

# Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteer Vegetable Trials Evaluation 2021



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## Introduction

The 2021 Vegetable Trials project differed from 2020 in that The Ohio State University protocols for protection from Covid-19 were relaxed, allowing for unrestricted volunteer participation. Because class of 2020 intern participation had been restricted during their intern year, a number of them completed orientation and required hours during 2021. Vegetable Trials leadership offered additional orientation and volunteer times to accommodate these interns.

The Vegetable Trials project is a research activity of The Ohio State University Extension Service's Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteer Program. The aim of the project is to plant vegetable varieties that could extend the diversity and productivity of commonly grown backyard and local foods and evaluate their success in Central Ohio. We use good cultural practices that are within the reach of the home gardener. The project gives Master Gardeners the added benefits of developing their own skills and knowledge through working with other Master Gardeners and local university experts on a shared project. Most of the produce is contributed to food banks in the Central Ohio community. This report documents the results of the 2021 growing season, comparing fifteen types of vegetables, including one to five varieties of each type. It reports on productivity data (including total weight harvested and time available for harvest) and includes evaluative ratings made throughout the growing season.

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

**Dancer Eggplant**

**Slovana Hybrid Yellow Sweet Pepper**

**Green Machine Zucchini Summer Squash**

**Estiva Tomato**

**Hartman Yellow Gooseberry Cherry Tomato**

The link to the Top Producers handout is included in Appendix B.

In 2021 Vegetable Trials donated 4,080 pounds of produce to food pantries. This included the official Vegetable Trials harvest of 3,436 pounds as well as additional donations from gardeners' homes and corn from the adjacent Waterman Community Garden.

## Method

The plot used in the 2021 Vegetable Trials is found within the Waterman Farm, a part of OSU Agricultural Research and Development Center, located at the northwest corner of Kenny Road and Lane Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. The plot is 125' by 75' in size. A diagram of the 2021 plot appears in Appendix A.

The plot is organized into the following three areas:

1. On the south side there are ten raised beds which are 4' by 12' each.
2. Thirteen cultivated field rows, divided by 5' paths. Eight of the rows were divided into three 20' segments, five into two 30' segments and two shorter rows for summer squash. The warm weather varieties occupied the field rows. All the winter squash varieties occupy five row segments adjacent to each other. All tomato varieties and cucumbers were trellised on cattle panels.
3. A small area with wildflowers is located north of the shed.

The same number of plants were included in each row segment for each of the regular tomato, eggplant and pepper varieties. For other varieties, within each type of vegetable (e.g., beets, spinach), different varieties occupied the same amount of space in the plot or raised bed which enabled us to make a rough comparison of the productivity of the different varieties. Vegetable cultivars were chosen by subcommittees of Master Gardeners during the winter season and acquired from a variety of sources including Johnny's Select Seeds, Burpee, and Seed Savers Exchange. Three varieties of sweet potato slips were purchased from Steele Plant Company. The varieties in the raised beds and the cucurbits grown in the field this year were direct seeded. The warm weather varieties (eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes) were sown as seeds using a germination mix and grown in OSU greenhouses for approximately six weeks. They were then hardened off by Master Gardener volunteers in the two weeks prior to being transplanted to the field section of the plot. The plot was tilled prior to planting. Unfortunately this year no composted manure was tilled into the plot. A transplant conditioner was applied to the transplants when they were transplanted into the plot. For a few weeks after planting, row covers were used to protect the plants in the raised beds from insects and other pests. Unfortunately the raised beds weren't covered before severe predation occurred. Drip lines were placed in the center of each row in the main plot. The raised bed was watered using a hose and some irrigation. The farm crew used a tractor to mound the rows and put a plastic barrier over the row. Then the spaces between the rows were covered with heavy black fabric, reusing last year's fabric.

Zinnias were planted at the end of each row segment. They attracted a wide variety of both birds and pollinator insects.

