

Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteer Vegetable Trials Evaluation 2024



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Introduction

Part of the Ohio State University Extension Service, the Franklin County Master Gardener program Vegetable Trials focuses on conducting research on seeds, plants, and growing practices to provide information to improve yields for home gardeners in the area and to address common growing problems. This data is provided through the annual report for the project, available on the Extension Service website and more specifically, through an annual Top Producers handout, as shown in the Appendix. Also, this handout is available on the Extension Service website and at numerous Extension Service community outreach activities throughout the year.

The Vegetable Trials project usually begins in January with seed selection for the varieties of seeds to be planted that year. Some cool weather and warm weather seeds are germinated in The Ohio State University's greenhouse, while cool weather seeds are directly planted into the garden plot or raised beds. The plot is divided into two sections, the first composted of 10 raised beds and the remainder of approximately 12, 66' rows, referred to as the field section. In addition to the test crops discussed in this report, second season varieties are planted in the raised beds as the early cool season varieties are harvested. Annually, the quarter-acre plot is prepared for planting by the Waterman Farm management, which tills the soil and adds compost. The plot is then more specifically prepared by the Vegetable Trials' volunteers, who determine the arrangement of beds and varieties planted in the raised beds and open rows. Volunteers work Mondays and Thursdays during the growing season, planting, transplanting, watering, harvesting, and transporting vegetables. Throughout the growing season, plants are evaluated weekly. Produce is weighed, then distributed to area food pantries.

In 2024, 4302.3 pounds of food was donated to five food pantries: Clintonville Resource Center (CRC), B.O.L.D. Food Pantry, Smoky Row Food Pantry, Dublin Food Pantry, and Worthington Resource Pantry.

Top Producers

After assessing all the data, the 2024 top producers chosen based on yield and performance were:

- **Monte Gusto Pole Bean**
- **Dragon's Tongue Bush Bean**
- **Bull's Blood Beet**
- **Purple Star Carrot**
- **First Taste Sweet Pepper**
- **Goddess Banana Pepper**
- **Nyagous Tomato**
- **Orange Wellington Tomato**
- **Heart of Gold Swiss Chard**
- **Silky Sweet Hybrid Turnip**

The Top Producers handout, which includes these varieties and others identified in previous years, is included in Appendix B.

Method

For the Vegetable Trials plot, 2024 was another challenging year. Widespread, lengthy drought was the main challenge. (See weather data, p.4) This condition was alleviated by twice-weekly irrigation or hand watering. Some produce was reduced in size compared to prior years. Once again, predation from insects and animals challenged the growing crops. A positive situation was provided by efforts of the 2024 intern class, many of whom provided work in all areas of the project. However, in spite of the drought and predation, the Vegetable Trials plot produced its highest yield ever.

In 2024, no plastic ground cover was used on the plant rows. Instead, heavy landscape fabric was installed in walkways, with edging reaching up to narrow growing spaces in each row. This was a study to determine how such a planting would affect both plant growth and weed growth in the rows. Although weeds did grow in the narrow spaces, they were inhibited by the healthy plant growth overhead and some hand weeding. It was determined that such use of the landscape fabric was a viable alternative to plastic row covers, and did not negatively impact plant growth or yield.



Weather Report

Temperature and precipitation during the 2024 crop year

2024	Monthly Total GDD (Growing Degree Days)	Accumulated Growing Degree Days	2024 Temp. (F)	Norm Temp. (F)	2024 Precip. (in.)	Norm Preci. (in.)	Temp. difference from norm	Precip. difference from norm
March	76	103	46.5	41.6	2.66	3.62	4.90	-0.96
April	258	361	57.0	53.2	5.87	3.85	3.8	2.02
May	572	933	61.8	63.3	4.84	3.99	-1.5	0.85
June	736	1669	74.2	71.9	1.26	4.33	2.30	-3.07
July	839	2508	76.9	75.4	1.83	4.67	1.5	-2.84
August	819	3327	76.2	74.0	1.98	3.74	2.2	-1.76
September	657	3984	71.7	67.2	2.46	3.14	4.5	.68
October	289	4273	58.5	55.2	0.27	2.9	3.3	-2.63

The summer of 2024 in Columbus, Ohio was extremely dry and hot, with the city experiencing (Google):

Drought

Columbus had its third driest summer since 1879, receiving only 5.07 inches of rain from June 1 to August 31. This drought was exacerbated to high evaporation rates in early June, when the sun angle is highest.

Heat

Columbus had 31 days of 90 degree temperatures or higher, which is more than the typical 14 days per year. The hottest day was June 21, when the temperature reached 96 degrees.

Flash drought

The timing of the drought was during the growing season, which led to a flash drought (rapid increase or intensification of drought conditions).

Meteorological summer (June-August) was the third driest on record in Columbus (5.07 inches), only surpassed in 1930 and 1933 during the Dust Bowl era. (NBCi.com)

Footnote: Data from NOAA Online Weather Data <https://nowdata.rcc-acis.org/iln/>, <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=iln> and [CFAES Weather System](#) - weather.cfaes.osu.edu

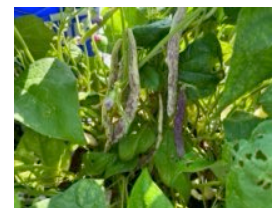
Vegetable Evaluation Data

A discussion for each group of vegetables follows, including a description of each cultivar (usually from the seed catalog where the seeds were purchased), days to harvest, seed source, overall rating for the season, yield data, and comments about pests and other problems encountered. In the tables that follow, the “overall rating” refers to the 1-5 scale. The rating used is the “median” which refers to the middle value in a set of numbers arranged in order, meaning that half of the data points are larger than the median and half are smaller. The “harvest date” refers to the date of the first significant harvest that included more than one or two fruits. The cultivars listed below were evaluated by the participating Master Gardeners weekly from July 1st through October 7th, 2024 using a Likert scale ranging from 1 (“perfect condition”) through 5 (“dead”). Half were evaluated by the group that met on Mondays; the other half by the Thursday gardeners. Once a cultivar was categorized as “dead” (5), the data analysis was discontinued.

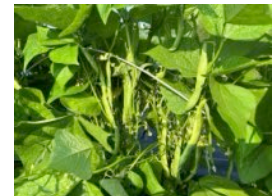
Warm-Season Crops

Bush Beans

Dragon’s Tongue. “With exceptionally crisp and juicy pods, this Dutch wax bean bears large 6-8" cream-colored pods with vivid purple mottling that fades when beans are cooked. Pods are stringless and wide. Compact, high-yielding plants.” 55-60 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Dulcina. “Tender, full-flavored Italian bean. The sweet, medium-green pods avg. 5 1/2–6 x 3/4", and are borne on large semi-upright plants. White seeds. Plant Variety Protected.” 53 days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds



Mellow Yellow. “This summer you can anticipate an abundance of the crispest, most delicious yellow wax beans you’ve ever tasted. The compact 12 x 12" bushy plants are absolutely loaded with 6" crisp, sweet, golden-yellow pods, with an early harvest and continuous picking.” 60 days. Burpee



Dragon’s Tongue, Dulcina, and Mellow Yellow beans were seeded on 5/30/2024 in 20-foot rows in the field. On 6/3/2024 they were covered with white row cover to protect them from rabbits. On 6/24/2024 the Mellow Yellow Beans were a third the size of Dulcina and Dragon’s Tongue varieties.

