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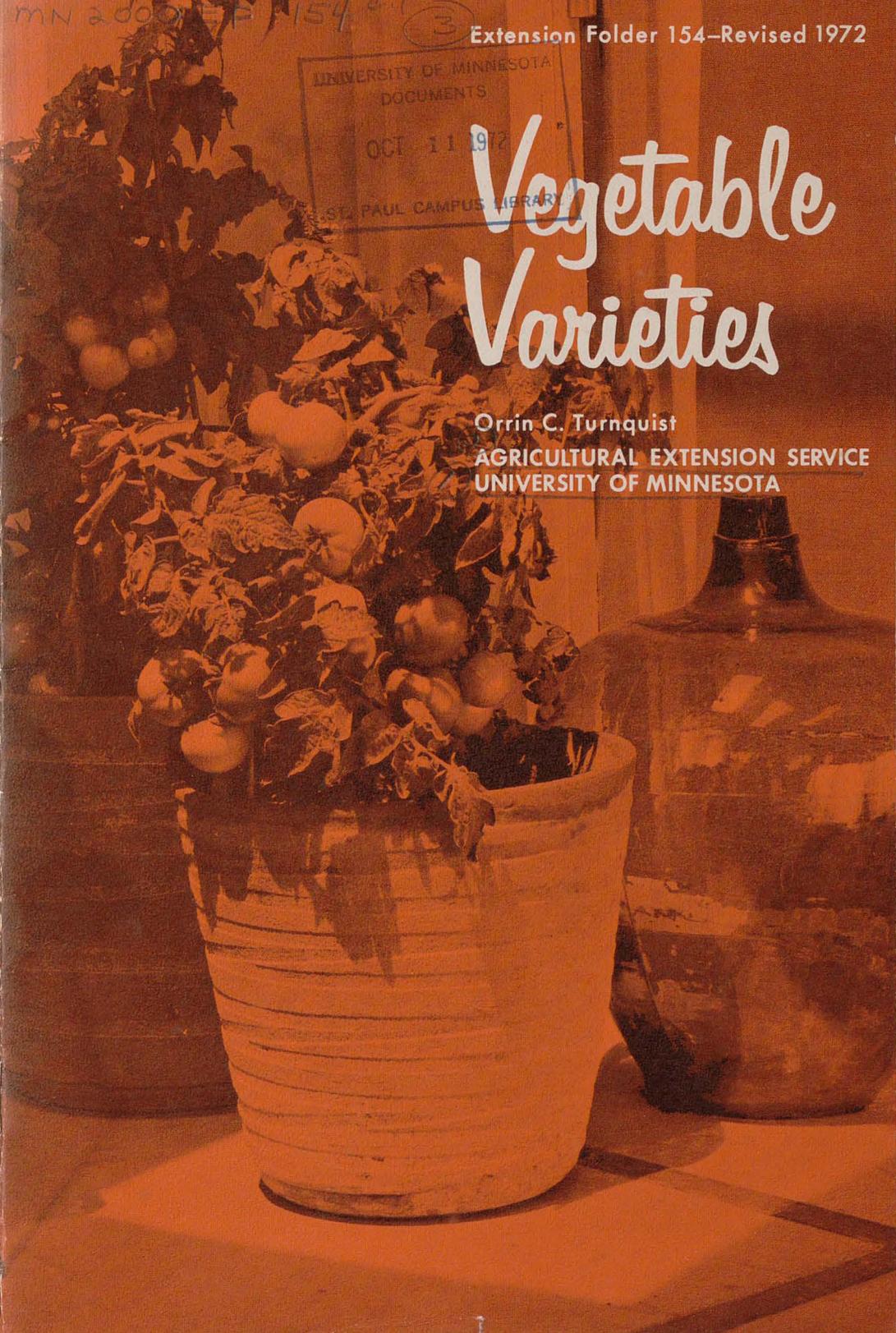
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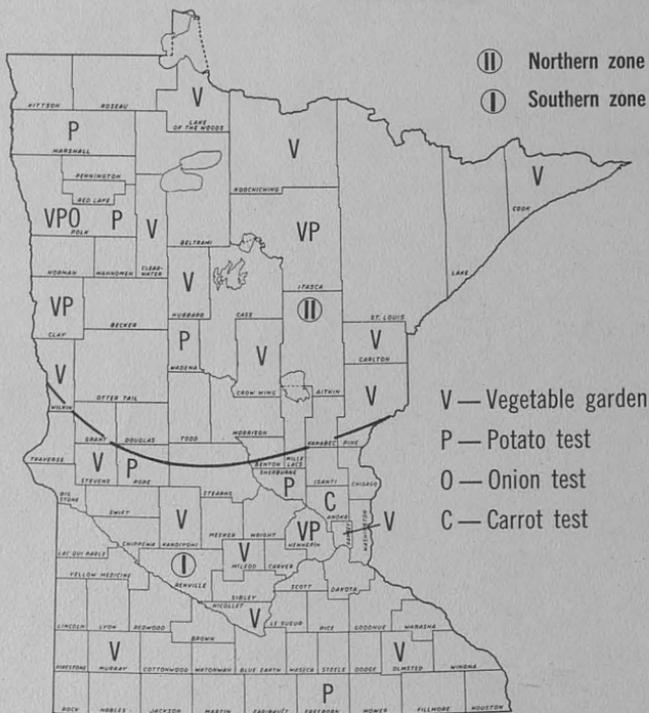
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Vegetable Varieties

