

2007 Home Demonstration Gardens

Cynthia Haynes, associate professor
Department of Horticulture

Introduction

Home demonstration gardens were located at eight sites across the state. The objective was to grow, display, and compare a wide variety of vegetables and flowers. The theme for the 2007 garden was cool-season plants. Since many of the plants typically mature early in the season, field days were scheduled for June instead of July and August. Vegetables grown at each garden included broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, beets, carrots, chard, greens (lettuce, spinach, and mustard), radish/daikon, and kohlrabi. Flowers grown at each garden included pansies and pinks.

Materials and Methods

Most seedlings were grown in the ISU Horticulture greenhouses in Ames, IA. The transplants were delivered and planted at the research farms in early May. A late frost in much of Iowa delayed planting slightly. Seeds of greens, peas, beets, carrots, and greens were sown directly in the garden.

Limited fertilizer and pesticides were used. Plants were watered at planting and then as needed throughout the growing season. The amount of water applied at each garden varied considerably due to weather conditions.

Results and Discussion

In general, most plants performed well at each garden. Seedlings of broccoli raab (Spring Raab and Raab Sorrento) began to bolt (flower) in the greenhouse before transport to the farms, therefore, they performed poorly at all sites. Broccoli cultivars Packman and Green Dividend were the first to develop, followed by Gypsy

and Purple Specialty. Cauliflower cultivars Snow Crown, Majestic, and Fremont were the earliest cultivars to produce. The non-white cultivars Graffiti (purple) and Cheddar (orange) were generally the last to produce. Green Harmony, Brocoverde, and Violet Queen were variable and did not produce sizeable yields at several sites. All cabbage cultivars performed well. Generally, the largest cabbage heads were produced on Headstart and Stonehead cultivars. Arrowhead's unusual shape and the taste of Savoy Express were popular with field day attendees.

Most of the smaller greens germinated and grew well at all sites. Ithaca was the only lettuce cultivar with discolored foliage at all sites for the June field days. All spinach, chard, and mustard cultivars performed well at all sites. Space spinach, Red Giant mustard, and Southern Giant mustard were the last cultivars to bolt.

Beets and carrots germinated poorly at a couple of sites while the radish/daikon germinated well at all sites. Field day attendees were frequently impressed with the size and taste of the radish/daikon cultivars. Attendees were also impressed with the size and taste of both kohlrabi cultivars.

Most of the pink (Dianthus) cultivars performed well at all gardens while the pansies were typically less impressive. Corona Cherry Magic pink with its large blooms on compact plants and Ideal Select pink with its taller, more open habit were exceptionally attractive at field days. Telstar and Snowfire pinks and Chalon, Penny, and Ultima Morpho pansies performed well into July.

Table 1. Listing of cool-season vegetable and flower cultivars grown at the 2007 Home Demonstration Gardens at eight sites in Iowa.

<u>Broccoli</u>	<u>Lettuce</u>	<u>Peas</u>
Early Dividend	Green Towers	Little Marvel
Raab Sorrento	Ithaca	Fiesty
Packman	Buttercrunch	Oregon Giant
Gypsy	Esmeralda	Sugar Ann
Spring Raab	Vulcan	Sugar Sprint
Purple Sprouting	Red Sails	Little Sweetie
<u>Cabbage</u>	Tango	Knight
Savoy Express	Red Salad Bowl	Sugar Lace II
Arrowhead	Green Forest	Snowbird
Gonzales	Rosalita	Snowflake
Red Express	Ermosa	<u>Dianthus</u>
Charmant	Red Cross	Festival Snowfire
Headstart	Flashy Trout's Back	Festival Melody Pink
Stonehead	Speckles	Telstar Mix
<u>Cauliflower</u>	Envy	Oriental Carpet
Candid Charm	New Red Fire	Super Parfait Strawberry
Majestic	<u>Spinach</u>	Diamond Mix
Brocoverde	Melody	Ideal Select Mix
Fremont	Bordeaux	Corona Cherry Magic
Panther	Space	Valentine
Snow Crown	Bloomsdale	Supra Purple
Violet Queen	New Zealand	<u>Pansy/Viola</u>
Graffiti	Scarlet	Joker Mix
Cheddar	<u>Mustard</u>	Sorbet Antique
Green Harmony	Red Giant	Penny Mix
<u>Carrots</u>	Savanna	Panola Autumn Blaze
Purple Haze	Southern Giant	Panola Winter Blues
Mokum	Tendergreen	Atlas Windjammer
Nelson	<u>Beets</u>	Majestic Giants II
Yaya	Detroit Supreme	Fama Clear Face
Bolero	Red Ace	Karma Lavender
Rainbow	Merlin	Matrix Citrus Mix
White Satin	Ruby Queen	Bingo Rose
Yellowstone	Blankoma	Iona Purple/yellow
<u>Radish/Daikon</u>	Chioggia	Chalon Supreme
April Cross	<u>Swiss Chard</u>	Bolero Mix
Discovery	Discovery	Ultima Morpho
Nero Tondo	Bright Lights	Flambé Terrac, Chianti
Red Meat	Golden Sunrise	<u>Kohlrabi</u>
	Magenta Sunset	Grand Duke
		Kolibri