Six varieties of beans were grown, three bush types and for the first time, pole beans (see next section). The bush bean varieties were grown in the open field. After planting, the seeds were covered with insect netting to deter animal predation. These plants grew well while covered. Once the insect netting was removed, rabbits destroyed many plants, reducing yields.

Bush Beans	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Dragon's Tongue	1.8	60	7/29/2024	52	9/19/2024	28.8
Dulcina	2.3	49	7/18/2024	35	8/22/2024	29.4
Mellow Yellow	1.8	60	7/29/2024	52	9/19/2024	24.6

Pole Beans

Kentucky Wonder. “This historic variety, renowned for its tenderness and great flavor, was first marketed in 1864 as Texas Pole, then renamed and introduced in 1877 as Kentucky Wonder by James J. H. Gregory & Sons. Vigorous plants yield clusters of 7-10” pods that are stringless when young.” 58-64 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Monte Gusto. “Smooth bright yellow pods. This elegant, flavorful wax bean is a clear improvement over older varieties. Pods mature at 8–8 1/2” but may also be harvested as very attractive filet beans at 7”. Better-tasting than bush wax beans. Brown seeds. Pole bean; requires trellising.” 58 days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds



Trionfo Violetto. “HEIRLOOM. Highly ornamental and delectable! Translated from Italian, this bean's name means "purple triumph." This treasured heirloom pole bean is a crisp, flavorful treat. Displaying lavender flowers against the bright green leaves with purple veins and stems, the very productive 6-8’ vines are highly ornamental. When cooked, the rich purple 7-10” pods turn bright green.” 60-72 days. Burpee



All three varieties of pole beans were seeded on 5/30/2024. The pole bean varieties were grown on trellises fashioned from a 16-foot cattle panel. On 6/1/2024 chicken wire was placed around the bottom of the trellises to protect the small seedlings from rabbits. On 6/10/2024 row cover was wrapped around the base of the chicken wire because some beans were eaten, especially the Trionfo Violetto. Chicken wire and the row cover wrapped around the bases of the plants deterred further predation. Around the middle of June, the beans started climbing on the chicken wire and the cattle panels. Monte Gusto was one of the 2024 Top Producers.

Pole Beans	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Kentucky Wonder	1.0	67	8/5/2024	70	10/14/2024	26.6
Monte Gusto	1.5	56	7/25/2024	74	10/7/2024	38.9
Trionfo Violetto	1.8	56	7/25/2024	77	10/10/2024	14.4

Cucumber

Dragon's Egg. “These aptly named, cream-colored cucumbers resemble large eggs. Thin-skinned fruits are mild, faintly sweet, and not the least bit bitter, making them perfect to snack on straight from the vine or toss into a salad of fresh greens. Plants bear fruit early in the season and produce heavy yields. This delicious, easy-to-grow heirloom originated in Croatia and has delighted gardeners for generations.” 55-65 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Summer Dance Hybrid. “‘Summer Dance’ will delight you with sweet, melodious flavor. Glossy, deep-green 9” fruits are packed with sparkling refreshment. Japanese burpless variety grows like crazy, sending out numerous lateral vines for high yields. High resistance to Downy mildew and Powdery mildew; tolerant to heat stress.” 55 days. Burpee



On 6/10/2024 Dragon's Egg and Summer Dance Hybrid were planted in the field. Five-foot cattle panels were used to support both cultivars. On June 24 when the plants were covered with row cover, there were 17 Dragon's Egg and 12 Summer Dance plants. The plants looked very healthy.

Both Dragon's Egg and Summer Dance Hybrid produced early then died after 18-21 days of harvesting. Dragon's Egg Cucumber was selected due to the name and the unusual orb-like shape. We decided that they were somewhat flavorless. The Summer Dance Hybrid Cucumber was much sweeter. Their mature height was 18-22". Their largest fruits were 9" long.

Cucumber	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Dragon's Egg	1.0	38	7/18/2024	18	8/5/2024	12.1
Summer Dance Hybrid	1.0	42	7/22/2024	21	8/12/2024	14.0

Eggplant

Black Beauty. “Over 100 years old, this 1902 Burpee introduction was an immediate hit because the plants ripened perfect fruits dramatically earlier than other varieties. It became the common market eggplant of today. Harvested fresh, however, makes all the difference.” 74 days. Burpee



Listada de Gandia. “This prized variety bears sweet, tender, thin-skinned, stunning eggplant. It likely originated in Spain (its name translates as “Grown in Spain”), where it is still revered today. The small 14" plants produce heavy yields of high-quality, 8" oval white fruits with purple stripes and mild white flesh. The variety thrives in very hot weather.” 60-70 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Ichiban. “Plant produces loads of long, slender, dark purple eggplants with thin skins and mildly sweet flavor. An excellent variety for roasting, grilling, and stir-fries – chefs love it! Very productive plant grows well in containers. Grows best in warm weather, but will continue producing through to the first frost.” 55 days. Strader’s



Thirty-two seeds of **Listada de Gandia** and **Black Beauty** were seeded in the greenhouse on 4/3/2024. When the plants were taken out of the greenhouse on 5/7/2024 to be hardened, there were 23 small (1-3") Listada de Gandia eggplants.

Unfortunately, the majority of the seedlings were 2 1/2" tall with cotyledon leaves yellow and dropping off and nine cells had no germination. The Black Beauty eggplant had 100% germination. The seedlings were 1-4" tall and only a few had yellow leaves. Neither was planted in the field because the plants which were started in the

greenhouse failed to thrive.

Twelve Black Beauty and 12 Ichiban plants were purchased from Strader’s and were planted in the plot on 5/28/2024. On 6/3/2024 both sections were covered with white row cover because a few leaves were nibbled off of the Ichiban, probably by rabbits.

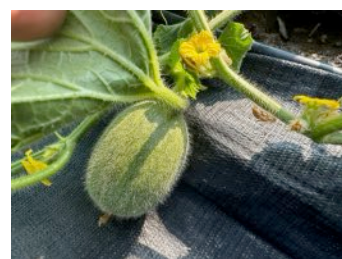
On June 24 the plants were uncovered and the plants were supported with a mixture of 3- and 4-foot stakes.

Both Ichiban and Black Beauty varieties of eggplant had good overall health and performance, despite the temperature and precipitation challenges that were posed during this growing season. Although there was minor flea beetle damage to the leaves of the eggplants throughout the season, each had sturdy plants with beautiful flowering and excellent fruit production. Ichiban was ready to harvest 44 days from transplant date and continued to produce into October, although production slowed by mid-September resulting in smaller fruit as well as more splitting and damage in the fruit. Black Beauty was ready for harvest 51 days from transplant with its glossy dark purple, oval fruit. Production continued into October, with slowing of pace noted in mid-September. The fruits were high quality throughout the season, feeling slightly heavy in the hand. Both of these eggplant varieties would do well in the garden, but the top producer in 2024 is Black Beauty for its quality fruit over the entire season and total yield of 92.6 pounds.

