spineless 80 9 ☺ SW

Both varieties germinated at a rate of 100%. Both varieties produced well, but *Clemson Spineless 80* produced 20% more. *Buffalo Bill 91* pods were darker green but a little more tough and woody.

Conclusions

Every gardener recommended *Buffalo Bill 91*. *Buffalo Bill 91* matured earlier and produced more pods. Its pods were deep green, very attractive and stayed tender. *Clemson Spineless 80* has always done well in our previous trials, but it was overmatched by *Buffalo Bill 91*.

Buffalo Bill 91 matured earlier and produced more pods. Its pods were deep green, very attractive and they stayed tender.

Key to Site Reports

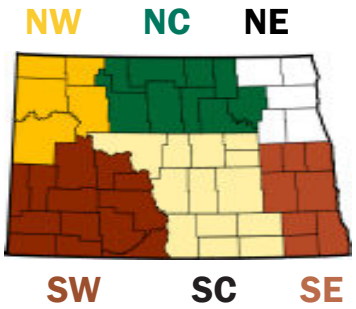
(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ***Garden type***

Variety A ☺ NC ***Location***
Variety B ☹

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ***Comments***

Garden types
= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations
MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Pumpkin, Midsize Orange

Varieties

Hawk

95 days. Dark orange, 18-pound fruits with ribs and sturdy handles. Semi-bush, productive vines.

Spartacus

100 days. New! Dark orange, uniform, 20-pound fruits with ribs. Semi-bush vines, high yields.

Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Hawk	Spartacus	Same
Germinated best	18%	14%	**68%**
Healthier plants	10	14	**76**
Harvested earlier	26	**42**	32
Higher yields	15	**55**	30
Bigger pumpkins	25	30	**45**
More attractive	20	30	**50**
Preference	32	**68**	
Recommend (☺)	74	**89**	
Mean score[1]	7.30	**8.00**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Hawk

Hawk 10 ☺ MN
Spartacus 8 ☹

Both varieties produced nice pumpkins that will be great for carving. These varieties were easy to grow once we got rid of the woodchuck problem. *Spartacus* pumpkins were smaller.

Hawk 10 ☺
Spartacus 9 ☺ NE

I sowed in pots and then transplanted the seedlings into the garden. *Hawk* pumpkins were taller and darker with slightly deeper grooves. *Spartacus* pumpkins were shorter and lighter orange than those of *Hawk*. *Hawk* is better for carving, and both varieties will be beautiful for fall decorating.

Hawk 10 ☺
Spartacus 9 ☺ SE

Hawk had more attractive fruits. Yields and the size of fruits were similar. Powdery mildew appeared on both varieties near Labor Day.

Hawk 8 ☺
Spartacus 7 ☺ NC

Hawk produced more and bigger pumpkins.

Hawk 8 ☺
Spartacus 6 ☺ SC

Hawk had better germination and bigger pumpkins.

Hawk 9 ☺
Spartacus 8 ☺ SD

Both varieties produced nice, average-sized pumpkins. *Hawk* pumpkins were more uniform in size and shape and more attractive.

Prefer Spartacus

Hawk 7 ☹
Spartacus 9 ☺ MN

Spartacus produced four times more pumpkins, and its pumpkins were larger.

Hawk 7 ☺
Spartacus 8 ☺ NE

Both varieties produced large pumpkins. *Spartacus* pumpkins turned orange sooner and produced a higher yield. The battle with the vines taking over the garden was a turn off.

Both varieties produced dark orange, beautiful pumpkins.

Best jack-o'-lantern varieties

Top choice
Early King

Strong performers
Autumn Gold
Bellatrix
Cargo
Cronus
Early Dakota Howden
Gladiator
Magic Lantern
Spartacus

Prefer Spartacus (continued)

Hawk	8	☹	
Spartacus	9	☺	SE

Spartacus produced a few more pumpkins, but both varieties were very good producers.

Hawk	8	☺	
Spartacus	9	☺	SE

Both varieties did very well, but my pumpkin pickers preferred the *Spartacus* because the fruit grew faster and bigger.

Hawk	6	☺	
Spartacus	7	☺	SE

Spartacus yields were okay and better than those of *Hawk*. *Spartacus* vines were healthier. My pumpkins didn't do very well this season.

Hawk	5	☺	-
Spartacus	8	☺	NC

Spartacus vines were healthier and produced more fruits.

Hawk	2	☹	
Spartacus	3	☹	SC

The pumpkins of *Spartacus* looked better than those of *Hawk*, but I was not happy with either one.

Hawk	7	☹	
Spartacus	9	☺	SC

I liked the rounder and more uniform shape of the *Spartacus* pumpkins. *Spartacus* produced 18 fruits compared to 10 for *Hawk*.

Hawk	2	☹	
Spartacus	7	☺	SC

Hawk had many flowers but fewer pumpkins. *Spartacus* pumpkins were more attractive. *Spartacus* matured earlier but the maturity rate for both varieties was long. I still have green pumpkins today [October 9]. The pumpkins of both varieties had a perfect size.

Hawk	7	☺	
Spartacus	8	☺	SC

Spartacus produced 53 fruits with an average of 23 pounds per fruit. *Hawk* produced 40 fruits with an average of 19 pounds per fruit. *Spartacus* matured a bit earlier. I wanted more even maturity out of both varieties.

Hawk	9	☺	
Spartacus	10	☺	NW

The plants of both varieties were very durable. As seedlings they withstood hail and freezing temps. We also had hail the size of golf balls in August, and they still managed to produce three pumpkins per variety. *Spartacus* had the first mature pumpkin.

Hawk	8	☺	
Spartacus	10	☺	SD

I preferred the more rounded shape and nice, thick stems of *Spartacus* pumpkins. They were beautiful and picture perfect for carving. *Spartacus* produced 37 pumpkins from five plants, an average of 7.4 pumpkins per plant. Its heaviest pumpkin was 31 pounds; its lightest pumpkin was 11 pounds; its average pumpkin weight was 21 pounds. *Hawk* produced 19 pumpkins from four plants, an average of 4.8 pumpkins per plant. Its heaviest pumpkin was 40 pounds; its lightest pumpkin was 8 pounds; its average pumpkin weight was 26 pounds. The vines of both varieties were vigorous.

Hawk	5	☺	-
Spartacus	6	☺	SD

The vines of both varieties were very vigorous. The pumpkins of both varieties ripened at the same time and were the same size. *Spartacus* produced a little better yield and its pumpkins had a nicer shape.

No Preference

Hawk	10	☺	
Spartacus	10	☺	SE

Both varieties did well!

Conclusions

Both varieties produced dark orange, beautiful pumpkins. Most gardeners preferred *Spartacus*. Its pumpkins turned orange sooner, and it produced a higher yield. *Spartacus* fruits were rounded while *Hawk* fruits were taller. The semi-bush vines of both varieties were more vigorous than expected.

Most gardeners preferred *Spartacus*. Its pumpkins turned orange sooner, and *Spartacus* produced a higher yield.

Pumpkin, Large Orange

Varieties

Everest

95 days. Dark orange, 40-pound fruits are round to slightly tall. Semi-bush vines resist diseases.

Gemini

90 days. Dark orange, 35-pound, round fruits. Ripens early. Semi-bush vines resist diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 28 sites submitted information.

Trait	Everest	Gemini	Same
Germinated best	22%	26%	**52%**
Healthier plants	27	19	**54**
Harvested earlier	32	27	**41**
Higher yields	29	29	**42**
Bigger pumpkins	36	18	**45**
More attractive	36	23	**41**
Preference	**55**	45	
Recommend (☺)	**87**	78	
Mean score[1]	**7.55**	7.36	
Median score[1]	7.50	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Everest

Everest 8 ☺
Gemini 7 ☹ MN

Everest was more prolific and had larger pumpkins. *Gemini* had powdery mildew and squash vine borers late in the season. *Everest* had less powdery mildew and no squash vine borers.

Everest 8 ☺
Gemini 6 ☺ SE

Everest had a better stand and its vines were more vigorous. *Everest* produced 11 pumpkins; *Gemini* produced 9 pumpkins. *Everest* pumpkins were taller and slightly bigger. They looked more inviting for making jack-o'-lanterns. *Gemini* pumpkins were more squat in shape.

Everest 10 ☺
Gemini 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties produced wonderfully. We did get a few more *Everest* pumpkins.

Everest 2 ☹
Gemini 1 ☹ SE

Everest produced only one fruit and it was very small. *Gemini* did not produce any fruits.

Everest 9 ☺
Gemini 8 ☺ NC

Everest produced larger pumpkins. *Gemini* produced more pumpkins.

Everest 8 ☺
Gemini 5 ☹ NC

Everest produced five pumpkins compared to two pumpkins for *Gemini*. Pumpkins of both varieties were small [only one fruit exceeded 10 pounds] and were just starting to turn color when they were harvested on October 7.

Everest 8 ☺
Gemini 6 ☺ SC

Gemini grew so fast and so strong! Both varieties were fruitful. *Everest* produced huge pumpkins!

Everest 9 ☺
Gemini 8 ☺ NW

Everest pumpkins had a more uniform size.

Everest pumpkins were bigger at more sites, but many gardeners were expecting larger fruits from both varieties.

Best large orange pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Big Moose

Strong performers
Dill's Atlantic Giant
Early Giant
Large Marge

Prefer Everest (continued)

Everest	7	☺	
Gemini	2	☹	SW

Everest outperformed *Gemini* in all categories except higher yield. *Everest* pumpkins were bigger. I was disappointed that each plant produced one pumpkin each. I also noticed there were not a lot of blossoms on either variety. I'm not sure exactly how big a large pumpkin is supposed to be, but I got two pumpkins that I would consider large.

Everest	9	☺	
Gemini	8	☺	SW

Both varieties were good. *Everest* produced 14 fruits and *Gemini* produced 11 fruits.

Everest	10	☺	
Gemini	8	☺	SD

Both varieties grew beautiful pumpkins that were round with flat bottoms. I loved these pumpkins. They had very consistent fruits perfect for a market gardener. I had more trouble with powdery mildew on the *Gemini* plants. This was not a good year for vine crops due to powdery mildew.

Prefer Gemini

Everest	5	☺	
Gemini	6	☺	SE

The vines were loaded in flowers and were good producers. I expected the pumpkins to be larger. *Gemini* vines were healthier.

Everest	6	☹	
Gemini	7	☹	SE

Gemini produced higher yields. Its fruits were bigger and more attractive. I was disappointed that neither variety produced large pumpkins. Powdery mildew appeared on Labor Day.

Everest	7	☺	-
Gemini	8	☺	NC

Gemini germinated quicker, matured earlier and produced higher yields. Its pumpkins were more attractive.

Everest	7	☹	
Gemini	8	☺	SC

Gemini pumpkins had a prettier shape for carving.

Everest	7	☺	
Gemini	10	☺	SC

Gemini germinated better. The varieties were equal in health, yield and fruit quality traits.

Everest	7	☺	
Gemini	9	☺	NW

Gemini produced more fruits and they were of bigger size. There was lots of powdery mildew in both varieties, less so with *Gemini*.

Both varieties were susceptible to powdery mildew.

Everest	7	☺	
Gemini	8	☺	SW

The pumpkins of both varieties had a nice, average size. Their leaves dried out earlier in the season than normal. *Gemini* had a higher yield and its pumpkins were more uniform in shape.

Everest	9	☺	
Gemini	10	☺	SW

Gemini produced slightly larger pumpkins. The pumpkins of both varieties had nice handles.

Everest	7	☺	
Gemini	9	☺	SW

Gemini was a much more compact plant with much greater, early production. *Everest* came on later with fewer fruit. This was a hot, dry and windy summer.

No Preference

Everest	8	☺	
Gemini	8	☺	NC

These varieties were similar. They both produced mid-sized, not large pumpkins.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Everest*. Its pumpkins were larger and judged to be more attractive by more gardeners. Many gardeners were expecting larger fruits from both varieties. Both varieties were susceptible to powdery mildew.

Pumpkin, Gray

Varieties

Blue Doll

110 days. Blocky, deeply ribbed pumpkins. Large vines produce heavy yields of 15-pound fruits. Sweet flesh for pies and soups.

Blue Ice

100 days. Big, 30-pound fruits ripen to a soft blue-gray color. Edible flesh. Resists diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 26 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blue Doll	Blue Ice	Same
Germinated best	40%	12%	**48%**
Healthier plants	35	26	**39**
Harvested earlier	29	**38**	33
Higher yields	39	**43**	17
Bigger pumpkins	**48**	35	17
More attractive	**42**	29	29
Preference	**57**	43	
Recommend (☺)	**83**	79	
Mean score[1]	**7.25**	6.75	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Blue Doll

Blue Doll 5 ☹ 
Blue Ice 2 ☹ SE

Blue Doll was better in all traits including yield. Neither variety produced many pumpkins, and their pumpkins were small.

Blue Doll 7 ☺ 
Blue Ice 2 ☹ SE

Blue Ice did not produce any fruits.

Blue Doll 7 ☺ 
Blue Ice 6 ☺ SE

Blue Doll had larger fruits. The pumpkins of both varieties were fairly small, but I planted late [June 8]. Both varieties seemed to be affected by squash vine borers.

Blue Doll 9 ☺ 
Blue Ice 8 ☺ NC

The colors of both varieties were beautiful. I decorated with them and received many compliments. *Blue Doll* pumpkins had a larger size, great color and were more attractive.

Blue Doll 9 ☺ 
Blue Ice 4 ☹ NC

Blue Doll produced more than twice as many pumpkins. Its pumpkins were larger and their color was nicer.

Blue Doll 8 ☺ -
Blue Ice 7 ☺ NC

Both varieties were great. *Blue Doll* fruits were bigger and their skins had a beautiful texture.

Blue Doll 10 ☺ 
Blue Ice 6 ☺ SC

These are the coolest looking pumpkins! They had a pretty blue/green color. *Blue Doll* vines were healthier and produced higher yields and bigger fruits.

Blue Doll 10 ☺ 
Blue Ice 9 ☺ SC

Both varieties grew well and produced a good number of pumpkins. Their fruits were easy to tell apart because *Blue Doll* pumpkins had more wrinkles and warts. *Blue Ice* pumpkins were smooth in appearance. I prefer the wrinkled, warty appearance of *Blue Doll*. The pumpkins of both varieties were wonderful for fall decorations as well as for making good pumpkin pie and other pumpkin treats.

Most gardeners preferred *Blue Doll*. Its pumpkins were larger, and gardeners loved the look of its deeply ribbed fruits.

Best gray pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Blue Doll

Strong performer
Jarrahdale

Prefer Blue Doll (continued)

Blue Doll	8	☺	
Blue Ice	7	☺	SC

Blue Doll had healthier vines that produced a slightly higher yield of nice pumpkins. *Blue Doll* had the longest vines searching for fences. The largest pumpkin was outside the fence and was kicked in by a deer.

Blue Doll	9	☺	
Blue Ice	7	☺	SC

Blue Doll had 47 fruits with an average of 17.0 pounds. *Blue Ice* produced 44 fruits with an average of 14.3 pounds. I liked the deeper ribs of *Blue Doll*, which made it a nice farmstand item. *Blue Ice* was a popular seller, too. It was useful for flower arranging. *Blue Doll* fruits were generally too big for flower/pumpkin table centerpieces. *Blue Ice* fruits had a lot of variation in shape; some were squatty, some were flatter. We had about 7 off-type fruits that were blocky, smooth-ribbed and speckled with more green than blue, but still pretty and sold in our farmstand. *Blue Doll* fruits were incredibly thick walled. I made one into pie. There was very little waste. It was a challenge to cut open; I recommend a hatchet or power tool.

Blue Doll	10	☺	
Blue Ice	4	☹	SC

We had extensive deer damage to all pumpkin plants in early July, but *Blue Doll* rebounded and still produced fruit despite the damage. If we had not had the damage, I expect we would have had a great yield from *Blue Doll*.

Blue Doll	6	☺	
Blue Ice	4	☹	SW

Blue Doll had healthier vines and earlier yields. Its fruits were bigger and more attractive. I should have sown this trial a lot earlier [sowed June 1].

Blue Doll	9	☺	
Blue Ice	8	☺	SW

Blue Doll germinated better; otherwise they were very similar.

Prefer Blue Ice

Blue Doll	6	☺	
Blue Ice	8	☺	MN

Blue Doll had larger yields and appeared to be more viny but had fewer fruits. *Blue Ice* did the best with more ripe and larger fruits. Production was low in this trial. There was too much rain and not enough heat.

Blue Doll	7	☺	
Blue Ice	8	☺	MN

Neither variety was super prolific, but the colors of both varieties were gorgeous. *Blue Ice* produced more pumpkins. I had some squash vine borers on other varieties but both of these gray pumpkin varieties were pest free.

Blue Doll	7	☹	
Blue Ice	8	☺	MN

Blue Ice overall did better in yield and size. It produced beautiful, gray-blue/green pumpkins.

Blue Doll	1	☹	
Blue Ice	5	☺	NE

Blue Doll vines were less healthy and had no fruits.

Blue Doll	6	N	
Blue Ice	8	☺	SE

Blue Ice pumpkins ripened better and had bigger fruits. *Blue Doll* had a higher yield and its pumpkins looked more attractive.

Blue Doll	6	☺	
Blue Ice	8	☺	SC

Blue Ice had better production.

Blue Doll	7	☺	
Blue Ice	8	☺	SC

This was a fun trial; the pumpkins were huge and incredibly heavy. The vines actually grew up my tomato cages and into my neighbors pine trees. *Blue Ice* pumpkins were slightly larger and heavier.

Blue Doll	5	☺	
Blue Ice	9	☺	SC

Blue Ice ripened earlier, produced better, and the plants took up less space.

***Blue Ice* ripened earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites.**

Prefer Blue Ice (continued)

Blue Doll	6	☹	
Blue Ice	8	☺	SW

Both varieties had 100% germination. The plants were big, full and vigorous with leaves as large as dinner plates. *Blue Ice* was fun to grow. Its pumpkins were a nice size and not too big. They had a unique color and shape.

Blue Doll	8	☺	
Blue Ice	10	☺	SW

Blue Ice fruits had a better shape.

No Preference

Blue Doll	8	☺	
Blue Ice	8	☺	SW

It was hard to differentiate much difference in these varieties. *Blue Doll* germinated better. *Blue Ice* produced a higher yield.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Blue Doll*. Its pumpkins were larger, and gardeners loved the look of its deeply ribbed fruits. *Blue Ice* ripened earlier and produced a higher yield at more sites. The pumpkins of both varieties were wonderful for fall decorations as well as for making pumpkin treats. The vines of both varieties were healthy and vigorous but not especially productive.

The pumpkins of both varieties were wonderful for fall decorations as well as for making pumpkin treats.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A
Variety B

Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
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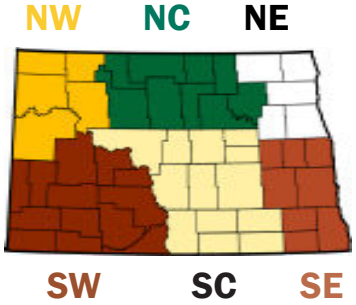
- = Not specified



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Pumpkin, White

Varieties

Abominable

110 days. New! True white, 16-pound pumpkins with contrasting dark green stems. Resists diseases.

Stella Luna

95 days. Very attractive, round, 14-pound fruits. Ripens early and produces heavy yields. Full vines.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Abominable	Stella Luna	Same
Germinated best	**62%**	10%	29%
Healthier plants	42	5	**53**
Harvested earlier	**72**	17	11
Higher yields	**78**	17	6
Bigger pumpkins	**74**	16	11
More attractive	**63**	21	16
Preference	**79**	21	
Recommend (☺)	**89**	26	
Mean score[1]	**8.00**	4.84	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	5.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Abominable

Abominable	9	☺	
Stella Luna	2	☹	MN

Abominable scored much better in all areas. It produced over 20 fruits compared to only 2 for *Stella Luna*. Many of the *Abominable* fruits were large and very nice.

Abominable	8	☺	
Stella Luna	1	☹	SE

Stella Luna did not produce any pumpkins. Powdery mildew appeared on both varieties near Labor Day.

Abominable	8	☺	-
Stella Luna	2	☹	NC

Abominable matured earlier. It produced more fruits and bigger fruits. Only one seed of *Stella Luna* germinated.

Abominable	10	☺	
Stella Luna	7	☹	NC

Abominable had excellent germination. The pumpkins produced were very nicely shaped and had a nice size. I would definitely grow *Abominable* again!

Abominable	6	☺	
Stella Luna	2	☹	SC

Abominable was better in all traits. I harvested only four pumpkins in total, three of which were *Abominable*.

Abominable	9	☺	
Stella Luna	6	☹	SC

Abominable pumpkins had a nicer shape. Hail damage caused rot on *Stella Luna* pumpkins.

Abominable	10	☺	
Stella Luna	6	☹	SC

Abominable plants were taller and rounder like a dome and *Stella Luna* plants spread out and took up twice as much space. It was easier to weed around *Abominable* than *Stella Luna*. *Abominable* had fruits the size of golf balls before *Stella Luna* flowered. *Abominable* produced about twice as much as *Stella Luna*.

***Abominable* scored much better in all traits. *Abominable* matured earlier. It produced more fruits and bigger fruits.**

Best white pumpkin varieties

Top choice
Abominable

Strong performers
Polar Bear
Casperita

Prefer Abominable (continued)

Abominable	8	☺	
Stella Luna	5	☹	SC

Both varieties had near 100% germination and very vigorous vines. Their pumpkins were very nice for decorating. *Abominable* produced nicely while *Stella Luna* did not produce very well.

Abominable	9	☺	
Stella Luna	5	☹	SC

I had trouble with *Stella Luna* molding.

Abominable	7	☺	
Stella Luna	5	☺	SC

Vines of both varieties appeared healthy, but *Stella Luna* had several fruits rot on the vines. *Abominable* produced 32 fruits with an average of 7.1 pounds and weights ranging from 2 to 14 pounds. *Stella Luna* produced 22 fruits with an average of 6.8 pounds and weights ranging from 1 to 12 pounds. *Abominable* had more even maturity and stayed true white. I liked the contrast with its dark green stem. These stems cured to a white/tan/yellow color. *Stella Luna* was a good, squatty option for flower arrangements.

Abominable	10	☺	
Stella Luna	8	☹	NW

I like the traditional look of the *Abominable* pumpkins. The smooth rind of *Stella Luna* wasn't my favorite nor was its stem.

Abominable	9	☺	
Stella Luna	5	☹	SW

Abominable produced more fruits, larger fruits and a higher yield. Its pumpkins had a nicer shape and its handles were erect. *Stella Luna* pumpkins were more squat in shape and its handles were hard to grasp.

Abominable	9	☺	
Stella Luna	4	☹	SW

Abominable was better all around, including bigger pumpkins. *Stella Luna* germinated poorly.

Abominable	7	☺	
Stella Luna	1	☹	SW

I only harvested one ripe, perfect pumpkin; it was from *Abominable*. *Stella Luna* did not begin to set fruits until the end of September; these fruits were small and misshapen. This was a weird year all around.

Prefer Stella Luna

Abominable	7	☹	
Stella Luna	9	☺	NE

Stella Luna produced quite a few more pumpkins than *Abominable*. *Stella Luna* pumpkins were more rounded and cute; they stayed white. *Abominable* pumpkins had more of a standard jack-o'-lantern shape. Several *Abominable* fruits had cracking around the stem; they yellowed as the season ended making them more cream than white in color.

Abominable	7	☺	
Stella Luna	8	☺	SE

Stella Luna produced more and bigger pumpkins. The vines of *Abominable* were fuller and more vigorous.

Abominable	6	☺	
Stella Luna	7	☺	SE

Stella Luna grew better.

Abominable	6	☹	-
Stella Luna	8	☺	SE

Stella Luna produced slightly larger pumpkins and a slightly larger yield.

Conclusions

Abominable scored much better in all traits. *Abominable* germinated better and matured earlier. It produced more fruits and bigger fruits. *Abominable* pumpkins were true white with beautiful, contrasting dark green handles. The performance of *Stella Luna* was disappointing in all facets including germination, fruit quality and yield.

***Abominable* pumpkins were true white with beautiful, contrasting dark green handles.**

Squash, Gray Zucchini

Varieties

Hurakan

50 days. Big yields of shiny fruits. Sweet flavor and creamy texture makes it popular in Latin dishes.

Mexicana

48 days. Open plants produce early and heavy yields. Uniform, slightly bulbous fruits have appealing texture and flavor.

Data

Gardeners at 12 sites submitted information.

Trait	Hurakan	Mexicana	Same
Germinated best	0%	33%	**67%**
Healthier plants	0	30	**70**
Harvested earlier	20	**60**	20
Higher yields	10	**50**	40
More attractive fruits	0	40	**60**
Tasted better	20	10	**70**
Preference	30	**70**	
Recommend	45	**91**	
Mean score[1]	7.55	**8.18**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**9.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Hurakan

Hurakan 9 ☺
Mexicana 8 ☺ SE

Hurakan fruits were skinnier, less bulbous in shape, so it had smaller seeds. Both varieties had minimal powdery mildew, which was great.