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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA





Location of 1971 test plots

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The inside photos are used through the courtesy of the Harris Seed Company. The cover photo is used through the courtesy of the Peto Seed Company.

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Vegetable Varieties

ORRIN C. TURNQUIST

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The selection of adapted vegetable varieties for Minnesota is a simple but important step to a successful garden. Not only are newer introductions better producers than older varieties, but many also are disease resistant and of higher quality.

In this publication we summarize information concerning vegetable varieties tested in Minnesota in 1971 (see map). These tests were conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with home and commercial gardeners.

A list of suggested tested varieties that have been found to be suitable for Minnesota in previous years appears on page 15. Although other varieties may be acceptable for Minnesota, they have not been tested or are not generally available from seedsmen. Only after several years of testing can we judge a variety's dependability for an area. All varieties discussed are available from seedsmen, but no one seed company has all of them. Special emphasis is given to varieties that are good for freezing.

SNAP BEANS

Tendercrop—An excellent dependable snap bean. Over the past several years, it has been consistently one of the best in Minnesota garden trials. It combines the mosaic resistance and high yield of Topcrop with the attractive dark pods and high quality of Tendergreen. Its dark green, stringless pods are 5-5½ inches long, round, and nearly straight. They hold their slim shape and high quality for a long time on the vine. Tendercrop is an excellent all-purpose bean for fresh use, canning, or freezing.

Wondergreen—A new dark green variety similar to Tendercrop but with cream-colored seeds. Plants are bush type with straight pods that are round and 5 inches long. It is mosaic resistant. In 1971 trials it rated almost as high as Tendercrop.

Regal—A white-seeded snap bean with mosaic resistance and good yielding ability. Pods are 6 inches long, round, stringless, and bright green. Where tested, it scored high on quality and yield.

Green Isle—Another white-seeded snap bean with mosaic resistance. Plants are erect and produce good yields of pods that are set well off the ground and appear to be concentrated for easy harvest. Pods are medium green, round, 5½-5¾ inches long and medium to thin walled. Gardeners like this bean, too.

Moongold—A new yellow-podded wax bean with pods 5-5½ inches long, round, and stringless. It is resistant to mosaic with white seeds. Pods appear to be straighter than those of Kinghorn Wax. Most home garden cooperators rated it best of the wax beans tested.



Tendercrop snap bean—an excellent all-purpose bean

Puregold Wax—An old variety with very golden-yellow pods $5\frac{1}{2}$ -6 inches long. Pods are slim, round, and stringless. Seeds are white with a light brown ring around the eye. It is resistant to mosaic. Most gardeners like it for yield and quality.

Pencil Pod Black Wax—An old standard wax bean with pods 7 inches long, round, and stringless. It has been a popular variety for both home and market, but the black seeds are objectionable from the standpoint of processing. Although it is one of the best wax beans, there appears to be a growing preference for white-seeded varieties.