Eggplant	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Black Beauty	1.5	51	7/18/2024	88	10/28/2024	92.6
Ichiban	1.5	44	7/11/2024	95	10/28/2024	74.6

Melons

Burpee’s Ambrosia Hybrid. “Burpees Ambrosia has been our top-selling cantaloupe for over 20 years because of its luscious, extra-sweet taste, juiciness and nectarous aroma. The thick, firm, flesh is delicious right down to the rind. The 6" melons average 5 lb. each. Vines yield bumper crops and are mildew-resistant.” 86 days. Burpee



Honey Blonde. “Flavorful yellow-skinned honeydew. The attractive oval fruits avg. 3–3 1/2 lb., and have delicious orange flesh. Plants are strong and vigorous and perform well in warm or cool weather.” 71 days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds



Nineteen Burpee’s Ambrosia Hybrid seeds were planted on 6/6/2024. Twenty Honey Blonde seeds were planted on 6/10/2024. Seeds were all planted 24” apart. On 6/27/2024, ten of the twenty Honey Blonde seeds failed to germinate so they were reseeded. The plants were covered to prevent predation until 7/5/2024 when they started producing flowers. They needed to be uncovered in order to be pollinated by insects.

Many of the plants started to succumb to insect damage which we try to prevent by removing eggs from leaves but then as fruit started emerging we had other predation of the fruit by insects or animals. Because of low yield, melons may not be planted in the field next year.

Melons	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Burpee’s Ambrosia Hybrid	2.3	67	8/12/2024	7	8/19/2024	9.2
Honey Blonde	1.5	60	8/5/2024	10	8/15/2024	33.4

Peppers

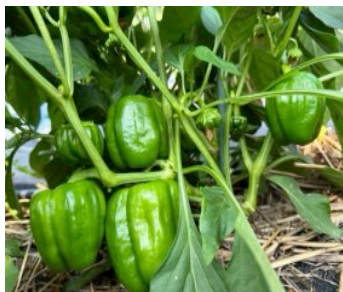
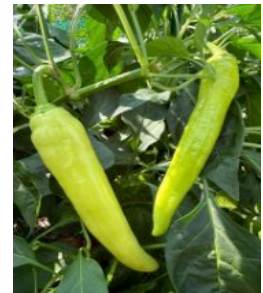
Big Boss Man Hybrid. “From first harvest on, ancho-poblano hybrid flourishes outsized yields of extra-large 7” x 3” fruits. How hot is it? Pepper’s Scoville rating is 1500-4000. That’s hot, but far from incendiary. Big, bold, dark-green fruits deliver sensational flavor and just-right mild heat. Disease resistance: TMV.” 70-75 days. Burpee



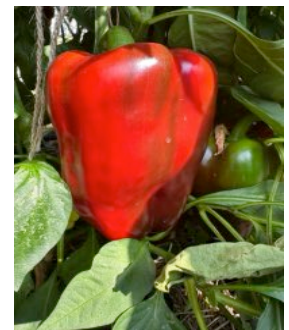
First Taste. “No nibbler can resist our new snackable sweet pepper with a bright burst of flavor and exhilarating crunch. Prolific plants grow heavy with glowing orange fruit, the color signaling high amounts of carotenoids believed to benefit eye health. Matures early, so you won’t need to wait long for a first bite. Burpee Bred.” 75-85 days. Burpee



Goddess. “Sweet banana for pickling or fresh eating. Long, thick-walled, smooth fruits are borne on large plants. Avg. 8-9” long, the fruits are mild when yellow and moderately sweet when they ripen red. Best for pickling due to their mild flavor, but also suitable for fresh market. Widely adapted.” 63 yellow, 83 red ripe days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds



Joe’s Big Blocky Red. “A classic red bell pepper, this variety bears large fruit with a good, sweet flavor. Fruits range from triangular to bell-shaped and turn from green to dark red. Mature fruit measure 3-6” long and 3-4” wide and weigh 4-8 ounces. Mid-season maturing plants grow 2-2.5’ tall. This pepper was donated to Seed Savers Exchange by Exchange lister Louis Marcelina, who obtained it in 1984 from fellow lister William Lyons.” 69-80 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Twenty-four seeds of all four cultivars were seeded in the greenhouse on 3/13/2024. The plants were taken out of the greenhouse on 4/30/2024 to be hardened. Big Boss Man peppers had three cells that had no germination, 2 plants were very small (1/2” and 1” tall), and 4 plants were misshapen (each with one, two or three lower leaves but no upward growth). Eight of the Big Boss Man plants had purple blotches.

Fourteen of Big Boss Man Hybrid, Goddess, and Joe’s Big Blocky Red were transplanted in the field on 5/20/2024. Fourteen First Taste were transplanted in the field on 5/23/2024. Three-foot and 4’ stakes were used to support each plant. On 6/3/2024, 5 Joe’s Big Blocky Red were gone

and 2 were partially eaten. On 6/3/2024, the Goddess and First Taste were covered with white row cover to protect the plants from rabbits; on June 24 the row cover was removed because the plants were starting to flower and the Joe’s Big Blocky Red were covered with insect netting.

The following table summarizes the major data influencing comparisons among these four varieties during the growing season.

Peppers	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Big Boss Man Hybrid	1.0	120	52	7/11/2024	95	10/14/2024	47.7
First Taste	1.0	106	35	6/27/2024	120	10/25/2024	95.8
Goddess	1.0	114	46	7/5/2024	104	10/17/2024	101.0
Joe’s Big Blocky Red	1.0	131	63	7/22/2024	84	10/14/2024	41.9

As you can see, the peppers as a group did very well overall, with an overall rating of “1”. A deeper look into the data in the full project spreadsheet shows that this rating was in effect for almost the entire set of 15 evaluations over the full season, with only a small drop-off after a first frost in late September. The plants were still green when they were removed from the field a few weeks later.

The yield data (last column) suggests two groups, with First Taste and Goddess being the heavier producers and Big Boss Man and Joe’s Big Blocky Red yielding only about half the total poundage. This is interesting for two reasons. First, the Big Blocky Red is characterized as “large” in the seed catalog description which should suggest that it should out-weigh the others which it obviously did not. Second, the Big Boss Man, which was previously grown in our plot two years ago (we weren’t able to purchase the seeds in 2023), weighed in at 91 pounds that year, an appreciable difference from 2024.

Early maturation data seen in the middle columns shows advantages for the Goddess and First Taste cultivars also. Both produced edible fruit earlier than Big Boss Man and the Big Blocky Red, although a detailed look at the project spreadsheet shows a slight advantage for Goddess in producing appreciable quantities of fruit a little earlier in the season than First Taste.

Various challenging features were noted for these cultivars. Three of the varieties did eventually begin to show colors (other than green), but it took at least a full month for the fruit to begin to change. This is longer than the extra 20 days usually noted in seed catalogs. Goddess never did change to red. Goddess also had a notable purple coloration on parts of the fruit, from early in the growing season. It didn’t seem to affect the taste or usefulness of the pepper. Big Boss Man

had some problems noted in the germination stage. Joe's Big Blocky Red pepper's fruit was definitely not "Big" and didn't even grow on plants as large as those of the other peppers. It isn't certain that the problems noted were due to the varieties grown. There were, of course, challenges that may have been due to other factors in the summer of 2024. Much of Central Ohio was subjected to at least a moderate drought for much of the mid and late season. While we irrigate twice weekly, the lack of regular rainfall may well have affected plant development. We also had problems protecting the peppers and most other varieties from predation by local wildlife, both mammals and insects. The use of row covers and insect netting, while beneficial in some respects, may have lessened the benefits of early light and insect pollination. Overall, the harvest data suggests that First Taste and Goddess were the most successful of our pepper varieties in 2024.

