

# Tennessee

Home Garden Variety Trials

**2024 Catalog**



## Which variety should I grow?

This is an important question. Growing a well-adapted variety can result in higher yields, more flavorful produce, and reduced chemical applications to control pests and diseases. Unfortunately, it is also a tough question to answer. Because of the high cost of trialing vegetable varieties, there is very little information on variety performance specific to the various regions within Tennessee. By taking a community based approach to vegetable trialing, we can answer this important question.

## How do I get involved?

All gardeners are welcome to participate, whether a gardening novice or an Extension Master Gardener. There are three easy steps to getting involved.

### *Step 1: Select your trial*

Applications are available at your local extension office and online. Take a minute to flip through this seed catalogue and check out the available trials for this year. Each trial contains two varieties that you will grow side by side to compare throughout the season. You can select multiple trials (max of 5).

**A small fee of \$2 per trial will be assessed to help cover the cost of seed.**

We think it is especially important for children to be involved with gardening and to learn about the science behind evaluating our food sources. Because of this, each household may request one free youth trial. Extra kid-focused material will be included with each youth trial.

### *Step 2: Grow your garden*

After we receive your application, we will send you a kit containing information on the trials you selected.

#### **Each kit will contain the following:**

- seed for two varieties
- a map to prepare your rows
- information specific to the crop species you selected, including planting date, plant spacing, nutrient requirements, et.
- a recordkeeping sheet so you will have all the information handy that you need for the evals

### *Step 3: Tell us what you think*

Fill out your evaluation sheet throughout the growing season (see page 2 for an example) and then submit the info using the online form link. Be sure to note things like germination, disease susceptibility, yield, and flavor. You can also let people know how your trials are performing throughout the season by posting pictures on social media using #TNgardenVarTrial.

At the end of the season, we will compile all of the results from across the state into an annual report.

We hope that you will join us in answering the question, which variety will grow best in

**Tennessee**  
home garden

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Survey website for 2024 evaluations:

Survey #1: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bwPod6wjA5br0nc](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwPod6wjA5br0nc)

Survey #2: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4IzYURS1uiDEYHc](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4IzYURS1uiDEYHc)

Q1.

**Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trials**

You are invited to participate in a research study. You will be asked to complete this form that should take about 5 minutes of your time. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this study other than those encountered in everyday life. All data will be kept confidential. No identifying information about your garden evaluations will be shared and submission of this evaluation is completely voluntary. Information will be used to assist home gardeners in TN select the best vegetables for their home gardens. The information in the study records will be kept confidential. No reference will be made in reports which could link participants to the study. If you have questions at any time about the study please contact Dr. Natalie Bungamer at [nbungam@utk.edu](mailto:nbungam@utk.edu). If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the University of Tennessee IRB Compliance Officer at [utkirb@utk.edu](mailto:utkirb@utk.edu) or (888) 974-7897.

CONSENT: I have read the above information. I have received or had the opportunity to print a copy of this form. (Files of forms can be found at: <https://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/home-garden-vegetable-trial/>).

I agree to participate in this study. Thanks for your participation!

Q2. 2024 Trialer Number:

Q3. Tennessee County:

Q4. How many pounds of produce do you estimate were produced in the home garden area where these trials were grown?

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000  
Pounds of produce

Q5. Please Select Trial 1:

- 1. Bush bean - Bush Valentine
- 2. Pole bean - Blue Lake
- 3. Okra - Baby Bubba
- 4. Slice cucumber - Finesse
- 5. Burpless cucumber - Tasty Green
- 6. Container slice tomato - Better Bush
- 7. Green zucchini - Emperor's Jade
- 8. Compact zucchini - Bush Baby
- 9. Winter squash - Blue Baller

Survey website for 2024 evaluations:

Survey #1: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bwPod6wjA5br0nc](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwPod6wjA5br0nc)

Survey #2: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4IzYURS1uiDEYHc](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4IzYURS1uiDEYHc)

Q7. Please compare the performance of the two cultivars in the trial for these traits.

			Same
Produced highest yield	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Produced for the longest duration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Had more attractive flowers/fruit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tasted better	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q8. How many days were there from seeding to transplanting to first harvest?

Days

Q9. Please rate the overall performance of each cultivar (1= low, 10= high).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10. Why would you recommend each cultivar?

would NOT recommend	Plant health	Plant size	Yield	Flower or fruit appearance	Taste
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11. What comments would you like to share about ?