BEETS

Pacemaker—A new development in table beets featuring hybrid vigor and monogerm seed. This first hybrid beet has many advantages over standard varieties for home gardens. The roots are uniformly globe-shaped and deep red inside and out. Because a sugar beet was used in its breeding, it has an exceptionally sweet and pleasant flavor. It appears slower in becoming woody and deteriorating in quality after roots are overgrown. Because of its hybrid vigor, it emerges more quickly and grows faster than other varieties. Pacemaker generally will produce usable beets earlier than most standard varieties. The monogerm feature makes thinning and spacing easier, because only one plant is produced from each seed. Cooperators rated it high but preferred Ruby Queen earliness and quality.



Pacemaker beet—the first hybrid table beet

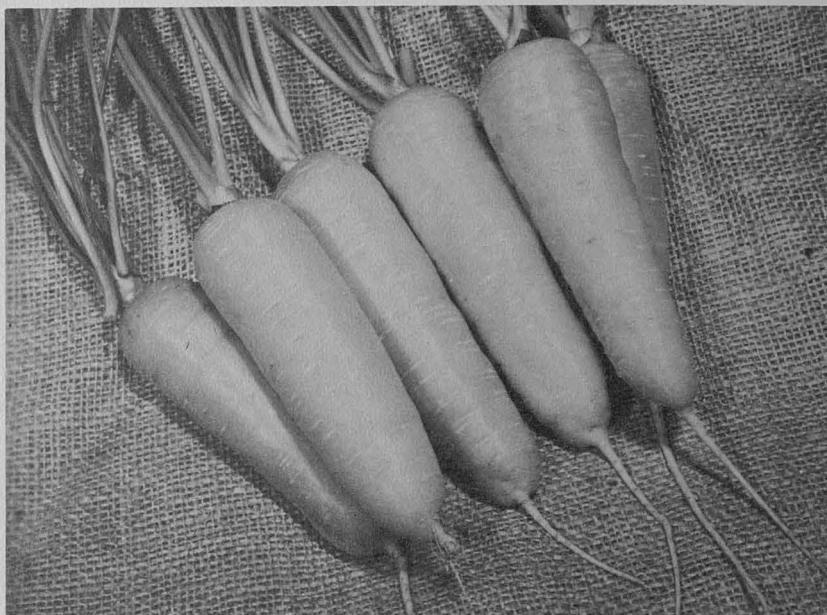
Burgundy—A new variety with a uniform dark red interior. Roots are globe shaped to somewhat flattened. The crown, where the leaves attach to the root, is small. Gardeners scored it fair to good.

Golden—A new beet with golden-yellow roots that will not bleed or stain as red types do. The roots are globe to heart shaped and are best eaten before they are $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The roots can be used raw, cooked, or pickled. They are excellent in salads. The tops also make excellent greens. Most evaluators liked it but rated red varieties higher.

Ruby Queen—Another widely tested and very dependable variety for Minnesota gardens. Since receiving the All-America Award in 1958, this beet has become increasingly popular with both home and market gardeners. The roots are globe-shaped with a smooth shoulder and crown. The interior is a uniform bright red with fine texture. The tops are short and the darkgreen leaves appear to turn red easily. The roots grow rapidly and reach a usable size earlier than most older varieties. Gardeners continue to rate this beet earliest with good yield and quality over several years of testing.

CARROTS

Commander—A new F_1 hybrid carrot that is tailor-made for home gardens where soil is heavy and longer carrot types are more difficult to grow. Roots are nearly cylindrical



Commander carrot—a sweet, crisp carrot adapted to heavy soil

with a slight taper, similar to a Chantenay type. The hybrid vigor makes for quick growth and good yields. The roots are sweet and crisp and the deep orange color is uniform to the core, even when large. Many cooperators liked this hybrid.

Pioneer—Another F_1 hybrid that resembles the popular Nantes type in shape, quality, and earliness. Because of its hybrid vigor, it grows to a usable size quickly. Roots are medium in length, cylindrical, and uniform in size and shape. Pioneer is deep orange inside and out. Cores are very small and indistinct. During the past 7 years of Minnesota trials, it has scored very high in both yield and quality. Evaluators especially liked its sweet flavor and earliness.