## Weather Report

### Temperature and precipitation during the 2021 crop year

<b>2021</b>	Growing Degree Days at end of month	Growing Degree Days in month	2021 Temp.	2021 Precip.	Norm Temp.	Norm Precip	Temp. difference from norm	Precip. difference from norm
March	131	126	46.9	2.85	41.6	3.62	5.30	-0.77
April	346	215	53.2	3.28	53.2	3.85	0.00	-0.57
May	724	378	60.6	3.46	63.3	3.99	-2.70	-0.53
June	1433	709	74.2	2.58	71.9	4.33	2.30	-1.75
July	2210	777	75.2	4.64	75.4	4.67	-0.20	-0.03
August	3025	815	76.7	7.16	74.0	3.74	2.70	3.42
September	3603	578	69.9	1.98	67.2	3.14	2.70	-1.16
October	4005	402	62.2	3.57	55.2	2.9	7.00	0.67

As the table data show, there were a number of differences from normal rates. It was somewhat warmer at the start of the growing season, March, but the close-to-average precipitation aided the plants in their early stages of growth. June's slight temperature increase and below average precipitation gave cause for watering assistance but July's near average temperature and precipitation conditions provided a break for the plot. October was significantly warmer than normal, and the low levels of water in September and near normal levels in October meant that we had to provide water for two of our high producing warm weather crops, tomatoes and sweet potatoes.

Data from NOAA Online Weather Data <https://nowdata.rcc-acis.org/iln/> and <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=iln>

## 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 below, the "overall rating" refers to the 1-5 scale. The rating used is the "mode" (most frequently occurring value) is used in place of the arithmetic mean ("average") because the

categorical judgments that we make are qualitative data for which arithmetic means are not appropriate. 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 1, 2021 through November 1, 2021 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.

Rating guide:

1=all plants healthy for stage of development, only minimal damage or disease

2=small amount of damage to foliage or fruit

3=moderate damage, (16-40% of fruit and foliage affected)

4=extreme damage to fruit and foliage affecting production

5=dead

## Warm-Season Crops

### Beans

**Pencil Pod Golden Wax.** 50-65 days. “This old-time favorite, introduced in 1900, is regaled for its quality and delicious wax bean flavor. The stringless pods reach 5-7" long on heavy-producing plants that grow 15-20" tall. Ideal for freezing or canning. Bush habit, wax.” Seed Savers Exchange

**Provider.** 50-55 days. “Known as the most dependable early green bean, this easy-to-grow variety offers excellent flavor and is one of the best for freezing and canning. It germinates well in cooler soil, adapts to diverse soil and climate conditions, and is disease-resistant. Round, straight pods grow heavily on compact plants. Bush habit, snap.” Seed Savers Exchange

**Royalty Purple Pod.** 55 days. “Bred at the University of New Hampshire by the late Professor Elwyn Meader. Introduced by the Billy Hepler Seed Company in 1957. Distinctive purple foliage and purple flowers. Bright purple, stringless, slightly curved 5" pods turn green when cooked. Germinates well even in cold wet soil. Bush habit, snap.” Seed Savers Exchange

All three varieties were planted in the field on 5/27/21, each in a 20’ row except Royalty Purple Pod was planted in a 15’ foot row because we ran out of seeds. In 2017, Provider was a top producer. Unfortunately, this summer there was some flooding (mostly from hoses) that affected Provider’s growth and pretty much destroyed the plants. However, that doesn’t really explain why Royalty Purple Pod produced even less than Provider. In our evaluations, we consistently gave lower scores to Royalty Purple Pod than to Pencil Pod Golden as they seemed to suffer more heat and insect damage.