# 2024 Home Garden Trials

## Bean

### 1. Bush



#### Magnum

55 days, an early, bush bean with a 7-9" flattened bean that is tender and deep green. Resistance to BCMV. (OP, UT)



#### Buff Valentine

50 days, 1949 release that offers early and high yields as well as good taste. It has 5- to 6-inch-long pods and is widely adaptable. Resistance to BCMV, PM. (OP, UT)



### 2. Pole



#### Kentucky Blue

65 days, An heirloom type climbing bean that produces a 6" long dark green straight pod. Can be used as a shell bean or a snap bean. (OP, UT)



#### Seychelles

65 days, 60 days, Early pole bean producing high yields of light green beans. Can be harvested small at 4" or larger at 5-6". BCMV. (OP, UT)

### Abbreviations

#### Diseases:

A (Anthracnose)  
ALS (Angular Leaf Spot)  
Alt (Alternaria)  
BBS (Bacterial Brown Spot)  
BCMV (Bean Common Mosaic Virus)  
CMV (Cucumber Mosaic Virus)  
DM (Downy Mildew)  
HB (Halo Blight)  
F (Fusarium)  
LM (Lettuce Mosaic)  
LRA (Lettuce Root Aphid)  
PM (Powdery Mildew)  
PRV (Papaya Ringspot Virus)  
S (Scab)  
TS (Target Spot)  
WMV (Watermelon Mosaic Virus)  
ZVY (Zucchini Yellow Virus)

#### Other:

AAS (All American Selections Winner)  
H (Hybrid)  
OP (Open Pollinated)  
UT (Untreated Seed)

# 2024 Home Garden Trials

## Okra– Dwarf

### 3. Okra



#### Baby Bubba

50 days- This dwarf cultivar can be grown in ground or in raised beds or containers. Grows 3-4 feet tall and produces full sized pods. (H, UT)

bright yellow.



#### Dwarf Long Green Pod

50 days- A 3' tall plant that is relatively early maturing. It produces 7-8" pods that are spineless and slightly ridged. (OP, UT)

## Cucumber

### 4. Garden Slicer



#### Gateway

55 days- Dark green, 8" slicer cucumber that is produced on a vigorous vine. resistance or tolerance to CMV, PRV, ZYMV, DM, Alt, A, S, TS and PM. (H, UT)



#### Eversweet

55 days- Harvest the smooth, dark green fruit from 4-8" in length. Semi-bush vine. (H, UT)

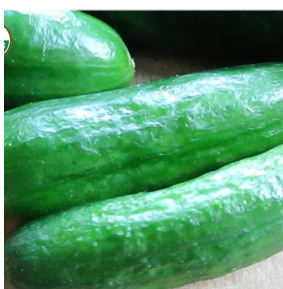
## Cucumber

### 5. Burpless



#### Tasty Green

60 days- Long, slender, medium green fruit with few ridges and relatively smooth skin. Fruit can be 9" or more. Best grown with support. Tolerance to PM, DM. (H, UT).



#### Tendergreen

55 days- Heavy yielding fruit that are crisp, tender and free from bitterness. Thin skinned fruit that can be harvested from 3-6" and eaten fresh or pickled. CMV, PM, DM. (OP, UT)

## Tomato

### 6. Container slicer



#### Better Bush

70 days- This compact tomato has very short internodes to produce a compact plant. Produces traditional small to mid-sized slicer tomatoes. V, F (H, UT)



#### Homeslice

55 days- A vigorous determinate tomato that bears 4-6 ounce fruit on a plant that is 18-24". (H, UT)

# 2024 Home Garden Trials

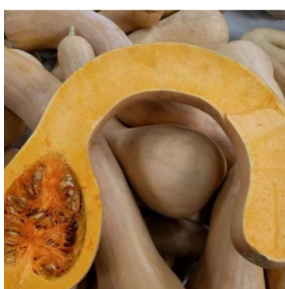
## Winter Squash

### 9. Unique edible types



#### Blue Ballet

90 days. Smaller version of the classic hubbard. Smooth blue to gray tender skin with flesh that is sweet, orange and smooth for eating. (op, UT)



#### Tahitian Butternut

100 days. Interesting heirloom that is a butternut type with an elongated neck with solid flesh. Gets sweeter with storage. PM. (OP, UT)