Summer Squash

Golden Zucchini. "Introduced in 1973 by W. Atlee Burpee of Philadelphia, bred from squash varieties supplied by Dr. Oved Shifress. This vivid yellow fruit was the first commercial B (bicolor gene) cultivar. Crisp and mild-flavored zucchinis are borne prolifically on bush plants." 50-55 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Italian Ribbed Zucchini. "Known and beloved by Italians as "Costata Romanesco", this Italian heirloom zucchini offers up a distinctive nutty flavor. The 6-8" medium-green fruits have pale green ribs and flecks. The prominent ribs create star-shaped slices which are lovely sauteed or roasted." 50 days. Burpee

Sunburst Patty Pan. "Sunburst is a beautiful butter yellow scallop-type squash. Each fruit is accented with a small dark green ring. The mild, white flesh remains tender and firm. Best used when harvested and eaten at around 3" across." 50-55 days. Burpee



Fourteen seeds of the Golden Zucchini, fourteen seeds of the Italian Ribbed Zucchini, and fourteen seeds of the Sunburst Patty Pan were seeded on 6/6/2024. Each seed was planted 36" apart. On June 27 the first 2 Golden Zucchini plants were half eaten. That led to adding row covers to all 3 cultivars until they began to flower. They were then uncovered to allow pollination by insects.



All 3 cultivars produced close to the same amount of fruit. The Italian Ribbed Zucchini fruit was larger so it's not surprising that it produced more weight even though those plants received a lower overall rating. Despite trying to remove insect eggs from leaves on all 3 cultivars we lost plants due to squash vine borers and other insects during the season but not affecting all plants all at once. There was also some predation of the fruit.

One interesting difference between the plants of the individual cultivars, was that the Italian Ribbed Zucchini plants vined across the field almost looking like individual plants were cropping up whereas the other 2 cultivars had a form that stayed rounded.

Summer Squash	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Golden Zucchini	1.5	39	7/15/2024	63	9/16/2024	150.7
Italian Ribbed Zucchini	2.0	35	7/11/2024	77	9/26/2024	185.7
Sunburst Patty Pan	1.5	39	7/15/2024	70	9/23/2024	165.1

Tomatoes

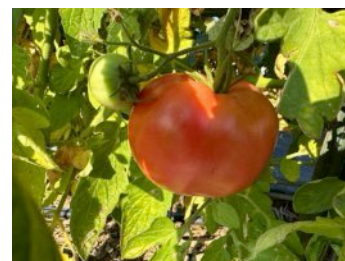
Gladiator Hybrid. “A champion ‘Roma’ tomato with unbeatable vigor, flavor, aroma and yield. Gigantic ‘Gladiator’ is the hands-down champion in the arena of ‘Roma’ tomatoes. With an unbeatable armor of vigor, flavor, aroma and yield, it bears a bounty of oval 8 oz. fruit in a small garden. Its dense flesh and tangy taste make ‘Gladiator’ victorious for imparting rich, robust flavor to paste, sauces, soups, salsa, or ketchup. Strong roots conquer enemies such as blossom end rot. Indeterminate.” 70 days. Burpee



Golden Jubilee. “Heirloom. First introduced in 1943 as an All-America Selection, Jubilee bears large tomatoes with very meaty, thick-walled interiors and mild flavor. The globe-shaped, golden-orange fruit is similar to Sunray. Has meaty, thick walls and few seeds. High yielding. The indeterminate vines benefit from strong staking or caging, and are widely adapted throughout the US except in northernmost portions. Resistant to alternaria stem canker (A).” 80 days. Description from Bonnie Plants



Medium Rare Hybrid. “Abundant yield of pink beefsteaks loaded with savory and smoky-flavor. Sink your teeth into Medium Rare’s earthy fragrance and rich, meaty flavor. Pair a thick, juicy slice of our deeply-shouldered beefsteak with medium rare steak for the sandwich of your summertime dreams. Medium Rare’s translucent pink color lets more light into the huge 16–18 oz. fruits—adding a natural sparkle to the savory, smoky flavor. Beginning mid-summer, one single 6–7’ vine commences its seasonal payload of 18–20 virtuoso tomatoes. Proven performer tolerates challenging weather conditions. Unusual earliness, ideal for Northern US.” 75-80 days. Burpee



Nebraska Wedding. “Reliable producer of stunning 4" round fruits with orange skin. Well-balanced flavor. Plants are typically under 36" tall, but benefit from staking. Called the "ultimate love apple" in Amy Goldman's colorful story in The Heirloom Tomato. Introduced to Seed Savers Exchange in 1983 by member Dorothy Beiswenger. Given to her by Betty Englert, whose ancestors brought this variety to western Nebraska in the late 1800s and was often given to newlywed family members and friends. Determinate.” 85-90 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Nyagous. “Introduced in the 1997 Seed Savers Exchange Yearbook by Glenn Drowns. Great black tomato that is virtually blemish-free. Baseball-sized fruits are borne in clusters of up to six fruits, very productive. Excellent full flavor, great for markets.” 80 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Orange Wellington. “Bursting with flavor, here’s a tomato you’ll want to have with dinner, lunch or as an occasional snack. (Roasted tomatoes can spark up a breakfast, as well.) Tipping the scales at 12 oz., this smooth, orange heavyweight is plump with firm, dense, meaty, nearly seedless flesh. Blossoms and fruit develop progressively; the harvest lasts several months. Tolerant to Verticillium and Fusarium wilt.” 75 days. Burpee



Wonder Star. “Determinate heirloom-style beefsteak is early to mature and high yielding. Performs well in-ground and in large containers, as well as patio containers and small spaces. Plants produce bright red fruit with excellent flavor. Good for short growing seasons. Offers good disease resistance, including septoria leaf spot.” 60-65 days. Burpee description



Thirty two seeds of the first 5 varieties were planted in the greenhouse on 4/3/2024. The plants were taken out of the greenhouse on 4/30/2024 to be hardened. Unfortunately, none of the Nebraska Weddings were viable for transplant. On 5/20/2024 three Gladiators were transplanted 24 inches apart. On 5/23/2024, 6 more Gladiators, 10 Orange Wellington, 10 Wonder Star, and 10 Nyagous were transplanted in the field. Ten Golden Jubilee were transplanted in the field on 5/28/2024. These were donated by a friend. Five-foot cattle panels were used to support each plant. Eleven Medium Rare were transplanted on June 1st. All the plants were suckered on 6/6/2024, leaving one sucker near the bottom, except the very small tomatoes which didn't have any suckers. On June 20 a few tops were eaten off some of the plants. On June 24 all the plants were supported by the Florida weave. On June 24th the bottom leaves were removed from Wonder Star, Nyagous and the Orange Wellington plants.