Cultivar	Overall Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
<b>Pencil Pod Golden</b>	1.5	49	7/15/21	88	10/11/21	21.8
<b>Provider</b>	3	49	7/15/21	35	8/19/21	6.4
<b>Royalty Purple</b>	2	49	7/15/21	81	10/4/21	5.6

## Cucumber

**Bristol.** 55 days. “Bristol's improved resistance to downy mildew provides additional harvests before the vines die off. Vigorous plants produce high yields of quality fruits with the classic American cucumber look. Fruits avg. 8" long.” Johnny’s Selected Seeds

**Silver Slicer.** 60 days. Prolific, creamy white cucumber with crisp texture and delicious flavor. This thin skinned, refined heirloom from the breeders at Cornell University produces stunning, white fruits with thin skin that never gets bitter. Dr. Sally Miller’s seeds

Twenty-six seeds of Bristol and Silver Slicer were planted in the field on 5/27/21. On 6/10/21 six more seeds of Bristol and 8 seeds of Silver Slicer were replanted. Five-foot cattle panels were used to support both cultivars. The first harvest of both cultivars was 7/19/21. Silver Slicer produced 5 times the yield of Bristol in 38 days compared to 50 days for Bristol. Bristol had germination issues and we also ran out of seeds.

Cultivar	Overall Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
<b>Bristol</b>	NA	53	7/19/21	50	9/7/21	10.5
<b>Silver Slicer</b>	3.5	53	7/19/21	38	8/26/21	51.7

## Eggplant

**Dancer.** 65 days. “Deep-pink Italian variety. Semi-cylindrical fruits are mid-sized (7–8" long by 3–4" diameter), mild, and non-bitter. Plants are strong and high yielding. Popular in Puerto Rico.” Johnny’s Selected Seeds

**Florida High Bush.** 75-85 days from transplant. “Vigorous, upright well branched plant bears fruits throughout the season. Pear shaped dark purple eggplants are held high off the ground. Disease and drought resistant.” Seed Savers Exchange

Twenty-four seeds of Dancer and Florida High Bush were started in the greenhouse on 4/14/21. When the plants were taken out of the greenhouse to be hardened, 19 Dancer and 15 Florida High Bush were viable to be fostered. Thirteen of each variety were planted in the plot on 5/24/21. Three-foot stakes were used to support each plant. The fruit of Dancer was very well

formed. Dancer produced more than twice as much fruit as the Florida High Bush. Dancer was a top producer for 2021.

Cultivar	Overall Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Dancer	1.5	103	7/26/21	98	11/1/21	75.1
Florida High Bush	2	103	7/26/21	98	11/1/21	33.1

## Peppers

**Challeano.** 90 days from transplant. “Finger-sized fruit ripen from pale yellow-green to reddish-pink and taste delightfully fruity with light citrus and berry overtones, yet are very hot. Juicy peppers have a crisp and crunchy texture and reach 3-4" long when ripe. Elongate, pendant fruit have a semi-wrinkled skin and pointed blossom end. Erect plants grow 2-3' tall and produce light-green leaves and stems, light-purple nodes, and white flowers with yellow spots. Highly productive, this pepper matures mid- to late-season.” Seed Savers Exchange

**King of the North.** 70 days. “This red bell pepper is the best variety for northern gardens where the seasons are cool and short. Full-figured, uniform fruits are excellent for stuffing or fresh eating and have a great, sweet flavor. Our stock originated from Fedco Seeds in Waterville, Maine. 70 days from transplant. Sweet.” Seed Savers Exchange

**Nadapeno.** 55 days (green) - 90 days (ripe) from transplant. “Do you love the flavor and appearance of jalapeños but can’t take their heat? Then ‘Nadapeno’ is for you! Attractive fruits grow 3" long and ripen from green to red. Bred by A. P. Whaley Seed Company, these sturdy plants produce heavy yields and require no gloves for processing! Sweet.” Seed Savers Exchange

**Slovana Hybrid.** 65-70 days. “Slovana unleashes a nonstop harvest of delicious, gemlike 4½ oz. neon-golden peppers sparked with rich flavor with a delicate sweetness. Compact 17–26" plants are loaded with glowing pyramidal 6" x 2" fruits that transition from light-green to pale-yellow at maturity. Delightful fresh or roasted.” Burpee

Twenty seeds of all four cultivars were started in the greenhouse on 3/31/21. When the plants were taken out of the greenhouse to be hardened, 20 Slovana, 18 King of the North, 18 Nadapeno and 13 Challeano were viable to be fostered. Thirteen of each variety were planted in the field on 5/24/21. Three-foot stakes were used to support each plant. King of the North didn’t do well in the summer’s heat. But the September 20th evaluation indicated the King of the North plants were looking better with lots of flowers and some fruit. Was that because they are a northern variety and like cooler weather? Last year and this year Slovana Hybrid was a top producer.