Gold Nugget—A new carrot with short, almost globe-shaped roots of golf ball size. They are quick to reach edible size and are very sweet. Perhaps they might be a novelty item, but they are quite practical for serving whole with radishes and celery. Although some gardeners liked it, several experienced poor yield and quality.

Scarlet Nantes—A popular, sweet, and very dependable carrot for the home garden. It is one of the earliest of the standard varieties. These carrots are long, cylindrical, and stump rooted. The interior is a uniform reddish orange. It continues to rate very high in Minnesota home garden trials.

Red Cored Chantenay—An older carrot with uniform reddish-orange interior color. Roots average $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches long with $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter at the shoulders. It is slightly shorter and thicker than the regular Chantenay. Quality scored fair to good but preference was shown toward more slender types.

CRESS

Curlycress—A quick growing green that can be grown easily indoors and outside. The dark green, finely cut, and curled leaves can be used 10 days after seeding. Although they look like parsley, they are more pungent. It is slow to go to seed. Some cooperators did not like it while others rated it good.

Salad Cress—Similar to Curlycress except for less curling of the leaves. Leaves are larger and remain in good quality for some time. It is slow to bolt. Very little preference was shown for one variety over the other.

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CUCUMBERS

Marketmore—An attractive, new slicing cucumber that appears particularly adapted to the cool season areas of the north. Although not an F_1 hybrid, it produces good yields of marketable cucumbers. Fruits are 8-9 inches long, very straight, with a slight taper at each end. It has both scab and mosaic resistance. Maturity is about a week later than the others tested. Where grown, it scored fair to good in yield and quality.

Pioneer—A new gynoecious (all-female) hybrid pickling cucumber with tolerance to scab, mosaic, downy and powdery mildew, anthracnose, and angular leaf spot. Fruits are medium to dark green and uniformly cylindrical and blunt ended. There appear to be fewer misshapen fruits than with other pickling hybrids. Most cooperators rated it good.

Gemini cucumber—a new disease-resistant variety



Gemini—A new gynoecious (all-female) hybrid slicing cucumber that is resistant to several diseases including scab, mosaic, anthracnose, and mildew. It produces a continuous supply of excellent quality cucumbers beginning very early and extending through the entire season. The fruits are 7-8 inches long, dark green, straight, and smooth. It must be picked frequently for best yields of quality fruit. It continued to rate high at most locations.

Burpless—A new Japanese hybrid slicing cucumber with mild and superior quality. It is especially suitable for people who can't eat cucumbers without discomfort. Peeling is unnecessary. It is resistant to both downy and powdery mildew. Fruits are 8-10 inches long, and the diameter is much smaller than most slicers. They are dark green, slim, and often curved. When grown on a stake or trellis, the fruits hang down and are more apt to be long and straight. It produces good yields over a long period. Although some testers rated it poor, several liked its yield and unusual quality.

LETTUCE

Buttercrunch—A butterhead type of lettuce with excellent quality and dependability. It produces a larger plant than the popular Bibb, withstands heat, and retains quality without bitterness over a longer period. While outer leaves are broad and dark green, the heart consists of loosely folded leaves with thick, crisp midribs of high quality. Several succession plantings can be made to assure delicious lettuce all season. It is important that plants be thinned or spaced 10-12 inches apart for best development. It continues to score high at most locations.

Greenhart—A special strain of Grand Rapids leaf lettuce of improved quality. It appears tolerant against bolting to seed when weather is warm. Greenhart has performed well in Minnesota trials; gardeners liked the attractive, light-green, finely frilled, deeply cut leaves.