Hurakan 9 ☺
Mexicana 7 ☺ SE

These varieties had similar yields. Their fruits looked similar. *Hurakan* had better flavor compared to *Mexicana*.

Hurakan 9 ☺ -
Mexicana 8 ☺ NW

The flavor of *Hurakan* was slightly milder.

Prefer Mexicana

Hurakan 8 ☺
Mexicana 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties were attacked by squash vine borers, but to my surprise most of the plants bounced back after I cut into the stems and dug out the insects. We got good yields from both varieties. *Mexicana* had a slight edge for its superior health and earliness.

Hurakan 8 ☺
Mexicana 9 ☺ NC

These varieties were easy to germinate and grow. *Mexicana* was easier to harvest. The fruits of both varieties were tasty, but I preferred the texture of *Mexicana* fruits. *Hurakan* fruits had a better shelf life.

Hurakan 7 ☹
Mexicana 9 ☺ SC

Mexicana produced well before *Hurakan*, and its fruits tasted better. *Hurakan* produced higher yields.

Hurakan 8 ☹
Mexicana 10 ☺ NW

Mexicana had a higher yield and better fruit color.

Hurakan 8 ☹
Mexicana 9 ☺ SW

Mexicana produced earlier and higher yields. Its fruits were more attractive.

***Mexicana* produced an earlier harvest and higher yields overall. Its fruits were more attractive to many gardeners.**

Best gray zucchini variety

Top choice
Mexicana

Prefer Mexicana (continued)

Hurakan	6 ★★★☆☆	☹	
Mexicana	8 ★★★★☆	☺	SW

Mexicana grew better and its squash had a nice size. Both varieties were affected by a lack of moisture.

Hurakan	7 ★★★★☆	☹	
Mexicana	9 ★★★★★	☺	SW

Mexicana had bigger plants and more yield. It held up better in the heat and performed better overall.

No Preference

Hurakan	4 ★★☆☆☆	☹	
Mexicana	4 ★★☆☆☆	☹	SE

I am not a fan of either variety. Both were affected by the squash vine borer. Both had quite small plants and didn't produce much fruit. My other zucchini in the same area didn't do well this year either but didn't seem to be affected by the squash vine borer.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Mexicana*. It produced an earlier harvest and higher yields overall. *Mexicana* fruits were more attractive to many gardeners. A few gardeners noted the mild flavor of *Hurakan*, but most gardeners did not recommend the variety.

A few gardeners noted the mild flavor of *Hurakan*, but most gardeners did not recommend the variety.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A	★★★★☆	☺	
Variety B	★★☆☆☆	☹	NC ← ***Garden type***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

← ***Location***

← ***Comments***

Garden types

= Organic

= Uses inorganic fertilizers

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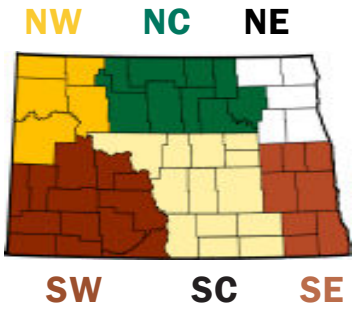
- = Not specified



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Squash, Green Zucchini

Varieties

Dunja

47 days. Disease-resistant vines produce lots of glossy fruits. The open plants are easy to harvest.

Kefren

50 days. New! Open plant habit, sparse spines, and firmly attached stems make harvesting a breeze.

Data

Gardeners at 31 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dunja	Kefren	Same
Germinated best	8%	24%	**68%**
Healthier plants	23	12	**65**
Harvested earlier	27	27	**46**
Higher yields	35	27	**38**
More attractive fruits	31	19	**50**
Tasted better	16	16	**68**
Preference	**57**	43	
Recommend (☺)	78	**85**	
Mean score[1]	**7.77**	7.54	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Dunja

Dunja	6	☺	-
Kefren	5	☹	SE

Dunja performed better for all traits. I was slightly disappointed with the germination of both varieties but this may be due to the weather.

Dunja	10	☺	
Kefren	8	☺	SE

Both varieties have been great and haven't slowed the constant production of more zukes! I haven't seen a speck of mildew on either yet (October 7), and I stuffed the plants super close together this year—I hate thinning healthy baby plants. *Dunja* produced more fruits, and its fruits were prettier.

Dunja	8	☺	
Kefren	7	☺	SE

Dunja fruits had better flavor and texture than *Kefren* fruits. *Kefren* was easier to harvest compared to *Dunja*.

Dunja	8	☺	
Kefren	6	☺	SE

Dunja was better overall, including better tasting. Both varieties were attacked by squash vine borers and we lost several plants, though I was able to save a few.

Dunja	9	☺	
Kefren	7	☺	SC

Dunja vines had slightly darker leaves and produced more fruits. Both varieties did well.

Dunja	9	☺	
Kefren	8	☺	SC

Dunja produced a high yield all season.

Dunja	10	☺	
Kefren	8	☺	SC

These were super productive varieties. *Dunja* had a straight fruit while *Kefren* tended to develop a bulb at the end. There was no difference in their tastes. At the end of the season we saw more powdery mildew on *Kefren*.

Gardeners were pleased with both varieties. They rated *Dunja* and *Kefren* similarly for all traits.

Best green zucchini varieties

Top choice
- Green Machine

Strong performers
- Cashflow
- Desert
- Dunja
- Payload
- Raven
- Spineless Beauty

Prefer Dunja (continued)

Dunja 10 ☺ SC
Kefren 8 ☺

Dunja was very productive. Its plants stayed healthy late into the growing season.

Dunja 8 ☺ SC
Kefren 7 ☺

Dunja produced fruit a few days earlier. Both varieties appeared to have limited resistance to diseases. Neither variety is a good as *Green Tiger*, which is the standard zucchini I grow every year.

Dunja 10 ☺ SW
Kefren 9 ☺

These are bush-type zucchinis with compact plants and very little difference between them. *Dunja* had more uniform fruit. This trial was grown in a hoop house, so it was a more controlled environment with consistent watering.

Dunja 9 ☺ SW
Kefren 8 ☺

Dunja tasted better.

Dunja 7 ☹ SW
Kefren 5 ☹

Kefren plants were smaller and seemed to struggle. My gray zucchini plants were much bigger and better producers.

Dunja 9 ☺ SD
Kefren 8 ☺

Both varieties were great. *Dunja* seemed a little less susceptible to powdery mildew.

Prefer Kefren

Dunja 4 ☹ SE
Kefren 7 ☺

Kefren plants were much larger and produced a more plentiful harvest. *Kefren* fruit were longer, thinner and better looking. *Dunja* fruit were short and fat.

Dunja 7 ☺ SE
Kefren 8 ☺

Kefren germinated better and produced earlier. I found no difference in taste with the smaller fruits of these varieties. These varieties worked better in my garden than the seeds I have bought at the store and grown in past years.

Dunja 7 ☹ NC
Kefren 8 ☺

Kefren produced bigger squash and more squash.

Dunja 8 ☺ SC
Kefren 10 ☺

Both varieties were very nice, but *Kefren* was more productive. *Kefren* germinated quicker but *Dunja* caught up. *Dunja* had more fruits that rotted while still small.

Dunja 9 ☺ SC
Kefren 10 ☺

Zucchini grows exceptionally well in my garden. Both varieties had huge plants. *Kefren* produced more fruits.

Dunja 8 ☺ -
Kefren 9 ☺ NW

These varieties were very similar in all traits. Their fruits were tender and delicious even when they got big.

Dunja 9 ☺ NW
Kefren 10 ☺

I preferred the color of *Kefren* fruits.

Dunja 9 ☺ SW
Kefren 10 ☺

I preferred the taste of *Kefren*.

Dunja 5 ☹ SD
Kefren 6 ☺

Kefren produced earlier yields, higher yields and tasted better. *Dunja* vines were healthier and its fruits were more attractive.

Their vines were compact with an open habit, making them easy to harvest. Yields of both varieties were abundant.

Prefer Kefren (continued)

Dunja	7 ☺	SK
Kefren	8 ☺	SK

This trial was planted between some corn. Both varieties produced well, but *Kefren* was slightly better all around.

No Preference

Dunja	2 ☹	SC
Kefren	2 ☹	SC

The performance of these varieties was identical. Both varieties produced a lot of blossoms but the fruits aborted when they were 3 inches long.

Dunja	6 ☹	SC
Kefren	6 ☹	SC

The vines of both varieties stayed small. Each variety produced one zucchini. The fruits turned yellow before they got any larger than a cucumber.

Dunja	8 ☺	SW
Kefren	8 ☺	SW

As it seems with all zucchini, these varieties were very prolific. They did quite well despite the heat and drought. Both varieties produced quite well all the way up to the time I pulled them. Their fruits were more slender than those of traditional zucchini. Also, I grew these for the seeds as well as the flesh. The fruits I grew for seeds I let get really mature. When I wanted one to eat for seeds, I had plenty of tender young fruits as well.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with both varieties. They rated *Dunja* and *Kefren* similarly for all traits. Their vines were compact with an open habit, making them easy to harvest. Yields of both varieties were abundant. *Dunja* was preferred by most gardeners. *Dunja* vines were extremely productive and stayed healthy late into the growing season.

Dunja was preferred by most gardeners. _Dunja_ vines were extremely productive and stayed healthy late into the growing season.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A	★★★★☆	☺	↙ ***Garden type***
Variety B	★★☆☆☆	☹	NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

- = Organic
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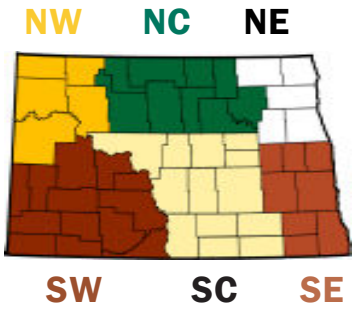

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Squash, Yellow Summer Org.

Varieties

Butterfingers

52 days. New! Semi-open, spineless plants produce big yields of quality fruit over a long harvest period.

Goldfinch

50 days. Steady yields of beautiful, tender squash are perched on a long, central stem. Open plants are easy to harvest.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Butter-fingers	Gold-finch	Same
Germinated best	25%	25%	**50%**
Healthier plants	**33**	**33**	**33**
Harvested earlier	**58**	33	8
Higher yields	**50**	**50**	0
More attractive fruits	**42**	17	**42**
Tasted better	25	8	**67**
Preference	**69**	31	
Recommend	**93**	71	
Mean score[1]	**7.85**	7.15	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Butterfingers

Butterfingers 7 ☺
Goldfinch 6 ☺ SE

Less than half of the seeds emerged due to tough growing conditions this spring. *Butterfingers* was easier to harvest and produced higher yields. Its smaller fruits worked well for stir frying. *Butterfingers* fruits were tender enough when harvested small but would develop tougher flesh than *Goldfinch* fruits when more mature.

Butterfingers 9 ☺
Goldfinch 8 ☺ SE

Goldfinch grew and produced better, but I preferred the taste and slender, soft skin/look of *Butterfingers* fruits. The fruits of both varieties were delicious. Squash beetles took a toll on some of the plants, in particular the *Butterfingers* plants.

Butterfingers 9 ☺
Goldfinch 8 ☹ NC

More seeds of *Butterfingers* germinated. *Butterfingers* produced more fruits and they were tasty.

Butterfingers 9 ☺
Goldfinch 7 ☹ SC

Butterfingers produced the first fruits. Its fruits were more attractive and tasted better. *Goldfinch* produced higher yields, but a high number of the fruits had blossom end rot. *Goldfinch* fruits had tougher skin.

Butterfingers 9 ☺
Goldfinch 7 ☺ SC

Butterfingers had smaller fruits and was very prolific.

Butterfingers 8 ☺
Goldfinch 5 ☹ SC

Butterfingers germinated better, had healthier plants and produced higher yields.

The vines of both varieties were healthy and productive.

Best straightneck summer squash varieties

Top choice
Slick Pik YS 26

Strong performers
Butterfingers
Fortune
Multipik
Zephyr

Prefer Butterfingers (continued)

Butterfingers	10	☺	
Goldfinch	8	☺	NW

Butterfingers plants stayed healthy and productive until frost. They were loaded with fruits. I preferred the smoother, thinner and more tender skin of *Butterfingers* fruits.

Butterfingers	8	☺	
Goldfinch	5	☺	SW

Butterfingers plants stayed more upright than *Goldfinch* plants. *Goldfinch* produced higher yields. *Goldfinch* fruits had smoother skin but bruised more easily.

Butterfingers	10	☺	
Goldfinch	9	☹	SD

Both varieties were great. Both varieties had very good flavor. *Butterfingers* had more resistance to the powdery mildew. *Butterfingers* produced more perfect, marketable fruits.

Prefer Goldfinch

Butterfingers	7	☺	
Goldfinch	8	☺	SE

Goldfinch fruits had a softer, more palatable skin.

Butterfingers	5	☺	
Goldfinch	7	☺	NC

Goldfinch handled the cool spring better. It germinated first and had the first nice squash. *Goldfinch* had lots of blooms while *Butterfingers* was slow blooming. The fruits of both varieties looked and tasted fine.

Butterfingers	5	☹	
Goldfinch	8	☺	NW

Goldfinch produced earlier and gave a higher yield. It germinated quicker and developed into fuller plants with larger leaves. *Goldfinch* fruits were a bit larger.

Butterfingers	6	☺	-
Goldfinch	7	☺	SD

Both varieties produced a great yield and *Goldfinch* produced more. I did not notice a difference in the taste of these varieties.

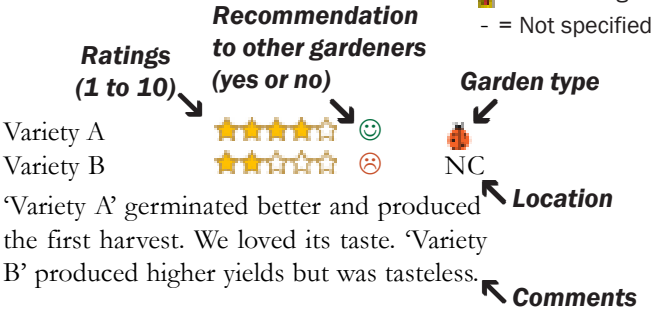
Conclusions

The vines of both varieties were healthy and productive. Most gardeners preferred *Butterfingers* and nearly every gardener recommended it. *Butterfingers* vines produced the first fruits. Many gardeners felt *Butterfingers* fruits were more attractive and tasted better than *Goldfinch* fruits.

Butterfingers vines produced the first fruits. Many gardeners felt _Butterfingers_ fruits were more attractive and tasted better than _Goldfinch_ fruits.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



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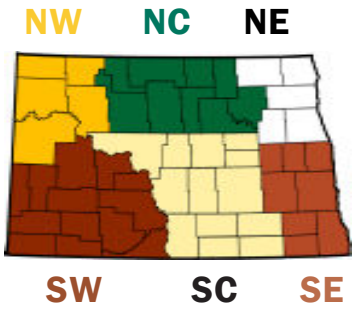

Locations

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Squash, Orange Kabocha

Varieties

Madonna

95 days. New! Orange-red, 3-pound fruits are great for single servings. Short, productive vines.

Sunshine

95 days. Attractive, 4-pound fruits have sweet, smooth flesh. Great for baking, mashing and pies. Short vines. All-America Selections winner.

Data

Gardeners at 35 sites submitted information.

Trait	Madonna	Sunshine	Same
Germinated best	30%	18%	**52%**
Healthier plants	20	17	**63**
Harvested earlier	32	26	**42**
Higher yields	**53**	27	20
More attractive fruits	19	29	**52**
Tasted better	26	22	**52**
Preference	**53**	47	
Recommend	**76**	73	
Mean score[1]	**7.67**	7.48	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Madonna

Madonna 7 ☺
Sunshine 6 ☹ MN

Madonna fruits were much larger but fewer in number. *Sunshine* had smaller fruits but produced a higher yield overall. *Sunshine* fruits were cute and more decorative.

Madonna 2 ☹
Sunshine 1 ☹ MN

I only got three fruits from *Madonna* and one fruit from *Sunshine*. *Madonna* produced earlier. This was not a good year for pumpkins, squash and tomatoes. There was too much rain and not enough heat.

Madonna 9 ☺
Sunshine 8 ☺ NE

Madonna was ready to harvest a couple days earlier. It produced a higher yield and had more attractive fruits. The fruits of both varieties looked nice in fall yard displays. I roasted and mashed both and tried in "pumpkin" recipes. They tasted very good, and I will grow them in my garden again!

Madonna 8 ☺
Sunshine 7 ☺ MN

Madonna produced a few more fruits.

Madonna 10 ☺
Sunshine 9 ☺ SE

Madonna fruits had distinct fruits with deep and white ribs that were very cute. *Madonna* produced slightly higher yields.

Madonna 9 ☺
Sunshine 5 ☺ SE

Madonna germinated much better (about twice as many plants) and grew much better, so its yield was much better. *Sunshine* tasted slightly sweeter though, but both tasted good.

Madonna 10 ☺
Sunshine 6 ☹ SE

Madonna produced three times as many squash. *Madonna* fruits were better and bigger, and they were ready to harvest sooner. The taste of the fruits of both varieties was so creamy.

***Sunshine* has been a strong performer in our trials for years, but this year it met its match in *Madonna*.**

Best kabocha squash varieties

Top choice
Delica

Strong performers
Madonna
Pink Panther
Red Kuri
Speckled Hound
Sunshine
Sweet Mama

Prefer Madonna (continued)

Madonna	10	☺	
Sunshine	7	☹	NC

Both varieties were fantastic producers of fruit. *Madonna* produced more fruits, and its fruits were better looking.

Madonna	9	☺	-
Sunshine	8	☹	SC

Madonna produced 16 fruits; they were mid-sized. *Sunshine* produced 8 fruits; they were large. The *Madonna* fruits were a better size for our use. The fruits of both varieties tasted good. *Madonna* tasted sweeter and *Sunshine* tasted drier.

Madonna	10	☺	
Sunshine	7	☹	SC

Madonna produced a higher yield and tasted better.

Madonna	8	☺	
Sunshine	5	☺	SC

Madonna had a higher yield and was very tasty.

Madonna	10	☺	
Sunshine	9	☺	SC

Madonna produced more fruits and more pounds. I harvested 163 pounds of *Madonna* compared to 75 pounds of *Sunshine*. I liked the orange color and even shape of the fruits of these varieties.

Madonna	9	☺	
Sunshine	7	☹	SC

Madonna was extremely productive. There were four to even five times as many harvestable fruits compared to *Sunshine* (there were still some *Sunshine* fruits ripening that would have been ready had the frost not gotten to them). *Madonna* was only slightly more flavorful to me. I also prefer the smaller single-serving size of them opposed to the larger *Sunshine* fruits.

Madonna	10	☺	
Sunshine	8	☺	NW

Madonna had healthier plants and higher yields. The flesh of *Madonna* fruits had a creamier texture. The flesh of *Sunshine* fruits had a more traditional, drier texture.

Madonna	10	☺	
Sunshine	7	☹	NW

Madonna plants outnumbered *Sunshine* three to one. This likely led to its higher yields. *Madonna* started to set fruit 2 weeks earlier. I preferred the smaller size and flat-bottomed shape of *Madonna* fruits. The flesh of *Madonna* was more moist and smoother in texture compared to that of *Sunshine*.

Madonna	7	☺	
Sunshine	6	☺	SW

Although *Sunshine* produced a higher yield, *Madonna* had bigger fruit.

Madonna	10	☺	
Sunshine	9	☺	SW

The plants were very healthy and large. They grew almost to the ceiling of my hoop house (more than 10 feet) and trailed over 12 feet along the side. The vines are still growing and blooming as of October 30. *Madonna* fruits had better flavor.

Prefer Sunshine

Madonna	7	☹	
Sunshine	9	☺	MN

Sunshine produced fruit about 10 days earlier than *Madonna*, but *Madonna* was much more productive. *Madonna* outproduced *Sunshine* nearly 3 to 1. *Sunshine* had better flavor. *Madonna* was very bland. We are hopeful this was just one bad sample. I have grown *Sunshine* before and it was more productive in the past. If later taste tests of *Madonna* have better flavor, I may also recommend it because it was very productive.

Madonna	7	☺	
Sunshine	8	☺	NE

I liked the smoother look of *Sunshine* fruits. The fruits of both varieties had beautiful, orange-red coloring. I couldn't tell a difference in taste.

Both varieties were productive, but the yields of *Madonna* were amazing.

Prefer Sunshine (continued)

Madonna	5	☹	
Sunshine	6	☺	SE

We grew these two varieties in town in a raised garden bed. Due to limited space, I brought the leftover seeds home and sowed them in my personal garden. What a difference! Though the plants in town in the raised bed did fine, and both varieties yielded similar quantities of petite squash, the ones in my personal garden became monsters! They can sure vine and boy, I was not expecting them to create a jungle! I've never grown such monstrous squash vines before! They were excellent hide-and-go-seek spots for children! Of the squash grown in town in the raised garden beds, *Sunshine* seemed to have healthier plants. We did have disease issues.

Madonna	7	☺	
Sunshine	8	☺	SC

Sunshine fruits had a smoother skin.

Madonna	6	☹	
Sunshine	8	☺	SC

Sunshine had better germination and better production.

Madonna	8	☺	
Sunshine	9	☺	SC

The plants of these varieties grew equally well. *Sunshine* fruits were a little larger.

Madonna	4	☹	
Sunshine	10	☺	SC

Sunshine germinated better, produced higher yields and had more attractive fruits.

Madonna	7	☺	
Sunshine	8	☺	SC

Hail in early August caused the plants to become diseased which may have affected this trial. I prefer *Sunshine* based on my past experience as its vines are a bit more compact than those of *Madonna*. Some vines of *Madonna* grew at least 10 feet long. I was not able to fully evaluate the taste as I haven't tasted enough of them to make a determination.

Madonna	8	☺	
Sunshine	9	☺	SW

Sunshine had slightly better flavor and texture. Perhaps the taste of *Madonna* will improve during storage. *Sunshine* fruits ripened earlier but *Madonna* produced nearly twice as many fruits.

Madonna	8	☺	
Sunshine	10	☺	SD

Every seed of both varieties germinated and the plants grew well. *Sunshine* vines were less rampant and produced larger fruits. The color of *Sunshine* fruits was absolutely beautiful; it was deep orange with some almost looking red. The fruits of both varieties were excellent in flavor, but I preferred the somewhat sweeter, slightly smoky taste of *Sunshine*. *Sunshine* produced 35 fruits on three plants. Its largest squash weighed 10.0 pounds; its smallest squash weighed 3.8 pounds; its average squash weighed 5.6 pounds. *Madonna* produced 97 fruits on five plants. Its largest squash weighed 9.2 pounds; its lightest squash weighed 1.8 pounds; its average squash weighed 3.7 pounds.

Gardeners were pleased with the beautiful, orange-red color of these fruits.

Madonna	7	☺	
Sunshine	8	☺	SD

Both varieties grew well despite the drought conditions!

Madonna	7	☹	
Sunshine	9	☺	SD

Both varieties germinated on the same day, had healthy plants and were covered with blossoms. I can't believe the amount of fruits they produced. *Sunshine* was more productive and its fruits developed faster.

Madonna	6	☹	
Sunshine	9	☺	SD

I have grown *Sunshine* before and have always had great results. Powdery mildew hit our area and might have affected results of vine crops. It's been a dry season also.

No Preference

Madonna	7	☺	-
Sunshine	7	☺	MN

Both varieties had good plants, but cool weather took its toll. I thought the thickness of the flesh was thin. There was not much meat as compared to size. Both of these varieties are sweeter than hubbard and butternut squash.

Conclusions

Sunshine has been a strong performer in our trials for years, but this year it met its match in *Madonna*. Both varieties were productive, but the yields of *Madonna* were amazing. Gardeners were pleased with the beautiful, orange-red color of the fruits of both varieties. *Madonna* fruits were usually slightly smaller in size and good for single servings. Gardeners enjoyed the flavor of these varieties right after harvest. The flesh of *Madonna* was moister compared to that of *Sunshine*.

Gardeners enjoyed the flavor of these varieties right after harvest. The flesh of *Madonna* was moister compared to that of *Sunshine*.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ☺
Variety B ☹

Garden type ↙

NC ← ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ← ***Comments***

Garden types

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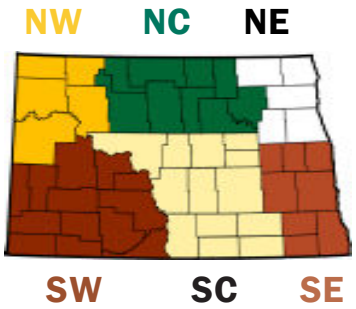
- = Not specified



Locations

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Squash, Specialty Kabocha

Varieties

Pink Panther

90 days. Pink fruits are uniquely beautiful and flavorful. Bright orange flesh. Full vines. Early.

Speckled Hound

100 days. Fruits are orange with distinctive, green splotches. Yellow-orange flesh is thick, dense and dry. Vines resist diseases.

Data

Gardeners at 16 sites submitted information.

