



Vegetables Worth Growing

by
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The Garden staff began conducting variety trials on vegetables after a 10-year hiatus due to renovation of the gardens. We plan to conduct limited tests of vegetables every year to compare yield of new varieties with old standards. Varieties will be repeated over three growing seasons to obtain a better picture of yield with seasonal changes in the weather.

Broccoli was grown as seedling transplants started in the greenhouse on 27 April. They were transplanted into the field on 21 May. They were grown in rows with a spacing of 16 inches between plants and three feet between rows. Once again, the variety ‘Shogun’ outyielded all other varieties by more than 10 lbs per 10-foot row (Table 1). Yield of all of the varieties followed the harvest season with late-maturing heads such as ‘Shogun’ and ‘Arcadia’ yielding more than the earlyseason plants such as ‘Green Comet’. All of the varieties listed would be acceptable in Alaska gardens.

Table 1. Yield of broccoli heads and laterals, 1999

Season	Variety	Head Weight (pounds)	Yield (lb per 10-ft row)	
			Heads	Laterals
Early	Green Comet	0.9	6.3	3.3
	Paragon	1.0	7.1	3.3
	Saga	1.1	7.7	3.4
	Early Dividend	1.0	6.8	4.7
Mid	Emperor	0.9	6.4	5.3
	Everest	1.4	9.8	3.0
	Marathon	1.4	9.9	4.2
	Eureka	1.2	8.7	5.5
	Green Valiant	1.1	7.9	7.0
Late	Arcadia	1.5	10.6	6.0
	Shogun	2.4	17.1	9.1

Cabbage varieties were evaluated for Denali Seed Co., Anchorage, to identify solid, early-maturing varieties for Alaska. Cabbage was seeded in the greenhouse on 27 April and planted outdoors on 20 May. Plants were spaced 16 inches apart with rows three feet apart. The earliest to mature was ‘Savoy Express’, a new All America Selections winner for 2000 (Table 2). This variety had small, loose, crinkled heads, definitely made for fresh eating early in the season. Some of the heads developed tipburn which is an unacceptable browning of leaf edges. Most green and red varieties grew well in the garden and would be acceptable for trial in the Interior, but we think this was more our fault for not watering as consistently as we should. ‘Cardinal Red’ was more susceptible to rot and had a lower head density than the other red varieties. It is the only one I cannot recommend for the Interior from these trials.

Table 2. Yield of red, savoy and green cabbage, 1999

Type	Variety	Head weight (pounds)	Yield (lb per 10 ft row)
Savoy	Savoy Express	2.1	12.8
Green	Dynamo	4.7	32.8
	Primax	3.1	21.9
	Earliana	1.8	16.6
Red	Red Lasso	5.9	41.2
	Red Express	4.6	31.8
	Red Royale	4.5	31.8
	Ruby Ball	4.0	28.5
	Red Rookie	4.0	28.0
	Sombrero Red	3.9	27.1
	Red Acre	3.6	25.4
	Red Jewel	3.4	24.0
	Cardinal Red	3.5	14.0

Carrots were direct seeded into the Family Food Garden on 26 May, thinned to about one inch apart in rows two feet apart. All varieties were harvested on 19 and 20 Aug. Following yield data collection, some carrots were stored at 40°F for two months for taste and appearance preference tests conducted by Dr. Carol Lewis. All of the carrots yielded well for their type, and all were considered acceptable for Interior gardens (Table 3). ‘Baby Sweet’ yielded the most per foot of row of all carrots. ‘Nelson’ was the highest yielder of the Nantes types. Based upon sensory tests, ‘Nelson’ was preferred for appearance and flavor over all carrots followed by ‘Scarlet Nantes’, ‘Royal Chantenay’, ‘Sweetness’, ‘Sweetness II’ and ‘Touchon Deluxe’.

Table 3 Yield of carrots according to classification type.

Type	Variety	Root weight (ounces)	Yield lb per ft
Mini	Baby Sweet	1.9	2.3
	Little Finger	1.8	1.5
	Minicor	1.4	1.5
	Baby Orange	1.9	1.4
Chantenay	Royal Chantenay	1.5	1.4
	Gold King	1.6	0.9
Nantes	Ingot	1.1	1.2
	Nelson	1.9	1.7
	Scarlet Nantes	2.1	1.6
	Sweetness II	1.6	1.3
	Sweetness	1.8	1.1
	Touchon Deluxe	1.2	1.0
Imperator	Gold Pak	1.2	1.1
Nantes x			
Imperator	Artist	1.6	1.4
Paris Market	Thumbelina	1.1	1.0

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