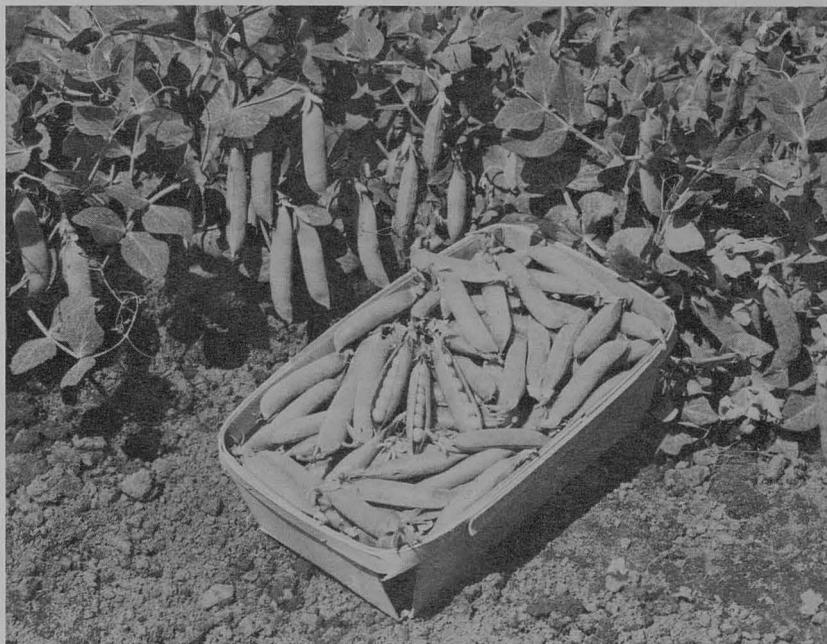
Grand Rapids—An old standard variety of leaf lettuce that has been popular with gardeners for a long time. Leaves are broad and bright green with finely frilled and wavy margins. Leaves also are finely blistered. It was rated high by most testers.

MUSKMELON

Burpee Hybrid—An F_1 hybrid producing large, round, heavily netted melons. Fruits are smoother and not as deeply ribbed as Iroquois. The thick flesh is deep orange and has a high sugar content. Although fruit weight averages about 4 pounds, it is not unusual to find much larger melons on vigorous vines. It appears to be early enough to mature in most of the northern Minnesota counties. Most reporters scored it good in yield and quality.

PEAS

Frosty—An excellent home garden pea that comes into production just after Little Marvel. Pods are 3-3½ inches long, blunt ended and dark green. They usually are borne in pairs near the top of compact vines where they are easy to pick. Plants are wilt resistant and very prolific. Pods are very easy to shell and the peas are large and uniform. This variety has excellent quality and is especially good for freezing. It has become a favorite with most cooperators during the past 9 years.



Sparkle pea—a good freezing pea

Sparkle—A new, extra early pea with good yield and quality. Plants are compact and 15 inches tall with a heavy concentration of pods 60 days after planting. Pods are $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 inches long and filled with seven to eight sweet, tender peas. It is good for freezing. It was scored high for earliness at most locations.

Little Marvel—An old variety included in 1971 trials for comparative purposes. Dwarf vines produce abundant crops of dark-green pods about 3 inches long. Each pod is tightly filled with fairly large, good quality peas that are suitable for freezing. Sometimes it is more difficult to shell than other varieties. It continues to be a very popular pea with Minnesota gardeners but there appears to be a growing preference for Frosty.

Wando—An old later maturing variety that lengthens the pea harvest season in the garden. It withstands unfavorable conditions better than most other varieties. Vines are medium sized and 28-30 inches tall. Pods are about 3 inches long and tightly filled with high quality peas. Testers indicated excellent results in yields and quality with Wando.

PUMPKIN

Cinderella—A new bush-type pumpkin that can be grown in a 6 square foot area. Usually 2-3 fruits about 10 inches in diameter are produced on each plant. Fruits are smooth, slightly ribbed, uniformly globe shaped, with bright orange skin. Maturity is about 100 days. Most reports indicated favorable results with this variety of a jack-o'-lantern pumpkin.

RADISH

Scarlet Knight—A new, fast growing radish with resistance to fusarium wilt, which often is troublesome on organic soils. Roots are round with bright-scarlet skin, slim tap root, and small crown. Tops are 3-4 inches long. It appears to be ideal for warm weather sowing. Cooperators scored it high but indicated a preference for Red Boy.