Trait	Pink Panther	Speckled Hound	Same
Germinated best	27%	**45%**	27%
Healthier plants	10	30	**60**
Harvested earlier	**50**	**50**	0
Higher yields	**50**	40	10
More attractive fruits	11	**44**	**44**
Tasted better	**83**	0	17
Preference	**60**	40	
Recommend	**83**	**83**	
Mean score[1]	**7.50**	7.20	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.50	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Pink Panther

Pink Panther 10 ☺
Speckled Hound 9 ☺ NE

The color of *Pink Panther* fruits was quite nice. It was the better tasting variety after harvest, but kabocha fruits taste better after a few months of storage. I have a suspicion that *Speckled Hound* will be tastier in a month or two.

Pink Panther 10 ☺ -
Speckled Hound 8 ☹ SE

Pink Panther produced earlier and produced more fruits overall.

Pink Panther 8 ☺
Speckled Hound 7 ☺ SE

The yields of both varieties weren't very high, but the fruits were pretty. *Pink Panther* produced more fruits but they were considerably smaller than those of *Speckled Hound*. I primarily wanted the fruits for decorations and only got one really nice-looking *Speckled Hound*. *Speckled Hound* fruits were far more interesting looking, but *Pink Panther* fruits were shaped perfectly without blemishes and had a nice shade of orange.

The fruits of both varieties were good for decorating and eating.

Pink Panther 6 ☺
Speckled Hound 1 ☹ SE

The plants of *Speckled Hound* all died.

Pink Panther 8 ☺
Speckled Hound 6 ☺ NC

Both varieties were very healthy. I harvested 30 *Pink Panther* fruits and 12 *Speckled Hound* fruits. Their fruits looked good. I roasted a *Pink Panther* fruit and it was delicious. The rest of the fruits are in storage.

Pink Panther 8 ☺
Speckled Hound 7 ☺ SC

I recommend both varieties. Both varieties germinated quickly. We harvested 22 *Speckled Hound* fruits and 17 *Pink Panther* fruits, but by weight their yields were comparable. *Speckled Hound* fruits were beautifully colored and would be great for soups or baby food. *Pink Panther* fruits had a nice pumpkin color and you can't beat its taste and texture. We did a taste test at work and all four of us preferred *Pink Panther*.

Best kabocha squash varieties

Top choice
Delica

Strong performers
Madonna
Pink Panther
Red Kuri
Speckled Hound
Sunshine
Sweet Mama

Prefer Speckled Hound

Pink Panther 6 ☺ -
Speckled Hound 7 ☺ NC

I preferred *Speckled Hound* because its fruits had more variation in their color. *Speckled Hound* vines were healthier. *Pink Panther* produced higher yields, and its fruits were more uniform in size and color.

Pink Panther 9 ☺
Speckled Hound 10 ☺ SC

Speckled Hound was extremely productive. *Pink Panther* did well, but produced about 10–15 fewer squash. The fruits of these two varieties look very different, but both are very pretty and great for decorating!

Pink Panther 5 ☹ -
Speckled Hound 8 ☺ SW

I got much higher yields and bigger fruits from *Speckled Hound*. It tasted great. *Pink Panther* fruits tasted slightly better but did not grow nearly as well. *Speckled Hound* tasted great too and had higher yields of bigger fruit.

Pink Panther 5 ☹
Speckled Hound 9 ☺ SW

Speckled Hound produced more squash. The vines of both varieties developed mildew.

Conclusions

The fruits of both varieties were good for decorating and eating. More gardeners preferred the appearance of *Speckled Hound* fruits, which were orange with green splotches. However many gardeners also liked the uniformly shaped, blemish-free, pink-orange fruits of *Pink Panther*. Every gardener who expressed a taste preference preferred the taste of *Pink Panther*. The flavor of both varieties will likely improve after a month or two of storage. The yields and earliness of these varieties were similar.

Speckled Hound fruits may have been prettier, but every gardener who expressed a taste preference preferred the taste of _Pink Panther_.

Key to Site Reports

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Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ☺
Variety B ☹

Garden type ↙

NC

Location ↖

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Comments ↖

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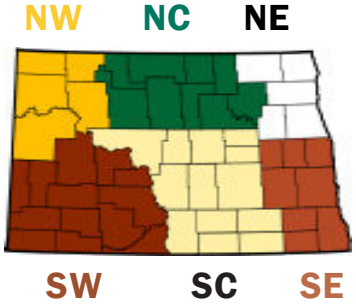

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Squash, Spaghetti

Varieties

Pinnacle

85 days. Medium-small fruits with a bright yellow rind. Slightly sweet, nutty flavor. Semi-bush vines produce high yields.

Primavera

93 days. Uniform, 3-pound fruits with attractive, canary-yellow skin. Semi-bush vines are productive.

Data

Gardeners at 21 sites submitted information.

Trait	Pinnacle	Primavera	Same
Germinated best	11%	17%	**72%**
Healthier plants	11	17	**72**
Harvested earlier	**40**	33	27
Higher yields	25	**44**	31
More attractive fruits	13	6	**81**
Tasted better	7	7	**87**
Preference	44	**56**	
Recommend	**88**	76	
Mean score[1]	**7.63**	7.56	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Pinnacle

Pinnacle 6 ☺ 
Primavera 5 ☺ NE

Pinnacle produced the first fruits.

Pinnacle 8 ☺ 
Primavera 7 ☺ SE

Pinnacle produced slightly more yield. Powdery mildew developed on both varieties during late August.

Pinnacle 7 ☹ 
Primavera 6 ☹ SE

I can't say either variety impressed us. Neither variety had large fruits. Both varieties grew and produced nearly the same. I thought *Pinnacle* had a slightly better taste and my neighbor thought *Primavera* tasted a little better.

Pinnacle 5 ☹ 
Primavera 4 ☹ SE

Both varieties produced small fruits with little flavor. *Pinnacle* produced a slightly higher yield.

Pinnacle 8 ☺ 
Primavera 2 ☹ NC

Pinnacle produced twice as many fruits. I liked the color and taste of *Pinnacle* better.

Pinnacle 9 ☺ 
Primavera 8 ☺ SC

We had really good fruit from these plants. *Pinnacle* produced a bit more fruit.

Pinnacle 10 ☺ 
Primavera 7 ☹ NW

Pinnacle was ready to harvest several days earlier. *Pinnacle* produced slightly higher yields.

Prefer Primavera

Pinnacle 8 ☺ 
Primavera 9 ☺ MN

Primavera produced a few more fruits.

Pinnacle 8 ☺ 
Primavera 10 ☺ NC

Primavera had a consistent size and color. *Pinnacle* fruits were a bit white. Both varieties were delicious. *Pinnacle* vines had powdery mildew late in the season.

Both varieties performed well this year just as they have in previous years.

Best spaghetti squash varieties

Top choice
Primavera

Strong performer
Pinnacle

Prefer Primavera (continued)

Pinnacle	5	☺	-
Primavera	7	☺	NC

Primavera produced higher yields and tasted better. Its flesh had a sweet, nutty flavor and had a nice texture for spaghetti. The flesh of *Pinnacle* had a buttery, lighter taste. Its texture was a little mushy.

Pinnacle	7	☺	
Primavera	8	☺	SC

Primavera germinated better, was healthier and produced more squash. The flesh of *Primavera* was a little lighter to make a more 'spaghetti noodle'-looking dish.

Pinnacle	9	☺	-
Primavera	10	☺	SC

We picked *Pinnacle* on September 18, one week before *Primavera*. We harvested about 60 squash of each variety. This amounted to 150 pounds of *Pinnacle* and 192 pounds of *Primavera*. We preferred the larger size of *Primavera*. The fruits of both varieties were attractive, but we preferred the bright yellow color of *Pinnacle*.

Pinnacle	9	☺	
Primavera	10	☺	SC

Primavera was very productive.

Pinnacle	6	☺	
Primavera	10	☺	SW

Primavera produced more fruit. Its fruits were larger and deeper yellow than the fruits of *Pinnacle*. Spaghetti squash was the only squash I got a good yield from this season.

Pinnacle	9	☺	
Primavera	10	☺	SW

Primavera was more productive.

No Preference

Pinnacle	8	☺	
Primavera	8	☺	NC

Both varieties performed the same.

Conclusions

Both varieties performed well this year just as they have in previous years. Their fruits were uniform in shape, size and color. *Pinnacle* ripened earlier at more sites. *Primavera* produced higher yields at more sites. Taste preferences were evenly split among the varieties with neither variety generating a lot of excitement for their flavor or texture.

Pinnacle ripened earlier at more sites. _Primavera_ produced higher yields at more sites.

Key to Site Reports

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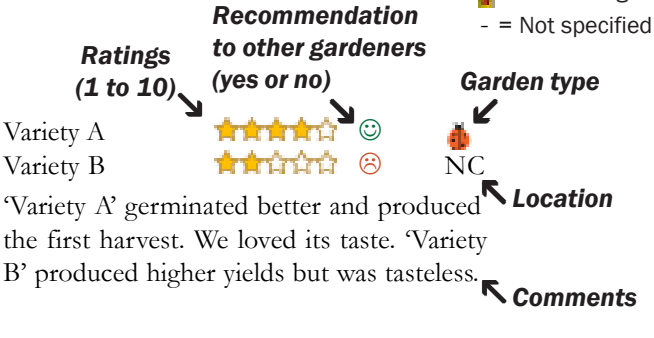

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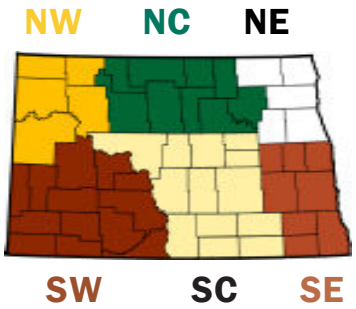

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Swiss Chard, Mixed Colors

Varieties

Bright Lights

55 days. A very popular, award-winning mix. The colorful, slightly savoyed leaves have a mild taste.

Celebration

55 days. Glossy green leaves with bright ribs. Colors brighten over time. Each seed cluster may produce plants of different colors.

Data

Gardeners at 27 sites submitted information.

Trait	Bright Lights	Celebration	Same
Germinated best	**46%**	8%	**46%**
Healthier plants	46	4	**50**
Harvested earlier	**50**	5	45
Higher yields	**50**	10	40
More attractive	42	13	**46**
Tasted better	30	4	**65**
Preference	**74**	26	
Recommend (☺)	**92**	64	
Mean score[1]	**8.92**	7.42	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Bright Lights

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 4 ☹ NE

Bright Lights germinated better and produced more than *Celebration*. We liked the looks of *Bright Lights* leaves, but *Celebration* leaves tasted better.

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 7 ☹ SE

The plants of both varieties looked nice and tasted good. *Bright Lights* was better in all respects.

Bright Lights 9 ☺
Celebration 7 ☺ SE

Bright Lights grew back better after cutting.

Bright Lights 9 ☺
Celebration 8 ☺ SE

Bright Lights germinated quicker and at a higher rate. *Celebration* plants grew taller, had nicer red plants, and looked more appealing. *Bright Lights* tasted better but there was nothing bad about the taste of *Celebration*.

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 9 ☺ SE

Bright Lights leaves were more colorful.

Bright Lights 8 ☺
Celebration 6 ☹ NC

Both varieties grew at a similar speed. The plants were very attractive and had beautiful stems. Flavor was the biggest difference between the two varieties. *Bright Lights* was significantly less bitter, more tender and more enjoyable.

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 8 ☹ NC

Bright Lights had 100% germination compared to 30% for *Celebration*. *Bright Lights* produced higher yields and looked more attractive.

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 9 ☺ SC

Bright Lights had more attractive colors.

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 8 ☹ SC

Bright Lights produced a higher yield and was better tasting.

Bright Lights was brilliant. It outshone _Celebration_ in all respects.

Best Swiss chard varieties

Top choice
Bright Lights

Strong performers
Bali
Charbell
Lucullus
Peppermint
Ruby Red

Prefer Bright Lights (continued)

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 4 ☹ SC

Bright Lights had far better germination. It was ready to harvest earlier and produced higher yields. It was so fun to try Swiss chard! It produced all summer!

Bright Lights 7 ☺
Celebration 2 ☹ SC

The plants of *Bright Lights* grew much bigger and were more colorful.

Bright Lights 6 ☹
Celebration 5 ☹ NW

Both varieties did not grow well. *Bright Lights* germinated better and was more attractive.

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 6 ☺ NW

The leaves of *Celebration* did not stay as pristine as those of *Bright Lights*. *Bright Lights* produced massive, multicolored leaves. *Bright Lights* leaves had a more equal distribution of colors. All *Celebration* leaves had red/pink stems. *Bright Lights* leaves were slightly less bitter in taste.

Bright Lights 10 ☺
Celebration 9 ☺ NW

Both varieties were beautiful; we really enjoyed the flavor of them both. *Bright Lights* had better color.

Bright Lights 9 ☺
Celebration 6 ☺ NW

Bright Lights germinated great and produced way better. *Bright Lights* brought on new growth quickly after cutting. *Celebration* plants were smaller but remained tender in the summer heat. *Bright Lights* plants got a bit harder/bitter in the heat.

Bright Lights 9 ☺
Celebration 7 ☹ SW

Bright Lights had better taste and appearance.

Bright Lights 9 ☺
Celebration 7 ☺ SK

Both varieties produced well to freeze up. There was some bolting with *Celebration*.

Prefer Celebration

Bright Lights 8 ☺
Celebration 10 ☺ MN

Celebration produced well overall.

Bright Lights 8 ☺
Celebration 9 ☺ SE

The leaves of *Celebration* stayed a little smaller so they were more tender and manageable for cooking. Both varieties were gorgeous.

Bright Lights 8 ☺
Celebration 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties were tasty and produced another crop after cutting. The leaves of *Celebration* were taller and fuller.

Bright Lights 7 ☹
Celebration 9 ☺ NC

Celebration stalks were thinner, more vibrant and more tender. *Bright Lights* had a higher second yield.

Bright Lights 8 ☺
Celebration 9 ☺ SC

The stems of *Celebration* were wider, providing more food with the harvest.

Bright Lights 9 ☺
Celebration 10 ☺ SW

It was hard to tell any difference between the varieties. Both grew well and had very good taste.

No Preference

Bright Lights 8 ☺
Celebration 8 ☺ NC

These varieties were essentially the same. Both varieties were going strong into October!

Conclusions

Bright Lights was brilliant. It outshone *Celebration* in all respects. *Bright Lights* germinated better, grew faster and produced a higher yield. Its leaves were more colorful. Nearly all gardeners who expressed a taste preference preferred the taste of *Bright Lights*.

***Bright Lights* germinated better, grew faster and produced a higher yield. Its leaves were more colorful.**

Tomato, Bright Red Heirloom

Varieties

Crimson Sprinter

70 days. The earliest maturing tomato that carries the "crimson gene," which provides high lycopene content and bright red color. Mid-sized fruits have high acid content. Semi-determinate vines. From Ontario.

Wisconsin 55

77 days. Mid-sized fruits have rich flavor and strong skin. The indeterminate vines are productive, thrive under a wide range of growing conditions and tolerate some diseases. Developed in Wisconsin.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Crimson Sprinter	Wisc. 55	Same
Germinated best	8%	42%	**50%**
Healthier plants	33	11	**56**
Harvested earlier	**60**	20	20
Higher yields	33	22	**44**
More attractive fruits	38	13	**50**
Tasted better	22	33	**44**
Preference	44	**56**	
Recommend	70	**80**	
Mean score[1]	**7.20**	**7.20**	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Crimson Sprinter

Crimson Sprinter 10 ☺ NE
Wisconsin 55 8 ☺ NE

I first sowed on April 8, but the plants were wiped out by wind. I sowed again on May 31 and both varieties produced ripe fruits. The fruits of *Crimson Sprinter* were nicer looking and better tasting.

Crimson Sprinter 9 ☺
Wisconsin 55 7 ☺ NC

I sowed the seeds indoors in April, but the seedlings did not survive. So I sowed outdoors in May. Though they were slow, the plants of both varieties produced well. *Crimson Sprinter* produced more tomatoes, and its vines were sturdy.

Crimson Sprinter 9 ☺
Wisconsin 55 8 ☺ SC

Both varieties were good tomatoes; however the look and taste favored *Crimson Sprinter*. *Crimson Sprinter* fruits were smoother and had a nice shape. *Wisconsin 55* fruits had a tendency to crack near the stem. *Crimson Sprinter* fruits had a better, sweeter taste. *Wisconsin 55* fruits were more acidic and had more seeds. *Wisconsin 55* produced the first fruits a couple days earlier than *Crimson Sprinter*, but *Crimson Sprinter* caught up and produced more.

Crimson Sprinter 8 ☺
Wisconsin 55 3 ☹ SW

Wisconsin 55 did not germinate well; *Crimson Sprinter* had nearly twice as many seedlings. *Crimson Sprinter* plants were healthier and more productive. Both varieties suffered from blossom end rot.

***Crimson Sprinter* got off to a quick start and produced the first fruits.**

Best fresh market tomato varieties

Top choice
- Mountain Fresh Plus

Strong performers
- Celebrity Plus
- Early Girl
- Goliath
- Mountain Merit
- Red Deuce
- Roadster

Prefer Wisconsin 55

Crimson Sprinter	4	☹	
Wisconsin 55	9	☺	NE

Seeds were sown indoors. *Crimson Sprinter* seedlings were spindly while *Wisconsin 55* seedlings were robust. *Crimson Sprinter* never did thrive. Its plants were smaller and its leaves stayed curled. *Wisconsin 55* was easy to grow; it was a prolific producer of juicy, delicious fruits. *Wisconsin 55* fruits tended to split radially and somewhat deeply but not so much that they were inedible. The fruits of *Crimson Sprinter* held together very well with only superficial concentric cracks. The pleasant surprise was that neither variety had problems with blight. The fruits of both varieties tasted good, but *Wisconsin 55* fruits tasted better.

Crimson Sprinter	8	☺	
Wisconsin 55	9	☺	SE

Both varieties struggled initially due to the late transplant date caused by wet conditions. Eventually both varieties took off and had very vigorous, hardy plants. *Crimson Sprinter* produced the first fruits; both varieties produced excellent yields of great tasting tomatoes. Their fruits were uniform with good, deep-red color. They had few seeds and worked great for canning. They did not split or crack and were just beautiful fruits.

Crimson Sprinter	8	☺	
Wisconsin 55	9	☺	SC

Wisconsin 55 had bigger fruits and higher yields. Its fruits were less sweet and tasted better. *Crimson Sprinter* vines were healthier, grew faster and produced the first tomatoes. Its tomatoes were sweeter and tasted very good. We canned tomatoes of each variety and had lots of BLTs.

Crimson Sprinter	7	☹	
Wisconsin 55	8	☺	SC

Crimson Sprinter generally had smaller fruits and they were very juicy. *Wisconsin 55* fruits were meatier with fewer seeds and a very robust flavor. We harvested about 600 tomatoes per 10 plants for each variety (a total of 1,200 tomatoes on 20 plants)! At frost there were more *Wisconsin 55* tomatoes left on the plants, indicating that they would have kept producing. *Crimson Sprinter* had some tomatoes left on the plants at frost, but they were much smaller.

Crimson Sprinter	5	☺	
Wisconsin 55	7	☺	NW

Crimson Sprinter was earlier, but its fruits were quite small. I prefer *Cannonball* to either of these varieties.

No Preference

Crimson Sprinter	4	☹	
Wisconsin 55	4	☹	NE

The vines of these varieties did not look healthy all summer, although they did produce fruits. *Wisconsin 55* germinated faster and produced the first fruits.

Conclusions

Gardeners were pleased with the health and yields of both varieties. Most gardeners preferred *Wisconsin 55*. *Wisconsin 55* fruits were larger and had robust flavor. *Crimson Sprinter* got off to a quick start and produced the first fruits.

Most gardeners preferred *Wisconsin 55*. *Wisconsin 55* fruits were larger and had robust flavor.

Tomato, Determinate Heirloom

Varieties

Manitoba

58 days. Bright red, firm, flavorful, 6-ounce fruits ripen early. Vines are compact and resist diseases. Developed in Manitoba.

Sheyenne

60 days. Crack-resistant fruits with smooth shoulders and full flavor. Vigorous, drought-tolerant, compact vines. Developed at North Dakota State University.

Data

Gardeners at 75 sites submitted information.

Trait	Manitoba	Sheyenne	Same
Germinated best	44%	7%	**49%**
Healthier plants	41	13	**46**
Harvested earlier	**58**	26	17
Higher yields	**49**	21	30
More attractive fruits	35	26	**39**
Tasted better	38	11	**52**
Preference	**68**	32	
Recommend	**65**	57	
Mean score[1]	**7.10**	6.46	
Median score[1]	**8.00**	7.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Manitoba

Manitoba 3 ☹ ; Sheyenne 2 ☹ ; MN

The vines of both varieties got some kind of blight. I had to pick the tomatoes while they were rose-gold and let them ripen inside; otherwise they would go bad/rot outside. *Manitoba* produced more tomatoes.

Manitoba 10 ☺ ; Sheyenne 8 ☺ ; MN

Manitoba produced better.

Manitoba 8 ☺ ; Sheyenne 7 ☺ ; MN

These varieties were very similar. *Manitoba* produced a higher yield.

Manitoba 8 ☺ ; Sheyenne 6 ☹ ; -; MN

Manitoba plants were healthier and more productive.

Manitoba 8 ☺ ; Sheyenne 5 ☹ ; NE

Manitoba vines were healthier, produced earlier and produced more tomatoes. *Sheyenne* vines didn't do well.

Manitoba 3 ☹ ; Sheyenne 2 ☹ ; NE

Sheyenne produced larger fruits but the total yields of these varieties were similar. Both varieties were disease prone (much more so than other varieties I grew). *Manitoba* fruits had slightly better flavor, but the taste of both varieties was disappointing. I would not grow either again.

Manitoba 8 ☺ ; Sheyenne 5 ☹ ; SE

Seeds were sown late [May 1]. *Manitoba* grew more vigorously. *Sheyenne* vines seemed spindly. *Manitoba* ripened first, around September 1. *Sheyenne* ripened 3 weeks later and produced a lower yield. *Manitoba* produced about twice the yield although its fruits were smaller. One *Manitoba* vine produced a dozen tomatoes. For slicing, we preferred *Manitoba* over *Big Boy* tomatoes due to its sweeter flavor. This was our first time growing a determinate tomato. I would plant *Manitoba* again. It was easier to manage versus the constant pruning needed for an indeterminate tomato.

Most gardeners preferred *Manitoba*. Its vines were healthier, produced earlier and produced more tomatoes.

Best fresh market tomato varieties

Top choice
- Mountain Fresh Plus

Strong performers
- Celebrity Plus
- Early Girl
- Goliath
- Mountain Merit
- Red Deuce
- Roadster

Prefer Manitoba (continued)

Manitoba 7 ☺ SE
Sheyenne 5 ☹

Manitoba produced more fruit.

Manitoba 9 ☺ SE
Sheyenne 7 ☹

Manitoba germinated at a rate of 100% compared to 80% for *Sheyenne*. Neither variety suffered from any diseases. Both were high producers for their small plants. Harvesting began on August 3. *Manitoba* produced 3 pounds on August 6 and 19 pounds on August 23. *Sheyenne* produced 2 pounds on August 6 and 12 pounds on August 23. *Manitoba* fruits stayed on the vine until ripe. About one-third of *Sheyenne* fruits fell off the vine before reddening. The fruits of both varieties tasted good.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 5 ☺ SE

The seedlings of *Manitoba* showed a greater tolerance to cool weather in spring. *Manitoba* plants were healthier and produced a long time before *Sheyenne* plants produced anything. *Manitoba* produced a higher yield overall. The tomatoes of these varieties had a similar taste.

Manitoba 10 ☺ SE
Sheyenne 5 ☹

Manitoba had healthier plants from the start. It produced earlier and higher yields. *Sheyenne* ended up okay at the end. The tomatoes of both varieties were small and tasted good.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 7 ☺ SE

Sheyenne produced the first ripe tomatoes, the first one harvested on August 7. *Manitoba* produced more attractive and slightly larger fruits. *Manitoba* fruits had fewer cracks.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 7 ☺ SE

Quite a few of the tomatoes of both varieties were somewhat misshapen, but it didn't affect the flavor. *Manitoba* fruits were slightly better tasting.

Manitoba 4 ☹
Sheyenne 3 ☹ SE

Sheyenne had many cracks in the fruits. *Sheyenne* plants were very sick by August 14. *Manitoba* was slightly better. Most of our other tomato varieties, including *Early Doll*, were much healthier.

Manitoba 8 ☺ SE
Sheyenne 6 ☺

Both varieties grew well in large containers with east morning sun. *Manitoba* had better taste and yield.

Both varieties had compact plants yet produced good yields.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 6 ☹ SE

Manitoba vines didn't grow as fast or as tall, but looked healthier. *Sheyenne* produced the first fruits and had a higher yield. *Manitoba* had better looking fruit with skin that resisted rot and splitting better. *Manitoba* tasted slightly better. *Sheyenne* fruits did not look that appetizing but did not taste bad.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 2 ☹ SE

All *Sheyenne* plants had blight and did not produce any fruits.

