

Tennessee

Home Garden Variety Trials

2025 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 catalog 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 house-hold may request one free youth trial to be mailed with their other selections as long as supplies last.

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 and tags for two varieties
- a packing list with a trialer # for evaluations
- information specific to the crop species you selected, including planting date, plant spacing, nutrient requirements, etc.
- 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 a

Tennessee
home garden

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Survey website for 2025 evaluations:

Survey #1– to be used in mid-season: https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2s08KeFuAEFHEHQ

Survey #2– to be used at season end: https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eRru6IJvCkTuz3M

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. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the University of Tennessee IRB Compliance Officer at 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?



Q5. Please Select Trial 1:

- 1. Bush bean- Buff 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

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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 ?

2025 Home Garden Trials

Bean

1. Bush



Desperado

55 days, an adaptable bean that bears 5-6" straight, medium green beans. Easy to pick because beans are generally found high on plant. Resistance to BCMV. (OP, UT)



Greencrop

55 days, a 12-18" plant that bears tender, medium green 6-7 inch beans with good flavor. AAS winner. (OP, UT)

2. Specialty Bush Bean



Celine

55 days, A thin filet bean with a nice, light purple color. Beans are about 5 inches long on a 20 inch tall bush plant. (OP, UT)



Flambo

65 days, Unique bright pink to red speckled pods that are 5-6" on a bush plant. A versatile bean that can be picked fresh or used dried or shelled. (OP, UT)



Abbreviations

Diseases:

A (Anthracnose)
ALS (Angular Leaf Spot)
Alt (Alternaria)
BCMV (Bean Common Mosaic Virus)
CMV (Cucumber Mosaic Virus)
DM (Downy Mildew)
HB (Halo Blight)
F (Fusarium)
LM (Lettuce Mosaic)
LRA (Lettuce root aphid)
N (Nematode)
PM (Powdery Mildew)
PRV (Papaya Ringspot Virus)
S (Scab)
TMV (Tabacco mosaic virus)
TSWV (Tomato spotted wilt virus)
V (Verticillium)
WMV (Watermelon Mosaic Virus)
ZVY (Zucchini Yellow Virus)

Other:

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

2025 Home Garden Trials

Okra

3. Okra



Jambalaya 2.0

50 days– Produces consistent, dark green pods on a uniform plant. The large flowers are also edible. (H, UT)



Perkins Long Pod

55 days- A 5-6' tall plant that produces bright green okra pods that are usually 4-6". Heirloom from the late 1800s. (OP, UT)

Melon

4. Personal Sized



Sugar Cube

80 days– Vining melon plant produces consistent small (2 lb) muskmelons with sweet flavor and good texture. Resistance or tolerance to F, PM, WMV, ZYMV. (H, UT)



Tigger

80 days– This small melon has a mottled red and golden exterior and white flesh. Small fruit that is about 1 lb on a large plant. (OP, UT)

Cucumber

5. Burpless



Summer Dance

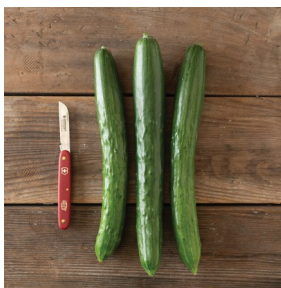
65 days– This Asian burpless type cucumber has dark green, uniform fruit that are 8-9" long. Resistance to PM, DM. (H, UT).

6. Compact



Saladmore

55 days- This compact cucumber plant has a 2-3' semi-bush vine with 7-9" slender fruit that can be eaten fresh or used for pickling. S, A, CMV (H, UT)



Tasty Jade

55 days- This productive Asian cucumber plant has long (11-12") fruit that are thin-skinned with small seed cavities and low bitterness. Can set fruit without pollination. PM. (H, UT)



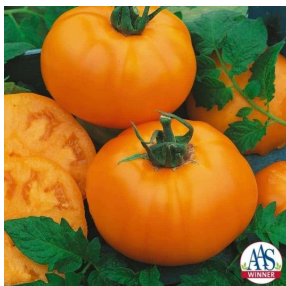
Spacemaster

60 days- This plant has a short vine around 3' with yields of traditional 7-8" slicer cucumbers for slicing or pickling. (OP, UT)

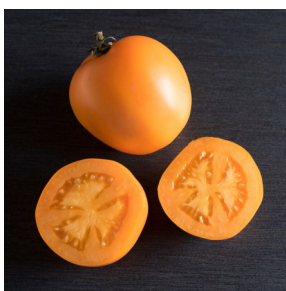
2025 Home Garden Trials

Tomato

7. Indeterminate Yellow/Gold



Chef's Choice Orange
75 days. Indeterminate plant produces consistent 6-8 oz orange fruit with good flavor and medium firm texture. Resistance to A, TMV. (H, UT)

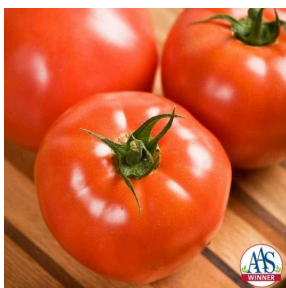


Valencia
75 days. These medium orange round to slightly tapered fruit have good taste and texture with few seeds. (OP, UT)



