

# Tennessee

Home Garden Variety Trials

## 2026 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 and a \$3 charge to partially cover packing and shipping costs.**

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 all seeds sent
- 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 2026 evaluations:

Survey #1 link for trials that didn't make it to the finish line: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4JC5SCVMeAX8aZU](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4JC5SCVMeAX8aZU)

Survey #2 for trials that made it to the finish line: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5AW0cXvDeVa97Gm](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5AW0cXvDeVa97Gm)

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 Bumgarner at [nbumgar@utk.edu](mailto:nbumgar@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 read or had the opportunity to print a copy of this form. (Full form can be found at: <https://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/garden-vegetable-trial/>).

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

Q2. 2024 Trialer Number:

Q3. Tennessee County:

Q4. How many pounds of produce do you estimate were produced in the home or community 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. Bush bean- Buff Valentine
- 2. Pole bean- Blue Lake
- 3. Okra- Baby Bubba
- 4. Slice cucumber- Tennesseet
- 5. Bumpless 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 2026 evaluations:

Survey #1 link for trials that didn't make it to the finish line: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4JCSCVMeAX8aZU](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4JCSCVMeAX8aZU)

Survey #2 for trials that made it to the finish line: [https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5AW0cXvDeVa97Gm](https://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5AW0cXvDeVa97Gm)  
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?

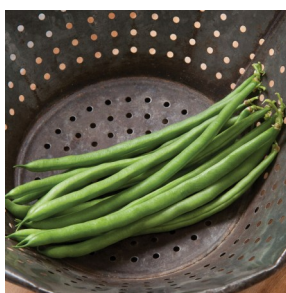
would NOT recommend	Plant health	Plant size	Yield	Flower or fruit appearance	Taste
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>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

Q11. What comments would you like to share about ?

# 2026 Home Garden Trials

## Bean

### 1. Bush



#### Jade

53 days, a bush bean known to be climate adaptable with deep green 6-7" pods and good flavor. Resistance to BCMV, Rust, Bacterial brown spot. (OP, UT)



#### Red Tail

55 days, recent introduction from an organic breeding program that produces a shiny, tender and flavorful bean on an upright plant. BCMV, Rust (OP, UT)

### 2. Pole Bean



#### Lady Di

75 days, A large 6-7 inch bean that is tender and stringless growing on a tall plant. Pod has good flavor and holds well. Unique red blooms and black/red seeds. (OP, UT)



#### Rattlesnake

75 days, Southern heirloom beans that has mottled pods for fresh eating or drying. Brown speckled seed. (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)  
ZYY (Zucchini Yellow Virus)

#### Other:

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

# 2026 Home Garden Trials

## Okra

### 3. Okra



#### Cajon Jewel

65 days– An heirloom from Louisiana area that has pods up to 7-8” on a compact 3-4 foot tall plants. Adaptable. (OP, UT)



#### Okinawa Pink

55 days- A 5-6’ tall plant that produces unique pink, smooth pods that are tender and versatile in the kitchen. Japanese cultivar. (OP, UT)

## Tomato

### 4. Large Yellow– Indeterminate



#### Chef's Choice Yellow

80 days– Large medium yellow fruit that holds well on the plant with low cracking. AAS winner. Resistance or tolerance to V, F, TMV. (H, UT)



#### Dr. Wyche's Yellow

75 days– An heirloom with deep yellow color in a large fruit with good texture, flavor and fewer issues. (OP, UT)

## Cucumber

### 5. Slicer Cucumber—Open pollinated



#### Marketmore 76

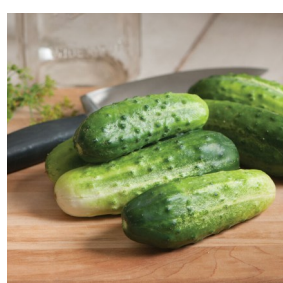
58 days– Traditional shape and deep green color on an 8-9” fruit with good adaptability and duration of picking. Resistance to PM, DM, S. (OP, UT).