Manitoba 4 ☺
Sheyenne 2 ☹ SE

Sheyenne produced earlier. Its plants were very small and produced only a small amount of fruits. *Manitoba* plants were larger and produced more fruits, but its yield was small compared to the yields of my other varieties.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 8 ☺ NC

Both varieties germinated at 100%. *Manitoba* plants were very strong and stayed healthy until frost. Its vines produced a more consistent yield. Its fruits were larger, more consistent in size, well-shaped and had a sweeter, full tomato taste. *Sheyenne* produced tomatoes 1 week earlier.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 9 ☹ NC

Both varieties were good. *Manitoba* tasted a little better and meatier.

Prefer Manitoba (continued)

Manitoba 9 ☺
Sheyenne 5 ☹ NC

Manitoba had overall better quality of fruit, grew faster and was more hardy.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 7 ☹ NC

Manitoba had healthier vines and ripened earlier. I shared seedlings with other gardeners, and they also had great results.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 4 ☹ NC

Manitoba was a heartier plant for me. I am a ruthless gardener and do not have much time to baby the garden. I'm watering throughout the week, but it's inconsistent. If I leave for a 4-day weekend, they are on their own. *Manitoba* withstood the abuse much better than *Sheyenne*.

Manitoba 9 ☺
Sheyenne 8 ☺ NC

Manitoba had better germination. Our very wet tomato growing season was not beneficial to any of the tomatoes I grew this season. Therefore, I think conditions affected tomato production greatly. The plants planted in the garden did much better than those planted in containers. Both had disease problems at the end of the season.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 6 ☺ NC

Both varieties tasted good, but *Manitoba* tasted better.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 9 ☺ NC

Manitoba produced more fruits. Its fruits looked more attractive.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 5 ☺ NC

Manitoba plants were more productive and easier to maintain.

Manitoba 7 ☺
Sheyenne 5 ☹ SC

Manitoba germinated better and held up to the weather better.

Manitoba 5 ☺
Sheyenne 4 ☺ SC

Both varieties produced smaller fruit than I was expecting. Their plants were well formed and the tomatoes were visible. I prefer these varieties over the *Mountain* series.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 7 ☺ SC

Manitoba had taller plants. Its first tomatoes ripened on August 5. *Manitoba* tomatoes were a little larger, more variable in size and tasted better. *Sheyenne* tomatoes had a more consistent size. Both varieties produced amazing yields. They had at least two dozen fruits per plant! As of today [October 7], they are still producing tomatoes!

Manitoba 8 ☹ -
Sheyenne 7 ☹ SC

Manitoba vines produced fruits 1 week earlier. The fruits of both varieties took a long time to turn red. When they did turn red, they were often rotten. The fruits did not have great flavor but made okay juice.

Manitoba 2 ☹
Sheyenne 1 ☹ SC

Manitoba germinated better, grew faster, transplanted better and produced fruit sooner, as well as produced more fruit. That being said, neither variety produced many tomatoes at all (about one fruit per plant). Neither variety tasted good to me. I don't know if it was a bad year for tomatoes as my other tomatoes did not produce well this year compared to previous years.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 6 ☺ SC

Manitoba was always slightly better and ahead of *Sheyenne*. I liked that its plants were compact. Both varieties were lacking great, fresh tomato taste and flavor; they tasted kind of blah.

More gardeners preferred the taste of *Manitoba*, but some gardeners felt both varieties lacked rich flavor.

Prefer Manitoba (continued)

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 6 ☹ SC

Manitoba plants grew a bit better and produced a few more fruits. *Manitoba* fruits were more attractive and tasted better.

Manitoba 5 ☹
Sheyenne 4 ☹ SC

The plants of both varieties grew slowly and were small. *Manitoba* fruits were bigger and better tasting compared to those of *Sheyenne*. I bought *Big Boy* plants from a nursery, and they grew much larger and had many more fruits.

Manitoba 6 ☺
Sheyenne 5 ☺ SC

Manitoba produced the first ripe tomatoes. *Sheyenne* tomatoes were slightly bigger. We were unable to tell the difference in the taste of these varieties. The first fruits of *Manitoba* had blossom end rot.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 7 ☺ SC

Manitoba produced more. *Manitoba* tomatoes had more juice to them but *Sheyenne* fruits were a little bigger.

Manitoba 9 ☺
Sheyenne 8 ☺ SC

Both varieties produced high yields, and I was very pleased with the results. Their fruit were smaller than other tomatoes I've grown but I was happy with them. *Manitoba* had better germination.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 9 ☺ NW

Manitoba and *Sheyenne* had germination rates of 100% and 90%, respectively. I grew a bumper crop; the best crop I have grown in years. The tomatoes had great taste as well. *Manitoba* vines produced first. *Sheyenne* fruits looked better.

Manitoba 9 ☺
Sheyenne 8 ☺ NW

Both varieties produced fruits that were firm and small to medium in size. *Manitoba* fruits tasted slightly better and its plants were hardy.

Manitoba 8 ☺
Sheyenne 5 ☹ SW

Both varieties germinated at about a 50% rate. *Manitoba* stalks were bigger and thicker. *Manitoba* produced about 25% more yield. Its fruits were bigger and had better flavor. Fruits of both varieties were beautiful with no cracks, spots or diseases. *Sheyenne* produced 4 days earlier and its tomatoes were not as sweet.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 9 ☺ SW

These varieties have shorter plants than what I am used to for tomatoes. The plants were short and compact. *Manitoba* fruits tasted better. This trial was grown in a hoop house under a more controlled environment and consistent watering.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 9 ☺ SW

Manitoba vines were sturdier and produced tomatoes earlier. *Manitoba* tomatoes were a little bigger.

Manitoba 10 ☺
Sheyenne 9 ☺ SW

They were both good; the *Manitoba* had better, more complex flavor. The fruits of both varieties were free of disease and matured fairly early. The plants of both varieties grew well and were not too big.

Manitoba 9 ☺
Sheyenne 7 ☹ SD

Manitoba outperformed *Sheyenne*. *Manitoba* produced twice the amount of tomatoes. Its vines were super producers with medium-sized tomatoes with good flavor. Both had good flavor but *Manitoba* was such a strong performer for me. I would plant *Manitoba* again as it was early to produce fruit.

Gardeners who grew modern tomato varieties nearby this trial found that these heirlooms were more prone to disease and produced lower yields.

Prefer Sheyenne

Manitoba	4 ☹		
Sheyenne	5 ☹	MN	

Sheyenne produced the first tomatoes. The plants of both varieties stayed small and some did not even get a tomato on. *Amish Paste* and *Beefsteak* were grown nearby and produced well.

Manitoba	6 ☹		
Sheyenne	9 ☺	MN	

Sheyenne had more and larger tomatoes.

Manitoba	6 ☹		
Sheyenne	8 ☺	MN	

Sheyenne fruits were larger, more attractive and tasted better. Its vines were healthier. Some of the *Manitoba* fruits had yellow shoulders and were not used.

Manitoba	6 ☹	-	
Sheyenne	9 ☺	NE	

Sheyenne produced higher yields and tasted better than *Manitoba*.

Manitoba	7 ☹		
Sheyenne	10 ☺	SE	

The weather conditions beginning of the spring were very wet and cold. I believe this made the tomatoes take longer to ripen. These varieties set fruit and ripened before my other tomatoes, even though they were started later. The tomatoes tasted amazing and I will be growing them again next year! *Manitoba* suffered from blossom end rot but *Sheyenne* did not.

Manitoba	6 ☹		
Sheyenne	7 ☺	SE	

Manitoba was a better plant for most of the season and produced the first fruits. Then *Manitoba* became susceptible to blight; this makes *Manitoba* a no go.

Manitoba	9 ☺	-	
Sheyenne	10 ☺	SE	

Sheyenne tasted better.

Manitoba	2 ☹		
Sheyenne	8 ☺	SE	

Sheyenne produced the first ripe tomatoes but not until August 29. *Sheyenne* fruits were perfectly shaped and had a nice size. *Manitoba* vines got diseased, produced later and yielded poorly.

Manitoba	5 ☹		
Sheyenne	8 ☺	SE	

Sheyenne vines grew slowly at first but finished strong. *Sheyenne* produced the first tomatoes and a higher yield overall.

Manitoba	6 ☺		
Sheyenne	8 ☺	NC	

Sheyenne had a higher yield. Its tomatoes had the size of a tennis ball and were easier to blanch.

Manitoba	5 ☹		
Sheyenne	7 ☺	NC	

The fruits seemed to develop late for both varieties, perhaps because of the cooler summer. The fruits of both varieties were uniform in shape. *Sheyenne* produced more fruits, and its fruits had better taste and texture.

Manitoba	8 ☹		
Sheyenne	10 ☺	SC	

Both varieties were crazy producers! The fruits were coming out my ears! *Manitoba* producer earlier and *Sheyenne* produced higher yield. I liked the *Sheyenne* vines a little better, and *Sheyenne* fruits were a little larger.

Manitoba	8 ☺		
Sheyenne	10 ☺	SC	

Manitoba came up first and had an almost 100% germination rate. Both varieties grew vigorously. *Manitoba* produced first, but several of its early tomatoes rotted on the vine. *Sheyenne* suffered less from this rot and its fruits were more uniform in shape. The fruits of both varieties were very tasty. This was an amazing year for tomatoes! We gave bushels away, and ate and processed many.

Sheyenne did not excel in any measured trait and received fairly low ratings overall.

Prefer Sheyenne (continued)

Manitoba 5 ☹ 
Sheyenne 6 ☹ SC

Both varieties had healthy plants but did not yield many tomatoes. The fruits were smaller than I thought they would be, and I did not care for that. There was no blossom end rot. *Sheyenne* fruits were more flavorful, but the flavor was just okay.

Manitoba 5 ☹ 
Sheyenne 6 ☹ SC

I believe there are so many great tomato varieties out there that would beat these varieties hands down. *Sheyenne* fruits tasted better than *Manitoba* fruits.

Manitoba 7 ☺ 
Sheyenne 8 ☺ SC

Sheyenne germinated at 100% compared to 56% for *Manitoba*. *Manitoba* had healthier plants. *Sheyenne* fruits were more attractive.

Manitoba 2 ☹ 
Sheyenne 4 ☹ NW

Manitoba germinated better. I had to replant *Sheyenne* as its first plants died. *Manitoba* produced earlier and more fruits, but over half of its fruits had blossom end rot. The flavor of both varieties was bland.

Manitoba 8 ☹ 
Sheyenne 10 ☺ NW

Sheyenne did better overall. It had taller vines and produced more fruit.

Manitoba 8 ☺ 
Sheyenne 9 ☺ SW

Sheyenne tomatoes ripened first and were more attractive.

Manitoba 7 ☺ 
Sheyenne 9 ☺ SW

Sheyenne plants seemed hardier and produced more fruit.

Manitoba 4 ☹ 
Sheyenne 7 ☺ SD

Sheyenne was overall a more robust and healthy plant. It produced earlier and higher yields.

No Preference

Manitoba 4 ☹ 
Sheyenne 4 ☹ NE

These varieties had very short plants and their leaves turned brown soon. They didn't produce much. All my other tomato plants were healthy.

Manitoba 5 ☹ 
Sheyenne 5 ☹ SC

Both varieties produced lush bushes with lots of tomatoes. Then they got blight. All the leaves had it. The tomatoes stayed small (tennis balls) and had tough skins. Neither variety had much flavor. My *Dakota Sport* being indeterminate made it through the blight. It was a wet year.

Manitoba 5 ☹ 
Sheyenne 5 ☹ SD

I really didn't like either variety. Their tomatoes were very small. I did have some hail in early July, which damaged some of the plants.

Conclusions

Both varieties had compact plants yet produced good yields. Most gardeners preferred *Manitoba*. Its vines were healthier, produced earlier and produced more tomatoes. *Sheyenne* did not excel in any measured trait and received fairly low ratings overall. More gardeners preferred the taste of *Manitoba*, but some gardeners felt both varieties lacked rich flavor. Gardeners who grew modern tomato varieties nearby this trial found that these heirlooms were more prone to disease and produced lower yields. Gardeners mentioned the fruits of both varieties suffered from cracking and rotting on the vine; this was especially true for *Sheyenne*. *Manitoba* fruits may have resisted splitting, but they appeared to be more susceptible to blossom end rot.

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Tomato, Small Fruit

Varieties

Juliet

60 days. Oval fruits have rich flavor for salads, salsa and pasta sauce. Fruits resist cracking. Indeterminate vines resist diseases. An All-America Selections winner.

Red Torch

65 days. Red fruits with dramatic bronze stripes. Fruits resist cracking. Indeterminate vines are productive and resist diseases. An All-America Selections winner.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Juliet	Red Torch	Same
Germinated best	21%	16%	**63%**
Healthier plants	18	24	**59**
Harvested earlier	**53**	29	18
Higher yields	**41**	18	**41**
More attractive fruits	18	**53**	29
Tasted better	41	**47**	12
Preference	**56**	44	
Recommend	47	**65**	
Mean score[1]	7.47	**7.71**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**9.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Juliet

Juliet	6	☺	
Red Torch	5	☹	SE

Due to the wet and cooler temps of spring/early summer, they were delayed in producing fruit. The flavors of both varieties of tomatoes were sub-par; rather bland. The skin of *Juliet* was not a tough as the skin of *Red Torch*.

Juliet	7	☺	
Red Torch	5	☹	SE

Juliet fruits were better tasting and more attractive.

Juliet	10	☺	
Red Torch	9	☺	SE

More *Juliet* plants grew and produced fruits. The fruits of these varieties tasted the same.

Juliet	10	☺	
Red Torch	8	☹	SC

Both varieties had 100% germination. *Juliet* vines produced tomatoes 1 week earlier and produced more tomatoes overall. *Juliet* fruits were larger, plumper and had a more sweet taste. *Red Torch* fruits had a more basic tomato taste.

Juliet	7	☹	
Red Torch	4	☹	SC

Juliet grew faster. It produced the first fruits and more fruits. Tastewise, *Red Torch* was my favorite. If I had liked the taste of *Juliet* even a little, it would be rated a 9 or 10. While I really liked *Red Torch* for eating, it didn't produce enough for me.

Juliet	10	☺	-
Red Torch	9	☺	SC

The vines of these varieties did not suffer diseases like nearby plants. The first fruits of *Juliet* were picked on August 1; the first fruits of *Red Torch* were picked August 13. We had extremely high yields. The fruits of both varieties were attractive. *Red Torch* fruits looked unique with its flame-looking stripes. *Juliet* fruits were redder, smooth and clean looking. Fruits of both varieties were extremely sweet and had great flavor! The flesh of *Juliet* was a little firmer and it was easier to tell when *Juliet* fruits were ripe.

Yields of both varieties were prolific. *Juliet* produced tomatoes earlier and produced more tomatoes overall.

Best small-fruited tomato varieties

Top choice
Sungold

Strong performers
Fargo Yellow Pear
Juliet
Red Torch
SunSugar
Supersweet 100

Prefer Juliet (continued)

Juliet	10	☺	
Red Torch	8	☺	SW

I loved the look of *Red Torch*, but my family and I far preferred the taste and texture of *Juliet*. Both varieties had excellent yields and healthy plants.

Juliet	10	☺	
Red Torch	9	☺	SW

Juliet produced more tomatoes and its tomatoes tasted better. I will be growing both varieties every year. They are great for drying and using for snacks or sundried.

Juliet	5	☹	
Red Torch	4	☹	SD

I did not really care for these varieties. They were tough skinned; not juicy or sweet. *Red Torch* was not very good tasting at all. I'm sorry to be so negative about these tomatoes. The plants were very prolific.

Prefer Red Torch

Juliet	9	☺	
Red Torch	10	☺	MN

Both varieties had a bit of early blight even with straw mulch and drip irrigation at the base. Despite the blight, they produced wonderfully. The taste and appearance of *Red Torch* were far superior compared to *Juliet*. *Red Torch* had gorgeous fruits with excellent taste. *Juliet* is extremely prolific and always a good staple.

Juliet	5	☹	
Red Torch	7	☺	MN

Red Torch was a unique tomato. I preferred it because of its orange and red stripes. It had better flavor although I thought the fruit of both varieties were a little tasteless. *Juliet* produced earlier and slightly more tomatoes, but its fruits were a little smaller.

Juliet	8	☹	
Red Torch	10	☺	SE

Red Torch fruits tasted sweet and looked cute with their stripes. *Red Torch* vines produced a lot of fruits.

Juliet	3	☹	
Red Torch	9	☺	SC

Red Torch plants were healthier. I liked the striped coloring on *Red Torch* tomatoes, and its tomatoes were more flavorful. *Juliet* struggled with blossom end rot all season while *Red Torch* only had it on the first few tomatoes.

Juliet	7	☹	
Red Torch	10	☺	NW

Red Torch had healthier, bigger plants. Its fruits were tastier compared to *Juliet*.

Juliet	8	☹	
Red Torch	10	☺	SW

Their plants were huge and had lots of fruit. *Juliet* was first to ripen but *Red Torch* produced more. I loved the coloring of *Red Torch* tomatoes. The fruits of both varieties tasted good, but *Red Torch* fruits were larger and tasted better.

Juliet	7	☹	
Red Torch	9	☺	SW

Red Torch had prettier fruits. Its fruits had a sweeter, better taste. *Juliet* ripened earlier and was more productive. *Juliet* tasted like *Roma* and would be good for processing; great roasted.

No Preference

Juliet	5	☹	
Red Torch	5	☹	NE

The fruits were very pretty, especially *Red Torch* fruits. But the fruits didn't taste as good as they looked.

Conclusions

Yields of both varieties were prolific. *Juliet* produced tomatoes earlier and produced more tomatoes overall. Gardeners were excited by the flame-looking stripes on *Red Torch* fruits. Gardeners were split on their taste preferences. Some gardeners were expecting juicier, sweeter fruits. *Juliet*, in particular, may have tasted more like a canning tomato than a cherry tomato; some gardeners liked that; some did not. Fruits of both varieties were firm and resisted cracking.

Gardeners were excited by the flame-looking stripes on *Red Torch* fruits.

Watermelon, Red

Varieties

Jamboree

88 days. Long, 25-pound melons with bright red, delicious flesh. Grows well in cooler climates.

Sweet Dakota Rose

85 days. Sweet flesh with few seeds. Developed in North Dakota. Melons grow 15 pounds. Reliable.

Data

Gardeners at 40 sites submitted information.

Trait	Jamboree	Swt D. Rose	Same
Germinated best	28%	14%	**58%**
Healthier plants	21	33	**45**
Matured earlier	23	**65**	12
Higher yields	31	**46**	23
More attractive fruits	**37**	30	33
Tasted better	30	**61**	9
Preference	21	**79**	
Recommend (☺)	52	**72**	
Mean score[1]	5.76	**6.59**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Jamboree

Jamboree 8 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 4 ☹ SE

Both varieties were very sweet and good to eat. *Jamboree* melons were better tasting and more attractive. *Jamboree* had a more traditional, oblong fruit that ranged from 10–20 pounds in weight. *Sweet Dakota Rose* had much smaller, rounder fruits weighing 5–8 pounds. *Jamboree* produced more fruits.

Jamboree 8 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 4 ☹ NW

Seeds were directly sown in the garden right before the cold rains in June, and plants of both varieties were stunted. The location of the trial had afternoon shade and *Sweet Dakota Rose* did not do well in that spot. In hindsight I would move the trial to full sun.

Jamboree 10 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 6 ☺ SW

Both varieties grew well and had high production, but the size and flavor of *Jamboree* made it a clear winner. I picked multiple melons over 20 pounds from *Jamboree*. The *Jamboree* vines were healthier and more vigorous at first, but the vines of *Sweet Dakota Rose* caught up later in the summer. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons averaged about half the size of *Jamboree* melons.

Jamboree 10 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 9 ☺ SW

We have a melon patch every year and it is located about 250 yards away from the garden. It seems the soil there must be well suited for melons because we get quite a few melons and this year was no different despite the heat and drought (I think melons prefer some heat). *Sweet Dakota Rose* is not new to us and it is one of our all-time favorites, but *Jamboree* knocked it out of the park. *Jamboree* outperformed *Sweet Dakota Rose* in all things except for its later maturity.

Gardeners liked the larger size and classic, oblong shape of *Jamboree* melons.

Best red watermelon varieties

Top choice
Sweet Dakota Rose

Strong performers
Sangria
Stargazer
Sugar Baby

Prefer Jamboree (continued)

Jamboree 3 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 1 ☹ SW

Jamboree produced one melon. *Sweet Dakota Rose* never set fruit.

Jamboree 8 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 5 ☹ SK

Sweet Dakota Rose didn't germinate as well. The summer was hot and dry, but the trial still would have done better with more time [trial was sown June 10]. An earlier start might have changed the outcome but there was still over 90 days before frost. We harvested only very small melons before first frost. *Jamboree* melons seemed to sweeten up after they were stored for a bit.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose

Jamboree 8 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 9 ☺ MN

Neither variety had great germination—only about 25% of seeds germinated. *Jamboree* wasn't fully ripe until October 22. This is fine for a mild fall but risky in most years (if seeds are sown directly into the soil vs. started indoors). The flavor of *Sweet Dakota Rose* was sweet and refreshing—perhaps the best watermelon I've ever had!

Jamboree 8 ☺ -
Sweet Dakota Rose 9 ☺ NE

Both varieties produced light-green melons with green stripes. *Jamboree* melons were oval in shape and bright red inside. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons were round and pink to light red inside. Their flesh was similar in texture, but *Sweet Dakota Rose* was sweeter and had fewer seeds.

Jamboree 8 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 10 ☺ SE

Sweet Dakota Rose was easy to grow and tasted great. *Sweet Dakota Rose* vines were healthier and produced a higher yield.

Jamboree 1 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 2 ☺ SE

The vines bloomed all summer but did not set melons until late August. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced two small melons but they did not ripen.

Jamboree 7 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 8 ☺ SE

Both varieties had 100% germination. *Sweet Dakota Rose* plants were healthier. The first *Sweet Dakota Rose* melon was harvested first on August 31, 2 days before the first melon of *Jamboree*. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced 9 fruits; a total of 115.5 pounds; an average of 12.8 pounds per fruit. *Jamboree* produced 8 fruits; a total of 81.3 pounds; an average of 10.2 pounds per fruit. My wife and I preferred *Jamboree* over *Sweet Dakota Rose* for taste.

The cool, wet spring delayed germination and slowed the growth of both varieties.

Jamboree 1 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 2 ☺ SE

This was a very poor year for watermelon. Neither variety did well. *Sweet Dakota Rose* did well in past years.

Jamboree 7 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 9 ☺ SE

The melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* had a sweeter taste and fewer seeds. *Jamboree* produced a higher yield.

Jamboree 6 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 7 ☺ SE

The melons of both varieties were full of seeds, but *Sweet Dakota Rose* tasted better.

Jamboree 7 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 8 ☺ NC

Sweet Dakota Rose produced a few more melons and its melons tasted better.

Jamboree 7 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 8 N NC

Our germination was poor on both varieties and it seemed like it took a long time to get a ripe melon. We picked a couple of not very ripe ones. The melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* were riper and the kids thought they had less seeds.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose (continued)

Jamboree 6 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 9 ☺ SC

Sweet Dakota Rose melons had sweeter, redder flesh. We shared the watermelon with many friends and they all loved *Sweet Dakota Rose*. Some said it was the sweetest melon they have ever eaten. Some were surprised that watermelons could grow in North Dakota.

Jamboree 1 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 2 ☹ SC

The plants did not grow much during the cooler weather in early summer. *Sweet Dakota Rose* set twice as many fruits but no fruits of either variety ripened before frost.

Jamboree 1 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 2 ☹ SC

The seeds germinated well, but the plants were very slow to flower. It was the end of July before fruit were set. Both varieties did very poorly this year. The vines looked healthy but produced only five melons in total. Only one watermelon reached maturity and it was *Sweet Dakota Rose*.

Jamboree 9 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 10 ☺ SC

Both varieties produced a similar amount of melons. Yields were 290 pounds for *Jamboree* compared to 220 pounds for *Sweet Dakota Rose*. *Sweet Dakota Rose* ripened slightly earlier. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons were round, smaller and had a brighter green appearance. Its melons were a little sweeter with a little thinner rind and a few less seeds. Both varieties had good flavor.

Jamboree 1 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 2 ☹ SC

The vines were healthy but did not set fruits until late August. *Sweet Dakota Rose* produced the only ripe melon. I do not recommend either variety.

Jamboree 7 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 10 ☺ SC

Sweet Dakota Rose watermelons were the biggest watermelons we have ever grown. They were beautiful and large with deep-red flesh; gorgeous. I will definitely be growing *Sweet Dakota Rose* again.

Jamboree 5 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 8 ☺ SC

Jamboree definitely germinated better. We ended up reseeding *Sweet Dakota Rose* twice. Once *Sweet Dakota Rose* seedlings started to grow they took off and never looked back! *Sweet Dakota Rose* outyielded *Jamboree* in the number and size of melons. The *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons were beautiful, sweet, and full of flavor and seeds. The melons were green striped and reminded me of the watermelons we had when I was a kid.

Jamboree 1 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 8 ☺ SC

I honestly do not know why it was such a rough year for our watermelon. All the other rows in this area of the garden did quite well. No watermelon got to volleyball size. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons ripened earlier and they were tasty. *Jamboree* produced only one melon.