This year’s tomato selections offered a wide variety of size, type and color. Gladiator, one of last year’s top producers, was the only Roma variety planted. It produced uniform, firm, nearly seedless fruits. This year’s yield of 137 lbs. was significantly less than last year’s total of 307.

Fruits ripened early in the growing season and produced consistently from late July through September.

Of the slicing varieties, highest marks for taste, size and yield go to Orange Wellington. Orange Wellington is a large orange slicing variety and most often voted the tastiest by master gardeners working the field. It also was one of the top producers this year, yielding 332.4 lbs. Fruits ripened from early August to mid-October, with the largest yields the entire month of September.

Other slicers were Golden Jubilee, Medium Rare and Nyagous. Golden Jubilee, a yellow heirloom variety, produced very large, juicy fruits from early August through October, peaking in early September. Medium Rare was a pink slicing tomato and one of last year’s top producers.



While this year’s yield was slightly less than last year, harvest was abundant throughout August and September. Medium Rare was one of the tastiest varieties, second to Orange Wellington. Nyagous was a black-skinned heirloom with smaller fruits. It was this year’s top producer with 333.4 lbs. harvested. While this variety produced the most fruit, it also had the most loss due to cracking, mostly likely caused by irregular water



supply due to drought conditions punctuated with large rain events. Nyagous also exhibited leaf curl more so than any other variety planted. It was an early producer, with harvest commencing in July and continuing well into October. Wonderstar was the only determinate variety planted. It had smaller, more compact plants, with medium sized juicy red fruit. It was a very early producer with the largest yield during the month of July. However, a reduced level of harvest continued throughout August and September, even as the plants declined significantly.

Tomatoes	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Gladiator Hybrid	1.0	110	60	7/22/2024	95	10/25/2024	137.1
Golden Jubilee	1.0		69	8/5/2024	81	10/25/2024	280.3
Medium Rare Hybrid	1.0	120	61	8/1/2024	85	10/25/2024	261.1
Nyagous	1.0	117	67	7/29/2024	84	10/21/2024	333.6
Orange Wellington	1.0	120	70	8/1/2024	81	10/21/2024	332.4
Wonder Star.	1.5		56	7/18/2024	91	10/17/2024	212.4

Cherry Tomatoes

Red Fig. “Noted in America as early as 1850 by the David Landreth seed house of Philadelphia. Heavy yields of 1½" pear-shaped fruits that are great for fresh eating. Used as a substitute for figs years ago by gardeners who would pack away crates of dried tomatoes for winter use.” 80 days. Seed Savers Exchange



White Cherry. “Early and productive pale yellow to ivory 1 ounce fruits; color will be paler with less sun exposure. An excellent color addition to cherry tomato mixes. Sweet fruity flavor.” 70 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Twelve seeds of each variety were planted in the greenhouse on April 3, 2024. The plants were taken out of the greenhouse on April 30, 2024 to be hardened. On May 20, 2024 six Red Fig were transplanted, 3 on each side of a 4’ wide arching 16’ cattle panel. Even though the White Cherry tomatoes were infected with septoria leaf spot, we transplanted 6 of the best looking plants on May 28, 2024. The 16’ arching cattle panel was used to support the plants. All the plants were suckered on June 6, 2024. One of the Red Fig was topped, probably by a rabbit. On June 24 all the plants were supported by the Florida weave.

The cherry tomatoes selected for the 2024 trial were excellent choices for the home garden. Both varieties were vigorous, heavy yielding and had very little disease or insect damage until late in September. They were still producing fruit when the garden was dismantled at the end of the season. The Red Fig tomato had firm bright red pear-shaped fruit with a traditional savory tomato flavor. The White Cherry tomato had round pale yellow to white fruit with a juicy sweet flavor similar to the popular Sun Gold tomato. Both tomatoes were perfect for salads or snacking.

Cherry Tomatoes	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Red Fig	1.0	99	52	7/11/2024	106	10/25/2024	112.5
White Cherry	1.0	117	62	7/29/2024	88	10/25/2024	49.3

Winter Squash

Honey Boat. “This gold-orange, green-striped delicata squash variety has an irresistibly sweet, nutty flavor, and stores well. Like all delicata squash, it can be prepared straight from harvest without curing. Vines reach up to 6', while the fruits measure 6"-8" in length and 3" in diameter and weigh up to a pound. Bred by Dr. James Baggett at Oregon State



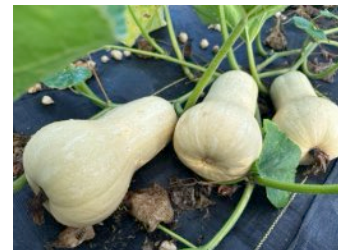
University, ‘Honey Boat’ was introduced in 1990 and has proved popular among squash lovers in the years since.” 90-100 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Honey Bun. “New! Striking dumpling squash with excellent flavor! Impressive yields of eye-catching variegated fruit, plus strong agronomic qualities. A dramatic improvement over Sweet Dumpling. Fruits turn caramelly-bronze at peak ripeness. Avg. weight: 1–2 lb. Bred by Dr. Lindsay Wyatt at Johnny's. Our thanks to UNH for their help in developing this variety.” 95 days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds



Pilgrim Hybrid Butternut. “Pilgrim may well be the best, most buttery, nutty, and flavorful winter squash ever. Restricted vine variety produces the yield of a full vine type, a continuing, bountiful harvest of uniform 3 lb. fruit with thick meaty necks and loads of much usable meat. Fruits resist cracking during temperature fluctuations.” 80-90 days. Burpee

Waltham Butternut. “This butternut, an AAS winner in 1970, was the result of years of patient refinement and selection by Professor Robert Young of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station in Waltham. Prized for its straight necks, rich dry yellow-orange flesh, nutty flavor, and high-yielding vines. Fruits are 3-6 pounds and exceptional keepers. One of the most popular types of baking squash.” 83-100 days. The seeds were more than 10 years old. But close to a 100% germination rate.



Fourteen Honey Boat and fourteen Pilgrim Hybrid were seeded in two 20’ sections, 24’ apart on June 6, 2024. Twenty Honey Bun were seeded in two 20’ sections on June 10, 2024. Seven Waltham were seeded on June 10, 2024 but only in one 20’ section.

The overall ratings for the four winter squash plants were very similar. In late July the winter squash plants were looking healthy and had some flowers and early fruit. The Honey Bun had fewer flowers and the leaves were growing slowly. In August the Pilgrim Hybrid and Honey Boat had lots of flowers and fruit. The Waltham Butternut looked great and had lots of fruit and we were waiting for the fruit to turn a caramel color before harvesting. By the first week of September the winter squash plants were showing signs of disease and dying foliage; however, the vines had flowers and fruit. All the plants were productive. The Honey Bun had some fruit, dead foliage and while the vines were okay, there were no flowers.

The main differences for the four winter squash were the number of days from seed to first harvest and total yield. The Honey Boat squash plants were harvested 49 days from plant date and they yielded the most squash at 158.9 pounds. According to the catalog the weight of the Honey Boat squash fruit was the lowest. Although the Honey Boat is a fall squash, we harvested them in the summer. Gardeners seeking a high yielding variety and a shorter duration from seed to first harvest should consider planting Honey Boat.