#### Tanja

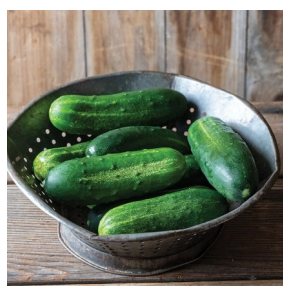
55 days- A dark green fruit that is tender, burpless and can be harvested from 8 to 12 or more inches long. Good texture and flavor. (OP, UT)

### 6. Pickling Cucumber—Parthenocarpic



#### H-19 Little Leaf

55 days– Compact plant with small leaves and short internodes. Fruit are blocky 3-5” and parthenocarpic to be versatile as far as site and pollination. S, ALS, A, BW CMV (OP, UT)



#### Gershwin

49 days- Early yielding 4-5” fruit on a plant that sets a concentrated yield of parthenocarpic fruit, so it will remain seedless if kept away from other cucumbers. PM, S (H, UT)

# 2026 Home Garden Trials

## Cucumber

### 7. Thin skinned/burpless



#### Green Finger

55 days. A medium sized (6-8") thin skinned cucumber that produces well and is durable in the field and after picking. Resistance to PM, PRV, WMV, ZYMV. (OP, UT)



#### Unagi

55 days. A thin skinned, long and slender cucumber with a good taste. Can be harvested at 10-12" or smaller. Parthenocarpic, so no pollination needed. CMV, PM, TS (H, UT)



## Zucchini

### 8. Small Zucchini



#### Cue Ball

48 days– Productive plant with an open habit that produces small green round and light green fruit. PM, WMV, ZYMV (H, UT)



#### Green Lightning

45 days– 2025 AAS winning small squash that has a pattypan shape with two-tone green stripes. Bush type plant habit. (H, UT)

### 9. Heirloom Zucchini– Open pollinated



#### Black Beauty

60 days– Traditional dark green zucchini with an open plant habit. Most tender when 6-8". AAS winner in 1957. (OP, UT)



#### White Lebanese

50 days– Robust plants produce light green, tender fruit that should be harvested around 6" for best flavor. Firm texture that isn't too watery. Handle gently. (OP, UT)

# 2026 Home Garden Trials

## Summer Squash

### 10. Hybrid Zucchini



#### Emperor's Jade

45 days– Early production of dark green fruit that are best harvest 7-8". Good flavor and yield. (H, UT)

### 11. Yellow Squash



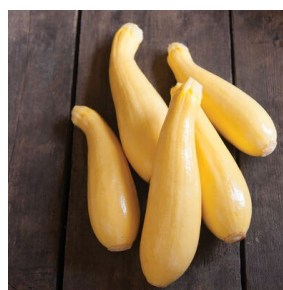
#### Blonde Beauty

40 days– Early to harvest buttery yellow fruit that is on an open plant that is really spineless for simple picking. Good notes on sweet flavor and texture. Resistance to PM. (H, UT)



#### 49er

50 days– Early production of bright yellow zucchini on an open plant that is compact and simple to manage. Can be harvested small or full sized 7-8". (H, UT)



#### Multipik

50 days– Productive plant with low spines produces unfirm 8-106" yellow straightneck squash. (H, UT)

## Flower

### 12. Pollinator support

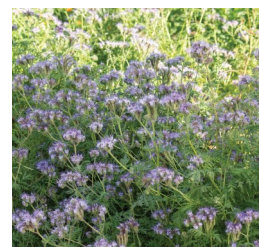
#### Alyssum

50-60 days– A low growing (8-12") small white flower that supports a wide range of beneficial insects. Versatile habit enables it to be planted around a wide range of garden plants in ground, raised beds or even containers. (OP, UT)



#### Phacelia

45-50 days– Common flowering plant for pollinator/beneficial that is a US native. Grows around 3' and versatile in terms of soil conditions. Winter kills around 20F, so can provide support well in to the fall. (OP, UT)



# 2026 Home Garden Trials

## Herb (Citrus Basil)

### 13. Basil



#### Lemon Basil– Mrs. Burns

60 days– Bright green leaf with a sweet but lemony tangy taste. Plant is 18-24” tall. (OP, UT)



#### Lime Basil

60 days– Citrus flavored leaves commonly used for deserts, drinks, and garnishes. Relatively compact (16-20”) plant. (OP, UT)



## Cool Season (ships until mid-March)

### 14. Red Lettuce (pelleted)



#### New Red Fire

50 days. This medium red leafed lettuce produces small or larger heads of crisp leaves and is slow to bolt. (OP, UT)



#### Rouxai

45 days- Deep red color on lobed oakleaf type leaves. Uniform heads that can be harvested at a range of sizes. Resistance to downy mildew and some aphid species. (OP, UT)



## Youth Popcorn

Two popcorn cultivars are available this year. The white hullless has a 4-5' stalk with 4" ears in about 85 days to prevent cross pollination with the blue selection that requires 105 days. Both are UT.



One free trial may be requested by households with children. There is a limit to one trial per household for those who are participants in 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, Fedco Seeds, High Mowings, 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/2026hgvt](http://tiny.utk.edu/2026hgvt)

or contact us directly

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