Which variety should I grow?

This is an important question. Growing a well-adapted variety can result in higher yields, more flavorful produce, and reduced chemical applications to control pests and diseases. Unfortunately, it is also a tough question to answer. Because of the high cost of trialing vegetable varieties, there is very little information on variety performance specific to the various regions within Tennessee. By taking a community based approach to vegetable trialing, we can answer this important question.

How do I get involved?

All gardeners are welcome to participate, whether a gardening novice or an Extension Master Gardener. There are three easy steps to getting involved.

Step 1: Select your trial

Applications are available at your local extension office and online. Take a minute to flip through this seed catalogue and check out the available trials for this year. Each trial contains two varieties that you will grow side by side to compare throughout the season. You can select multiple trials (max of 5).

A small fee of $2 per trial will be assessed to help cover the cost of seed.

We think it is especially important for children to be involved with gardening and to learn about the science behind evaluating our food sources. Because of this, each household may request one free youth trial. Extra kid-focused material will be included with each youth trial.

Step 2: Grow your garden

After we receive your application, we will send you a kit containing information on the trials you selected.

Each kit will contain the following:
- seed for two varieties
- a map to prepare your rows
- information specific to the crop species you selected, including planting date, plant spacing, nutrient requirements, et.
- an evaluation sheet

Step 3: Tell us what you think

Fill out your evaluation sheet throughout the growing season (see page 2 for an example). Be sure to note things like germination, disease susceptibility, yield, and flavor. You can also let people know how your trials are performing throughout the season by posting pictures on social media using #TNgardenVarTrial.

At the end of the season, we will compile all of the results from across the state into an annual report.

We hope that you will join us in answering the question, which variety will grow best in my home garden?

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Home garden vegetable trial and taste tests

You are invited to participate in a research study. You will be asked to complete this form that should take about 10 minutes of your time. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this study other than those encountered in everyday life. All data will be kept confidential. No identifying information about your garden evaluations will be shared and submission of this evaluation is completely voluntary. Information will be used to assist home gardeners in TN select the best vegetables for their home gardens. The information in the study records will be kept confidential. No reference will be made in reports which could link participants to the study. If you have questions at any time about the study please contact Dr. Natalie Bumgarner at nbumgarn@utk.edu. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the University of Tennessee IRB Compliance Officer at utkirb@utk.edu or (865) 974-7697.

CONSENT:

I have read the above information. I have received or had the opportunity to print a copy of this form. (Files of forms can be found at: https://extension.tennessee.edu/MasterGardener/Pages/Vegetable Garden Trials.aspx). I agree to participate in this study.

Thanks for your participation!

1. Tennessee county: 

2. Gardener Name: 

3. Please select cultivar 1:
   - Blue Lake Bush 274

4. Please select cultivar 2:
   - Jade II

5. How was this trial grown?
   - In soil in garden
   - In soil in raised bed
   - In soilless mix in raised bed
   - In container

6. How was this trial fertilized?
   - No fertilizer materials were used
   - Compost alone was used
   - Compost was used with some other type of organic fertilizer (bonemeal, bloodmeal, etc.)
   - Conventional fertilizers (granular or soluble) were used
7. Was there a failure of this trial that will prevent you from evaluating further?
- No
- Yes, due to human error (timing, watering, site, etc.)
- Yes, due to poor germination (seems to be seed issue rather than watering, etc.)
- Yes, due to insects or disease that prevented the crop from reaching maturity and harvest
- Yes, due to wildlife issue
- Yes, due to an unlisted or unknown issue

Home Garden Variety Trial 2019

8. Please compare the performance of the two cultivars in the trial for each one of the traits listed in the 6 columns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Blue Lake Bush 274</th>
<th>Jade II</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germinated best</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had healthier plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produced first</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produced higher yields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had more attractive fruit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasted better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Please rate the overall performance of Blue Lake Bush 274:

🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

10. Please note the days from seeding until harvest for Blue Lake Bush 274 and other comments about performance.


11. Why would you recommend Blue Lake Bush 274 for other Tennessee gardeners?
- I would NOT recommend it
- Yield
- Plant health
- Fruit appearance
- Plant size
- Flavor