Red Boy—A short top variety that matures quickly. It is especially suitable for summer planting. Roots are round to slightly oval with small crowns and fine tap roots. They are uniformly smooth and bright red. Tops are $2\frac{1}{4}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. It continues to be a very popular radish for home and market. It rated highest in 1971 trials.

SQUASH

Sweetmeat—An old variety of turban-shaped squash with excellent eating and keeping quality. Fruits average 10-15 pounds with a hard slate-gray skin and real thick, golden-yellow flesh that is especially sweet. Maturity appears to be about 103 days which is one week later than Buttercup. Cooperators liked this squash but indicated preference for Burgess Buttercup.

Burgess Buttercup—A special earlier strain of the old standard variety of winter squash

Burgess Buttercup squash—a dry, sweet variety



that has been a dependable producer in most Minnesota gardens. Fruits are green, turban shaped, and of medium size. The seed is usually in the cup at the blossom end. The interior is filled with thick orange flesh. It has a definite drum shape that adds extra flesh at the shoulders. This variety is dry and sweet and not apt to be stringy. It has good keeping quality and continues to rate high in Minnesota trials.

Waltham Butternut—An All-America winner with more uniformity and better keeping quality than the old standard Butternut. Fruits average 7-9 inches long with thick cylindrical necks and small seed cavities. The bell-shaped fruits are creamy tan and slightly larger than the original variety. It also produces fewer thin or crooked-necked squash. It was scored fair to good by testers last year.

Zucchini Elite—A new F_1 hybrid summer squash with compact but vigorous and prolific vines. Fruits are almost cylindrical, uniform, and a dark glossy green finely flecked with lighter green. When harvested at 6-8 inches in length, it is at its best quality. It is ready to use 48 days after seeding. Most gardeners reported good results with this summer squash.

Summer Straightneck Hybrid 515—A new hybrid summer squash maturing in about 48 days and producing good yields on vigorous bush-type plants. Fruits are light yellow, straight, and slightly smaller at the stem end. Flesh is creamy white and fine textured. It rated fair to good in the trials.

Waltham Butternut squash—an All-American winner



SWEET CORN

Royal Crest—A new early hybrid sweet corn with 64-day maturity. Ears are 6-7 inches long, with 12 rows of bright yellow kernels filled well to the tip. Plants are about 5½ feet tall. Cooperators rated this sweet corn very high on earliness. Also, it is reported to be good for freezing.

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Polar Vee—A new extra early hybrid that has built-in cold resistance and will mature in 50-55 days. Ears are 6-6½ inches long with 12-14 rows of yellow kernels with good tip fill. Plants are 3½ feet tall and often have 2 ears per plant. Gardeners did not score the quality very high but it rated earliest of all sweet corn tested.

Early Extra Sweet—A new F₁ hybrid corn with super sweetness. Maturity is 70 days. Ears are 7-9 inches long with shallow but wide kernels. The high sugar content appears to be held over a long period. In order to develop its sweetness, it must be isolated from other corn. Plants are 5-6 feet tall. Most testers scored this hybrid good in yield and quality.

Sprite—Another new early sweet corn with bi-color white and yellow kernels. Ears are 7 inches long and well filled clear to the tip. Quality and sweetness rated high in 1971 trials.

Jubilee—A new midseason maturing (87 days) sweet corn that has excellent quality for fresh use or processing. Ears are 8-9 inches long with 18-20 rows of deep, narrow, golden kernels. Where it matured, gardeners like it.

Royal Crest corn—an early variety good for freezing



Silver Queen—A late maturing hybrid corn with white kernels and high quality. Ears are 8-9 inches long with 14-16 straight rows of tender kernels that are well rounded over the tip of the ear. It was one of the latest corns tested but it rated high in yield and quality by several cooperators.

Sunburst Improved—Another new early F_1 hybrid that matures in 72 days. It is actually an improved Morning Sun with more sweetness and tenderness. The husks are tighter and provide better protection in the field and a better appearance in the market. Ears are 8-9 inches long with 14 rows of golden kernels. The inner silk is white. Plants are tall and ears are set high for easier harvest. In limited trials, it scored very good.

