

Vol. 96 No. 8 August 26, 1996

— New All- America Winners for 1997

Dr. Richard G. Snyder,
Vegetable Specialist

Three new vegetable varieties have been declared winners by the All-America Selections Committee in Downers Grove, IL.

All-America is a non-profit agency which tests and promotes the best of the best vegetables, annual flowers, bedding plants, and roses each year. The vegetable trial grounds are in 27 locations across Canada, Mexico, and the United States, with one of these test sites located in Crystal Springs, MS at the Truck Crops Research & Extension Center.

The 1997 vegetable winners are 'Dynamo' cabbage, 'Cajun Delight' okra, and 'Siam Queen' basil.

'**Dynamo**' is a small headed cabbage, in the 2 to 2½ pound size range, with a nice blue-green color. Plants are reported to mature in about 70 days following transplanting, but you should expect quicker maturity in Mississippi's warm climate. This new hybrid variety does well in the

heat, and produces high quality, dense heads with only a small core. They also hold well in the garden and are less likely to split when mature. 'Dynamo' is resistant to Fusarium yellows virus.

This new cabbage can be grown from seed or bedding plants. For Mississippi, transplants are recommended for a spring cabbage crop, while direct seeding or transplants will work fine in the fall.

Cabbage is a healthful crop to eat. Did you know that a serving of cabbage has more calcium and vitamin C than tomatoes?

'**Cajun Delight**' okra has tender immature pods which can be harvested earlier and over a longer period, giving it a higher yield potential than other varieties. It grows very quickly under warmer temperatures. At maturity, this variety gets about 4 feet high and 2 feet wide. Dark green pods should be ready to harvest in about 50 days from planting. Pods should be picked 3 times per week, when they are 3 to 5 inches long. Okra can be grown from seed or transplants, but with a quick growing crop like this, it makes sense to direct seed.

'**Siam Queen**' basil is a new type of tropical or Thai basil, Ocimum basilicum. It has

larger leaves, thicker stems, and flowering is delayed. This gives a higher yield of the herb. The leaves give off an intense licorice basil aroma when crushed. Basil leaves are commonly used in Thai and Vietnamese cooking. Young shoots can be harvested about 45 days after transplanting.

Basil is annual in Mississippi, due to its extreme sensitivity to cold weather. 'Siam Queen' has square, reddish-purple stems; the flowers have pink-

violet petals with a purple calyx surrounding them. Leaves are bright green. Basil can be grown from seed or bedding plants any time the temperature is well above freezing. This variety can get 2 to 3 feet tall and about 2 feet across. Like other basil varieties (and most herbs) this one is relatively free of insect and disease problems.

Look for these new winners in seed catalogs and at bedding suppliers. They will be designated with the red, white, and blue All-America Selections Winner emblem.

Restricted Use Pesticides Use on Vegetables

Dr. J. Pat Harris, Extension Entomologis

The National Agricultural Statistics Service recently surveyed the usage of restricted use pesticides (RUP) on vegetable crops. Briefly, here are the



highlights.

atrazine - over 50% of sweet corn acreage.

alachlor - over 30% of sweet corn.

cyanazine - over 20% of sweet corn.

Permethrin (Pounce) - over 25% of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, (processing), lettuce, bell pepper, spinach, and tomato (fresh market).

methomyl (Lannate) - over 50% of sweet corn (fresh market), celery, lettuce, and bell pepper.

esfenvalerate (Asana) - over 50% of broccoli, cauliflower, and tomato (fresh market).

oxydemeton-methyl (Metasystox-R) - over 50% of broccoli and cauliflower.

oxamyl (Vydate) - over 50% of celery.

cypermethrin (Cymbush) - over 50% of head lettuce.

mevinphos (Phosdrin) - over 50% of other lettuce.

methamidaphos (Monitor) - over 50% of tomato (fresh market).

methyl bromide - over 60% of strawberry, approximately 50% of tomato (fresh market), 30%

of bell pepper and eggplant.

Building Up Beneficial Population

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Dr. J. Pat Harris, Extension Entomologis

According to Midwest Biocontrol News, these plants are particularly good for attracting natural enemies of pest insects. They suggest you try them around your farm or garden, or you may benefit if your fruit or vegetable production system is small-scale.