Cultivar	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.)
Challeano	1	99	45	7/8/21	116	11/1/21	60.2
King of the North	1.5	103	49	7/12/21	112	11/1/21	34.0
Nadapeno	1.5	113	59	7/22/21	102	11/1/21	80.2
Slovana	1	97	43	7/6/21	118	11/1/21	83.2

## Summer Squash

**Golden Zebra Hybrid.** 50-60 days. “Golden and White striped fruit are brightly visible under bushy plants. Harvest when the fruits are 7-8" long, or smaller for baby fruit use.” Burpee

**Green Machine.** 45 days. “Zucchini, Uniform, medium green with light flecking. Open plant habit with moderate spines. High yields of straight, 7-8" fruits. An excellent disease package keeps the plants healthy and producing for a full season harvest. Widely adapted. Intermediate resistance to cucumber mosaic virus, powdery mildew, watermelon mosaic virus, and zucchini yellow mosaic virus.” Johnny’s Selected Seeds

Twenty Golden Zebra Hybrid seeds and 18 Green Machine seeds were planted on 5/27/21 in the field. On 6/10/21 eight more Golden Zebra Hybrid and 4 Green Machine seeds were replanted to fill in places where seeds didn’t germinate. On 8/5/21 both varieties had some powdery mildew. On July 15 one Golden Zebra Hybrid and 2 Green Machine plants were killed by the squash vine borers. Both varieties started dying around September 2 and were dead by September 9. Green Machine was a top producer– producing 4 times more fruit than the Golden Zebra Hybrid.

Cultivar	Overall Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Golden Zebra Hybrid	1.5	49	7/15/21	46	8/30/21	61.6
Green Machine	2	40	7/6/21	55	8/30/21	249.2

## Sweet Potatoes

**Beauregard.** 90-100 day maturity. “Beauregard sweet potatoes are an outstanding release that has been accepted by farmers everywhere. Chances are this is the variety that is available in your local market. Red-orange outside color and orange inside color. Quick maturing with good shape.” Steele Plant Company.



**“Bunch” Porto Ricos.** 110-day maturity. “Also called ‘Bush’ and ‘Vineless,’ The favorite plant of gardeners with limited space. The ‘Bunch’ Porto Rico sweet potato has a copper-colored outside skin and light yellowish/pinkish flesh. Delicious old-fashioned flavor, an excellent baking potato. ‘Baby Bakers’ in 100 days.” Steele Plant Company.

**White Yams.** 110-day maturity. “White Yams are sometimes called Triumphs, Southern Queen, Poplar Root, “Choker” and White Bunch. White as cotton inside and out, and sweet as sugar. One of America’s oldest ... our driest potato. Our most unusual variety.” Steele Plant Company.

The plants were evaluated 14 times and always received the highest rating. Some minor leaf damage was noted on the evaluations from July 8th through August 19th. But the plants looked great—very healthy all summer. Some of the harvested potatoes were very large, weighing 4 pounds and others had large cracks like stretch marks. Because Beauregard was the top producer, we will plant it again. Next year we are thinking about harvesting them at least 2 weeks early—at the end of September. Beauregard matures in 90-100 days: they grew for 143 days which means maybe they should have been harvested at the beginning of September.