Morning Sun—An attractive hybrid for both home and market that matures in 72 days. Plants are 5-6 feet tall with few suckers. Ears are 7 inches long with 14 rows of medium-wide golden kernels. Ears are high and stand out well from the stalk for easy snapping. Gardeners liked this sweet corn.

Earliking—An extra early hybrid that matures in 66 days and produces a large ear. Plants are short and stocky. Ears are 7-8 inches long, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and usually have 12 rows of golden kernels. The husk cover is tight and dark green. Cooperators liked its large ear size and earliness.

Sugar King—An excellent quality hybrid in the 78-day maturity class. Plants are 6-7 feet tall. The cylindrical ears have little taper. They are 7-8 inches long and filled with 14-16 rows of golden kernels. Dark green husks cover the tips of the ears. Sugar King continues to rate high in quality. It is outstanding for sweetness and tenderness.

NK 199—An 84-day hybrid developed for processors but liked by home and market gardeners, especially in central and southern Minnesota. Plants are $7\frac{1}{2}$ -8 feet tall with few tillers. Ears are $7\frac{1}{2}$ -8 inches long with 18-20 rows of narrow deep kernels than can be easily cut for canning or freezing. Despite its late maturity, gardeners at several locations continued to like this hybrid's yield and quality.

Golden Beauty—Another early hybrid that matures in 70 days. Ears are 8-9 inches long and have 8-10 straight rows of golden kernels. Husks are dark green and tight. Some testers indicated excellent results with freezing on the ear with this hybrid. It continues to rate high and is well adapted and dependable for Minnesota gardens.

Golden Rocket—A very desirable, early maturing hybrid corn with excellent quality for both fresh use and freezing. Ears are $7-7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long with 10-12 rows of yellow kernels. Plants are 5-6 feet tall. Maturity is 67 days. Most testers rated it good in quality.

Yukon—A new 75-day maturing hybrid with heavy yields of high quality corn. Ears are 8-9 inches long with 16 straight rows of golden, blocky kernels. Plants are $7-7\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall. In limited trials, it rated high in yield and tenderness.

Silver Sweet—Another early sweet corn with white kernels maturing in 65 days. Ears are 6 inches long with 10-12 rows of tender, sweet kernels. Plants are 6 feet tall. Husks are bright purple. This hybrid rated fair to good in the trials.

TOMATOES

Pixie—A new F₁ hybrid tomato designed especially for container growing. Where space is limited in the garden or where a pot or tub of tomatoes on the patio is desired, here is a natural with dual utility. Plants grow 14-18 inches tall and are heavily loaded with scarlet red fruits averaging 1¾ inches in diameter. Fruits have thick walls and are very meaty. Pixie is extremely early and you can easily enjoy ripe fruits in 52 days from seeding.

Patio—Another F₁ hybrid tomato with compact upright growth habit making it suitable for growing in tubs or containers where space is limited. Plants are 24-30 inches tall and should be staked even in containers. Fruit is medium size and deep oblate shape. Foliage has a distinct crinkle. Maturity is in the midseason class—70 days. (See cover photo.)

Better Boy—A new F₁ hybrid in the 80-day maturity range with large scarlet red fruits similar to Big Boy. Fruits are very meaty and tend to be deep globe shaped thus providing an extra slice of tomato. Plants are large and vigorous with good foliage coverage over the fruits giving sunscald protection. It is wilt and nematode resistant.

Fantastic—An early F₁ hybrid similar to Moreton but slightly earlier with maturity at 65 days. It is very productive with a high percentage of No. 1 fruit. Fruits are smooth, deep globe-shaped and medium size. Excellent for home and market gardens as well as greenhouse forcing.

New Yorker—Another early tomato that matures in 64 days. It is similar to Fireball but has better foliage and disease resistance. The fruit is round, medium sized, and meaty. Fruits are well colored to the stem. In last season's trials, it performed well as a high yielding early variety.

Fireball—One of the older, early tomatoes that matures in 65 days. The small plants bear large clusters of medium-sized fruits. As the season progresses, the yield of good quality fruit drops off. It continues to be one of the best early tomatoes for Minnesota.