The Honey Bun plants were very attractive and predation was noted in July. They grew slowly and had few flowers in July. Even with the longest length of harvest days, the total yield was much lower than the other winter squash. If a longer number of harvest days is an important criterion versus yield, this may be a good variety to consider.

The Pilgrim Hybrid plants had a slightly lower overall rating than the other 3 winter squash; however, they produced the second highest yield at 126.7 pounds and had the next to lowest number of days from seed to harvest but that was only because 2 squash were inadvertently harvested early. Gardeners looking for a high yielding butternut squash may want to choose this variety.

The Waltham Butternut had a much longer duration from seed to first harvest than the others. Since they had only half of the space and number of plants we can double the yield and say that they did as well as the Pilgrim Hybrid Butternut with an adjusted yield of 127.8 pounds. At four days they had the shortest length of harvest days because they were harvested all in 2 harvest sessions.

Winter Squash	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Honey Boat	1.3	49	07/25/2024	56	9/19/2024	158.9
Honey Bun	1.3	70	8/19/2024	59	10/17/2024	40.5
Pilgrim Hybrid Butternut	1.5	60	8/5/2024	52	9/26/2024	126.7
Waltham Butternut	1.3	108	9/26/2024	4	9/30/2024	63.9

Cool-Season Crops

The goal this year in the raised bed area was to find IPM for a variety of creatures that find our garden quite tasty. For this we implemented the use of insect netting over our current hoop system and continued surrounding the beds with fencing as a deterrent from the larger creatures such as rabbits and groundhogs. This led to improved conditions for many of our vegetables that would have been typically challenged by insect and animal predation. We had an increased harvest from cabbage to greens (chard, collards, and kale) to green and yellow wax beans. Implemented this year was the use of straw mulch for weed suppression and moisture retention. The straw mulch proved to be valuable for both reasons especially when conditions turned hot and dry. Despite our ongoing challenge with thistle weed, we did find our persistent attention to weeding to be of great benefit in the beds directly, however, the thistle weed was problematic in the surrounding wood chip walkways. Among the cool season crops, the top producer was the Heart of Gold Swiss Chard. In second place was the Bull’s Blood beet and in third place was the Purple Star carrot. The three top producers (Heart of Gold Swiss Chard, Bull’s Blood beets, and Purple Star carrots) brought to the harvest an array of color amid a dry, thirsty garden.



Our biggest challenges were thistle, bindweed and drought conditions. The biggest take-away was that raised beds provide an opportunity for succession planting throughout the growing season. Aphids were quite prolific in many central Ohio gardens this summer and VT was no exception. They were especially prominent on the kale which caused rapid decline in the overall health of the plant making it quite inedible. Despite these insect challenges the Red Winter kale was a top producer since VT data collection started in 2011. The second planting of kale and collards was overrun by Harlequin Beetles in late September. Garden season ended with final harvests of collards, kale and herbs (parsley and cilantro) and planting of one full RB of garlic and half of a RB of shallots. Both were covered in straw mulch for winter protection.

Beets

Bull's Blood. “A cool-weather plant that is as ornamental as it is tasty. This purple-foliaged variety can be used to produce two great crops for eating. The deliciously sweet leaves are perfect for adding to salads, but the variety can also be grown for its delectable baby roots. We suggest picking the leaves at about 35 days. Selected by Dutch seedsman and Seed Savers Exchange member Kees Sahin in 1986 from the French variety Crapaudine for the darkest-colored leaves.” 55 days. Seed Savers Exchange

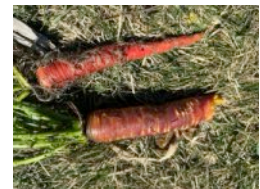


On April 22, 2024, Bull's Blood Beets were seeded 4" apart in ½ of a 4'x12' raised bed. On May 30, 2024 a small section of beets that didn't germinate was reseeded. The leaves were multicolored and the fruit was well formed. The Red Blood beets were the second highest producer in the raised beds at 37.6 pounds.

Beets	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Bull's Blood	NA	68	6/27/2024	63	8/29/2024	37.6

Carrots

Cosmic Purple. *Daucus carota*. “There's a reason purple carrots have been around for at least a millennium! Purple on the outside with a sweet, orange core, this stunning carrot peaks in taste and texture when its tapered roots reach 7" in length and never disappoints on the dinner plate. Kids love the color and taste; adults love the taste and the fact that purple carrots contain not only vitamin A but also the antioxidant anthocyanin. 65-75 days.” Seed Savers Exchange



Purple Star F1. “Finally, a purple carrot that can keep up with our earliest oranges! A great pair for Hercules and Caravel due to its tall tops and larger root size potential. A real improvement in the Purple Haze class. Purple pigment increases with maturity; early harvest will yield more tie-dye red/purple coloration. Kuroda x Nantes type.” 75 days. Johnny's.



Purple Star F1 were seeded in ½ of a raised bed with alternating rows of Philadelphia White Box radish on April 29, 2024. Cosmic Purple were seeded in ½ of a raised bed with alternating rows of Plum Purple radish on May 2, 2024. A wire fence was erected around the raised bed. The radishes were harvested while the carrots were still small. By planting radish and carrots together in one raised bed, space was saved without any reduction in harvest. The Purple Star carrots were the third highest producer in the raised beds at 30.8 pounds.

Carrots	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Cosmic Purple	NA	73	7/11/2024	32	8/12/2024	18.1
Purple Star F1	NA	70	7/11/2024	42	8/22/2024	30.8

Radishes

Donato. “Our first downy mildew-resistant radish. Donato has consistently performed well in trials, holding its round shape and quality even during warm, summer weather. Earlier and with better field-holding ability than Crunchy King. Crisp and mild with a hint of sweetness.” 21 days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds

Philadelphia White Box. “Historic radish introduced in 1888 by Johnson & Stokes of Philadelphia, PA. A dependable variety for open cultivation or forcing in boxes. Spicy flavor. Sow in early spring or early fall. White roots.” 30 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Plum Purple. “Released by the Alf Christianson Seed Company in 1985. Unique deep purple round roots. Firm white flesh is sweet and mild all season long and never pithy. Hardy and adaptable. Exceptional variety for the novelty market and also for the home gardener.” 25-30 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Tokinashi All-Season. “As its name suggests, this popular daikon-type radish can be sown year-round in milder climates. Its flavorful, spicy, crisp flesh tastes great when tossed into salads or soups, pickled, or eaten fresh. Very slow to bolt, this variety produces a white root that reaches 10-14" in length and 2" in diameter, tapering uniformly to a sharp tip.” 50-60 days. Seed Savers Exchange



Plum Purple were seeded in ½ of a raised bed with alternating rows of Cosmic Purple carrots on April 29, 2024. Philadelphia White Box were seeded in ½ of a raised bed with alternating rows of Purple Star F1 carrots on May 2, 2024. Tokinashi were seeded on May 30, 2024 in a 20’ field row. They germinated over the weekend. On June 3, 2024 they were covered with white row cover to protect them from the rabbits. They were uncovered on June 27th. At this time the plants were large enough that the rabbits didn’t bother eating them.

The Plum Purple radish bolted mid June. Only one Philadelphia White Box plant bolted around June 22.