Cultivar	Overall Rating	Planted	Duration from slips to harvest (days)	Harvested	Length of Harvest (days)	Total Yield (lbs.)
Beauregard	1	5/24/21	143	10/14/21	One day	209
“Bunch” Porto Rico	1	5/24/21	143	10/14/21	One day	91
White Yams	1	5/24/21	143	10/14/21	One day	172

## Tomatoes

**Amish Paste.** 85 days. “A longtime favorite heirloom plum. Large for a sauce tomato, Amish Paste's slightly irregular plum to strawberry-shaped fruits avg. 8-12 oz. with excellent flavor. These meaty tomatoes are good in salads and great for processing. A Slow Food USA Ark of Taste variety. Indeterminate.” Johnny’s Selected Seeds

**Brandywine Pink.** 85 days. “Brandywine, which dates back to 1885, is the heirloom tomato standard. One taste and you’ll be enchanted by its superb flavor and luscious shade of red-pink. The large, beefsteak-shaped fruits grow on unusually upright, potato-leaved plants. The fruits set one or two per cluster and ripen late-and are worth the wait. Brandywine's qualities really shine when it develops an incredible fine, sweet flavor.” Indeterminate. Burpee

**Estiva.** 70 days. “Delicious slicer with impressive heat tolerance. 7-9 oz. tomatoes resist cracking and are remarkably uniform. High production and premium flavor in a mid-size fruit. Balanced plant habit is well-suited for high tunnels. Bred for tunnel production in the Mediterranean region, Estiva is known for its uncanny ability to set fruit in excessive heat, and it produces fully-loaded trusses of deep red fruit over a long season. High resistance to *Fusarium* wilt races 1, 2, tobacco mosaic virus, and *Verticillium* wilt. Indeterminate.” Johnny’s Selected Seeds

**Fourth of July.** 49 days. “Our earliest tomato, you could have luscious vine-ripened fruit as early as the Fourth of July! The indeterminate plants produce a plentiful harvest of red 4 oz. tomatoes all season long.” Burpee

**Kellogg’s Breakfast.** 80-90 days from transplant. “Originally from West Virginia. Named by SSE member Darrell Kellogg of Redford, Michigan who received it from a friend. Large orange beefsteak fruits weigh 1-2 pounds. Delicious rich flavor with a good acid/sugar balance. Very productive. Indeterminate.” Seed Savers Exchange

Twenty-four seeds of each variety were planted in the greenhouse on 4/14/21. When the plants were taken out of the greenhouse to be hardened, 24 Estiva, 24 Fourth of July, 23 Amish Paste, 22 Brandywine, and 20 Kellogg’s Breakfast were viable to be fostered. Fourteen of each variety were planted in the field on 5/24/21. Five-foot cattle panels were used to support each plant. One Kellogg’s Breakfast plant died early. Some of the Fourth of July and Amish Paste plants were subjected to the same flooding (mostly from hoses) as the Provider Beans. This was the second year for both varieties (Fourth of July-2020, Amish Paste-2019) and they did much better in the past. Our best producer was Estiva. This was quite an accomplishment because they are not a large tomato compared with the next two producers—Kellogg’s Breakfast and Brandywine Pink. They were consistent in size and with barely any damage to the fruit. The two larger tomatoes, Brandywine Pink and Kellogg’s Breakfast suffered from more damage (insect and weather conditions) causing much of the fruit to be taken home instead of being donated.

Cultivar	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.)
Amish Paste	2	106	66	7/29/21	91	10/28/21	163.8
Brandywine Pink	1.5	99	59	7/22/21	98	10/28/21	193.9
Estiva	1	110	70	8/2/21	87	10/28/21	262.8
Fourth of July	3	89	49	7/12/21	112	11/1/21	134.9
Kellogg’s Breakfast	1	110	70	8/2/21	91	11/1/21	192.4

### Cherry Tomatoes

**Hartman Yellow Gooseberry.** 75 days from transplant. “Originally from the J. M. Hartman and Daughters Seed Company in Indianapolis, Indiana. Hundreds of large yellow cherry tomatoes per plant. Mildly sweet flavor, adds good color to salads and salsa. Indeterminate.” Seed Savers Exchange

**Large Red Cherry.** 75-80 days from transplant. “Originally from Ben Quisenberry, a tomato collector from Syracuse, Ohio. Extremely productive plants yield large 1½-2” cherry tomatoes.