Moreton Hybrid—An early F₁ hybrid tomato well adapted to most parts of Minnesota. It produces heavy clusters of large, slightly flattened fruits that are thick walled and meaty. It is uniformly well colored to the stem end. The flavor is mild and sweet. It is one of the most popular hybrids for home and market gardens.

Big Boy Hybrid—A very popular F₁ hybrid tomato. It matures in midseason. Fruits are large and heavy, with many weighing more than a pound. They are extremely smooth and globe shaped with thick walls and a mild meaty flesh. Most gardeners, especially those in central and southern Minnesota, rated it high.

WATERMELON

Crimson Sweet—A new attractive melon that matures about 12 days later than Sugar Baby but has excellent quality coupled with resistance to anthracnose and fusarium wilt. Fruits are round to blocky and have a distinct rattlesnake striping of medium dark green. Average weight is 15-25 pounds. Flesh is bright red with a high sugar content. Although some testers rated it good, several in northern locations reported it to be too late to evaluate.

Dependable Varieties For Minnesota

- Asparagus**—Mary Washington*, Faribo F₁ Hybrid*
- Beans, Green Snap**—Tendercrop*
- Beans, Wax**—Kinghorn Wax*
- Beans, Lima**—Fordhook 242*†
- Beets**—Ruby Queen*
- Broccoli**—Spartan Early*, Waltham 29*
- Brussels Sprouts**—Jade Cross*
- Cabbage, Early**—Golden Acre Yellow Resistant, Badger Market
- Cabbage, Midseason**—Marion Market
- Cabbage, Late**—Badger Ballhead, Danish Ballhead
- Cabbage, Red**—Red Acre, Red Danish
- Cabbage, Savoy**—Savoy King
- Cabbage, Chinese**—Michihili
- Carrots**—Scarlet Nantes*, Royal Chantenay*
- Cauliflower**—Snowball*
- Celery**—Summer Pascal
- Corn, Sweet Early**—Sugar and Gold*, Earliking, Polar Vee*
- Corn, Sweet, Midseason**—Golden Beauty*, Golden Cross Bantam*, Sugar King*†
- Corn, Sweet, Late**—NK 199†
- Corn, Pop**—Minhybird 250†
- Cucumbers, Pickling**—Crusader, Wisconsin SMR-15
- Cucumbers, Slicing**—Marketer, Burpee Hybrid, Gemini
- Egg Plant**—Black Beauty*†
- Endive**—Green Curled, Florida Deep Heart
- Kale**—Dwarf Green Curled*
- Kohlrabi**—Early White Vienna*
- Lettuce, Butterhead**—Summer Bibb, Buttercrunch
- Lettuce, Head**—Great Lakes, Pennlake
- Lettuce, Leaf**—Greenhart, Slobolt
- Muskmelon, Early**—Hybrid 16*
- Muskmelon, Late**—Burpee Hybrid*
- Onions**—Trapp's Downing Yellow Globe, Elite, Utah Sweet Spanish
- Parsley**—Minncurl
- Parsnips**—Model*, All America*
- Peas**—Little Marvel*, Frosty*, Wando*, Dark Seeded Perfection*
- Peppers**—Peter Piper, Vinedale, California Wonder, Yolo Wonder†
- Potatoes**—Anoka, Norland, Cherokee, Kennebec
- Pumpkin**—Jack-o'-lantern†
- Radishes**—Red Boy, Cherry Belle, Cavalier
- Rhubarb**—Valentine*, Chipman's Canada Red*
- Rutabaga**—Laurentian
- Spinach**—America*, New Zealand*
- Squash, Summer**—Black Zucchini*
- Squash, Winter**—Burgess Buttercup*, Hybrid R*, Hercules*
- Swiss Chard**—Lucullus*, Burgundy*
- Tomatoes, Early**—Fireball‡, Hybrid EE‡, Moreton Hybrid
- Tomatoes, Midseason**—Big Boy‡
- Turnips**—Purple Top White Globe
- Watermelon**—Sugar Baby

* Suitable for freezing.

† For region I only.

‡ For region II only. See map on inside cover for the 1971 test plot locations.

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