

2013

All-America Selections® Vegetable Trial

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All-America Selections® Vegetable Trial

Abstract

All-America Selections® (AAS) is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1932 by industry leaders to organize and oversee unbiased evaluations of new, soon to be released, flower and vegetable varieties. The goal of the AAS is to identify superior home garden varieties through a national network of trial grounds and promote the tested winners as All-America Selections®. There are currently about 25 AAS vegetable trial sites across the country hosted by universities, seed companies, and other public institutions. The AAS requires all trial sites to have a knowledgeable judge to evaluate entrants in blind tests (seed sources are unknown to judges) on several traits including earliness, yield, taste, disease resistance, and shelf life.

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The 2012 AAS Vegetable Trial included 23 entrants that were each evaluated in comparison plots with two or three similar varieties already on the market. Table 1 provides a short description of each AAS entrant and score awarded. Trial scores were sent to the AAS Selection Committee in September, who then compiled the ratings from all locations to decide which entries, if any, would receive AAS Awards.

All-America Selections® has announced that there are three vegetable award winners in 2013: Harvest Moon watermelon (trialed as 12V21 in 2012); Jasper cherry tomato (trialed as 11V15 in 2011); and Melemon, a Piel de Sapo type melon (trialed as 11V02 in 2011). For more information about these and other AAS Winners with pictures and full descriptions, visit www.aaswinners.com.

Table 1. 2012 AAS vegetable trial entries, descriptions, and scores at the Muscatine Island Research Farm.

Entry	Description and comments	Trial score ^a
12V01 Semi-dwarf basil	Vigorous plant with good recovery after harvest	3
12V02 Dwarf French bean	Poor growth and performance due to dry and hot weather	X
12V03 Broccoli	Produced vigorous leafy plant but no heads	0
12V04 Broccoli	Heads were loose and of poor quality	0
12V05 Celery	Not adapted and grew poorly	N
12V06 Dark green cucumber	Strong vine and good producer of dark green cucumbers	2
12V07 Glossy eggplant	Produced a few large irregularly shaped purple fruit	0
12V08 Dark round eggplant	Round dark eggplant with spineless sepals, large blossom scars	1
12V09 Habanero pepper	Late maturity, small wrinkled yellow peppers, very hot	1
12V10 Small bell pepper	Small plant loaded with 2 in. long sweet peppers, green to red	2
12V11 Sweet yellow pepper	Prolific production of small yellow sweet peppers	2
12V12 Sweet banana pepper	Good yield and quality but similar to comparisons	1
12V13 Pumpkin	Long vines bore Cinderella type pumpkin weighing up to 50 lb	2
12V14 Winter squash	Butternut type squash, smallish fruit weighed 2 lb	1
12V15 Grape tomato	Determinate vines had concentrated fruit set, no fruit cracking	2
12V16 Grape tomato	Determinate vines, heavy fruit set, poor flavor	1
12V17 Grape tomato	Indeterminate vines, extended harvest, good flavor, no cracking	2
12V18 Plum tomato	Determinate plant, concentrated set, yellow shoulders	1
12V19 Indeterminate tomato	Large plant but poor yield of smallish tomatoes that cracked	1
12V20 Seedless tomato	Good production of seedless tomatoes with decent flavor	2
12V21 Seedless watermelon	Seedless 'Moon & Stars' type with good production	3
12V22 Yellow zucchini	Compact plant, steady production of creamy yellow zucchini	3
12V23 Stringless snap pea	Didn't grow well in summer heat	X

^aTrial score: 0 = entry did not meet claims/inferior to comparisons, 1 = some merit but no award, 2 = improved entry, merits an award, 3 = superior entry worthy of award, N = not adapted, X = trial failure.