



2024 Vegetable Variety Trial Gardens Question & Answer

“Cultural Roots of Eastern Europe”

The Vegetable Variety Trial Garden project (VVTG) is for Cornell Cooperative Extension programs around NYS who are cultivating vegetable demonstration gardens.

For the 2024 trial “Cultural Roots of Eastern Europe” we will be partnering with Hudson Valley Seed Company. The varieties were selected to trial in our 3x3 beds, but other types of planting sites will work too as long as the bed design is maintained and signage displayed. Through our trial, we will see how these varieties do in varying conditions across NYS and have opportunity to try some varieties that may not be familiar to you! The ratings you provide are then used to update the "Selected List of Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners in New York State".

We encourage you to "Grow and Share" the excess from the trials with food pantries and soup kitchens in your area. Also consider using any extra seed to grow the varieties at other locations - as a back-up for your main site and to grow more to share! This might also include Seed 2 Supper projects.

The garden signage will include information about the varieties as well as cultural practices to reduce plant disease and should be displayed by all beds that you register to grow. In addition to growing the vegetables, your site should demonstrate the cultural practices described on the signage. This project is beneficial to gardeners to determine what varieties work best in certain areas and is a great education tool. It opens up opportunity to show/demonstrate your efforts to folks who are interested in becoming gardeners or experienced gardeners who are interested in new varieties to grow.

Participating CCE programs receive:

- A garden design plan, timeline, checklist, and interpretive signage templates for their VVTG beds.
- A template for your Local Program Plan of Work.
- Seeds and transplants for the 2024 season.
- Support and guidance.

Participating CCE programs:

- Plant, maintain, harvest and report on their experience with each type of vegetable/edible.
- Can choose to grow all 9 beds or the 5 bed design.
- Enter variety data on four categories: Overall, Taste, Yield, Ease.
- Share photos depicting progress of their VVTG projects during the growing season.
- Complete a mid-season progress report and post VVT survey.

To help you be informed about this project, we are including some of the questions we have had in the past in the Q&A section below.

2024 Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners





VVT Question & Answer:

Q: Where do I find information on this project including Project Timeline Checklist, POW template, Recommended Site Prep and other forms?

A: Information, forms, and webinar recordings can be found at:
<https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/adult-programs/vvtg/>

Q: If volunteers working on the VVT project have questions who should they ask?

A: Volunteers should work with the CCE staff member (listed as the Primary Contact on the registration form) to have their questions answered. If CCE staff can't answer the question then they can contact Laurie at: lvj8@cornell.edu

Q: Will there be educational signage for the beds we select?

A: Yes, you will be able to download and print the signage for your bed selections. We recommend laminating them or enclosing them in some other form of weatherproof material.

Q: Do we have to plant all 9 beds?

A: We encourage you to plant all 9 beds but if your program/volunteers or space can't support all 9 then you may decide to select the 5 bed design.

Q: If we don't have room for the beds near our county office building can we plant at other sites?

A: Yes. Some counties in past years have maintained VVT beds located at community gardens.

Q: Do we have to use all of the seeds/plants provided?

A: No. You don't have to plant all of the seeds/plants, but you should follow the design so your beds contain the correct number of each type of plant/seed included in the bed design.

You will receive some extra plants/seeds. You may choose to plant them in a different part of the garden, at another location (in case you have a crop issue at the main site), or share them.

Q: Do we have to use the 3X3 beds?

A: No, but there are instructions for creating the 9-bed design on the VVTG site if you choose to do so. You should still plant the beds as shown in the bed layout and display the signage.

Q: What is the purpose of the VVT?

A: The data collected is used to help us determine which vegetable varieties will be included in our "Selected List of Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners in NYS". The trials also demonstrate features of an ecological garden (cover crops, companion planting, mulching, attracting beneficials, etc).

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Q: Who enters data into the VVFG web forum and what type of data is required?

A: Either CCE staff or a volunteer. The data required includes information similar to what would be collected in grower field trials and uses a 1-5 star rating for the following 4 categories: Overall, Taste, Yield, Ease. There is also an area for adding any details you would like to include about the variety but this is not required.

Q: What happens if we don't enter variety data?

A: All sites are required to provide input on the vegetables they trial.

If you have additional questions please contact Laurie VanNostrand, lv8@cornell.edu
Enrollment period closes Friday, December 8th, 2023.

Visit our website for more information: <http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/vvtg/>.

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