Jamboree 5 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 8 ☺ SW

Sweet Dakota Rose melons were bigger, looked very appealing, and tasted better hands down. *Jamboree* vines seemed to struggle.

Jamboree 6 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 7 ☺ SW

Jamboree germinated at a rate of 100% compared to 60% for *Sweet Dakota Rose*. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons were rounder and more attractive; they weighed up to 17 pounds. *Jamboree* melons were more elongated in shape. *Sweet Dakota Rose* melons tasted better.

Sweet Dakota Rose was impressive again this year. It produced the first melons and had higher yields than _Jamboree_ at more sites.

Prefer Sweet Dakota Rose (continued)

Jamboree 8 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 9 ☺ SD

This year was not a great one for growing melons. We had very little snow last winter and I am doing no-till. The ground was so hard and dry. Melons were slow to take off. Both varieties produced good melons. *Sweet Dakota Rose* tasted better.

Jamboree 5 ☹
Sweet Dakota Rose 9 ☺ SD

Sweet Dakota Rose produced the most fruit and had larger melons, which were very sweet. *Sweet Dakota Rose* was an excellent choice for productivity and taste.

Jamboree 5 ☺
Sweet Dakota Rose 6 ☺ SD

This is the first year I produced any eating melons. *Sweet Dakota Rose* was very sweet.

Conclusions

Sweet Dakota Rose was impressive again this year. It produced the first melons and had higher yields than *Jamboree* at more sites. Both varieties produced tasty melons, but the melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* were especially sweet, flavorful and crisp. Gardeners liked the larger size and classic, oblong shape of *Jamboree* melons. The cool, wet weather in spring delayed the germination and growth of both varieties.

Both varieties produced tasty melons, but the melons of *Sweet Dakota Rose* were especially sweet, flavorful and crisp.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

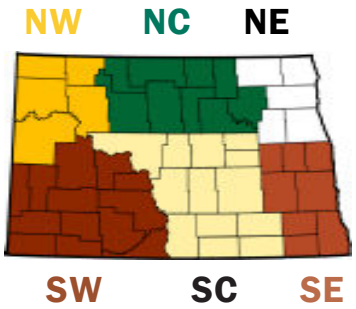
Variety A ☺
Variety B ☹

Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types
= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations
MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
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SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
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SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
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Watermelon, Red Seedless

Varieties

Dark Knight

80 days. Fifteen-pound melons have a very dark rind and sweet, dark red flesh.

Sweet Dawn

74 days. Eighteen-pound melons have a striped rind. Flavorful flesh. Ripens early. High yields.

Data

Gardeners at 20 sites submitted information.

Trait	Dark Knight	Sweet Dawn	Same
Germinated best	31%	31%	**38%**
Healthier plants	22	11	**67**
Matured earlier	38	**63**	0
Higher yields	**38**	**38**	25
More attractive fruits	13	38	**50**
Tasted better	13	**50**	38
Preference	22	**78**	
Recommend (☺)	44	**67**	
Mean score[1]	6.67	**7.11**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Dark Knight

Dark Knight 8 ☹ SC
Sweet Dawn 7 ☹

Both varieties were hard to get started; poor germination. Several seedlings died after transplanting from the greenhouse. *Dark Knight* ripened earlier and produced higher yields.

Dark Knight 9 ☺ SW
Sweet Dawn 5 ☹

Seeds were sown indoors on May 1. I wish I had started the seeds earlier (like when I did my tomatoes). The seedlings took a long time to get up and running, and did not make very much of a plant. *Dark Knight* melons were extremely tasty. This trial was grown in a hoop house.

Prefer Sweet Dawn

Dark Knight 9 ☺ NE
Sweet Dawn 10 ☺

Dark Knight melons had a perfect, bowling ball shape with all dark green skin. *Sweet Dawn* melons were oval with green/light green stripes. The flesh of both varieties had the same sweetness and texture. *Dark Knight* produced eleven melons compared to three for *Sweet Dawn*. I prefer *Sweet Dawn* because it was sweet, had great texture and fewer seeds, and looked attractive.

Dark Knight 1 ☹ SE
Sweet Dawn 2 ☹

Two of the six *Sweet Dawn* seeds germinated, but they did not produce fruit. Zero of the six *Dark Knight* seeds germinated. All six of the *Ace Plus* pollinator seeds germinated. I'd like to try again next year.

Dark Knight 6 ☹ SC
Sweet Dawn 8 ☺

The *Sweet Dawn* melons were absolutely delicious! They were possibly the best watermelons I have had. I only got one melon I could pick from *Dark Knight* and I picked it before it was ripe. We got two perfectly ripe melons from *Sweet Dawn*. They were both large and delicious. I am hoping to get one or two more ripe melons from each, but I am going to give them right up to the first freeze before picking. We really enjoyed growing seedless watermelons and would definitely do it again.

Several gardeners struggled with the germination and transplanting of these varieties.

Best red seedless watermelon variety

Top choice
Sweet Dawn

Prefer Sweet Dawn (continued)

Dark Knight 7 ☹ 
Sweet Dawn 8 ☺ SC

It was very challenging to get these seeds to germinate. *Sweet Dawn* germinated better, grew better, produced more melons and tasted better.

Dark Knight 7 ☺ 
Sweet Dawn 9 ☺ SC

Other than the germination being better for *Dark Knight*, I don't have much to comment on the differences between the two apart from that and the flavor. Both had similar growth, fruit size and yields. Both were technically seedless but did have quite a bit of the smaller, thin, mostly imperceptible white seeds. This was still miles better then dealing with larger and harder black seeds for my money. It all simply comes down to the taste, and across multiple melons of each variety, *Sweet Dawn* was indeed noticeably sweeter. Both varieties were enjoyable to eat, and it was a new experience growing seedless watermelons.

Dark Knight 8 ☹ 
Sweet Dawn 9 ☺ NW

The germination percentage was very low (18%) for both varieties. *Sweet Dawn* matured earlier, had bigger and more attractive melons, and tasted very sweet. *Dark Knight* produced a higher yield.

Dark Knight 5 ☺ 
Sweet Dawn 6 ☺ SD

Only three of the six *Dark Knight* seedlings survived after I transplanted them. *Sweet Dawn* vines were healthier and more productive. Its fruits were more attractive. I got one *Dark Knight* melon, and it had great flavor. This was my first time growing seedless watermelon. I learned a lot and would definitely try again.

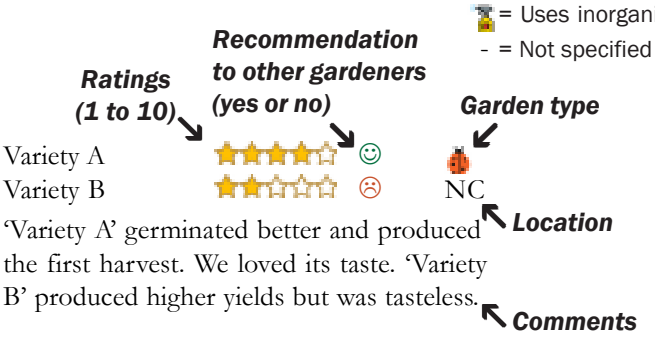
Conclusions

Seedless watermelons require very warm soil temperature for germination. Several gardeners struggled with the germination and transplanting of these varieties. *Sweet Dawn* matured earlier, had bigger and more attractive melons, and tasted very sweet. Most gardeners did not recommend *Dark Knight*. Yields of the two varieties were similar.

Sweet Dawn matured earlier, had bigger and more attractive melons, and tasted very sweet.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



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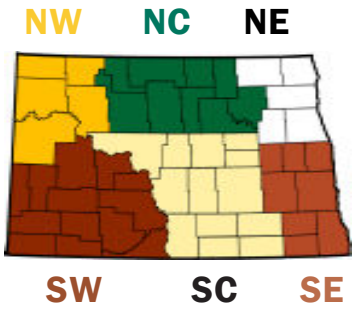

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Marigold, Yellow Cutting

Varieties

Giant Yellow

83 days. Large, 3-inch flowers with tall, strong stems for cutting. Sturdy plants. Grows 38 inches.

Hedge Mary Yellow

75 days. New! Vigorous, 35-inch plants spread to form a colorful hedge. Big, 3-inch blooms last long in a vase.

Data

Gardeners at 39 sites submitted information.

Trait	Giant Yellow	H.Mary Yellow	Same
Germinated best	31%	**37%**	31%
Healthier plants	20	14	**66**
Bloomed earlier	**55**	27	18
More blooms	32	**35**	32
Prettier in garden	35	21	**44**
Better cut flower	33	17	**50**
Preference	**57**	43	
Recommend	**80**	74	
Mean score[1]	**8.00**	7.97	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Giant Yellow

Giant Yellow 8 ☺
Hedge Mary Yellow 7 ☺ MN

Both varieties grew very well and were beautiful. The flowers of *Giant Yellow* were fuller and bigger.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☹ NE

Both varieties exhibited 3.0- to 3.5-foot plants with healthy, medium-dark green foliage and 3- to 4-inch flowers that bloomed into the beginning of October. The flowers of *Giant Yellow* were vibrant yellow and stunning in the garden.

Giant Yellow 10 ☺
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☺ SE

Giant Yellow plants grew much bigger and had really nice, huge blooms. *Hedge Mary Yellow* made a better cut flower because *Giant Yellow* stems would break right under the flower head. Both varieties germinated well.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☺ SE

Giant Yellow bloomed earlier, looked more attractive in my garden and was a better cut flower compared to *Hedge Mary Yellow*.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☺ SE

Giant Yellow produced more quickly and abundantly, but both varieties were showstopping gorgeous! The plants were so tall and full.

Giant Yellow 10 ☺
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties were very sturdy and great bloomers. The flowers were long lasting, and the plants bloomed into the hard frost. I preferred the color of *Giant Yellow*.

Giant Yellow 10 ☺
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties had big, beautiful flowers. There were lots of bees and butterflies on them.

Both varieties grew vigorously and were beautiful. Their flowers were large and enjoyed by both gardeners and pollinators.

Best cutting marigold sunflower varieties

Top choice
Giant series

Strong performers
Chedi series
Crackerjack
Hedge Mary series
Oriental series

Prefer Giant Yellow (continued)

Giant Yellow 10 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☹ NC

Both varieties were beautiful and big. *Giant Yellow* plants were bigger and sturdier, but later blooming. *Hedge Mary Yellow* stems were not sturdy enough for the size of its flowers.

Giant Yellow 8 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 7 ☺ SC

All seeds of *Hedge Mary Yellow* germinated while only half of *Giant Yellow* seeds germinated. Plants of both varieties were healthy. *Giant Yellow* bloomed at least two weeks earlier. Its flowers were gorgeous. The *Giant Yellow* plants had very shallow roots and were top heavy. I had to stake them so they wouldn't fall over. *Hedge Mary Yellow* plants were not as tall and didn't fall over.

Giant Yellow 7 ☺ -
Hedge Mary Yellow 4 ☹ SC

Giant Yellow grew so much better.

Giant Yellow 4 ☹ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 3 ☹ SC

Giant Yellow produced larger flowers. Neither variety could stand our winds.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 7 ☺ SC

Giant Yellow germinated better, bloomed earlier and had more attractive plants.

Giant Yellow 5 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 2 ☹ NW

Giant Yellow produced way more flowers! Its flowers lasted a long time. *Hedge Mary Yellow* did not bloom until the end of September.

Giant Yellow 10 ☺ -
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☺ NW

Both varieties had really nice and showy flowers. *Giant Yellow* was very showy. *Giant Yellow* had huge flowers, and its plants were sturdy, nice and tall.

Giant Yellow 10 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 5 ☹ SW

Giant Yellow had much hardier plants. They grew taller and had more blooms.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 7 ☹ SW

Giant Yellow kept blooming and blooming. Its flowers were good and full looking.

Giant Yellow 10 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☺ SW

I enjoyed beautiful blooms all summer! *Giant Yellow* germinated better and had healthier plants.

Giant Yellow 8 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 6 ☹ SW

Giant Yellow produced more flowers.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☺ SD

Both varieties had very large flowers. At first I was disappointed more seeds didn't germinate, but later was glad because they filled in. *Giant Yellow* germinated better.

Giant Yellow 10 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☺ SD

I loved both of these varieties. Planted side by side you cannot tell these varieties apart. *Giant Yellow* germinated better.

Prefer Hedge Mary Yellow

Giant Yellow 5 ☹ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ NE

Hedge Mary Yellow had better germination and a nicer, fuller look overall. It bloomed a week earlier. I preferred its deeper, more golden yellow flowers. *Giant Yellow* flowers had a lighter, more lemon yellow color.

Giant Yellow 8 ☹ -
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☺ NE

Hedge Mary Yellow bloomed earlier, produced more flowers and had more attractive flowers.

Giant Yellow 7 ☹ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☺ SE

Hedge Mary Yellow had larger plants and flowers. It bloomed earlier and produced more flowers.

***Giant Yellow* plants grew slightly taller and bloomed earlier at most sites.**

Prefer Mary Hedge Yellow (continued)

Giant Yellow 8 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 9 ☺ SE

I preferred the color of *Hedge Mary Yellow*.

Giant Yellow 2 ☹ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 7 ☺ SE

I loved *Hedge Mary Yellow*. Its blooms were carnation like and the leaves were lacy. *Hedge Mary Yellow* plants were more resilient. *Giant Yellow* plants did not survive the full season.

Giant Yellow 6 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☺ NC

Hedge Mary Yellow seeds all seemed to germinate. Its plants filled in better. *Giant Yellow* bloomed first. The flowers of both varieties were pretty.

Giant Yellow 8 ☹ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ NC

I liked the shape of the *Hedge Mary Yellow* plants better, and they withstood the rain and wind better. I think these varieties would make a nice "flower hedge". Both varieties had numerous blooms that lasted a long time. We differed on which variety had better color. Both germinated poorly.

Giant Yellow 6 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☺ NC

Hedge Mary Yellow had a bigger, fluffy bloom. Its plants were thicker and had lots of blooms. *Giant Yellow* bloomed in mid-August, a month before *Hedge Mary Yellow*. Both varieties grew well although they did not get consistent watering.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ SC

Hedge Mary Yellow was healthier and bloomed earlier.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ SC

All the *Hedge Mary Yellow* seeds germinated and grew, but not so for *Giant Yellow*. *Hedge Mary Yellow* bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. The flowers of both varieties were beautiful, bright yellow and very pretty.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ SC

The color of *Hedge Mary Yellow* was a little golden yellow and I liked that. These marigolds were my favorite flowers this year. They still looked pretty good on October 27, but I had to pull them out of the garden.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ SC

Both varieties had beautiful flowers until the end of September! *Hedge Mary Yellow* germinated better.

Giant Yellow 8 ☺ -
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ SC

Hedge Mary Yellow had a more unique bloom with a softer, golden yellow color and velvety looking blooms. *Giant Yellow* blooms were brighter yellow. *Hedge Mary Yellow* blooms also cut better.

Giant Yellow 3 ☹ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 8 ☹ NW

Hedge Mary Yellow germinated and produced a full row of flowers—although they were late bloomers. Only two plants of *Giant Yellow* developed; they grew taller and bloomed earlier than *Hedge Mary Yellow*. Both varieties bloomed later than I thought they would. They did give pollinators some food after everything else was done.

Giant Yellow 9 ☺ 
Hedge Mary Yellow 10 ☺ SW

Hedge Mary Yellow plants were shorter and more uniform; their flowers had a deeper yellow color. The *Giant Yellow* flowers had more of a fluorescent yellow color. This trial was grown in a hoop house. The plants are still blooming as of October 30.

Conclusions

Both varieties grew vigorously and were beautiful. Their flowers were large and very much enjoyed by both gardeners and pollinators. *Giant Yellow* plants grew slightly taller and bloomed earlier at most sites. The blooms of *Hedge Mary Yellow* were a deeper, golden yellow in color while the blooms of *Giant Yellow* were bright yellow. Both varieties bloomed until frost in fall.

The blooms of *Hedge Mary Yellow* were a deeper, golden yellow in color. The blooms of *Giant Yellow* were bright yellow. Both varieties bloomed until frost in fall.

Sunflower, Fluffy

Varieties

Greenburst DMR

62 days. Semi-double flowers with golden-yellow petals and green disks. Sturdy, branching, mildew-resistant stalks. Pollenless. Grows 66 inches.

Just Crazy

60 days. New! Unique flowers have orange, ragged petals that burst open in all directions. Pollenless. Grows 54 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 24 sites submitted information.

Trait	Greenburst DMR	Just Crazy	Same
Germinated best	18%	29%	**53%**
Healthier plants	**50**	13	38
Bloomed earlier	33	27	**40**
More blooms	**38**	25	**38**
Prettier in garden	25	**44**	31
Better cut flower	23	23	**54**
Preference	38	**63**	
Recommend	75	**81**	
Mean score[1]	7.94	**8.19**	
Median score[1]	8.00	**8.50**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Greenburst DMR

Greenburst DMR 8 ☺ MN
Just Crazy 6 ☹

Greenburst DMR had adorable, fluffy flowers that did well in both the garden and vase. They were a showstopper in a mixed flower vase. *Just Crazy* stalks were shorter and had very thin, pencil-sized stems. Its stalks fell down from wind and rain.

Greenburst DMR 10 ☺ NE
Just Crazy 8 ☹

I liked both varieties, but *Greenburst DMR* had more blooms from the top to the bottom of the plant! It also flowered longer into the season. I used the smaller flowers of both varieties in arrangements and they were beautiful.

Greenburst DMR 9 ☺
Just Crazy 8 ☺ SE

The emergence of *Greenburst DMR* was more uniform and vigorous. Six plants of *Just Crazy* had downy mildew and three plants of *Greenburst DMR* were deformed. *Just Crazy* had more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden. Its flowers had longer petals. *Greenburst DMR* bloomed for a longer time.

Greenburst DMR 8 ☺ SC
Just Crazy 7 ☺

Both varieties were pretty and amazing! *Greenburst DMR* got so huge and beautiful! It grew better, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers than *Just Crazy*.

Greenburst DMR 9 ☺ NW
Just Crazy 4 ☹

Greenburst DMR plants were much taller and had much bigger flower heads.

Greenburst DMR 9 ☺ SW
Just Crazy 8 ☺

The flower petals of *Just Crazy* were not as formal. They were kind of haphazard but still a nice flower and didn't distract. I liked the downy mildew resistance factor of *Greenburst DMR* although I didn't seem to get any downy mildew this year. The foliage of *Just Crazy* dried up earlier. *Greenburst DMR* flowers lasted a bit longer as a cut flower.

***Greenburst DMR* plants were taller, healthier and produced more blooms at more sites.**

Best tall, double/ semi-double branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Just Crazy

Strong performer
Greenburst DMR

Prefer Just Crazy

Greenburst DMR 6 ☹ 
Just Crazy 8 ☺ MN

Both varieties had beautiful flowers! *Just Crazy* had better germination. In my garden, one full row of *Greenburst DMR* didn't come up. In a different spot in the yard, 100% of *Greenburst DMR* came up.

Greenburst DMR 4 ☹ -
Just Crazy 5 ☺ NE

Just Crazy looked more attractive in the garden and was a better cut flower.

Greenburst DMR 8 ☹ 
Just Crazy 10 ☺ SE

Just Crazy had a sturdier plant and prettier flowers. It germinated better and bloomed 3 weeks earlier.

Greenburst DMR 9 ☺ 
Just Crazy 10 ☺ NC

I loved the flowers of both varieties! They were so pretty! *Greenburst DMR* plants were healthier and bloomed earlier.

Greenburst DMR 5 ☹ 
Just Crazy 10 ☺ NC

Just Crazy grew much better than *Greenburst DMR*. *Just Crazy* had better germination, better production and healthy looking plants. *Just Crazy* thrived while *Greenburst DMR* seemed a bit dull by comparison.

Greenburst DMR 9 ☺ 
Just Crazy 10 ☺ SC

The heads of both varieties were very nice.

Greenburst DMR 8 ☺ 
Just Crazy 9 ☺ NW

I really enjoyed growing both of these varieties. They were very unique! *Just Crazy* bloomed more prolifically and was more attractive.

Greenburst DMR 8 ☺ 
Just Crazy 9 ☺ SW

Greenburst DMR germinated at 100% compared to 92% for *Just Crazy*. The plants of both varieties were absolutely beautiful. The bees and other pollinators loved them. The flowers lasted about 2.5 weeks in a vase. I preferred *Just Crazy* because its flowers did not tip and face down like those of *Greenburst DMR*.

Greenburst DMR 9 ☺ 
Just Crazy 10 ☺ SW

Both were very fun flowers to have. *Greenburst DMR* plants were taller and had larger heads. Its heads had a bigger "fuzzier" center. *Just Crazy* heads were smaller and more defined but had longer twizzle petals that were beautiful in arrangements.

Greenburst DMR 8 ☺ 
Just Crazy 9 ☺ SD

Just Crazy had more seeds germinate.

Conclusions

Both varieties were fun to grow and received high ratings from gardeners. Most gardeners preferred *Just Crazy*. They loved the informal, ragged look of its flowers. *Greenburst DMR* plants were taller, healthier and produced more blooms at more sites.

Most gardeners preferred *Just Crazy*. They loved the informal, ragged look of its flowers.

Sunflower, Gold Branching

Varieties

Concert Bell

65 days. Golden flowers appear in clusters of 10 to 12 blooms on a central stem. Very sturdy stalks. Pollenless. All-America Selections winner. Grows 66 inches.

Golden Ray

65 days. Instead of blooming on tips of branches, these flowers grow like gladiolus, all along a central stem. Pollenless. Grows 66 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Concert Bell	Golden Ray	Same
Germinated best	29%	29%	**41%**
Healthier plants	6	38	**56**
Bloomed earlier	27	**60**	13
More blooms	38	**50**	13
Prettier in garden	25	**38**	**38**
Better cut flower	**40**	**40**	20
Preference	41	**59**	
Recommend	67	**78**	
Mean score[1]	7.41	**7.82**	
Median score[1]	7.00	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Concert Bell

Concert Bell 10 ☺ MN
Golden Ray 9 ☺

I loved them both. They were attractive in their own way. *Concert Bell* was massive. It is the biggest and tallest sunflower I've grown. *Concert Bell* grew 10 feet tall and 3 feet wide with very thick, sturdy stems. Its flowers had beautiful, dark centers with dark yellow/orange petals and produced lots of seeds for birds this winter. I also loved *Golden Ray* because of the multiple flowers on the top of the stem.

Concert Bell 7 ☺ -
Golden Ray 6 ☹ NE

Concert Bell had a better looking flower head—big! *Golden Ray* plants were more vigorous.

Concert Bell 9 ☺
Golden Ray 8 ☹ NE

Most plants were healthy but a few developed hollow stems and fell over. *Concert Bell* was more attractive in the garden. The plants grew slightly shorter and its flowers were more concentrated on the stem. These flowers did not drop quite as much compared to *Golden Ray*, which had much larger flowers.

Concert Bell 10 ☺
Golden Ray 5 ☺ NC

Concert Bell made a fabulous bouquet. *Golden Ray* stalks were taller. *Golden Ray* bloomed earlier and longer.

Concert Bell 9 ☺
Golden Ray 7 ☺ SC

Concert Bell produced more flowers and was very pretty in the garden.

Concert Bell 10 ☺
Golden Ray 9 ☺ SC

They were both so pretty and produced lovely, tall plants and a great abundance of flowers. *Concert Bell* bloomed first and produced more flowers.

***Golden Ray* stalks were taller, sturdier and bloomed earlier. *Golden Ray* flowers were larger and more abundant.**

Best tall, gold branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Golden Ray

Strong performer
Gold Rush

Prefer Concert Bell (continued)

Concert Bell	9	☺	
Golden Ray	8	☺	SC

The very small seeds of *Concert Bell* made planting in the breeze a challenge; this created a somewhat random row. *Golden Ray* germinated better and bloomed earlier. *Concert Bell* had gorgeous spikes of flowers.

Prefer Golden Ray

Concert Bell	6	☹	
Golden Ray	9	☺	MN

Golden Ray plants were eaten by the deer but came out of it and produced taller, stronger flowers and were better all around.

Concert Bell	3	☹	
Golden Ray	7	☹	SE

Concert Bell germinated at a higher rate and more uniformly. *Golden Ray* showed more vigor. Four *Concert Bell* plants suffered from downy mildew compared to one plant for *Golden Ray*. *Golden Ray* plants were more attractive; they were taller and branched early due to wind breakage. Aphids were terrible and destroyed a lot of blooms on both varieties.

Concert Bell	7	☺	
Golden Ray	8	☺	NC

Sunflowers are one of my favorite types of flowers to plant every year, and I have tried so many varieties of them. I did not care for either of these varieties. I did not like the bunching/smaller flowers in comparison to other types of sunflowers, and just the overall look of the plant itself.

Concert Bell	7	☺	
Golden Ray	8	☺	NC

Golden Ray germinated better. Both varieties grew well; there were no diseases or damage despite bad weather. *Golden Ray* bloomed a week earlier and had flowers lower on its stalks. For both varieties, I really liked the bunching of flowers on their stalks—very cool. I thought the full look of blooms made for a beautiful addition to the garden.