Tomato

8. Determinate Red



Celebrity
78 days– Medium sized red fruit produced on a larger determinate (semi-determinate) plant with strong disease resistance. F, ToMV, V, N, TSWV (H, UT)

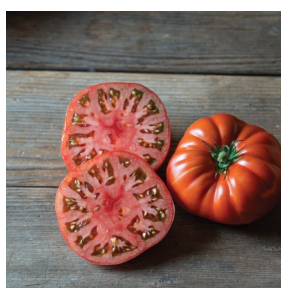


Marglobe
75 days– Medium sized red fruit are borne on a plant that is determinate but large. Bred in the early 1900s by a USDA breeder. Resistance to V, F. (OP, UT)

9. Container



Sunrise Sauce
55 days– This determinate plant has a concentrated harvest period and compact plant for containers and patios or raised bed. Good flavor in a 4-6 oz roma type fruit. F,V. (H, UT)

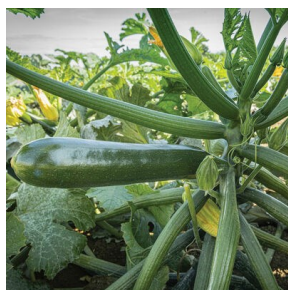


Tasmanian Chocolate
75 days– This compact, determinate plant has 4-6" reddish fruit with the look of an heirloom although it is a hybrid with heirloom parents. Can work well with a little support in a container or raised bed. (H, UT)

2025 Home Garden Trials

Summer Squash

10. Zucchini



Kefren

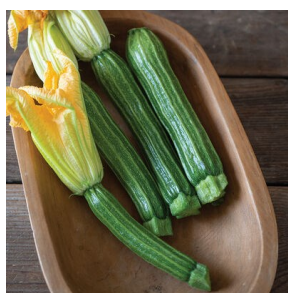
50 days– Dark green fruit on an open plant that has fewer spines for easier picking and less fruit damage. Fruit harvests easily. Resistance to PM, WMV, ZYMV, PRV (H, UT)

11. Yellow Squash



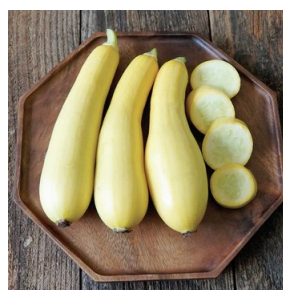
Midas II

50 days– Large and vigorous plant produces around 6” medium yellow fruit that are smooth. (H, UT)



Sophy

55 days– This is a Costata-Romanesco type bred for higher yields and disease resistance. Slightly striped fruit can be harvested with flowers still attached. Resistance to PM, WMV, ZYMV. (H, UT)



Smooth Criminal

45 days– Productive plant with low spines produces unfirm 6” light yellow straightneck squash. (H, UT)

Flower

12. Rudbeckia

Indian Summer (*R. hirta*)

90 days- This native Rudbeckia has very large 4-6” flowers on a 3-4’ plant that has strong branches. Perennial in zones 9-10, so grown as an annual but does reseed. AAS winner. (OP, UT)



R. triloba

90 days– Often known as brown eyed susan, this native Rudbeckia has smaller 1-3” flowers on a 4-5’ plant that has many branches. Often used as a cut flower. Will bloom in first year but will be more prolific in year 2. (OP, UT)



2025 Home Garden Trials

Herbs (Small Space)

13. Basil



Everleaf Emerald Towers

65 days– Compact, upright Genovese basil plant that is slow to flower and has resistance to downy mildew and Fusarium. Grows 2-3' tall. (OP, UT)



Prospera compact

70 days- Genovese type basil with a compact (16-18") habit that has short internodes and large leaves. Slow bolting with resistance to downy mildew and Fusarium. (H, UT)

14. Chives (cool season)



Dolores

75 days. This is a traditional chives with dark green, round leaves that stay upright. Perennial. (OP, UT)



Nira

85 days. This is a garlic chive cultivar with flat leaves that are wide and simple to harvest. The flavor is garlic-like but mild. (OP, UT)

Cool Season (shipped to mid-March)

15. Lettuce



Gatsby

50 days. This lettuce is a gem or small bibb type that has dark green outer savoy leaves with lighter inner leaves. It is slow to bolt and has low tipburn. Resistance to downy mildew. (OP, UT)



Muir

Batavian lettuce that has a lighter green color with wavy, crisp leaves and a small dense head. Strong against tipburn with resistance to downy mildew and multiple viruses. (OP, UT)

16. Radish



Donato

20 days. Traditional medium-sized red radish that matures quickly and has resistance to black rot, downy mildew and Fusarium. (H, UT)



French Breakfast

20 days. A tapered radish that is red on top and white on the bottom. (OP, UT)

Youth– Cherry

One red (Koralik) and one yellow-gold (Gold Nugget) cherry tomato will be sent for the youth trial. These are both determinate cultivars that can be grown in ground, raised beds or large containers.



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 Jonny's Selected Seeds, Territorial, Willhite Seeds, Everwilde Seeds, and All American Selections.

More Information

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

tiny.utk.edu/2025hgvt

or contact us directly

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