Radish	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Donato	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Philadelphia White Box	NA	28	5/30/2024	25	6/24/2024	12.7
Plum Purple.	NA	31	5/30/2024	14	6/13/2024	7.5
Tokinashi All-Season	1.0	32	7/1/2024	17	7/18/2024	24.3

Turnips

Silky Sweet Hybrid. “Silky Sweet’ judo flips the turnip—and reinvents the apple! A satiny touch, crispy texture and surprising sweetness make it seductively snacky. Healthful too, with magnesium, potassium, vitamin C and folate. Sow in the garden early spring and late summer for bushels of 2½–3" snow-white orbs of delight.” 65 days. Burpee

On April 22, 2024, half of a raised bed was seeded with rows of turnip seeds. On June 6, 2024, we thinned the turnips by harvesting baby turnips that looked like white radishes. The other half of the raised bed contained Bull’s Blood beets. These were really good tasting.

Turnip	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Silky Sweet Hybrid	NA	46	6/6/2024	49	7/29/2024	21.9

Greens

Cabbage

Napa. Barrel Head Hybrid. “Extra-large cylindrical heads are jam-packed with crispy, white-ribbed, green outer leaves and yellow inner leaves. Almost twice the size of regular Napa cabbage! An astonishment of color, extra-large 4½ lb. cylindrical heads are jam-packed with crispy, white-ribbed, pale-green outer leaves and yellow inner leaves; one huge barrel of subtle, refreshing cabbage flavor.



‘Barrel Head’ is bolt-tolerant and resistant to downy mildew and club root.” 70-75 days. Burpee

Twenty four cells were started in the greenhouse on March 13, 2024. All the cells of Barrel Head Napa Cabbage had germinated when they were removed from the greenhouse on April 10, 2024.

On April 18, 2024, 12 Barrel Head Napa Cabbage seedlings were transplanted into raised beds. These transplants were covered with Agfabric Garden Netting and the raised bed was surrounded by a wire fence. The plants remained healthy and bug-free.

Our newest vegetable grown in the RB’s was the Barrel Head cabbage. Cabbage has not been grown in VT since 2011 and this Napa cabbage did very well under the insect netting with a yield of 20 pounds.

Cabbage	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Napa. Barrel Head Hybrid	NA	82	46	6/3/2024	21	6/24/2024	20.2

Collard

Cash Crop. “Georgia-type hybrid. An early collard that makes attractive bunches. Similar productivity and appearance to Top Bunch, with medium-green, slightly savoyed leaves on a tall, productive plant.” 50 days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds

Sixteen cells with two seeds in each were started in the greenhouse on March 13, 2024. One cell didn’t germinate and 3 other cells had only one plant when removed from the greenhouse on April 10, 2024.

On April 18, 2024, 20 Cash Crop seedlings were transplanted into a raised bed. They were covered with insect netting for most of the growing season. The collard were continually harvested from the end of June until the middle of November.

Collard	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Cash Crop	NA	99	63	6/20/2024	151	11/18/2024	19.9

Kale

Greenpeace. “This purple-stemmed Siberian kale is nutritious and delicious, producing crunchy, crisp leaves with a sweet flavor (made sweeter with frost!) and only a hint of bitterness. Green, slightly blistered leaves have lobed margins and purple petioles and measure 15.5-18.5" long and 5.5-8.5" wide. The variety hails from the Greenpeace Experimental Farm in British Columbia,

Canada, a self-sufficient organic farming community formed in 1974 on Denman Island by Jim and Marie Bohlen, co-founders of the Greenpeace environmental organization.” 40 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Red Winter. “Dark green, oak-shaped leaves have dark red-purple veins. More tender and delicious than other kales. Certified Organic Seed.” 50 days. Burpee

Twenty four cells of each variety were started in the greenhouse on March 13, 2024. Greenpeace had two cells that didn’t germinate and Red Winter had one cell that didn’t germinate when they were removed from the greenhouse on April 10, 2024. On April 18, 2024, 12 Greenpeace and 12 Red Winter seedlings were transplanted into a raised bed. On June 17, all except 3 small lacinato plants were removed from the bed because aphids were infecting the plants. None of the Greenpeace plants made it so additional Red Winter seedlings were planted and some seeds were directly sowed. The Red Winter was harvested for three months growing to just over 2’ tall.

Kale	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Greenpeace	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Red Winter	NA	82	46	6/3/2024	94	9/5/2024	56.2

Lettuce

Buttercrunch. “This extremely popular heirloom lettuce has a luscious, buttery texture. The soft heads are creamy yellow inside and have some heat resistance. Best in cooler regions. Plant early in spring and repeat every 2 weeks into fall. Protect from heat with shade cloth. Likes fertile soil, ample water. Best when picked minutes before your meal. Space lettuce plants 8" apart.” 65 days. Burpee

Sunland. “New! Heat-tolerant romaine for heads and hearts. Earlier and more compact than Sparx, with thicker, more savoyed leaves. Selected for summer performance, with improved yield and consistency. Maintains straight ribs and a tight, clean base for a nice presentation post-harvest. Plant Variety Protected. U.S. Plant Patent #10,959,387. MT0-30.” 56 days. Johnny’s Selected Seeds

Twenty four cells of each variety were started in the greenhouse on March 13, 2024. Buttercrunch had two cells that didn’t germinate and six cells with very small plants. All the cells of Sunland germinated when they were removed from the greenhouse on April 10, 2024.

On April 18, 2024, 18 Buttercrunch and 24 Sunland seedlings were transplanted into raised beds. A small harvest was obtained from each of these varieties. And then bush beans were planted in that raised bed.

Lettuce	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Buttercrunch	NA	76	40	5/28/2024	23	6/20/2024	6.5
Sunland	NA	76	40	5/28/2024	23	6/20/2024	7.6

Asian Greens

Prize Choy Asian Green. “(Brassica rapa) Beautiful upright pac choy with succulent white stems and lush green leaves. This strain is especially uniform, vigorous, and bolt resistant. Delicious mild flavor. Excellent in stir-fries.” 45-50 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Twenty four cells were started in the greenhouse on March 13, 2024. All the cells of Price Choy had germinated when they were removed from the greenhouse on April 10, 2024.

On April 18, 2024, 24 Prize Choy Asian Green seedlings were transplanted into raised beds. These were harvested while the plants were small.

Asian Greens	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Prize Choy	NA	82	46	6/3/2024	14	6/17/2024	5.2

Spinach

America. “This high-quality, heat- and drought-tolerant spinach is well-suited for spring sowing in long-day areas. Growing 8" tall with thick, deep-green, savoyed leaves, the acclaimed variety is slow to bolt. A 1952 All-America Selections winner, it was developed by the Dutch seedhouse Sluis & Groot. It is a long-standing, compact Bloomsdale type and can be frozen, canned, or used fresh.” 43-55 days. Seed Savers Exchange

Eight cells of America spinach were started in the greenhouse on March 13, 2024. Only 5 cells had germinated when they were removed from the greenhouse on April 10, 2024. On April 22, 2024, 15 small seedlings were transplanted into a raised bed with some interseeding between them but there was no harvest.