## Summer Squash- Zucchini

### 8. Compact



#### Bush Baby

45 days- Striped green fruit that are bred to be picked small at 2-6". Compact bush plant can be grown in containers or raised beds. Good flavor and yield for a small plant. (H, UT)



#### Golden Star

55 days- Compact plant produces straight and firm bright yellow zucchini that are best picked at 6-10". (H, UT)

### 7. Green



#### Emeror's Jade

45 days- Produces early and large glossy fruit that are 7-8". Tender and creamy flesh with good flavor. (H, UT)



#### Safari

50 days- 50 days- Dark green zucchini with light green stripes. Easy picking on a nearly spineless plant. (H, UT)

# 2024 Home Garden Trials

## Herbs (Small Space)

### 10. Basil



#### Dark Opal

70 days- Purple leaf type with some green leaves and a slightly ruffled edge. Grows 16-18" tall. (OP, UT)



#### Prospera Red

70 days- Genovese type red/purple basil that has resistance to downy mildew and Fusarium. Upright habit that is 18-24" tall. (H, UT)

### 11. Dill (cool season)



#### Fernleaf

55 days. Slow bolting that can be grown in ground or in container. Dark green to blue leaves that grows to a height of 6-8" AAS winner. (OP, UT)

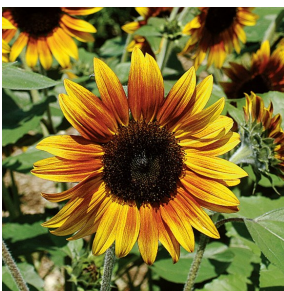


#### Teddy

40 days. Unique fine leaf 45 days. Compact dill that is slow bolting with dense leaf spirals around the stem. Can be harvested small or full sized. (OP, UT)

## Flowers

### 12. Dwarf Sunflower



#### Firecracker

Dwarf branching sunflower that grows to approximately 3'. Flowers are 4-6" with a bicolor design and are pollenless. Can be direct seeded after last frost or transplanted. (H, UT)



#### Teddy Bear

Dwarf plant that can be 2-3' in containers or up to 3-4' in ground. The flowers are shaggy and full of yellow flowers with low pollen. Can be direct seeded or transplanted. AAS winner. (OP, UT)

### 13. Zinnia (for cutting gardens)



#### Cactus Mix

70 days. A novel zinnia mix of flowers with a quilled look. Multiple cuttings of these orange, pink, red, yellow, peach and white flowers are possible. (OP, UT)



#### Benary Giant Mix

70 days. This is one of the most well known and grown cut flower zinnias due to the long stem that is 40-50: as well as the large flowers of a range of colors. (OP, UT)



# 2024 Home Garden Trials

## Cool Season (ship until mid-March)

### 14. Beets (small space)



**Touchstone Gold**  
55 days- Bright yellow/golden flesh with red skin. Nice, sweet flavor. Color is retained during cooking. (OP, UT)

### 15. Kale (small space)



**Black Magic**  
40-60 days- Toscano type kale with uniform long, slender dark blue to green leaves. Cool season. (OP, UT)



**Zeppo**  
40-50 days- Traditional dark red color. Roots have a round shape from early in growth to enable picking at any age with a good shape. (OP, UT)



**Prizm**  
40 days- Compact version of a ruffled kale like Winterbor. Short stems produce uniform medium green leaves that are fast growing. AAS winner. (OP, UT)

## Youth Trial

### 16. Snacker cucumber

Diva- 55 days- Thin skinned seedless cucumber that can be picked at a range of sizes. CMYV, PM, S. AAS winner. (OP, UT)

Mini Me- 45 days- Small snacker cucumbers that can be picked small and early at only 2-3". CYMV, PM. (H, OP)

These trials can be grown in ground, in raised beds or in containers. These are seedless cucumbers, which means they can set fruit without fertilization. If grown around other cucumbers, they may be fertilized and produce seeds. One free trial may be requested by households with children up to age 18. There is a limit to one trial per household for those who are participants in the other trials in the HGVT.



## Credits

This project is conducted for educational purposes only. No profits are made from this program. Descriptions and photographs of varieties in this catalog were compiled from various seed company catalogues, including High Mowing Seed, Jonny's Select Seeds, Territorial, Willhite Seeds, HPS Seeds, and Fedco Seeds.

## More Information

For more information on the University of Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trial program, please visit our website at

*[tiny.utk.edu/hgvt](http://tiny.utk.edu/hgvt)*

or contact us directly

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