Concert Bell	7	☺	
Golden Ray	9	☺	NC

Golden Ray germinated well, bloomed first and was very tall. *Concert Bell* grew well and was beautiful. *Concert Bell* would be perfect for someone wanting a shorter sunflower.

Concert Bell	6	☺	
Golden Ray	9	☺	SC

Golden Ray plants were taller, sturdier and produced larger, more attractive flowers.

Concert Bell	3	☹	
Golden Ray	4	☹	SC

Golden Ray bloomed to the end of September. It produced more flowers and looked more attractive in the garden. *Concert Bell* just stopped blooming.

Concert Bell	7	☹	-
Golden Ray	8	☺	SC

Golden Ray was bigger, bloomed earlier, produced more flowers and looked nicer in the garden.

Concert Bell	8	☹	
Golden Ray	10	☺	NW

Golden Ray produced more flowers and looked more attractive.

Concert Bell	8	☺	
Golden Ray	9	☺	SW

All seeds germinated. The plants grew with thick, strong stems. The flowers were so beautiful and bees loved them. This was the first time I've grown branching sunflowers and will seek these varieties out in the future because of how unique they are. I really liked the size of these blooms for cut flowers. They added interest to any arrangement I made. *Golden Ray* flowers lasted a bit longer in arrangements.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Golden Ray*. *Golden Ray* stalks were taller, sturdier and bloomed earlier. *Golden Ray* flowers were larger and more abundant. The flower spikes of both varieties made fabulous bouquets and were great in cut flower arrangements.

The flower spikes of both varieties made fabulous bouquets and were great in cut flower arrangements.

Sunflower, Gold Single-Stem

Varieties

ProCut Bravo

57 days. New! Large flower with a dark disk. Grows vigorously and maintains a fresh look through flowering. Pollenless. Grows 60 inches.

ProCut Orange DMR

55 days. Very popular, single-stem sunflower for cutting. Bright and vibrant petals. Single stem. Pollenless. Resists downy mildew. Grows 54 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 18 sites submitted information.

Trait	ProCut Bravo	ProCut Or.DMR	Same
Germinated best	27%	20%	**53%**
Healthier plants	20	0	**80**
Bloomed earlier	**53**	33	13
More blooms	36	7	**57**
Prettier in garden	**40**	20	**40**
Better cut flower	18	18	**64**
Preference	**53**	47	
Recommend	**87**	80	
Mean score[1]	**7.87**	7.40	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	**9.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer ProCut Bravo

ProCut Bravo 7 ☺ NE
ProCut Orange 5 ☹

The heads on *ProCut Bravo* were much larger. Both varieties were okay, but I prefer a shorter variety.

ProCut Bravo 7 ☹ SE
ProCut Orange 6 ☹

I was disappointed in both varieties. I prefer large blossoms with long stems and neither variety this year gave me that. I preferred *ProCut Bravo* for its color and greater amount of blossoms.

ProCut Bravo 10 ☺
ProCut Orange 2 ☹ SE

ProCut Bravo was better in all traits. It had more flower production.

ProCut Bravo 8 ☺ SE
ProCut Orange 6 ☺

Both varieties looked nice. *ProCut Bravo* stalks were taller and their flowers were bigger.

ProCut Bravo 10 ☺
ProCut Orange 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties were beautiful. *ProCut Bravo* had beautiful flowers and healthy, sturdy plants. *ProCut Orange DMR* bloomed first.

ProCut Bravo 9 ☺
ProCut Orange 8 ☺ NW

I preferred the *ProCut Bravo* color better.

ProCut Bravo 10 ☺
ProCut Orange 9 ☺ SW

Both of these varieties produced a "perfect sunflower." They definitely stood out compared to my other sunflowers in the garden. Their blooms were on the larger side for using as a cut flower, at least for my vases, but boy were they pretty! I preferred *ProCut Bravo* because its heads stood more upright when bloomed. The *ProCut Orange DMR* heads angled down a bit when they were fully bloomed. *ProCut Bravo* plants were a little taller. The blooms of *ProCut Orange DMR* had a deeper golden and less yellow color compared to those of *ProCut Bravo*.

Gardeners were impressed with both of these *ProCut* varieties. Both varieties grew consistently well across sites.

Best gold single-stem sunflower varieties

Top choice
ProCut series

Strong performers
Sunrich series
Vincent's series

Prefer ProCut Bravo (continued)

ProCut Bravo	10	☺	
ProCut Orange	9	☺	SW

ProCut Bravo bloomed earlier and had beautiful, vibrant and symmetric flowers.

Prefer ProCut Orange DMR

ProCut Bravo	3	☹	-
ProCut Orange	4	☺	NE

ProCut Bravo stalks were taller and bloomed earlier, but their flowers were deformed. *ProCut Orange DMR* had better looking flowers.

ProCut Bravo	7	☺	
ProCut Orange	9	☺	SC

ProCut Orange DMR had definitely more flowers and prettier foliage. Its flower heads were smaller and easier to use in arrangements. The size of its stems was good for cutting.

ProCut Bravo	9	☺	
ProCut Orange	10	☺	SC

ProCut Orange DMR flowers had slightly more color.

ProCut Bravo	9	☺	
ProCut Orange	10	☺	SC

Both varieties were fantastic. *ProCut Orange DMR* had a slight advantage with its uniformity of size.

ProCut Bravo	2	☺	
ProCut Orange	5	☺	SC

I haven't ever grown sunflowers. The flowers were the size of dinner plates; huge and very heavy; I worried they would tip over the vase in cut flower arrangements. I planted these near the roadside of my garden. More than once, I had people stop to stand near them for a picture. A local florist asked if she could use them for a specific funeral arrangement request.

ProCut Bravo	8	☺	
ProCut Orange	9	☺	SC

ProCut Bravo looked more attractive in the garden. *ProCut Orange DMR* had longer stems for cut flowers.

ProCut Bravo	9	☺	
ProCut Orange	10	☺	SW

ProCut Orange DMR bloomed earlier; otherwise these varieties had very similar qualities. I like the downy mildew resistance factor of *ProCut Orange DMR* although I didn't seem to have any downy mildew this year.

Conclusions

Gardeners were impressed with both of these *ProCut* varieties. Both varieties grew consistently well across sites. *ProCut Bravo* was reported to bloom a couple days later than other *ProCut* varieties, but it grew vigorously and bloomed earlier than *ProCut Orange DMR* in most gardens. *ProCut Bravo* was healthy, vigorous and grew slightly taller. Several gardeners felt its flowers were prettier compared to the flowers of *ProCut Orange DMR*. The downy mildew trait of *ProCut Orange DMR* is a welcome feature, but this disease was not a factor at these particular sites.

ProCut Bravo was healthy, vigorous and grew slightly taller. it bloomed earlier in most gardens. Several gardeners felt _ProCut Bravo_ flowers were prettier compared to the flowers of _ProCut Orange DMR_.

Sunflower, Bicolor Dwarf

Varieties

Little Tiger

55 days. Bright, flame-colored flowers with dark centers. Branching plants bloom very early and for a long time. Pollenless. Grows 18–24 inches tall.

Tinies

50 days. Pastel, daisy-like petals, all with a tinge of red. Great for small vases and hand bouquets. Pollenless. Grows 24 inches tall.

Data

Gardeners at 15 sites submitted information.

Trait	Little Tiger	Tinies	Same
Germinated best	13%	**73%**	13%
Healthier plants	33	25	**42**
Bloomed earlier	25	**58**	17
More blooms	25	**50**	25
Prettier in garden	**50**	25	25
Better cut flower	17	**50**	33
Preference	46	**54**	
Recommend	54	**85**	
Mean score[1]	5.92	**7.23**	
Median score[1]	5.00	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Little Tiger

Little Tiger 10 ☺ 
Tinies 9 ☺ NE

Little Tiger produced more flowers and was more colorful. It attracted more bees. *Tinies* bloomed first. Both varieties performed better in the garden compared to in pots.

Little Tiger 5 ☹ 
Tinies 2 ☹ SE

Neither variety grew well in my clay soil. *Little Tiger* grew better.

Little Tiger 8 ☺ 
Tinies 7 ☺ NC

We did the trial in pots and the garden. Most seeds germinated. In pots, *Little Tiger* had healthier plants and it bloomed 2 days earlier. The height of *Little Tiger* plants was nice and they seemed very hardy. I liked the color of *Tinies* better.

Little Tiger 5 ☹ 
Tinies 4 ☹ NC

I did not care for either variety. The plants were much too small. Although neither variety looked appealing, *Little Tiger* plants were healthier, produced more flowers and looked more attractive.

Little Tiger 7 ☺ 
Tinies 6 ☺ SC

Tinies bloomed earlier and produced more flowers, but *Little Tiger* looked more attractive in the garden.

Little Tiger 9 ☺ 
Tinies 7 ☺ SC

While both varieties were nice, all *Little Tiger* seeds germinated whereas only a few of the *Tinies* seeds germinated.

The bright, flaming red and orange blooms of *Little Tiger* stood out in gardens.

Best bicolor dwarf branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Firecracker

Strong performers
Rio Carnival
Tinies

Prefer Tinies

Little Tiger	4	☹	-
Tinies	9	☺	NE

Tinies had cute flowers and grew taller.

Little Tiger	5	☺	
Tinies	6	☺	SE

Seeds were not sown until July 4. *Tinies* plants grew taller and faster. It bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. *Tinies* was more attractive than *Little Tiger* in our garden. *Little Tiger* plants remained green and healthy while the *Tinies* plants turned brown with fungal issues.

Little Tiger	7	☺	
Tinies	8	☺	NC

The plants of *Tinies* were taller. Its stems were longer and good for cutting. *Tinies* bloomed first, produced more flowers, and its flowers were pretty.

Little Tiger	5	☹	
Tinies	10	☺	SC

Tinies bloomed first and produced more flowers. Its plants were bigger.

Little Tiger	1	☹	
Tinies	8	☺	SC

Little Tiger did not germinate at all. All of the *Tinies* seeds germinated. *Tinies* bloomed well, but I wish the blooms had more color.

Little Tiger	8	☹	
Tinies	9	☺	SC

Tinies germinated better, grew 1 foot taller and was a better cut flower. *Little Tiger* germinated poorly but bloomed first and looked more attractive in the field.

Little Tiger	3	☺	
Tinies	9	☺	SW

Both varieties had pretty flowers, but *Tinies* flowers more unique and very muted. *Little Tiger* flowers were much brighter and prettier to look at. *Tinies* plants grew faster, bigger and produced lots of nice flowers.

Little Tiger	8	☺	
Tinies	9	☺	SW

Tinies germinated better and provided more flowers. *Tinies* plants seemed sturdier and bloomed 5 days earlier. Less than 50% of *Little Tiger* seeds germinated. Both varieties looked attractive in our garden.

Conclusions

The bright, flaming red and orange blooms of *Little Tiger* stood out in gardens. In contrast, the blooms of *Tinies* appeared in soft and muted colors, all with a tinge of red. *Tinies* germinated much better, grew taller, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. Its stems were longer and better suited for cutting. Vastly more gardeners recommended *Tinies* compared to the number of gardeners who recommended *Little Tiger*.

***Tinies* germinated much better, grew taller, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. Its stems were longer and better suited for cutting.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ★★★★☆ ☺
Variety B ★★☆☆☆ ☹

Garden type ↙

NC

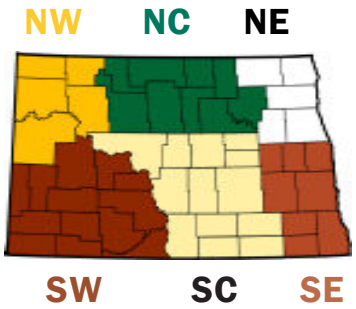
Location ↖

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

Comments ↖

Garden types

- = Organic
- = Uses inorganic fertilizers
- = Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Sunflower, Double-Petal Dwarf

Varieties

Baby Bear

60 days. Compact, branching plants with lots of orange, double-petal flowers. Pollenless. Grows 30 inches.

Teddy Bear

60 days. Large, fluffy, golden blooms. Short, branching plants bloom early. Minimal pollen. Grows 30 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 17 sites submitted information.

Trait	Baby Bear	Teddy Bear	Same
Germinated best	**64%**	14%	21%
Healthier plants	**42**	25	33
Bloomed earlier	**92**	8	0
More blooms	**57**	36	7
Prettier in garden	**50**	36	14
Better cut flower	**57**	14	29
Preference	**57**	43	
Recommend	**93**	79	
Mean score[1]	**8.43**	6.64	
Median score[1]	**9.50**	7.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Baby Bear

Baby Bear 10 ☺
Teddy Bear 7 ☺ SE

Baby Bear germinated at a rate of 76%; *Teddy Bear* germinated at a rate of 29%. *Baby Bear* had so much vigor and bloomed at least 3 weeks earlier than *Teddy Bear*. *Teddy Bear* produced 23 flowers compared to 18 flowers for *Baby Bear*. Both varieties were pretty. This trial was grown in a garden.

Baby Bear 10 ☺
Teddy Bear 8 ☺ SE

Both varieties germinated at 100% and had healthy plants. *Baby Bear* bloomed first and its flowers seemed heartier. Both varieties were attractive. *Teddy Bear* stalks were taller and not very strong.

Baby Bear 10 ☺
Teddy Bear 3 ☹ SE

Baby Bear germinated at a rate of 50%; *Teddy Bear* germinated at a rate of 25%. *Baby Bear* showed a lot of vigor and bloomed at least a month earlier. *Teddy Bear* did not perform well. This trial was grown in pots.

Baby Bear 10 ☺
Teddy Bear 9 ☺ NC

I loved *Baby Bear*. Its plants had a nice height and a fat stalk. Its flowers were huge, very unique and puffy.

Baby Bear 10 ☺
Teddy Bear 3 ☹ NC

All *Baby Bear* seeds germinated; only two *Teddy Bear* seeds germinated. *Baby Bear* grew faster, bloomed earlier and looked better.

Baby Bear 9 ☺
Teddy Bear 6 ☺ NW

Baby Bear had superior germination and smaller, more attractive flowers. *Teddy Bear* had taller plants with more flowers per plant and larger flowers. This trial was grown in a garden.

Baby Bear 10 ☺
Teddy Bear 3 ☹ NW

Baby Bear was better for all traits. Its blooms were beautiful and full looking. This trial was grown in pots.

Gardeners loved the cute, fluffy, double-petal flowers of both varieties. *Baby Bear* rated higher than *Teddy Bear* in all measured traits.

Best double-petal dwarf branching sunflower variety

Top choice
Baby Bear

Prefer Baby Bear (continued)

Baby Bear	10 ★★★★★	☺	
Teddy Bear	4 ★★☆☆☆	☺	SW

Baby Bear plants were very tall and bloomed very well. It had huge, full flowers that were 3–4 inches across. *Baby Bear* flowers were vibrant and cool to look at.

Prefer Teddy Bear

Baby Bear	5 ★★½☆☆	☺	
Teddy Bear	6 ★★★☆☆	☺	MN

Teddy Bear grew better and flowered more nicely, but it didn't germinate as well. Some seedlings got eaten by bunnies.

Baby Bear	7 ★★★½☆	☺	
Teddy Bear	10 ★★★★★	☺	NC

Both varieties had good germination in pots. *Teddy Bear* did not germinate as well in the garden and some animal chomped the tops off of half of them; however they did come back and bloom nicely. *Baby Bear* bloomed 4 days earlier. *Teddy Bear* had significantly more flowers and they lasted a long time. I really liked how *Teddy Bear* looked. I didn't like either of these varieties as a cut flower in a vase, but they looked great growing in pots.

Baby Bear	9 ★★★★½	☺	
Teddy Bear	10 ★★★★★	☺	SC

Although it took *Teddy Bear* a long time to germinate, it grew the tallest and had beautiful blooms. *Baby Bear* bloomed faster.

Baby Bear	5 ★★½☆☆	☹	
Teddy Bear	8 ★★★★☆	☺	SC

Teddy Bear was clearly the better producer. It germinated better, bloomed quicker, produced more flowers and was more attractive.

Baby Bear	6 ★★★☆☆	☺	
Teddy Bear	7 ★★★½☆	☺	SC

Teddy Bear flowers were fluffy, cute and unique. *Baby Bear* bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Baby Bear	7 ★★★½☆	☺	
Teddy Bear	9 ★★★★½	☺	NW

Teddy Bear was healthier and prettier.

Conclusions

Gardeners loved the cute, fluffy, double-petal flowers of both varieties. *Baby Bear* rated higher than *Teddy Bear* in all measured traits. *Baby Bear* germinated much better, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. The pollenless feature of *Baby Bear* makes it a superior cut flower.

***Baby Bear* germinated much better, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers. The pollenless feature of Baby Bear makes it a superior cut flower.**

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A	★★★★☆	☺	
Variety B	★★☆☆☆	☹	NC

↖ ***Garden type***

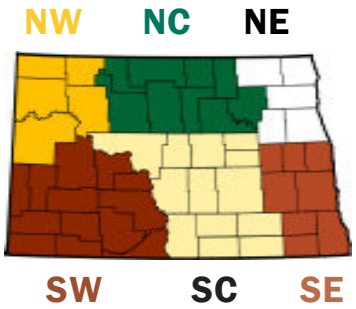
↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless.

↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



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SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Sunflower, Gold Dwarf

Varieties

Junior

60 days. Classic yellow blooms with dark centers. Plants produce lots of flowers. Pollenless. Grows 18 inches.

Smiley

60 days. Rich yellow flowers with dark centers. Good for pots and borders. Pollenless. Grows 18 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 13 sites submitted information.

Trait	Junior	Smiley	Same
Germinated best	17%	**67%**	17%
Healthier plants	18	**55**	27
Bloomed earlier	**60**	30	10
More blooms	36	**45**	18
Prettier in garden	20	**60**	20
Better cut flower	**83**	0	17
Preference	36	**64**	
Recommend	67	**75**	
Mean score[1]	6.83	**7.25**	
Median score[1]	**7.00**	**7.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Junior

Junior 8 ☺ NE
Smiley 6 ☹

Junior bloomed 1 week earlier and produced more flowers. Its flowers were brighter and lasted longer when used as a cut flower. *Smiley* blooms looked more like traditional sunflowers.

Junior 7 ☺ NC
Smiley 6 ☺

Junior plants were healthier. They bloomed first and produced more flowers. Its flowers were smaller. *Smiley* had shorter plants and its blooming extended later in the season.

Junior 8 ☺ SC
Smiley 7 ☺

Junior bloomed first.

Junior 8 ☺ NW
Smiley 5 ☹

Junior bloomed more and looked more attractive. I grew this trial in pots.

Prefer Smiley

Junior 5 ☹ SE
Smiley 7 ☺

Smiley germinated better and grew much better than *Junior* in our garden.

Junior 3 ☹ NC
Smiley 5 ☺

Plants only got about 6 inches tall in the garden. *Smiley* was more attractive.

Junior 8 ☺ NC
Smiley 9 ☺

Smiley showed great growth at first. It bloomed first, produced more flowers and looked more attractive. Black spots later developed on the *Smiley* plants. *Junior* plants were healthier.

Junior 6 ☹ NC
Smiley 9 ☺

We liked the *Smiley* plants better. More came up and they had more flowers. *Smiley* flowers were prettier. We grew these in our garden.

Junior bloomed earlier. Its flowers were bright, and they lasted long as a cut flower.

Best gold dwarf branching sunflower varieties

Top choice
Orange Hedge

Strong performers
Hella Sonnenblume
Orange Hobbit
Smiley

Prefer Smiley (continued)

Junior	9	☺	-
Smiley	10	☺	NC

These are so cute and easy to grow. We sowed them in awful clay soil with inconsistent watering at Edison Elementary School in their pollinator garden. Both varieties germinated well. The plants had no problem growing at the site and produced just the sweetest, little flowers. *Smiley* plants would produce multiple heads, which was cool to see. *Junior* was more consistently one flower per stem.

Junior	7	☺	
Smiley	8	☺	SC

Smiley flowers were darker, almost orange, with larger but fewer petals. Both varieties were attractive but the orange color of *Smiley* was unique for us in our garden. *Junior* put out a lot more flowers. Its flowers were quite a bit smaller and pretty.

Junior	6	☹	
Smiley	7	☹	NW

Junior plants bloomed first, but did not live as long. *Smiley* plants were healthier, produced more flowers and were more attractive, but they were so short.

Conclusions

Most gardeners preferred *Smiley*. *Smiley* germinated better, was healthier, and looked prettier to most gardeners. *Junior* bloomed earlier. Its flowers were bright, and they lasted long as a cut flower. Several gardeners were surprised how short these varieties were.

Smiley germinated better, was healthier, and looked prettier to most gardeners.

Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)

Ratings (1 to 10) ↘ ***Recommendation to other gardeners (yes or no)*** ↘

Variety A ☺
Variety B ☹

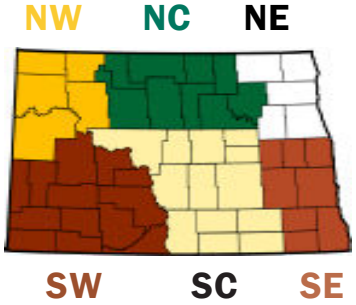
Garden type ↙

NC ↖ ***Location***

'Variety A' germinated better and produced the first harvest. We loved its taste. 'Variety B' produced higher yields but was tasteless. ↖ ***Comments***

Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Sunflower, Yellow Dwarf

Varieties

Lemon Pixie

60 days. Lemon-yellow petals and green centers. Branching plants grow 18–24 inches. For pots and flower borders. Pollenless.

Munchkin

60 days. Bushy, 2-foot plants are covered with bright yellow flowers with green centers. Branching and pollenless.

Data

Gardeners at 9 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lemon Pixie	Munchkin	Same
Germinated best	29%	**43%**	29%
Healthier plants	29	**71**	0
Bloomed earlier	**33**	**33**	**33**
More blooms	29	**43**	29
Prettier in garden	29	**57**	14
Better cut flower	0	**100**	0
Preference	29	**71**	
Recommend	43	**71**	
Mean score[1]	5.43	**7.29**	
Median score[1]	6.00	**8.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Lemon Pixie

Lemon Pixie 9 ☺
Munchkin 7 ☹ NC

Lemon Pixie had prettier flowers.

Lemon Pixie 9 ☺
Munchkin 8 ☺ SW

The soft yellow color of *Lemon Pixie* was very attractive.

Prefer Munchkin

Lemon Pixie 7 ☹
Munchkin 8 ☺ NE

Munchkin was more beautiful. The plants were larger and healthier. We grew these varieties in pots as well as in the garden. *Lemon Pixie* germinated better.

Lemon Pixie 3 ☹
Munchkin 5 ☺ NC

Munchkin plants grew much larger. They produced more flowers as most plants had four or more flowers. These flowers were brighter, larger and looked more like a regular sunflower. *Lemon Pixie* bloomed first. Its flowers were too small and pale-colored.

Lemon Pixie 6 ☺
Munchkin 9 ☺ NC

We sowed them in a terrible, clay soil and both varieties grew great. The plants were so cute. *Munchkin* had better germination, more vigor, and bigger, healthier blooms.

Lemon Pixie 1 ☹
Munchkin 8 ☺ SC

Munchkin was really good. It bloomed later but produced more flowers, looked more attractive in the garden and was a better cut flower. It stood well in the field. Only one plant of *Lemon Pixie* grew.

Lemon Pixie 3 ☹
Munchkin 6 ☹ NW

The flowers of *Munchkin* were miniature but full looking and more attractive. This trial was grown in pots.

Conclusions

Munchkin germinated better, grew taller, produced more flowers and was much prettier overall. *Lemon Pixie* lacked vigor and was a disappointment. Most gardeners did not recommend *Lemon Pixie*.

Munchkin germinated better, grew taller, produced more flowers and was much prettier overall. _Lemon Pixie_ lacked vigor.

Best yellow dwarf branching sunflower variety

Top choice
Munchkin

Zinnia, Flaming

Varieties

Lava Lamp

80 days. Fiery mix of yellow, orange and red varieties. Large, bright blooms. Grows 36–48 inches.

South of the Border

80 days. A bold blend of red, orange and yellow varieties. For bouquets and butterflies. Grows 36–48 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 56 sites submitted information.

Trait	Lava Lamp	S. of the Border	Same
Germinated best	25%	17%	**58%**
Healthier plants	26	9	**65**
Bloomed earlier	20	**43**	36
More blooms	22	22	**57**
Prettier in garden	27	22	**51**
Better cut flower	24	14	**62**
Preference	49	**51**	
Recommend	**87**	81	
Mean score[1]	**8.38**	8.15	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	**9.00**	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Lava Lamp

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 6 ☹ MN

Lava Lamp had more abundant flowers with healthier looking plants. Both zinnia varieties were not as vigorous as I am used to with zinnias. They took a long time to flower which is not typical when I plant zinnias.

Lava Lamp 10 ☺
So. of the Border 8 ☹ MN

Lava Lamp produced flowers later but had prettier and larger blossoms. *Lava Lamp* flowers had stronger colors.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 3 ☹ NE

Both germinated in partial shade in a 6-inch-deep clover groundcover. *Lava Lamp* grew taller, bloomed earlier and was significantly healthier. *Lava Lamp* was the clear winner.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 8 ☺ NE

Lava Lamp had taller plants and pretty flowers.

