



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY SEED TRIALS

Since 1982, hundreds of Master Gardener volunteers from across Minnesota have devoted time and space in their gardens to test popular vegetable and flower varieties.

Each year, volunteers grow six different vegetable crops, two different types of flowers, and sometimes an herb selected by the University of Minnesota's Extension program. Seeds include both heirlooms and hybrid varieties, and focus on varieties that promise high yield, ease of growing, space saving and simple beauty.

At the end of the year, the top-performing plants are identified based on the following criteria.

- Flavor
- Disease and insect tolerance
- Productivity
- Germination rate

The U of MN Extension maintains a running list of these top-performing Minnesota herbs, flowers, and vegetables.

RESOURCES

If you need help, consider these University of Minnesota Extension resources.

- **MN Master Gardener Seed Trials**
<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/master-gardener-seed-trials>
- **Yard & Garden website**
<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden>
- **Growing Vegetables website**
<https://extension.umn.edu/find-plants/vegetables>
- **Growing Flowers website**
<https://extension.umn.edu/find-plants/flowers>
- **Growing Herbs website**
<https://extension.umn.edu/vegetables/growing-herbs-home-gardens>
- **Plant Problem Diagnostic website**
<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>
- **Ask A Master Gardener For Help**
<https://extension.umn.edu/master-gardener/ask-master-gardener>

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Top-Performing Plants for MN Home Gardens

2019 Seed Trial Results



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION



CHOOSING PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

The hardest part is choosing what to grow in your garden. There's no reason

- Choose plants that will grow well in your garden. (sun/shade, large/small)
- Grow plants that you love.
- Pick plants that are hard to find or expensive to buy.
- Support heritage plants by growing native plants and heirloom varieties.
- Find Minnesota Winning varieties at your local garden center, or search online for seed and plant sources.

HERB SEED TRIAL WINNERS

VEGETABLE	VARIETY NAME	YEAR
Basil	<i>Nufar</i>	2018
Cilantro	<i>Santo</i>	2011
Herbal Tea	<i>Citronella Balm</i>	2014
Mint	<i>Licorice Mint</i>	2019
Parsley	<i>Krausa</i>	1996
Thyme	<i>Pro-Easy</i>	2015

FLOWER SEED TRIAL WINNERS

FLOWER	VARIETY NAME	YEAR
Ageratum	<i>Blue Mink</i>	2012
Alyssum	<i>Snow Crystals</i>	2014
Celosia	<i>New Look</i>	2004
Coleus	<i>Black Dragon</i>	2007
Cosmos	<i>Candy Stripe</i>	2013
Dianthus	<i>Parfait Raspberry</i>	2009
Flowering Kale	<i>Pigeon Pink</i>	2015
Gaillardia	<i>Sundance Bicolor</i>	2005
Gomphrena	<i>Buddy Purple</i>	2013
Marigold	<i>Bambino</i>	2016
Morning Glory	<i>Dolce Vita</i>	2015
Nasturtium	<i>Indian Chief</i>	2019
Nicotiana	<i>Perfume Lime</i>	2006
Ornamental Grass	<i>Stipa Pony Tails</i>	2008
Rudbeckia	<i>Irish Eye</i>	2016
Salvia	<i>Victoria Blue</i>	2018
Shasta Daisy	<i>Snow Lady</i>	2014
Snapdragon	<i>Aromas Fresh Lemon</i>	2019
Sunflower	<i>Lemon Queen</i>	2016
Sweet Pea	<i>Millenium</i>	2018
Vines	<i>Cypress Vine</i>	1996
Zinnia	<i>PopArt Red and White</i>	2016

VEGETABLE SEED TRIAL WINNERS

VEGETABLE	VARIETY NAME	YEAR
Beet	<i>3-Root Grex</i>	2019
Broccoli	<i>Green Magic</i>	2017
Cabbage	<i>Ruby Perfection</i>	2019
Carrot	<i>Yellow Bunch</i>	2017
Cauliflower	<i>Depurple</i>	2017
Collard Greens	<i>Tiger</i>	2017
Cucumber	<i>Chicago Pickling</i>	2012
Eggplant	<i>Oriental Charm</i>	2011
Green Beans	<i>Navarro</i>	2015
Kale	<i>Winterbor</i>	2012
Kohlrabi	<i>Kolibri</i>	2011
Leeks	<i>Tivi</i>	1985
Lettuce	<i>Dazzle Romaine</i>	2013
Onion	<i>Feast</i>	2018
Peas	<i>Sugar Ann (snap peas)</i>	2019
Peppers (Hot)	<i>Mariachi</i>	2004
Pepper (Sweet)	<i>Goccia d'Oro</i>	2014
Radish	<i>Pink Beauty</i>	2011
Spinach	<i>Olympia</i>	2014
Summer Squash	<i>Benning's Green Tint</i>	2015
Swiss Chard	<i>Bright Lights Mix</i>	2005
Tomatoes	<i>4th of July</i>	2019
Winter Squash	<i>Sweet Dumpling</i>	2018
Zucchini	<i>Ambassador</i>	2009