Great full flavor. Ben preferred this variety for canning whole. A favorite for salads and fresh eating. Indeterminate.” Seed Savers Exchange

Twelve seeds of each variety were planted in the greenhouse on 4/14/21. When the plants were taken out of the greenhouse to be hardened, 12 Hartman Yellow Gooseberry and 12 Large Red Cherry tomatoes were viable to be fostered. That’s 100% germination. Seven of each variety were planted in the field on 5/24/21. Five-foot cattle panels were used to support each plant.

They were both excellent producers and easy to pick because of their 1-2” size. The Hartman Yellow Gooseberry was more productive, producing almost twice as much fruit as the Large Red Cherry tomatoes.

Cultivar	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.)
Hartman Yellow Gooseberry	1	99	59	7/22/21	102	11/1/21	149.3
Large Red Cherry	1	106	66	7/29/21	95	11/1/21	76.2

## Cool-Season Crops

### Beets

**Mono Round Red.** 65 days to maturity. “Sweet-earthy flavor. Gorgeous ruby-red color. Satiny smooth texture. Maximum nutrition in roots as well as leaves. In short, the perfect beet! “Mono” simply means each seed makes only one plant (typically beet seeds generate a few), so clumping is eliminated — you won’t be thinning, plus your harvest will be nice and uniform. Each compact plant takes up only about a square foot in your vegetable patch.” Burpee

**Yellow Intermediate Mangel.** 65-100 days. “Winner of Seed Savers Exchange’s 2015 beet evaluation for taste. White- and yellow-ringed roots measure 4-6½" long and vary in shape. While mangel and fodder beets are larger than typical beets and were traditionally used for animal feed, you’ll find the sweet, juicy, and smooth-textured roots are prime for the dinner table and not just the barnyard. Seed Savers Exchange’s seed stock was originally acquired from Dr. Alan Kapuler of Peace Seeds in the 1980s.” Seed Savers Exchange

Unfortunately, in the spring the plants fell to predation. Mono Round Red was replanted in the fall on 9/7/2021. They were covered with a row cover to protect them from predation. A small amount was harvested mid-November.

Cultivar	Overall Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
<b>Mono Round Red</b>	N/A	69	11/15/21	8	11/23/21	2.3
<b>Yellow Intermediate Mangel</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

## Radishes

**French Breakfast.** 20-30 days. “A very early market garden radish of French origin. Listed by J.M. Thorburn & Co of New York in 1870. Oblong and blunt, rose-scarlet with a white tip. White crisp flesh with a mildly pungent flavor. Sow in the spring or fall and pick when small.” Seed Savers Exchange

**German Giant.** 29 days. “Large, globe-shaped radishes, 1 1/2" across with crimson skin and mild white flesh. Firm, crisp, mild flavor. Attains a large size without becoming hollow to pithy.” Burpee

The radishes were planted on 4/26/21 in a raised bed. German Giant was more productive, producing almost twice as much as French Breakfast. In the late summer both were replanted for a fall harvest.

Cultivar	Overall Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
<b>French Breakfast</b>	N/A	42	6/7/21	7	6/14/21	6.0
<b>German Giant</b>	N/A	42	6/7/21	7	6/14/21	11.2

## Greens

### Pac Choi

**Asian Delight.** 37 days. “Slow bolting white-stem pac choi. Nice and dense, fully formed mini heads. Longer harvest window than most white-stem types. Suitable for spring, summer, and fall production. Winter cropping possible in mild areas. Slower bolting and with denser heads than Shiro. AAS winner.” Johnny’s Select Seeds

Asian Delight was planted on 5/6/21 in a raised bed. We harvested 14.6 pounds over a 35 day period.

Cultivar	Overall 1 Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Asian Delight	N/A	39	6/14/21	35	7/19/21	14.6

## Collards

**Georgia.** 65 days. “Heirloom. A southern favorite that is high in calcium. Enjoy steamed, braised, or stir-fried. The mild cabbage-like flavor of the tender leaves improves with a light frost. Plant in spring and again in late summer for a fall to winter harvest.” Burpee

## Swiss Chard

**Gold Silverbeet.** 50-60 days. “New for 2020. Displaying just one of the eye-catching colors that makes the best-selling Five Color Silverbeet so beautiful, this variety has golden stems and veins that contrast beautifully with its green, glossy leaves. It is a uniform and productive strain.” Seed Savers Exchange

Georgia and Gold Silverbeet were planted in raised beds on 5/6/21. Unfortunately, in the spring the plants fell to predation. In the late summer 18 transplants were planted on 9/2/21 in raised beds and covered by a row cover to protect them from insects and other critters. Almost 5 pounds of collards and almost 12 pounds of Swiss chard were harvested before the garden was closed for the fall.

