

2004 Pepper Variety Trial Results

Marshfield Agricultural Research Station

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Introduction

UW-Extension Clark County in cooperation with UW-Madison and the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station initiated a pepper variety trial in 2004. Results are intended to provide Clark County fresh produce growers with information to help guide variety selection decisions.

Peppers were started in a greenhouse on March 10th. Seedlings were then transplanted into 6-packs on May 18th and planted in the research plots on June 6th 2004. Plants were surrounded by black plastic mulch and newspaper with woodchips covered the inter-row area in order to suppress weed growth. Irrigation was performed with a drip-line system. Plants were evaluated for date of fruit ripening, number of fruit produced, weight of fruit, fruit appearance, and quality observations. Fruit was harvested in early August (07/27 and 08/05), mid-August (08/09 and 08/16), mid-September (09/15) and final harvest was made in late September (09/29). Eleven varieties were compared in this study.

Results

Peppers were examined for ripeness; then counted, picked, and weighed as they reached maturity. Total fruit per plant, average fruit weight, and total fruit weight are compared through analysis of variance and least significant differences.

Description of Trial Entries

Antohi Romanian

- Tasty east European frying pepper
- Pimiento type
- Fruit are typically 4" long and 2" wide, tapered
- 55 days to pale yellow, 78 days to red ripe
- Available from Johnny's Seed

Corno di Toro

- Sweet stuffing pepper
- Fruit are 6-10" long and 1.5" wide with a curved, tapering shape
- Ripens to yellow in 75 to 85 days
- Plants had numerous, light weight fruit
- Available from Seeds of Change

Crusader VIP

- High quality bell pepper that stays firm at mature red stage
- Blocky fruit- 4.5" by 4.5"
- Ripens in 74 days
- Plants produced relatively few but large fruit
- Available from Siegers Seed Co.

Giant Szegedi

- Hungarian type pepper
- Smaller, slender fruit typically 6" long
- Ripens in 75 to 80 days with a deep orange color
- Available from Seeds of Change

Islander

- Showy bell pepper that starts as a lavender color and progresses through stages of violet eventually turning a dark red
- Three lobed, medium sized fruit with a medium-thick flesh
- Mild, lightly sweet taste that compliments a colorful salad
- Lavender in 56 days, red ripe in 81 days
- Available from Johnny's Seed

	Peppers Per Plant	Average Pepper Size (oz)	Total Pepper Weight (oz) Per Plant
Antohi Romanian	20.5	1.8	36.2
Corno di Toro	50*	1.1	52.1*
Crusader VIP	9.3	5.8*	47.5
Giant Szegedi	18.8	1.8	34.1
Islander	12.7	2.1	28.8
Red Ruffled Pimiento	17	3.3	56.3*
Revolution	13	5.4*	69.7*
Round of Hungary	16.5	2.2	36.3
Sunrise Orange Bell	11.5	2.9	33
Tangerine Pimiento	27	1.7	44.2
Yankee Bell	15	2.9	42.4
Mean	19.2	2.8 oz	43.7 oz
LSD(0.10)	10.3	1.2	20.1
	* Highest Performing Varieties (0.10)		



Red Ruffled Pimiento

- Tomato-shaped pimiento type pepper
- Excellent fresh eating pepper with a sweet flavor
- Oval fruit are 3-4"
- Ripens in 80 to 90 days from green to red color
- Available from Seeds of Change

Revolution

- High yielding bell pepper borne on vigorous plants
- Large, green to red fruit
- Blocky shape - 5" long by 4.5" wide
- Early maturing at 75 days
- Available from Rispens Seeds, Inc.

Round of Hungary

- Distinctive, flattened fruits have a thick, sweet flesh
- Great stuffed pepper for cooking or in salads
- Fifty five days to green or 75 days to intensely red ripe
- Cold tolerant and early maturing
- Available for Johnny's Seed

Sunrise Orange Bell

- Productive pepper in northern areas
- Bell type fruit 4-6" in size
- Ripens to a rich orange-yellow in 80-90 days
- Available from Seeds of Change

Tangerine Pimiento

- Small but numerous pimiento type fruit that are sweet and juicy
- Needs warm conditions day and night to grow and fruit well
- Round fruit are 2-3"
- Matures in 75 to 85 days with a tangerine orange color
- Available from Seeds of Change

Yankee Bell

- Bell type pepper for northern areas
- Medium sized, blocky, thick-walled fruit
- 60 days to green, 80 days to red ripe
- Available from Johnny's Seed

Timing the marketplace: Peppers were harvested periodically from late-July through late-September and grouped into four maturities. While the majority of peppers from all varieties were ripe at the final picking, a few varieties had more fruit ripe earlier in the season. Varieties with a longer, light shaded bar (Red Ruffled Pimiento) had more early maturing fruit than those with a long, dark bar. Knowing the date of pepper maturity can help deliver fruit to the marketplace at a time of less competition. For example, if you want to deliver large bell peppers early, plant more Revolution than Crusader VIP.