12. Please rate the overall performance of Jade II:

🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

13. Please note the days from seeding until harvest for Jade II and other comments about performance.


14. Why would you recommend Jade II for other Tennessee gardeners?
- I would NOT recommend it
- Yield
- Plant health
- Fruit appearance
- Plant size
- Flavor

Survey website for 2021 Evaluations: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HLMMH9P
2021 Home Garden Trials

Bean

1. Bush Green Snap

**Contender**
50 days. Early, standard bush bean with good yields of 6 - 7” stringless beans. Wide climatic range. (OP)

**Wyatt**
55 days.Vigorous, upright plants with crisp, 5 - 7” beans that hold well in field. Resistance to BMV, HB, BB. (OP)

2. Filet

**Borsalino**
60 days. Yellow wax bean with slender, stringless pods that should be harvested at 4 - 5”. Resistance to BCMV, BB, A. (OP)

**Nickel**
55 days. Strong, upright plants with small (4 - 5”), dark green, filet beans. Resistance to BCMV, HB, A. (OP)

3. Heirloom Pole

**Cherokee Black**
80-85 days. Green to purple, 6” pods contain black beans. Heirloom from OK collection that may have Smoky Mtn. origin. Can be used as snap or dry bean. (OP)

**Turkey Craw**
80-100 days. Southeastern heirloom that is a 6”, stringless bean with mottled brown seeds. Can be used as snap or dry bean. (OP)

**Abbreviations**

Diseases
A (Anthracnose)
ALS (Angular Leaf Spot)
BB (Bean Blight)
BW (Bacterial Wilt)
BCMV (Bean Common Mosaic Virus)
CMV (Cucumber Mosaic Virus)
CTBMV (Curly Top Beet Mosaic Virus)
DM (Downy Mildew)
F (Fusarium)
HB (Halo Blight)
PM (Powdery Mildew)
PRV (Papaya Ringspot Virus)
R (Rust)
S (Scab)
WMV (Watermelon Mosaic Virus)
ZYMV (Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus)

Other
OP (Open Pollinated)
H (Hybrid)
AAS (AAS Winner)
2021 Home Garden Trials

**Okra**

4. Okra

**Silver Queen**  
60 days. Heirloom okra with 6”, light green pods that are nearly white. (OP)

**Carmine Splendor**  
50 days. Dark to medium red pod that is fast maturing with good yield. (H)

**Cucumber**

5. Garden Slicer

**Marketmore 76**  
58 days. Dark green, 8 - 9”, slender fruit. Resistance to CMV, DM, S, PM. (OP)

**White Wonder**  
60 days. White- skinned heirloom that tolerates heat well, producing 7” long fruit. (OP)

**Cucumber**

6. Pickling

**Bush Pickle**  
50 days. Compact vines yielding 4”, dark green fruit. Good for small gardens, raised beds, or containers. (OP)

**County Fair**  
50 days. Disease resistant plant with fruit that can be harvested small (3-4”) or allowed to grow larger for slicing. Resistant to BW. (H)

7. Seedless

**Green Light**  
40 days. 3 - 4”, tender, nearly seedless fruit. Can be grown traditionally or vertically. Good for small gardens, raised beds, or containers. Parthenocarpic (H, AAS)

**Diva**  
50 days. Thin-skinned, tender fruit that can be harvested at 4-8”. Non-bitter and normally seedless. Resistance to S, PM. Parthenocarpic. (OP, AAS)
Patio Choice Yellow
50 days. Compact (1 - 2’), determinate plant producing many 0.5”, yellow fruit. Sweet flavor with mild acidity. Resistance to F, V, TMV. Start as transplant or seed directly. (H)

Tidy Treats
55 days. Compact plant bred for container growing. Does well in small cages. Small, cherry red fruit with sweet flavor. Start as transplant or seed directly. (H)

North Georgia Candy Roaster
90 - 100 days. Heirloom winter squash with good eating quality. Fruit is typically 6 - 10 lbs and stores for several months. (OP)

Futsu
95 - 100 days. Winter squash with bumpy, thin, edible skin and bright orange flesh. Long vines yield 2 - 4 lb fruit that store well. (OP)

Waltham
100 days. Traditional, large-fruited butternut squash that produces 4 - 5 lb fruit. (OP)

