

2012 UW-WMARS Trial Site Weather Conditions

Weather conditions were very challenging this season. We started the season with a severe deficit in subsoil moisture. We planted out the trials Jun 1 and proceeded to have the driest June ever recorded in Madison (.31in). In conjunction with the lack of rain we had 25 days of clear skies and 9 days above 90 degrees. We encountered a situation where we were forced to irrigate every 6-10 days. This was complicated by the fact that much of the moisture we applied either soaked down deep or was evaporated by the high temps and clear skies. It took nearly 3 weeks of irrigation to get an adequate amount of moisture built up into the root zone of the plants.

The rest of the growing season continued to be dry and hot. From Jun 1- Sept 30 we had 36 days over 90 degrees with a high of 104; 95 clear sunny days; and a total of 7.22in of rain.

Brian Emerson
Garden Manager-WMARS University Display Gardens

Ball Seed Trials-Burpee

		Foliage Appearance				
			Fruit Production			
				Fruit Appearance		
					Taste when Ripe	
plant name	Cultivar					
Tomato	Mighty Sweet'	5	5	5	5	Excellent flavor; very prolific; First ripe 7/9

Ball Seed Trials - Pan American Seeds

		Foliage Appearance				
			Fruit Production			
				Fruit Appearance		
					Taste when Ripe	
plant name	Cultivar					Comments
Tomato	'Topsy Tom'	5	5	4	4	First ripe 7/3/12; difficult harvest from overly dense foliage; great flavor
Pepper	'Cute Stuff-Gold'	5	5	4	3	First ripe 8/7; 30lbs from 5 plants
Cucumber	'Patio Snacker'	3	3	4	3	First ripe 7/24; Very compact; Produced well for small plant; Plant died if not picked well
Squash	Easy Pick 'Gold'	4	4	4	4	First harvest 7/13; Resisted powdery mildew longer than other cultivars
Squash	Easy Pick 'Green'	4	4	4	4	First harvest 7/13; Resisted powdery mildew longer than other cultivars

Grimes

		Foliage Appearance				
			Fruit Production			
				Fruit Appearance		
					Taste when Ripe	
plant n	Cultivar					Comments
Beet	Garden Leader 'Tasty Red Bull	5	5	5	5	Excellent in extreme heat; Remained tender at baseball size; Evaluators liked flavor of greens.
Corn - popcorn	Garden Leader 'Tasty Pop Yellow'	3	3	4	4	Beautiful ears; open tips
Eggplant - Gourmet	Garden Leader 'Gourmet Long Oriental'	4	5	4	5	First harvest 7/11; Some sun scald later in the season
Pepper - hot	EZ Gro 'Jalapeno Lite'	5	5	5	5	Smaller fruited; very good flavor; 27lbs from 5 plants
Pepper - hot	Garden Leader 'Hot Tasty Salsa'	5	5	5	5	Excellent roasting pepper; Makes great sauce; Plants tall and prone to breaking; First ripe 8/7; 27lbs-5plants
Basil	EZ Gro Green Goddess	4			4	Excellent ornamental; Bolted quickly and was difficult to deadhead; very intense flavor

Johnny's

		Foliage Appearance				
			Fruit Production			
				Fruit Appearance		
				Taste when Ripe		
plant name	Cultivar					Comments
Bean -Fava/Broad	'Windsor'	1	1	1	0	Fungal issues, no production, poor growth
Bean -Purple Bush	'Amethyst'	4	3	4	4	Firstharvest 8/10
Bean -Purple Bush	'Royal Burgundy'	4	4	4	4	First harvest 8/7. Did not fruit in high heat.
Broccoli -Mini	'Atlantis'	5	3	4	4	First Harvest 8/14
Broccoli -Mini X Gailon	'Happy Rich'	5	4	4	4	First harvest 8/9
Cabbage -Red	'Integro'	5	5	5	4	First Harvest 8/7
Carrot	'Caracas'	5	5	5	5	Very crisp; strong flavor; Consistent shape and size
Carrot	'Laguna'	5	5	5	5	Very sweet; 29lbs from 12ft row
Carrot	'Nectar'	5	5	5	5	Described as aromatic, sweet, and distinctive