Spinach	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
America	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Swiss Chard

Heart of Gold. “Improved gold chard selected for bolt tolerance, uniform color, and wider petioles. A showy display—deeply savoyed, dark green leaves with high lustre contrast beautifully with the rich, golden-orange petioles. Vigorous plants and full leaves make for excellent yields of top-quality product. Compared to Oriole, petioles are wider with richer, more uniform color. Bred at Johnny's by Dr. John Navazio. Plant Variety Protected. Decorticated (rubbed) seeds. USDA Certified Organic.” 30 baby, 60 bunching. Johnny’s Selected Seeds



Sixteen cells of Heart of Gold were started in the greenhouse on March 13, 2024. All had germinated when they were removed from the greenhouse on April 10, 2024. On April 22, 2024, 35 seedlings were transplanted into a raised bed with some interseeding.

Our best harvest was from the Swiss Chard (Heart of Gold) at 66.5 pounds. This brassica lived up to its catalog description of being vigorous and having full leaves that make for excellent yields of top-quality produce that were harvested from the middle of June until the middle of November – five months!

Swiss Chard	Overall Rating	Duration from Seed to first Harvest (days)	Duration from Transplant until Harvest	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last Harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Heart of Gold	NA	96	56	6/17/2024	154	11/18/2024	66.5

Master Gardener Volunteers

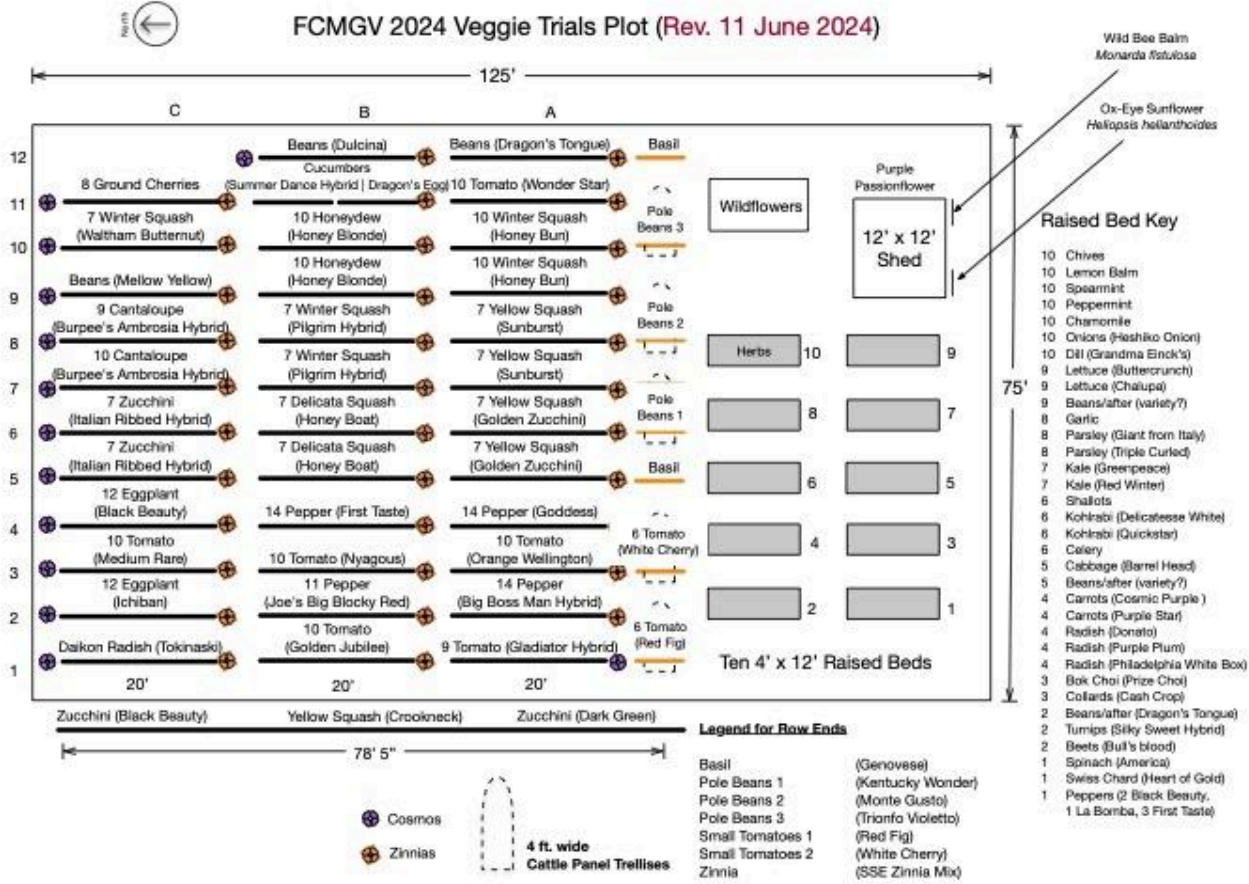
All volunteers in the 2024 evaluation project are members of the O.S.U. Extension Franklin County Master Gardener volunteer program. Karin Arnold, Chris Atzberger, Pat Claeys, Lorraine Normore, Judy Rodgers, and Carol Williams provided leadership from planning to final evaluation. Some volunteers were experienced vegetable gardeners, while others were still learning. Thanks to these Master Gardeners for their tireless efforts in planning, planting, maintaining, evaluating, and harvesting the plot throughout this unusually hot and dry season:

Karin Arnold, Chris Atzberger, Linda Bauer, Ayla Bella, Nancy Bethel, Jeanne Borden, TJ Buratynski, Cathy Carnot-Bond, Stephen Carter, Lora Chappellear-Pearson, Pat Claeys, Stan Corl, Annette Cullman, Rick Dipaolo, Angela Dombrowski, Nat Drake-Boykin, Kathy Duke, Mark Farrell, Bethany Ferguson, Wendy Fisher, Brian Grinnell, Diane Harry, Ann Henkener, Tina Hoelzle, Barb House, AJ Jones, Lisa Jones, Lindsay Koontz, Jodi Lombardo, Heather Lovell, Nancy Loy, Jennie Mamula, Becky Martin, Paula Matthews, Theresa McFarland, Hillary McGowan, Marti Mercuri, Monica Neil, Lorraine Normore, Corinna Owens, Lou Picknell, Susan Rector, Megan Robertson, Judy Rodgers, Linda Romano, Jane Scott, Mary Tarantino, Maxine Webb, Maria Wiles, Carol Williams, and Barbara Young.

Data for this report was compiled by Karin Arnold. The report was written by Karin Arnold, Chris Atzberger, Linda Bauer, Nancy Bethel, Jeanne Borden, Pat Claeys, Jodi Lombardo, Lorraine Normore, Judy Rodgers, and Carol Williams. Photos were taken and added by Pat Claeys.

Special thanks to Mike Hogan, Extension Educator & Associate Professor, Dept of Agriculture & Natural Resources for his continual assistance and support.

Appendices





Vegetable Trials Top Producers

What should I plant this year? To help home gardeners in Franklin County answer this question, Master Gardener volunteers manage the Vegetable Trials research garden. Each year, two or more varieties of the vegetables most popular among home gardeners are raised using good cultural practices and evaluated for plant health and yield.

The Vegetable Trials Top Producers handouts from previous years can be found at the link below. More detailed results of the annual Vegetable Trials are also available at:

<https://franklin.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/veggie-trials>.