



September 2014 Vegetable Trial Results and Recommendations Lake Merritt Trial Garden Oakland, California

Tomatoes

Cherry Tomatoes

- **Sungold:** medium, orange cherry, great flavor, excellent yield, disease resistant
- **Sweet Million:** small, red cherry, good flavor, good yield, disease resistant

Standard Tomatoes

- **Dirty Girl:** medium, red, good flavor & yield, some disease. This variety is relatively new and is still in development.
- **New Girl:** medium, red, decent flavor & yield, disease resistant
- **Summer Girl:** characteristics similar to New Girl, but slower to ripen
- **Stupice:** small, red, sweet flavor, excellent yield, disease resistant

Tomatoes were started from seed in early March and transplanted to the Trial Garden in mid-April. Generally, cherry tomatoes and short-season varieties that do not require a lot of heat perform best in our area.

Summer Squash

- **Trombetta:** excellent flavor, huge yield, disease resistant

Trombetta squash (also called Trombocino), is an Italian climbing variety. It produces firm-textured, light-green, 12- to 15-inch fruit that are about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter for most of their length but are slightly bulbous at their non-stem end. The squash remains firm upon cooking and has a delicate artichoke-like flavor.

Green Beans

- **Romano pole bean:** excellent flavor, great yield

Romano Pole Bean aka Italian string beans are broad, flat-podded green snap beans with 5- to 6-inch pods. The Romano pole bean greatly outperformed the dark green straight round-podded Blue Lake bean in both yield and flavor. Harvest Romanos regularly while still young. If allowed to mature on vine, plant growth is inhibited. Pole beans will need a trellis or other support on which to climb and are particularly well-suited for small limited-space gardens.

Shelling Beans

- **Good Mother Stallard:** heirloom bean, pretty, good flavor and yield

Peppers

- **Anaheim:** mild hot green or red pepper

Contrary to popular belief, you CAN grow peppers in our maritime climate, but you will need to start the plants indoors from seed to get a jump on summer. When the heat of summer hits, transplant and the plants will spring into action and set fruit. Hot peppers are generally more productive than sweet peppers.

Spinach

- **Tyee F-1:** good flavor, great yield, disease resistant
- **Oriental Giant:** wonderful flavor, good yield, beautiful plant

Spinach is a great cool season / winter crop to grow. Plant in early October and harvest in mid-November through February.

Where to Find Seeds and Plants

These recommended varieties are available online as seeds and sometimes as plants. Locally, some seeds may be difficult to find but young plants or “starts” are often found at your neighborhood garden centers and farmers markets.