Many of them I recognize as attractive flowers, herbs, or other edible goodies. You can't lose even if they don't control all of your pests.

See Table 1 on the next page for the details.

Table 1. Plants which can attract beneficial insects, sorted by family.

Carrot Family	Aster Family	Mustard Family	Legume Family	Others
caraway	blanketflower	basket-of-gold alyssum	alfalfa	buckwheat
coriander	coneflower	hoary alyssum	big flower vetch	cinquefoil
dill	coreopsis	mustards	fava bean	milkweeds
fennel	cosmos	yellow rocket	hairy vetch	phacelia
flowering ammi (Bishops flower)	goldenrod	wild mustard	sweet clover	
Queen Anne's Lace	sunflower			
toothpick ammi	tansy			
wild parsnip	yarrow			

Wet Rot of Squash, Okra, and Other Vegetables

Dr. Frank Killebrew,
Extension Plant Pathologist

Frequent rainfall has led to wet rot (also known as whiskers rot) problems in susceptible vegetable crops across the state.

Squash, pumpkins, okra, and southern peas are the chief vegetables affected. Yellow summer squash seems to be more susceptible than other squash types.

This disease is caused by the fungus Choanephora cucurbitarum which is present in most soils. This fungus normally invades spent blooms of okra, squash, and other vegetables after they have fallen from plants. However, when it's wet and humid, flowers sometimes don't fall and



remain attached.

Problems come about when the wet rot fungus moves in to invade the old flower parts which adhere to young fruit of susceptible vegetables. Once flowers are decomposed, the wet rot fungus continues its activities and attacks young fruit. Okra pods and young squash are often rotted after a few days. Fruit affected by wet rot often develop a distinctive surface growth which resembles whiskers, thus wet rot is sometimes referred to as "whiskers" rot.

Spores of the causal fungus have been shown to over-season in soil and in association with susceptible crop debris. Secondary fungus spread from plant

to plant through wind dissemination of spores, and also has been attributed to various insects. Bees and striped and spotted cucumber beetles move fungus spores from flower to flower in the squash crop.

With southern peas, wet rot incidence is most common where there is also a high incidence of cowpea curculio injury. According to entomologists, dense plantings of southern peas favor high populations of cowpea curculio, and subsequently such plantings have a high wet rot incidence. Puncture wounds from curculio feeding likely provide the avenue of entry for the wet rot fungus.

Control of wet rot is difficult. However, certain measures can be used to reduce the problem.

* Select production sites with well drained soil, since poor drainage and standing water can lead to high humidity, favorable for wet rot development.

* Plant at recommended seeding rates; dense plantings stay wet longer because of reduced air circulation and poor sunlight penetration.

* There are no fungicides which are cleared for use on okra, squash, or other crops, which will control wet rot.

* Wet rot on okra can be reduced by removal of two or three of the lower leaves. This practice promotes faster drying of flowers and pods, thus preventing wet rot development.

* On southern peas, maintain control of the cowpea curculio.

* If there is to be a delay in processing of southern peas, pods should be removed from field containers and spread for faster drying.

Fall Garden Day '96 Coming Up!

Dr. Richard G. Snyder,
Vegetable Specialist

The 18th Annual Fall Garden Day at the Truck Crops Research & Extension Center is scheduled for Thursday, October 17.

There are many new things to look forward to this year.

More Garden Seminars
(14 different topics!)

More flowers

New Rose Garden

Vegetable and Herb Gardens

All-America Display Garden

Mississippi Medallion Winners

Wagon Ride Tours

Master Gardener Exhibits

Youth Programs

Cooking Demos and Exhibits

For details, see the flyer in this newsletter. For more information, call 892-3731 or your local Extension Office.

Calendar of Coming Events _

Dr. Richard G. Snyder, Vegetable Specialist

October 17 - **Fall Garden Day**; at Truck Crops Research & Extension Center, Crystal Springs, MS. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. No admission charge. For information, call (601) 892-3731 or your local MS County Extension Office.

December 3 - **Mississippi Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Annual Meeting**; at Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum, Jackson. For information, call (601) 325-1681.

Any listings that you would like to have included in this calendar should be sent in at least 60 days before the event. Send to me at the address, phone, fax, or electronic mail address below.

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