Johnny's

Carrot -Colored	'Atomic Red'	5	5	5	4	Developed pronounced knobiness on older carrots; Great color
Carrot -Colored	'Purple Haze'	5	5	5	5	Very crisp; older carrots remained sweet and not bitter
Carrot -Colored	'Deep Purple'	5	5	5	4	Pronounced core on older carrots; earthy and drier texture; great color
Eggplant -White	'Calliope'	4	4	4	4	First harvest July 11; Thick skinned; holds well after harvest
Flower Sprouts	'Kaleidoscope Mix'	5				Planted from seed 6/1
Greens -Asian	'Shungiku'	5			4	Good floral, celery flavor
Greens -Mustard	'Golden Frills'	5			4	
Greens -Mustard	'Scarlet Frills'	5			5	Bolted 7/3
Lettuce -Oakleaf (Baby Leaf)	'Bolsachica'	4			4	
Lettuce -Red (baby leaf)	'Refugio'	4			4	

Johnny's

Lettuce -Red (full head)	'New Red Fire'	4			4	
Lettuce -Red (full head)	'Ruby Sky'	4			4	
Onion -Sweet	'Candy'	5	5	5	5	Largest 1lb 10oz
Onion -Yellow	'Pontiac'	5	5	5	5	Largest 1lb 8oz
Pepper -Cayenne Chile	'Red Rocket'	5	4	4	3	Leggy prone to wind damage. First ripe 7/26
Pepper -Colored Bell	'Islander'	5	4	5	3.5	12 fruit per plant. First Harvest 7/7
Pepper -Colored Bell	'Flavorburst'	5	4	4	3	Good flavor at immature; 35lbs from 5 plants; First ripe 8/7
Pepper -Colored Bell	'Gourmet'	5	3	5	4	Heavy fruit set on compact plant; First ripe 8/25
Pepper -Hot Anaheim	'Highlander'	5	5	4	4	Heavy fruiting causing broken branches. Very hot, great for roasting.
Pepper -Hot Specialty	'Peppino'	5	5	5	5	Very heavy fruit set; Superb flavor; great for stuffing; First ripe 8/7; cold sensitive

Johnny's

Pepper -Hot Specialty	'Andy'	5	5	5	5	Intense fruit set; Hot with great full flavor; Good drying pepper; First ripe 8/1; cold sensitive
Pepper -Serrano	'Serrano Del Sol'	5	4	4	2	Unique russeted look; very cold sensitive
Pepper -Sweet	'Antohi Romanian'	5	5	5	4	8-15 per plant. Beautiful color change. Compact and thick walled; First ripe 7/17
Pepper -Sweet	'Mellow Star'	5	5	5	4	Good sweetness w/unique savory flavor, little sunburn, fruit holds well; First ripe 7/26; 28lbs-5plants
Pepper -Sweet Bell	'Olympus'	5	4	5	4	28lbs from 5 plants; Largest pepper of all trialed in 2012.
Pepper -Sweet Bell	'Ace'	5	4	4	3	Prolific 30lbs on 5 plants; sunscald on exposed fruit
Pepper -Sweet Bell	'X3R Red Knight'	5	5	5	5	Uneven fruiting; 26lbs from 5 plants; excellent color; First ripe 8/7
Pepper -Sweet Bell	'Snapper'	5	4	4	3	Few fruit; Severe flower drop associated with heat; broken limbs
Squash - Spaghetti	'Pinnacle'	4	5	4.5	5	11 fruit per plant; 3lbs each; 99lbs from 3 plants
Squash -Summer Specialty	'Geode'	4	3	4	3	First harvest July 13; If not picked did not produce well
Squash -Summer Specialty	'Y-Star'	4	4	4	4	If not picked did not produce well. First harvest 7/17