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 5 ☺ NE

Lava Lamp had a showier flower—very pretty. *South of the Border* flowers had small heads. Both varieties produced a large amount of blooms.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 6 ☹ SE

Lava Lamp produced best. It had gorgeous red, orange and yellow blooms. The plants of both varieties were very healthy, happy, full and colorful. The flowers of both varieties looked great as a cut flower in a vase.

Lava Lamp 10 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ SE

Lava Lamp had darker, bolder colors of red and orange. You noticed them more in the garden. Both varieties germinated quickly, were healthy, and had many flowers. *South of the Border* bloomed a couple weeks earlier.

This was our most popular flower trial. Both of the mixes received high ratings from gardeners.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
- Benary's Giant

Strong performers
- California Giants
- Cut and Come Again
- Dessert
- Giant Dahlia
- Oklahoma State Fair

Prefer Lava Lamp (continued)

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☹ SE

Lava Lamp had much larger plants and flowers compared to *South of the Border*.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☺ SE

I loved both varieties. *Lava Lamp* plants were taller. *Lava Lamp* flowers were more impressive as cut flowers compared to the flowers of *South of the Border*. The colors of *South of the Border* were more exotic.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🏠
So. of the Border ☺ SE

Both varieties bloomed fully well into October. *Lava Lamp* bloomed first. The colors of both varieties were pleasing, bright and cheerful. The plants were strong and handled the wind well despite being quite tall.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🏠
So. of the Border ☺ SE

Lava Lamp is an overall great choice with strong stems and gorgeous blooms. Some plants were over 3 feet tall. The flowers of *Lava Lamp* had intense and beautiful colors—oranges/yellows/reds. *South of the Border* had multicolored blooms. I had so many butterflies on the flowers in this trial.

Lava Lamp ☹ 🏠
So. of the Border ☹ NC

I was not a fan of these tall zinnias. *Lava Lamp* had bigger blossoms and maybe slightly more of them.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☺ NC

Both varieties did great with minimum maintenance. The plants were healthy and their stems were sturdy. *Lava Lamp* germinated better and had more flowers. Both varieties were beautiful! They had unique coloring and overall appearances. The bicolor of *South of the Border* was cool. Both varieties did well as cut flowers.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☺ NC

Both varieties produced very well and their flowers had beautiful colors.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☺ SC

Lava Lamp flowers were slightly larger, slightly prettier, and lasted longer as cut flowers.

Lava Lamp ☺ -
So. of the Border ☹ SC

Lava Lamp is a great "cut and bloom again" variety. The plants grew 4 to 5 feet tall. They were healthier, bloomed earlier and produced more flowers compared to *South of the Border*. I had a great time sharing these flowers with neighbors.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☹ SC

Lava Lamp made the best bouquets! Its colors were stunning.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☹ SC

Lava Lamp produced more flowers.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☺ SC

Lava Lamp bloomed earlier and looked more attractive in the garden. *South of the Border* produced more blooms. The flowers of both varieties were long lasting.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🐞
So. of the Border ☺ NW

It was easy to care for these varieties. The longevity of their blooms was amazing. The colors of *Lava Lamp* were so deep and rich, but the blooms of both varieties showed stunning depths of color.

Lava Lamp ☺ 🏠
So. of the Border ☺ SW

Lava Lamp had larger flowers making it more attractive in the garden and as a cut flower. *South of the Border* had more colors than red and yellow.

Both of the mixes were easy to grow, bloomed prolifically and made wonderful cut flowers.

Prefer Lava Lamp (continued)

Lava Lamp 10 ☺
So. of the Border 8 ☺ SW

Both varieties grew well in my garden this year. They were very colorful and beautiful—even now in fall. *Lava Lamp* plants were healthier.

Prefer South of the Border

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ MN

Both varieties grew well. *South of the Border* had a better color combination.

Lava Lamp 8 ☹ -
So. of the Border 9 ☺ NE

South of the Border bloomed earlier and had a greater variety of colors.

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ NE

The blooms of *South of the Border* had more color variation; some were bicolored. *Lava Lamp* bloomed a couple days earlier.

Lava Lamp 7 ☹
So. of the Border 8 ☺ SE

South of the Border had more red flowers. That's my favorite color!

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ SE

South of the Border had smaller plants and more colorful flowers. Its flowers lasted longer as a cut flowers compared to the flowers of *Lava Lamp*.

Lava Lamp 7 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties were nice and performed well. *South of the Border* germinated better (53 plants versus 38 plants for *Lava Lamp*). I liked the color display better on *South of the Border*. It had yellow and red blooms that looked a little like blanketflower in addition to the red, pink and yellows. *Lava Lamp* had more deep-red and orange flowers which were nice too.

Lava Lamp 7 ☺
So. of the Border 8 ☺ SE

The flowers of *South of the Border* had a better color variation. *Lava Lamp* had so many orange and yellow blooms. *Lava Lamp* plants were taller.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺ -
So. of the Border 10 ☺ SE

These varieties were very much alike!

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties were beautiful. *South of the Border* produced slightly more flowers.

Lava Lamp 7 ☺
So. of the Border 8 ☺ NC

Less than 50% of the seeds of both varieties germinated. *South of the Border* bloomed on July 29, 10 days earlier than *Lava Lamp*. *South of the Border* looked more attractive.

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties looked great. *South of the Border* had the first flowers, more flowers and filled in better.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ NC

Both varieties were great. They had very pretty blooms that attracted butterflies. I could find more flowers that I thought prettiest and that I wanted to cut when I went out to pick bouquets in the *South of the Border* row.

Lava Lamp 6 ☹
So. of the Border 9 ☺ SC

I really liked the bicolor flowers of *South of the Border*. It produced more flowers and its stems stayed upright. *Lava Lamp* had about 25% germination.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ SC

The colors of *South of the Border* flowers were very vibrant!

The plants were strong and handled the wind despite being tall.

Prefer South of the Border (continued)

Lava Lamp 7 ☺ -
So. of the Border 9 ☺ SC

Both varieties were nice. *South of the Border* had larger flowers.

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ SC

Both varieties were outstanding. I could hardly tell them apart. All had great stems for cut flower arranging. *South of the Border* germinated better and bloomed earlier.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ SC

I preferred *South of the Border* because I liked its colors best. I really liked the flowers with yellow tips and red inside. Both varieties did very well in my garden and both made wonderful cut flowers. I made several bouquets for friends, and they all loved the colors.

Lava Lamp 8 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ NW

The colors of the *South of the Border* flowers were just prettier.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ NW

These varieties were very similar. They had very pretty blooms. *South of the Border* had some unique colors.

Lava Lamp 7 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ NW

Both varieties were pretty. *South of the Border* plants were taller and grew better.

Lava Lamp 6 ☹
So. of the Border 8 ☺ SW

South of the Border flowers had a greater variety of flower colors and shapes. *South of the Border* flowers held up better as cut flowers. *Lava Lamp* germinated better and bloomed earlier.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ SW

Both varieties were amazing. *South of the Border* blooms seemed to last a bit longer than those of *Lava Lamp*.

Lava Lamp 8 ☹
So. of the Border 10 ☺ SD

Both had beautiful flowers with a nice variety of colors. Germination was better on *South of the Border* and therefore blooms were thicker and fuller.

No Preference

Lava Lamp 10 ☺
So. of the Border 10 ☺ SE

Both varieties did very well.

Lava Lamp 9 ☺
So. of the Border 9 ☺ SD

Both varieties were beautiful! Their only difference was their colors.

Conclusions

This was our most popular flower trial. The colors of both mixes were bold, warm and bright. Both of the mixes received high ratings for gardeners. The mixes were easy to grow, bloomed prolifically and made wonderful cut flowers. The plants were strong and handled the wind despite being tall. *South of the Border* bloomed earlier at more sites. This mix had a greater variety of colors including some bicolors.

***South of the Border* bloomed earlier at more sites. This mix had a greater variety of colors including some bicolors.**

Zinnia, Fruity Dessert

Varieties

Fruity Beauty

80 days. Vibrant blend of *Canary Bird*, *Coral Beauty* and *Orange King* zinnias. Grows 36–48 inches.

Peach Cobbler

80 days. A refreshing mix of *Canary Bird*, *Pink Luminosa*, *Coral Beauty* and *Orange King*. Grows 36–48 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 22 sites submitted information.

Trait	Fruity Beauty	Peach Cobbler	Same
Germinated best	21%	21%	**58%**
Healthier plants	37	5	**58**
Bloomed earlier	26	**37**	**37**
More blooms	26	16	**58**
Prettier in garden	**44**	28	28
Better cut flower	19	13	**69**
Preference	**53**	47	
Recommend	**89**	**89**	
Mean score[1]	**8.47**	8.21	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Fruity Beauty

Fruity Beauty 9 ☺ -
Peach Cobbler 7 ☹ NE

Fruity Beauty had more flowers, much bigger flowers, and was more attractive. It germinated better and its plants were healthier.

Fruity Beauty 8 ☺
Peach Cobbler 6 ☺ NE

The blooms of *Fruity Beauty* were larger and more vibrant. Its plants were healthier. *Peach Cobbler* bloomed first.

Fruity Beauty 9 ☺
Peach Cobbler 8 ☺ SE

These varieties were similar but the flowers of *Fruity Beauty* had more vibrant colors.

Fruity Beauty 10 ☺
Peach Cobbler 9 ☺ SE

Fruity Beauty bloomed 2–3 days earlier. These varieties created a haven for monarchs! It was so much fun watching the pollinators! The color in my garden was fabulous and lasted a long time.

Fruity Beauty 10 ☺
Peach Cobbler 8 ☺ NC

I loved both of these varieties. Both varieties germinated quickly, grew well and looked great. *Fruity Beauty* had the first flowers and more flowers.

Fruity Beauty 9 ☺
Peach Cobbler 8 ☺ NC

Peach Cobbler bloomed on July 23, 4 days earlier than *Fruity Beauty*. *Peach Cobbler* had more flower stalks that fell over.

Fruity Beauty 10 ☺
Peach Cobbler 9 ☺ SC

I liked the colors of *Fruity Beauty* better, but both varieties were beautiful!

Fruity Beauty 10 ☺
Peach Cobbler 8 ☺ SC

I loved the beautiful colors of these varieties. They added beautiful color to the garden and attracted bees. *Fruity Beauty* lasted a little longer as a cut flower.

Gardeners enjoyed both mixes. They germinated quickly, grew well, and looked spectacular.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
- Benary's Giant

Strong performers
- California Giants
- Cut and Come Again
- Dessert
- Giant Dahlia
- Oklahoma
- State Fair

Prefer Fruity Beauty (continued)

Fruity Beauty	10	☺	
Peach Cobbler	7	☺	NW

Fruity Beauty was a taller variety so it had longer, better stems for cutting.

Fruity Beauty	8	☺	
Peach Cobbler	5	☹	SW

Fruity Beauty was healthier, bloomed earlier, produced more flowers and was a better cut flower.

Prefer Peach Cobbler

Fruity Beauty	7	☺	
Peach Cobbler	9	☺	NE

Peach Cobbler flowers had more color variation. Its plants were taller and stronger. Some *Fruity Beauty* plants split and tipped over in the wind.

Fruity Beauty	5	☹	
Peach Cobbler	6	☺	SE

Peach Cobbler was a better cut flower. Its blooms were bigger and I preferred its colors.

Fruity Beauty	9	☺	
Peach Cobbler	10	☺	NC

Zinnias are one of my favorite flowers to plant in my garden. Both of these varieties were beautiful and very productive. I preferred the colors of *Peach Cobbler*.

Fruity Beauty	9	☺	
Peach Cobbler	10	☺	SC

I loved both of these varieties. *Fruity Beauty* bloomed first, but *Peach Cobbler* produced more flowers.

Fruity Beauty	5	☺	
Peach Cobbler	8	☺	SC

Peach Cobbler flowers were more brilliant and its stems did not lay down. Neither variety's flowers lasted very long in the vase.

Fruity Beauty	8	☺	
Peach Cobbler	9	☺	SC

Both varieties were excellent. They created a spectacular showing along our garden shed. They had continuous blooms right up until they froze in late October and the bees loved them. *Peach Cobbler* seemed to handle being short on water a little bit better when we were out of town during hot weather. They also withstood very strong winds in a storm a little better than *Fruity Beauty*.

Fruity Beauty	9	☺	
Peach Cobbler	10	☺	SC

The flowers of *Peach Cobbler* were just a little more vibrant.

Fruity Beauty	8	☹	
Peach Cobbler	9	☺	SC

More seeds of *Peach Cobbler* germinated. *Peach Cobbler* had lots of beautiful blooms with varying sizes.

Fruity Beauty	8	☺	
Peach Cobbler	10	☺	SW

Both varieties germinated at a high percentage. *Peach Cobbler* looked so pretty in the garden. Its flowers had beautiful, less traditional colors.

Conclusions

Gardeners enjoyed both mixes. They germinated quickly, grew well, and looked spectacular all summer. These mixes contain many of the same varieties, and they performed similarly. The flowers of *Fruity Beauty* were especially vibrant while the flowers of *Peach Cobbler* came in a greater variety of pleasing colors. Both mixes attracted lots of pollinators.

These mixes performed similarly. The flowers of *Fruity Beauty* were especially vibrant while the flowers of *Peach Cobbler* came in a greater variety of pleasing colors.

Zinnia, Pink

Varieties

Blushing Bride

80 days. Charming blend of *Polar Bear* and *Pink Luminosa*. Big blooms for bouquets. Grows 36–48 inches.

Strawberry Parfait

80 days. Mix of *Ice Queen* (bi-color rose/white), *Polar Bear* and *Rose* varieties. Grows 36–48 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 48 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blush. Bride	Strawb. Parfait	Same
Germinated best	26%	13%	**61%**
Healthier plants	35	19	**46**
Bloomed earlier	24	32	**43**
More blooms	33	25	**42**
Prettier in garden	33	22	**44**
Better cut flower	23	18	**59**
Preference	**57**	43	
Recommend	**83**	**83**	
Mean score[1]	**8.15**	7.78	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Blushing Bride

Blushing Bride 7 ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 6 ☺ MN

These varieties were very similar, but *Blushing Bride* was a little more attractive.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 2 ☹ NE

Seeds were sown indoors under lights. *Blushing Bride* produced 19 plants; *Strawberry Parfait* produced 11 plants. *Blushing Bride* was the most attractive variety. It exhibited bushier, darker green foliage and a greater variety of plants with white and various shades of pink-colored blooms. These flowers were about 3 inches across with double and semi-double blooms.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ NE

Both varieties were very healthy and tall. *Blushing Bride* had very vibrant blooms in a variety of pink shades.

Blushing Bride 8 ☺ -
Strawberry Parfait 7 ☺ SE

Strawberry Parfait had fuller flowers, but *Blushing Bride* was more attractive all around.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ SE

Blushing Bride had better germination and a more even stand. Both varieties were very showy and pretty. They produced many blooms and continued through fall. They attracted a lot of monarch butterflies.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 7 ☹ SE

Blushing Bride produced larger flowers with longer stems than *Strawberry Parfait*. Both varieties looked good in the garden.

Blushing Bride 6 ☺ 🐞
Strawberry Parfait 5 ☹ SE

Blushing Bride was more attractive in the garden and was a better cut flower. Actually the white was my favorite bloom color.

Blushing Bride 8 ☺ 🏠
Strawberry Parfait 7 ☺ SE

Blushing Bride had very unique blooms.

Both mixes were very showy and pretty.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
- Benary's Giant

Strong performers
- California Giants
- Cut and Come Again
- Dessert
- Giant Dahlia
- Oklahoma State Fair

Prefer Blushing Bride (continued)

Blushing Bride 7 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 5 ☺ NC

Blushing Bride germinated better and bloomed earlier. Its flowers were very nice. Deer ate over half of the *Strawberry Parfait* plants but left the *Blushing Bride* plants alone.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺ -
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ NC

Blushing Bride produced more flowers and its flowers were larger.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties had a near 100% germination rate. They were so beautiful! They had a great variety of types of blooms and colors. *Blushing Bride* produced a better succession of flowers once the first blooms were cut.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ NC

Both performed very well in the garden. These varieties had nearly 100% germination, good growth (once the weather warmed up in July), and very little pest/disease problems. We liked the color of *Blushing Bride* slightly more than the color of *Strawberry Parfait*.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ SC

These flower mixes were difficult to tell apart. *Blushing Bride* bloomed early enough that my daughter could show them as cut flowers for 4-H at the county fair.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ SC

The plants of both varieties were healthy and large. *Blushing Bride* bloomed earlier, produced more flowers and had bigger flowers.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ SC

Blushing Bride was healthier.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ SC

I planted these varieties in rough, crumbly soil and they received not much water. They still grew well! *Blushing Bride* had stronger plants and bigger blooms.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 6 ☹ SC

Blushing Bride had large, colorful and strong plants. They were very healthy even in the drought. *Strawberry Parfait* plants were sparser and not as productive.

Blushing Bride 8 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 6 ☺ SW

Blushing Bride had more and fuller flowers.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ SW

Blushing Bride germinated first and bloomed first.

Blushing Bride 10 ☺ -
Strawberry Parfait 2 ☹ SW

Strawberry Parfait sustained more damage from the hailstorm on May 29. Its stems laid over and produced fewer blooms. *Blushing Bride* plants stayed upright and produced great flowers.

Prefer Strawberry Parfait

Blushing Bride 9 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ MN

I loved both varieties. They bloomed at the same time and produced well. Their flowers were beautiful!

Blushing Bride 8 ☺ -
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ NE

Strawberry Parfait had more flowers and had more variety of color among its flowers.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ NE

I liked the colors of *Strawberry Parfait* better. I appreciated the few dark pink flowers in the mix. Both varieties germinated well and were healthy. The plants of both varieties had a good, bushy shape and produced flowers all summer.

Most gardeners preferred *Blushing Bride*. *Blushing Bride* grew robustly, and its blooms had a blend of soft and charming colors.

Prefer Strawberry Parfait (continued)

Blushing Bride 3 ☹ 
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ SE

Strawberry Parfait was beautiful in my garden. It was superior for all traits.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ SE

I loved these zinnias because of the ombré shading of the petals with some of the blooms. The plants grew well and had a great show of multiple blooms! I preferred the *Strawberry Parfait* colors as its pinks were a bit more intense.

Blushing Bride 8 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ SE

I loved both of these varieties! They were beautiful zinnias! *Strawberry Parfait* bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Blushing Bride 6 ☹ 
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ SE

I preferred the colors of *Strawberry Parfait*. It was more attractive. *Blushing Bride* bloomed first and produced more flowers.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ SE

Strawberry Parfait bloomed about 2 days ahead of *Blushing Bride*. I'm not a big fan of white/pale zinnias so I preferred *Strawberry Parfait* for its color. These varieties were very similar otherwise.

Blushing Bride 5 ☹ 
Strawberry Parfait 6 ☹ NC

These varieties did not grow as well as previous zinnias I have tried. Their flower colors were kind of blah. *Strawberry Parfait* grew better.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ SC

The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* flowers were brighter, but both varieties were pretty.

Blushing Bride 7 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ SC

I was happier with *Strawberry Parfait*. It germinated better, was healthier and bloomed first. *Blushing Bride* produced more flowers.

Blushing Bride 8 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 9 ☺ SC

Both varieties were nice and colorful.

Blushing Bride 9 ☹ 
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ NW

Strawberry Parfait was a better cut flower.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ NW

These zinnias were a very bright addition to my garden. I preferred the colors of *Strawberry Parfait*.

Blushing Bride 3 ☹ 
Strawberry Parfait 7 ☺ SW

Strawberry Parfait plants were larger and produced more flower buds than *Blushing Bride*.

Blushing Bride 9 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ SW

Strawberry Parfait had a very nice, variegated white/red bloom that was my favorite. Its plants lasted longer. This trial was grown in a hoop house. They are still growing and blooming as of October 30. Plants grew taller than me (some almost 6 feet tall). I have to figure out how to trellis them since they fall over when they are that tall.

No Preference

Blushing Bride 7 ☺ 
Strawberry Parfait 7 ☺ SE

Both of the varieties had lots of foliage and not many blossoms. Perhaps there was a lack of sunlight in this area of the yard due to shade caused by the house next door. I preferred the colors of *Blushing Bride* blooms compared to the colors of *Strawberry Parfait* blooms.

The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* flowers were brighter and more intense.

No Preference (continued)

Blushing Bride 10 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 10 ☺ NC

These were both wonderful varieties. They both germinated well and produced many flowers. I really enjoyed these varieties and will continue to grow them in the future!

Blushing Bride 8 ☺
Strawberry Parfait 8 ☺ SW

These varieties were quite similar.

Blushing Bride 2 ☹
Strawberry Parfait 2 ☹ SD

These varieties did not do well at all. Neither one flowered!

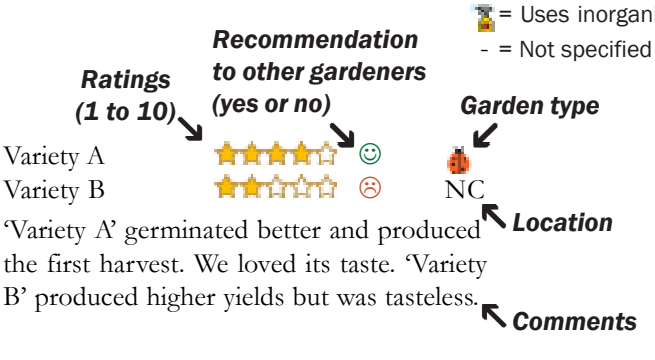
Conclusions

Both mixes were very showy and pretty. The plants were tall and healthy, producing many blooms all summer through fall. Most gardeners preferred *Blushing Bride*. *Blushing Bride* grew robustly, and its blooms had a blend of soft and charming colors. The colors of *Strawberry Parfait* flowers were brighter and more intense.

The plants were tall and healthy, producing many blooms all summer through fall.

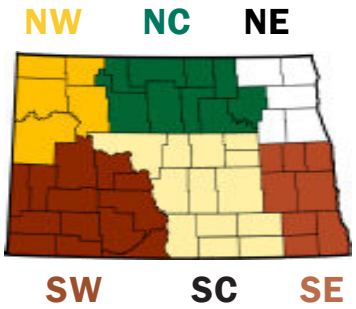
Key to Site Reports

(reports are presented from east to west)



Garden types

= Organic
= Uses inorganic fertilizers
= Uses inorganic pesticides
- = Not specified



Locations

MN = Minnesota
NE = Northeast
SE = Southeast
NC = North Central
SC = South Central
NW = Northwest
SW = Southwest
MB = Manitoba
SK = Saskatchewan
SD = South Dakota
MT = Montana

Zinnia, Purple and Yellow Dessert

Varieties

Blueberry Cheesecake

80 days. Mix of purple, white and lavender varieties. Great for bouquets. Attractive to pollinators. Grows 36–48 inches.

Lemon Meringue

80 days. A blend of yellow, lime-green and white varieties. Semi-double to double blooms. Grows 36–48 inches.

Data

Gardeners at 42 sites submitted information.

Trait	Blueb. Cheese.	Lemon Meringue	Same
Germinated best	38%	13%	**50%**
Healthier plants	23	17	**60**
Bloomed earlier	27	30	**43**
More blooms	27	33	**40**
Prettier in garden	**45**	19	35
Better cut flower	37	16	**47**
Preference	**66**	34	
Recommend	**91**	78	
Mean score[1]	**8.47**	7.81	
Median score[1]	**9.00**	8.00	

[1]Rated from 1 to 10; 1 = poor and 10 = excellent.

Prefer Blueberry Cheesecake

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 8 ☺ MN

Both varieties germinated well. Their plants were healthy with no insect or disease damage. The varieties bloomed at the same time and produced a lot of flowers. The flowers were big, full and pretty. The flowers had strong stems and lasted 1 week or longer in a vase after cutting. *Blueberry Cheesecake* stood out in the garden because it grew taller and its colors were beautiful.

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺ -
Lemon Meringue 8 ☹ NE

Blueberry Cheesecake germinated better and its plants were healthier. It bloomed earlier, had more flowers and looked more attractive. *Lemon Meringue* flowers were mostly white.

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺
Lemon Meringue 8 ☺ NE

Both were nice and showed good vigor. I personally liked the *Blueberry Cheesecake* colors better.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 6 ☹ NE

Blueberry Cheesecake bloomed first and had more flowers. Overall, *Blueberry Cheesecake* just did better.

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺
Lemon Meringue 8 ☺ NE

Both varieties looked very nice, but I loved the colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake*!

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SE

Although it bloomed later, *Blueberry Cheesecake* flowers appeared to be more robust. They were beautiful. *Lemon Meringue* plants grew 5.8 inches taller. The plants of both varieties were strong and healthy.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 3 ☹ SE

I loved the colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake*.

Both varieties produced loads of beautiful flowers all summer long.