Cultivar	Overall 1 Rating	Duration from transplant to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
Georgia collards	N/A	35	10/27/21	59	12/5/21	4.8
Gold Silverbeet Swiss Chard	N/A	32	10/4/21	42	11/15/21	11.6

## Lettuce

**Burgundy Delight.** 30-65 days. “Dark, extravagantly red leaves add crunch, sweetness and colorful zing to salads. Batavia lettuce is a wonder of delectable color, flavor and texture. Dark, extravagantly red leaves add crunch, sweetness and colorful zing to salads. Heads can be harvested from baby leaf to full size. Good for staggered growing in two seasons—spring and autumn.” Burpee

**Grazion.** 52 days. “New! Strong performer with excellent disease resistance. A slow-bolting green leaf with heavy, attractive heads and dark green leaves with wavy margins. An updated disease resistance package, darker leaves, and heavier heads (that bulk up more quickly) than Starfighter. High resistance to downy mildew races EU 16–27, 30–32, US 5–9, *Nasonovia*

*ribisnigri* aphid, and lettuce root aphid. Intermediate resistance to lettuce mosaic virus. MT0-30.” Johnny’s Selected Seeds

Burgundy Delight and Grazion were planted on 5/6/21 in a raised bed. Unfortunately, in the spring the plants fell to predation. So only a small amount of each variety was harvested.

Cultivar	Overall Rating	Duration from seed to first Harvest (days)	First Harvest	Length of Harvest (days)	Last harvest	Total Yield (lbs.)
<b>Burgundy Delight</b>	N/A	70	7/15/21	1	7/15/21	.5
<b>Grazion</b>	N/A	63	7/8/21	7	7/15/21	2.4

### Spinach

**Baby Leaf Hybrid.** 40 days. “The flat green leaves are sweet tender and very easy to clean. This Burpee exclusive ripens extra-early for salads (30 days) and has lots of leaf but little stem and matures quickly. For first crop, sow in spring. Plant again in late summer. In mild winter areas, fall plantings yield in early spring.” Burpee

**Strawberry.**” 90 days. (*Chenopodium capitatum*) (aka Strawberry Blite) Grown in Europe for centuries. Very showy compact 18" plants are grown for their nutritious triangular toothed leaves and tender shoots, used in salads or steamed. Shiny red mulberry-like fruits are edible and can be added to salads or used to make dyes. Becoming scarce. Self-seeding annual.” Seed Savers Exchange

Unfortunately, in the spring the plants fell to predation. We are considering using transplants and covering them immediately with white row cover to protect them.

### Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteers

All volunteers in the 2021 evaluation project are members of the O.S.U. Extension Franklin County Master Gardener volunteer program. Karin Arnold, Chris Atzberger, Pat Claeys, Debbie Falter, Lorraine Normore 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 usually hot and dry season:

Karin Arnold, Mark Arnold, Christina Atzberger, Linda Bauer, Lorna Biggert, Michael Biggert, Pamela Bradigan-Sestile, Laura Brennan, Rain Burroughs, Steven Carter, Pat Claeys, Stan Corl, Freda Daniely, Christine Doolittle, Debbie Falter, Gail Gross-Brown, Diane Harry, Ann Henkener, Linda Hennessy, Kevin Kinney-Maronie, Nancy Loy, Susie Maynard, Monica Neil, Lorraine Normore, Mary O'Connor, Susan Peck, Ann Poole, Susan Rector, Judy Rodgers, Chris Sullivan, Evelyn Tolliver, and Carol Williams.