Johnny's

Squash -Winter Acorn	'Jester'	4	3	4	5	
Squash -Winter Kabocha	'Sunshine'	3	2	4	3	4 per plant; smaller fruit than in previous trials
Tomato - Determinate Plum	'Paisano'	5	5	5	5	First ripe Aug 7; Excellent production; Very little blossom end rot in a very dry year; 140lbs from 3 plants
Tomato -Heirloom	'German Johnson'	5	4	5	5	First Harvest 8/21; Excellent color; Evaluator favorite; 106lbs from 3 plants
Tomato - Indeterminate	'Indigo Rose'	5	5	5	3	Prolific novelty; Excellent color; Hard to judge ripeness; aroma described as 'perfumy'; FR 8/7
Tomato - Indeterminate	'Martha Washington'	5	5	4	4	First ripe 8/10 ; Severe catfacing; 83lbs from 3 plants
Tomato -Orange	'Orange Blossom'	5	5	4	3	First ripe 8/27; Prolific on a compact plant; Prone to insect damage on fruit.
Watermelon - Triploid/Seedless	'Orange Crisp'	5	5	5	5	First ripe 8/13; Excellent flavor and color; 15lbs per fruit; Favorite of evaluators
Zucchini -Green	'Dunja'	3	4	3	4	First Hrvest 7/9
Zucchini -Med. Lt. Green	'Spineless Perfection'	3	4	3	4	First ripe 7/13; First cultivar to have powdery mildew.
Zucchini -Yellow	'Goldy'	3	4	4	4	First ripe 7/9

Rupp Vegetables

		Foliage Appearance				
			Fruit Production			
				Fruit Appearance		
				Taste when Ripe		
					Comments	
plant name	Cultivar					
Pepper	'Belcanto'	5	5	5	5	25lbs-5plants; some blossom end rot and sun scald; Superb aroma/flavor when ripe. First ripe 8/3
Pepper	'Oranos'	5	5	5	5	Fruit set on center of plant; Very sweet; Favorite flavor of public trialed peppers; First ripe 8/3
Pepper	'Xanthi'	5	5	5	4	9 fruit per plant; Excellent color; leggy plants; First ripe 8/14
Pumpkin	WeeeeOne'	4	4	4	4	
Pak Choi	Toy Choi'	2			2	Bolted 7-5 in 100 degree heat
Tomato	Sweet Zen'	5	5	5	4	First ripe 7/13; Sprawling plant somewhat diffucult to harvest
Tomato	'Sweet Canary'	4	4	5	3	Many fruit for amount of foliage; Good coloration; Stays well on vine

Seed Savers

		Foliage Appearance				
			Fruit Production			
				Fruit Appearance		
					Taste when Ripe	
plant name	Cultivar					Comments
Carrot - Colored	'Dragon'	5	5	5	4	Picked at 5inches very sweet; Excellent color; 30lbs from 12ft row
Lettuce - butterhead	'Mantilia'	5			5	Outstanding heat tolerance; Still good flavor at 90days; No bolting under extreme conditions
Lettuce - Romaine	'Red Romaine'	5			3	Resisted bolting longer than other varities in trial
Onion	'Long Red Florence'	5	5	5	4	Largest 1lb 2oz; Does not store well.
Pepper -med. Hot	'Aurora'	5	5	5	3	Intense hot; Beautiful fall color; no flower drop during hot weather
Pepper -very hot	'Red Rocoto'	5	1			Did not set fruit until early Sept and never ripened; Beautiful ornamental foliage
Pepper -sweet	'Ruby King'	5	5	5	4	22lbs from 5 plants; good consistent producer; Some sun scald
Potato	'All Blue'	4	1	2	4	Poor producer; Very little blue in middle.
Potato	'Mountain Rose'	4	2	3	4	Poor sprouting
Squash -winter	'Chersonskaya'	2	1	2		Poor production; 1 of 3 plants were not true ot cultivar; Severe squash vine borer damage
Tomato - indeterminate	'Emmy'	4	4	5	3	First ripe 8/7
Tomato - indeterminate	'Trucker's Red'	5	5	5	5	Evaluator favorite; First ripe 8/7; 61lbs from 3 plants
Watermelon	'Oh So Sweet'	4	5	5	5	Very flavorful, largest fruit 30lbs, Evaluator favorite; First ripe 8/23; 236lbs from 3 plants