Best tall, mixed dahlia zinnia varieties

Top choice
- Benary's Giant

Strong performers
- California Giants
- Cut and Come Again Dessert
- Giant Dahlia
- Oklahoma State Fair

Prefer Blueberry Cheesecake (continued)

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺
Lemon Meringue 8 ☺ SE

Both varieties performed well and looked nice. It just comes down to your personal preference on the flowers. Although the yellow, white and some light green flowers of *Lemon Meringue* were nice, I loved the purplish and creamy white combination of *Blueberry Cheesecake*. *Blueberry Cheesecake* germinated slightly better, but both germinated well and had healthy plants.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties had gorgeous plants/flowers. I received many compliments. *Blueberry Cheesecake* produced more flowers.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SC

I loved the colors and size of the *Blueberry Cheesecake* flowers! They gave a bigger pop of color. Its stems stayed upright. The germination and health of both varieties were great!

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SC

I liked the colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake* best.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SC

The flowers of these varieties were beautiful and abundant. Their leaves had brown spots probably from the more wet year and the plants were spaced quite close together. I liked the colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake* better.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SC

Blueberry Cheesecake germinated slightly better. Both varieties produced loads of beautiful flowers all summer long.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 7 ☹ SC

Blueberry Cheesecake plants had fewer brown spots.

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺
Lemon Meringue 8 ☺ SC

Blueberry Cheesecake flowers were fuller and I liked its colors. *Lemon Meringue* plants were a little taller and bloomed earlier.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ NW

Both varieties produced beautiful, multicolor flowers. I prefer the colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake*.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 6 ☹ NW

The blooms of both varieties were beautiful. *Blueberry Cheesecake* had taller stems for cutting and more blooms overall.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SW

Blueberry Cheesecake had a 90% germination rate compared to 75% for *Lemon Meringue*. Plants of both varieties grew 4.0–4.5 feet tall and resisted wind damage. *Lemon Meringue* bloomed 1 week earlier. Both varieties had lots of blooms per plant. Bees, hummingbirds, butterflies and moths enjoyed them all summer. Their flowers were gorgeous when cut and lasted 7–10 days in a vase. I really liked the purple and blue shades of *Blueberry Cheesecake*.

Blueberry Cheese. 10 ☺
Lemon Meringue 8 ☺ SW

Blueberry Cheesecake had bigger and more flowers.

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺
Lemon Meringue 5 ☹ SW

Blueberry Cheesecake had taller plants.

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺
Lemon Meringue 6 ☺ SD

High temperatures and high winds in early June decimated the plants. Only three *Lemon Meringue* plants and seven *Blueberry Cheesecake* plants survived. *Blueberry Cheesecake* plants were far stronger, fuller and bloomed a week earlier. There were two to three flowers per plant for *Blueberry Cheesecake* compared to one flower per plant for *Lemon Meringue*.

Gardeners loved the purple, lavender and white colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake*.

Prefer Lemon Meringue

Blueberry Cheese. 3 ☹
Lemon Meringue 4 ☹ SE

Both varieties were disappointing. *Blueberry Cheesecake* was almost entirely white. At least with the *Lemon Meringue* there were two colors.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SE

These are both wonderful varieties. *Lemon Meringue* bloomed more prolifically. The blooms, though, did not last as long as those of *Blueberry Cheesecake*. We had a hummingbird pair, monarchs and swallowtails along with bees all taking turns at one *Blueberry Cheesecake* bloom for well over a week. It was incredible. I've never seen one bloom be so popular across species for so long.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SE

Both varieties were excellent! *Lemon Meringue* was slightly taller and produced more flowers.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ NC

Lemon Meringue had more blooms. The colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake* were really nice.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ NC

Both varieties were very pretty. The flowers of *Lemon Meringue* were fuller.

Blueberry Cheese. 6 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ NC

Lemon Meringue bloomed earlier, produced more flowers and showed a greater variety of colors.

Blueberry Cheese. 8 ☺
Lemon Meringue 9 ☺ SC

Lemon Meringue had fuller, bigger blooms that made nice bouquets. *Blueberry Cheesecake* had a stunning, vibrant purple color.

Blueberry Cheese. 6 ☹
Lemon Meringue 8 ☺ SC

Lemon Meringue had bigger blooms.

Blueberry Cheese. 9 ☺
Lemon Meringue 10 ☺ SC

Lemon Meringue had a nice variety of yellow, yellow-green and white flowers. *Blueberry Cheesecake* only produced white flowers. Both varieties made wonderful cut flowers.

Blueberry Cheese. 5 ☺
Lemon Meringue 6 ☺ NW

The plants of both varieties were strong and sturdy. Their flowers were beautiful. *Blueberry Cheesecake* bloomed first. *Lemon Meringue* flowers were fuller and more attractive in summer, but further into autumn *Blueberry Cheesecake* went ahead of it.

Blueberry Cheese. 5 ☹
Lemon Meringue 7 ☺ SW

Lemon Meringue plants looked fuller and stronger. *Lemon Meringue* produced more flowers, looked more attractive and smelled better. Planting marigolds in front of these zinnia varieties made a great look together, and I really enjoyed the depth it gave the garden.

Conclusions

Both varieties produced loads of beautiful flowers all summer long. Gardeners loved the purple, lavender and white colors of *Blueberry Cheesecake*. *Lemon Meringue* had full, large blooms with sturdy stems. These mixes attracted a lot of pollinators and made wonderful cut flowers.

***Lemon Meringue* had full, large blooms with sturdy stems.**

Appendix 1

Welcome Letter

NDSU | EXTENSION

Dear Gardener,

Welcome to our research team! It will be fun to work with you this summer. Enclosed are the seeds you ordered. If you are missing anything, please let me know. Let's go over some key points:

1. Each trial compares two varieties. **You must plant both varieties**.

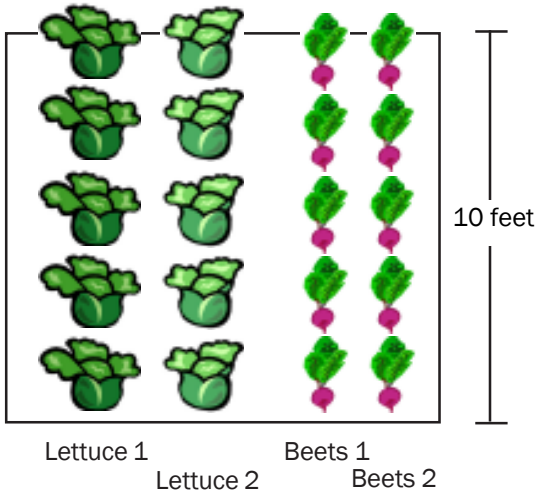
2. To make it a fair comparison, you need to **treat both varieties in the same manner**. They must get the same amount of sunlight and general care (watering and fertilizing).

3. We want to see how these varieties perform under real home garden situations. The packets have instructions on how to sow your seeds, but you may **use your own gardening practices**. For example, I sow my cucumber seeds in a row but you can plant them in hills if you wish. It's up to you.

4. When possible, **grow the varieties for each trial in rows near each other**. Look at the diagram (top right). Notice the varieties being compared in the lettuce and beet trials are grown next to each other. In this way, they are most likely to get the same amount of sunlight and care.

   Cucumber, melon and pumpkin vines can "run" and become intertwined. Try to keep the vines of each variety within the row so you do not get confused when harvesting and evaluating each variety.

5. You have enough seeds to grow at least 10 feet of each variety. It's okay if you don't have enough space for 10-foot rows, but try to get a fair look at both varieties.



6. **Use the plot labels** that are enclosed. This will help you remember which variety is which. I strongly encourage you to **make a plot diagram after you are done planting** for your future reference in case the plot labels get removed accidentally (this happens with kids).

7. An example of a completed evaluation form is enclosed. Use this as a guide to help you when evaluating the varieties.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'll be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Kalb, II

Tom Kalb
Extension Horticulturist
2005 N. Kavaney Dr.., Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58501
tom.kalb@ndsu.edu

Welcome to our research team!

More Info

Go to the ND Home Garden Variety Trials website: www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials/

Appendix 2

Example of Evaluation Form

2024 Trial #00

Cantaloupe

Name: Jenny Gardener

Date Sown: May 30

Did you use a chemical fertilizer (for example, 10–10–10, Miracle-Gro)? (Yes) No

Did you use a pesticide for insects or diseases? Yes (No)
If yes, was it organic? Yes No

Which variety:	Apollo	Zeus	Same	Comments
Germinated best?		X		Both had near 100% germination, but Zeus seedlings showed more vigor
Had healthier plants?		X		Apollo vines turned gray in fall
Produced the first ripe melons?	X			Three days earlier than Zeus
Produced higher yields?		X		Zeus produced 10 good melons; Apollo produced only 6
Had more attractive melons?		X		Zeus had larger fruits and brighter orange flesh
Tasted better?		X		Zeus was heavenly; Apollo was not quite as sweet

Overall Performance Rating	Apollo	Zeus
Rate each variety on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = poor and 5 = good and 10 = excellent. *Don't give both a "10". Be very critical!*	5	9

Preference

Circle the variety you prefer. *Don't circle both—make a choice!* Apollo (Zeus)

Please state the reason(s) for your preference:
Zeus was outstanding. Good yields of large, sweet fruits. The vines looked healthy all summer. Apollo ripened early, but the vines were weak and the melons tasted bland.

Recommendation

Circle the varieties you recommend for North Dakota gardeners:

Apollo (Zeus) Both Neither

Appendix 3

Acknowledgements

Researchers

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Darrell and Linda Bassen
Sydney and William Bauman
Ann Baumeister
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Ron and Rita Beneda
Jackie Beneda
Haddie and Charlie Berdahl
Erin Berentson
S. Kim Berseth
Linda and Mike Biggs
Sonya Binstock
Bernadette Birkemeyer
Vickie Birklid
Daniel Black
Anne Blankenship
Tiffany Boespflug
Royann and Tom Bold
Sarah Boonstoppel
Jessika Borr
Sharron Brady
David Breker
Charlotte Brendel
Michael Britain
Emma Brown
Jessica Buck
Sawyer Buee
Erin Buehler with Levon and Eugene
Tara Bulow
Heather, Selah, Solomon and Tirzah Burchill
Emily Burkett
Faith and Hope Burnett
Liam Burris
Bruin and Leanne Burtch
Joseph Buzalsky
Diane Byrum
Rebecca Cahalan
Julie Canham
Desiree Carlson
Carol Lien
Elizabeth Carter
Debra Chaki
Deb Chambers
Crystal Christensen
Roger Christenson
Cindy Clark
Jacob Cline
Lori Cline
Kelly Collins
Aileen Combs
Darin Craven
Amy Currie
JoAnn Czerwinski
Samuel Dahl
Jeanne DeKrey
Annette Delaney
Danielle Dinger
Dennis Dockter
Joann Donley
Jessica, Hannah and Benjamin Douglas
Loren Drege
Heather Dutenhafer
Cara Dyck
Heidi, Lucy and Patrick Farrell
Elise Fettes
Jennifer Fiedler
Nancy Fields
Alice Fitterer
Monica Fitterer
Jackie and Flo Friedt
Susan Froemke
Kim Gaab
Darci Gahner
Debra Gallagher
Lawrence Gangle III
Angie Gapp
Bonnie Gassmann
Janice and Hazel Geffree
Patty Gefroh
Carol Giannonatti
Sherwood Gibbs
Emily Gibson
Michelle Gilley
Sheila Glass
Ruth Glen
Deb Goplen
Gene Goven
Lance Granrud
Becky Grant
Renae Gress
Jennifer Greuel
Sandi Groff
Jed Donald, Hannah, Jesse, Lizzie and Gracie Grow
Ann Guanella
Anita Haakenson
Shanette Haarsager
Nathan Haeuser
Sara Hager
Sylvia Hansen
Brenda Hanson
Lynelle Hanson
Clara Harms
Corliss Haugen
Nadine Haverlock
Roxanne and Ray Hawley
Flora Hedstrand
Samantha Hedstrand
Char Heer
Lacey Heid
Cristin Heidecker

More Researchers

James Helbling
Niki Helbling
Lori Helm
Bethany, Caylee and Drew Hermes
Jennifer Hershey
Edison Hilde
Julie Hinds
Alicia Hoffarth
Liana Hoffman
Valerie Hoffman
Karla Homelvig
Roxanne Horner
Alli Hought with Mila and Letti
Bill and Connie Hourigan
Linda Hovda
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Hawkins and Parker Hubrig
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Gervase Imberi
Kristie Jacobson
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Ellen Jebens
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Brenda Johnson
Durand Jones
Brenda Jorgenson
Marcia Jurgens
Finley and Tucker Kaip
Tom Kalb
Melissa Karabensh
Lacy Kavanagh
Anna Kemmer
Douglas Kerr
Jadah Kerr
Tesa Kingkade
Chad Klindtworth
Lola and Dale Knutson
Kaydence Koenig
Kate Kolden
Kim Korstjens
Christan Krajeck
Matthys Kroon
Tavia, Amelia and Jayna Kuntz
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Tina Langhans
Joanna Larson
Joyce Larson
Mary Lass
Krecia Leddy
Kim Lee
Quinn and Dylan Leidholm
Larry Leshovsky
Carol Lien
Rita Linderkamp
James Lindley
Neil Litton
Elizabeth Loeks
Gopika Loiland
Lillian Long
JoAnn Lowman
Alyce Ann Lunde
Kate and Fiona Luthner
Rae Ann Lynne
Cora MacAlister
Margaret Marcusen
Megan Martin
Theresa Martin-Johnson
Connie Mason
Beverly McCay
Rebecca McCleary
Lori and Ruby McDonald
Jeff McDowell
Mary McIntyre
Peter Meberg
Ginny Mehlhoff and Jaden Deckert of Burleigh Co. SCD
Dan Mehus
Dan Metzger
Miera Family
Jeffrey Miller
Theresa Miller
Tracey Miller
Sara Mittelsteadt
Danielle Mohl
Janice Mohr
Aura Lee Mohror
Sheri Monroe
Annette Montplaisir
Donna Mosher
Kraig and Kate Motzko
Athena and Dietrich Mueller
Katie and Eli Muth
Ardene Myers
Maggie Myers
Amanda Neaveill
Dorothea Nelson
Eva Nelson and Beth/Eric Nelson
Gabriele Nelson
Susan Nelson
Jean Neset
Joyce Ness and Erick Garza
Michael Nicolai
LouAnn Nider
William Niehaus
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Donna Peterson
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Kathy Peterson
Mary Podoll
Shelley Porter
Rojee Chipalu Pradhan
Krystal Prellwitz
Deb Prociw
Kali Quist
Alexis Rasset
Lori Ray
Becky Reid
Erin Reiner
Deb Reinowski
Valarie Reinsel
Tara Reisenauer
Jennawade Reiter

More Researchers

Lee Rogge
Shanna Rogness
David Rohrich
Vanessa Rovig
Christina Sabot
Lauren Sako
Rose Salinas
Mylan Sand
Kyla Sanders
Laurie Sandness-Boeshans with Mason and Leo Boeshans
D. Aaron Sawatzky
Dan Saxton
May Schaefer
Sylvia Schell
Darlene Schlenker
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Sadie Schmidt
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Rowan Wick
Audrey Wieland
Gayathri Wijetunga
Richard Wilcox
Jodi Willson
Roger Wippler
David Wisthoff
Shannay Witte
Brian Wolf
Patty Wolk
Ryan and Trenton Wollan
Laura Wollman
Julie Woodbury
Carrie and Emily Woodruff
Brenda, Landon and Rick Zinke

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Icons

Ladybird beetle, fertilizer bag and spray bottle icons made by Good Ware, mynamepong and Smashicons, respectively, all from flaticons.com.

Variety Descriptions

This is an academic report published for educational purposes only. No profits are made in this program. The descriptions of varieties in this report were obtained from information in catalogs of numerous companies, including Burpee, Fedco, Harris, High Mowing, Johnny's, Jordan, Jung, Osborne, Prairie Road Organic, Seedway, Stokes, Sunflower Selections, Territorial, Urban Farmer, Veseys, and Whaley. These descriptions are used for educational purposes only.

Vegetable Cultivars for North Dakota

2025

The finest cultivars will lead to the finest gardens. North Dakota State University works with over 200 gardeners every summer to evaluate promising cultivars. The following cultivars have excelled in these and other trials in the Midwest:

Selecting an outstanding cultivar can lead to a bountiful garden.

ASPARAGUS. Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Millennium, Purple Passion.

BEAN. ***Bush:*** Annihilator, Antigua, Bush Blue Lake 274, Crockett, Derby, Espada, Homerun, Jade, Lewis, Pike, Provider, Purple Queen Improved, Red Tail, Royal Burgundy, Serengeti, Strike, Tendergreen Improved. ***Lima:*** Fordhook 242, Eastland. ***Pole:*** Fortex, Monte Gusto, Orient Wonder, Seychelles, Stringless Blue Lake S-7. ***Soybean:*** Envy, Tohya. ***Wax:*** Borsalino, Carson, Custard, Gold Rush.

BEET. ***Red:*** Bohan, Bull's Blood, Cylindra, Detroit Dark Red, Eagle, Early Wonder Tall Top, Merlin, Red Ace, Red Cloud, Sweet Dakota Bliss. ***Gold:*** Boldor, Burpee's Golden, Golden Boy, Touchstone Gold, Yellow Sunrise.

BROCCOLI. Green Magic, Gypsy.

CABBAGE. ***Chinese:*** Blues. ***Head:*** Early Jersey Wakefield, Golden Acre, Ruby Perfection, Stonehead.

CARROT. ***Orange:*** Baltimore, Bolero, Candysnax, Caravel, Cupar, Goldfinger, Hercules, Imperator 58, Laguna, Mokum, Napoli, Naval, Negovia, New Kuroda, Scarlet Nantes. ***Other:*** Gold Nugget, Purple Haze.

CAULIFLOWER. Amazing, Cheddar, Snow Crown, Violet Queen.

CORN. ***Super Sweet:*** American Dream, Anthem XR, Bolt, Catalyst, Enchanted, Icon, Kate, Troubadour, Xtra-Tender 274A. ***Sugary enhanced:*** Ambrosia, Bodacious RM, Delectable, Luscious, Peaches & Cream, Sugar Buns, Temptation. ***Synergistic:*** Allure, Cuppa Joe, Honey Select, Sweetness. ***Ornamental:*** Fiesta. ***Popcorn:*** Dakota Black.

CUCUMBER. ***Pickling:*** Calypso, Eureka, Homemade Pickles, H-19 Little Leaf, Max Pack, Super Max. ***Slicing:*** Bristol, Dasher II, Diva, Fanfare, General Lee, Green Light, Mercury, Muncher, Nokya, Orient Express II, Raceway, Raider, Salad Bush, Sashimi, Summer Dance, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, Tasty Green, Unagi.

EGGPLANT. Classic, Dusky, Fairy Tale, Millionaire, Orient Express, Traviata.

GREENS. Green River, Hon Tsai Tai, Koji, Joi Choi, Miz America, Mizuna, Mei Qing Choi, Osaka Purple, Red Giant, Tatsoi, Tendergreen, Tokyo Bekana, Vegetable Amaranth, Win-Win Choi.

KALE. Black Magic, Dazzling Blue, Red Russian, Russian Frills, Vates, Winterbor.

KOHLRABI. Early White Vienna, Kolibri, Kossak, Winner Improved.

LETTUCE. ***Leaf:*** Bergam's Green, Cervanek, Merlot, New Red Fire, Red Sails, Red Salad Bowl, Red Velvet, Royal Oakleaf, Slobolt, Starfighter, Tropicana. ***Butterhead:*** Alkindus, Buttercrunch, Nancy, Red Cross, Skyphos, Sweet Valentine. ***Summer Crisp:*** Albachiara, Chrystal, Magenta, Muir, Nevada, Pablo, Sierra. ***Romaine:*** Bluerock, Crisp Mint, Fusion, Green Forest, Newham, Starhawk, Sunland. ***Lollo:*** Dark Red Lollo Rossa.

MELON. ***Muskmelon:*** Aphrodite, Athena, Dakota Sisters, Goddess, Solstice, Superstar. ***Specialty:*** Arava, Earli-Dew, Passport, San Juan.

Cultivar selection checklist:

- ✓ Early maturity
- ✓ Flavorful
- ✓ Resists diseases
- ✓ Productive
- ✓ Widely adapted (cool soil, dry weather)

OKRA. Buffalo Bill 91, Candle Fire, Clemson Spineless 80, Jambalaya.

ONION. Ailsa Craig, Candy, Patterson, Rossa di Milano, Talon, Walla Walla.

PEA. ***Shell:*** Early Frosty, Green Arrow, Knight, Lincoln, Little Marvel, Maestro Improved, Wando. ***Snap:*** Sugar Ann, Super Sugar Snap. ***Snow:*** Avalanche, Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod II, Sweet Horizon.

PEPPER. ***Bell:*** Bell Boy, Dragonfly, Early Sunsation, King of the North, Lunchbox Mix, New Ace, North Star, Orange Blaze, Red Knight. ***Frying/Roasting:*** Carmen, Flamingo, Giant Marconi, Gypsy. ***Hot:*** Cheyenne, Garden Salsa, Hot Paper Lantern, Hungarian Hot Wax, Mariachi, Mucho Nacho, PS11435807, Tiburon.

POTATO. Dark Red Norland, Kennebec, Peter Wilcox, Purple Viking, Red Gold, Satina, Superior, Yukon Gem, Yukon Gold.

PUMPKIN. ***Jack-o'-lantern:*** Autumn Gold, Bellatrix, Cargo, Cronus, Early Dakota Howden, Early Giant, Early King, Gladiator, Howden, Large Marge, Magic Lantern, Neon, Orange Smoothie, Warty Goblin. ***Giant:*** Big Moose, Dill's Atlantic Giant, Polar Bear. ***Ornamental:*** Abominable, Blaze, Casperita, Jack Be Little, Blue Doll, Porcelain Doll.

RADISH. Amethyst, Bacchus, Champion, Cherry Belle, Easter Egg II, French Breakfast, Pretty in Pink, Red Head, Rover, Roxanne, Sora, White Icicle.

RUTABAGA. American Purple Top.

SPINACH. Avon, Bloomsdale Long Standing, Emperor, Escalade, Gazelle, Kookaburra, Lizard, Melody, Olympia, Red Kitten, Space, SV2146VB, Tyee.

SQUASH, SUMMER. ***Crookneck:*** Gentry, Sundance. ***Scallop:*** Flying Saucer, Sunburst. ***Straightneck:*** Butterfingers, Fortune, Multipik, Slick Pik YS 26, Zephyr. ***Zucchini:*** Cashflow, Desert, Dunja, Gold Rush, Green Machine, Green Tiger, Mexicana, Payload, Portofino, Raven, Spineless Beauty, Yellowfin.

SQUASH, WINTER. ***Acorn:*** Autumn Delight, Black Bellota, Carnival, Table Ace, Table King. ***Buttercup:*** Bonbon, Burgess, Uncle David's Dakota Dessert. ***Butternut:*** Butterbaby, Butterscotch, Early Butternut, Granite, Waltham. ***Delicata:*** Cornell's Bush Delicata, Zeppelin. ***Other:*** Blue Magic, Delica, Pinnacle, Primavera, Red Kuri, Sunshine, Speckled Hound, Sweet Mama.

SWEET POTATO. Beauregard.

SWISS CHARD. Bali, Bright Lights, Charbell, Improved Rainbow, Lucullus, Oriole, Peppermint, Ruby Red.

TOMATO. ***Small:*** Fargo Yellow Pear, Juliet, Red Torch, Sungold, SunSugar, Supersweet 100. ***Fresh market:*** Big Beef Plus, Bush Early Girl, Celebrity Plus, Early Girl, Goliath, Mountain Fresh Plus, Mountain Merit, Red Deuce, Roadster. ***Paste:*** Granadero, Roma VF, Viva Italia. ***Heirloom:*** Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, German Johnson, Manitoba, Stupice, Wisconsin 55.

TURNIP. Hakurei, Purple Top White Globe, Tokyo Cross.

WATERMELON. ***Seeded:*** Petite Yellow, Sangria, Stargazer, Sugar Baby, Sweet Dakota Rose, Yellow Doll. ***Seedless:*** Sweet Dawn.

Seed Sources

The following is a sample of companies offering seeds. This list is provided for educational purposes only; no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Many of these companies offer free seed catalogs.

A.P. Whaley Seed, www.awhaley.com.
Baker Creek Seed, www.rareseeds.com.
Burpee Seed, www.burpee.com.
Fedco Seeds, www.fedcoseeds.com.
Gurney's Seed and Nursery, www.gurneys.com.
Harris Seeds, www.harrisseeds.com.
High Mowing Seeds, www.highmowingseeds.com.
Johnny's Selected Seeds, www.johnnyseeds.com.
Jordan Seeds, www.jordanseeds.com.
Jung Seed, www.jungseed.com.
Osborne Seeds, www.osborneseed.com.
Pinetree Garden Seeds, www.superseeds.com.
Prairie Road Org. Seed, www.prairieroadorganic.co.
Seed Savers Exchange, www.seedsavers.org.
Stokes Seeds, www.stokeseeds.com.
Territorial Seed, www.territorialseed.com.
True Leaf Market Seed, www.trueleafmarket.com.
Vesey's Seeds, www.veseys.com.

All gardeners are invited to join our team of backyard researchers. Go to www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegarden varietytrials/

Written by Tom Kalb, Extension Horticulturist, North Dakota State University, email: tom.kalb@ndsu.edu.
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