Waldo
100 days. Butternut with vigorous plants and resistance to PM. Fruit are 3 - 4 lb. (H)
2021 Home Garden Trials

Summer Squash

11. Small Fruit

**Lemon Sun**
50 days. Bright yellow, patty pan, summer squash. Open plants with minimal spines. (H)

**Eight Ball**
50 days. Dark green, round fruit. Best harvested at 2 - 3” diameter. (H)

12. Green Zucchini

**Green Tiger**
50 days. Striped green fruit on vigorous, upright plants. (H)

**Bossa Nova**
45 days. Mottled green fruit on a plant that sets early and yields well. Resistance to WMV and ZYMV. (H, AAS)

Summer Squash

13. Yellow Zucchini

**Chiffon**
45 days. Early harvest of light, creamy yellow fruit that are slow to form seeds. Resistance to powdery mildew. (H)

**Gold Rush**
50 days. Straight, yellow fruit on an open plant. (H)

14. Yellow Squash

**Tempest**
50 days. Yellow crookneck with slight ribbing and lighter yellow stripes. Pick at 4 - 7”. (H)

**Grandprize**
50 days. Deep, solid yellow, 6 - 7” fruit with light green stems on an open plant with few spines. Resistance to PM, WMV, ZYMV. (H)
2021 Home Garden Trials

**Herbs**

15. Basil

**Devotion**
70 days. Compact, productive plant with cupped, medium green, slightly serrated leaves. Resistance to DM. Transplant. (OP)

16. Borage

**Blue Borage**
60 days. Large plant with edible blue flowers that also attract and support a range of pollinators. (OP)

**Newton**
70 days. Traditional Genovese flavor on a fast growing plant. Resistance to F. Transplant. (OP)

**White Borage**
60 days. Large plant with edible white flowers that also attract and support a range of pollinators. (OP)

**Flowers**

17. Zinnia

**Zahara Sunburst**
Red petals with yellow tips on a disease resistant, strong bedding type plant (1 - 2’ wide and tall). Transplant or direct seed. (OP)

**Profusion Mix**
Range of colors from double series. Can be used for landscape or cutting (1 - 2’ wide and tall). Transplant or direct seed. (OP)

18. Marigold

**Super Hero Spry**
Compact plant (10-12”) with golden yellow inner and maroon outer petals. Early to bloom. (OP, AAS)

**Lemon Gem**
Lacy, mounded foliage and open, yellow, single flowers. (OP)
2021 Home Garden Trials

Cool-Season (shipped until mid-Mar.)

19. Lettuce

Sandy
Oakleaf type with medium to dark green leaves that can be harvested as mini or larger heads. Resistance to DM, PM. Slow to bolt. (OP)

Muir
50 days. Light green, Batavian type with crisp leaves that can be harvested small or as larger heads. Resistance to DM, LMV. Slow to bolt. (OP)

Rhubarb
30 - 60 days. Deep red stems with red veining in leaves. Can be harvested baby or more mature. (OP)

20. Chard

Bright Lights
40 - 50 days. Multi-colored chard mix of yellow, gold pink, violet, or white stems. (OP, AAS)

Youth Trial

21. Youth Trial

Red Noodle Bean
85 days. Long (16 - 20”), deep burgundy (before cooking) bean. Plant will require support. (OP)

Python Bean
80 days. Long (16 - 20”), deep green, stringless Asian bean. Plant will require support. (OP)

Kynlee, granddaughter of Ailene Radcliffe, shows off a bumper crop of gourds from her 2020 Youth Trial
Credits

This project is conducted for educational purposes only. No profits are made from this program. Descriptions and photographs of varieties in this catalog were compiled from various seed company catalogues, including Burpee Seeds, Stokes, Seeds, Vesey Seeds, Kitchen Garden Seeds, Seed Savers, Hoss Tools, HPS Seeds, Gurneys Seed, Outside Pride Seeds, Seeds N Such, Harris Seeds, Johnny’s Selected Seeds, All American Selections, Territorial Seeds, Bonnie Plants, and Holmes Seed.

More Information

For more information on the University of Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trial program, please visit our website at tiny.utk.edu/hgvt

or contact us directly

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