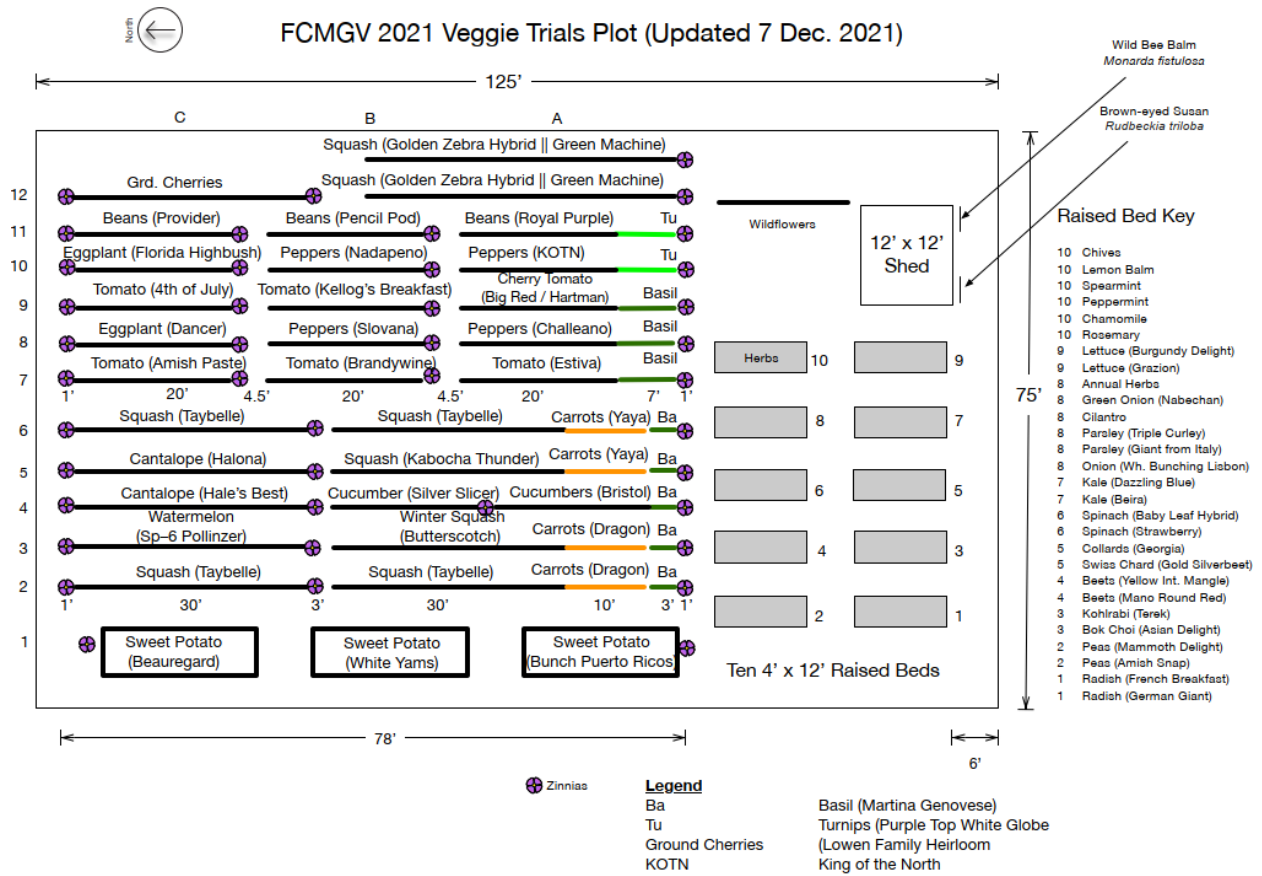
Data for this report was compiled by Karin Arnold. The report was written by Karin Arnold, Chris Atzberger, Pat Claeys, and Debbie Falter. Photos by Pat Claeys.

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



August 2, 2021

# Appendix A



## Appendix B

# 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 handout from this plot for recent years can be found at the link below. Also, more detailed results of the annual Vegetable Trials are available at:

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