

Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching & Display Garden

2016 Plant Description List*

Group by Planting Beds or Plant Families

Perennials

In June 2016 we renovated our perennial gardens. We removed the roses and herbaceous perennials and replaced them with native plants. This recreated space is now known as the Monarch and Pollinator Sanctuary (MAPS). Going forth, our main focus is on plants that support native and non-native pollinators. These renovations have also qualified the MAPS to be certified and registered with the Monarch Watch Organization as an official Monarch Waystation.

Yarrow: Attractive, aromatic, ferny foliage with a white flower that has a long bloom period from June till October. Grows 18-30" high. A good butterfly plant. Grows well in a wide variety of habitats.

Anise Hyssop: Beautiful 3" flower spikes attract butterflies throughout summer. Makes excellent cut flowers and does well in perennial gardens. Fragrant foliage makes good herbal tea. Blue flowers bloom from June to October. Plants grow between 24"-40" in height.

Wild Columbine: Free-flowering woodland perennial that forms large clumps with attractive foliage. Excellent hummingbird plant. Often referred to as "honeysuckle". Grows between 20"-36" with orange flowers blooming from May to June.

Red Milkweed: Red Milkweed is very popular with a very wide range of pollinators, most notably monarch butterflies as the leaves are its preferred food source. It is easily grown in moist to wet soils in full sun, but it also does perfectly well in average, well-drained garden sites. The 3'-5' plants form stately clumps with upright stems and long narrow leaves. The clusters of fragrant soft pink flowers, which emit a scent of vanilla (or maybe cinnamon), are followed by attractive seed pods for late season interest. The pods split open when ripe releasing silky-haired seeds, easily carried by the wind.

Prairie Milkweed: This Milkweed appears similar to Common Milkweed but is less aggressive, has slightly smaller flowers. It has an overall smooth appearance on the stem, leaves and seed pods. Often visited by hummingbirds and a wide variety of bees and butterflies, including, of course, Monarchs. Easily grown from seed and bearing a very fragrant flower, Prairie Milkweed makes a nice addition to any sunny, medium-moist garden.

Smooth Aster: Very showy vibrant blue flowered perennial. It is beautiful as a cut flower. Blooms from July till October with a height of 20"-30".

Big Leaf Aster: One of the most common groundcovers of northern forests. Broad heart-shaped leaves make a great, fast-growing groundcover for all but the wettest soil types. Blue flowers bloom August till October. Reaches heights between 8"-18".

New England Aster: Nice perennial for moist to wet habitats. Commonly used as a garden perennial and for wet lake-edge plantings. Wonderful Nectar source for butterflies. Blue flowers bloom from August till October. Reached heights between 25"-48".

Hotlips Turtlehead: Cheerful spikes of pink snapdragon-like flowers bloom over spreading plants. Ideal middle-of-the-border plant for contrasting color and foliage. Thrives in shaded settings and prefers moist conditions. Flowers bloom in August and September. An excellent choice for growing in containers, it is also deer resistant as well as a butterfly host plant. Herbaceous perennial.

Lance Leaf Coreopsis: Wiry stems bearing yellow daisies. Easy to grow on even the toughest, driest soil types. A very good butterfly plant. Yellow flowers bloom June through October. Reaches heights between 24"-36".

Purple Prairie Clover: Has pretty purple flowers that bloom June through September. Purple Prairie Clover is an excellent butterfly plant. Extensive blooming time from June through September. It grows 16"-30" in height.

Purple coneflower: Spectacular display of broad headed purple daisies. This flower is a great choice for restoration and perennial gardens. It blooms from July to August and grows 24"-36" in height.

Purple Joe Pye Weed: Has a very attractive cluster of purple flowers blooming from July to September. Excellent for attracting butterflies. 24-36 inches in height.

N. Blanket flower: Many 3" heads with clawed yellow/red striped ray petals. Great as a cut flower and attractive to butterflies. Native in NW Minnesota and further west, but well-adapted to dry prairies in our area. Its flowers bloom from June through September.

Biokovo Geranium 'Cranesbill': Dainty pink-flushed white flowers grace this hardy geranium from late spring into summer. Fragrant foliage becomes red-tinged in fall. Its dwarf, ground-hugging form spreads gently by underground stems. Remains neat all season with little care.

Blue Oat Grass: Graceful fountains of silver-blue blades form neat ornamental clumps that combine well with other grasses. Beige to light brown terminal panicles appear June through August. Reliable and attractive accent or specimen, perfect for rock gardens. Evergreen perennial.

False Sunflower: Widespread on dry to wet soils, with a long flowering period. Suited to all but very shady sites. Commonly used as a garden perennial. Yellow flowers bloom from June through September.

Meadow Blazing Star: Known as the Monarch magnet, this *Liatris* should be top-of-the-list as a Monarch nectar source for any medium-soil site. Meadow Blazing Star is also popular with many other pollinators, including hummingbirds. It is sure to bring activity into your garden space. It adds a vertical accent to perennial borders as it can grow up to 5' tall.

Gayfeather *Liatris*: Tallest of the genus with upright spikes bearing pinkish-purple tassels in July and August. One of the best garden performers! An excellent cut flower and a magnet for butterflies, bees, rare moths and hummingbirds. Deer resistant!

Wild Bergamot: One of the most common and widespread native wildflowers. Good in herbal teas. Used medicinally by Native Americans. Enjoys moist to dry soils. Lavender flowers blooming from July to August. Grows 36"-48" in height.

Smooth Penstemon: 1.5" white tubular flowers in tall spikes. Good garden perennial and cutflower. Tolerant of dry and mesic soils and a variety of light conditions. White flowers bloom in June and July. 24"-30" inches in height.

Sandy's Pink Phlox: A locally cultivated heirloom from Sandy's (former UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteer) farm. Likes part shade to part sun. Best if grown in well-drained soil. It is easy to grow and great for garden color. Plants grow in clumps with strong stems that bear simple lance-shaped leaves. Stems are topped with fragrant, showy, five petaled flowers.

Prairie Phlox: Broad heads of deep pink flowers. Very nice wildflower for restorations and perennial gardens. Pink flowers blooming in May and June. 18"-24" inches.

Black Eyed Susan: Very common short-lived perennial occurring in a wide range of habitats. Produces lots of color the first year. Blooms with yellow flowers June through October. 24"-36" in height.

Caradonna *Salvia*, Meadow Sage: Spikes of violet-blue flowers on striking purple-black stems rise above the contrasting gray-green leaves. Especially effective when massed, but also nice for mixed borders and containers. A great fresh or dried cut flower. Easy to care for with showy flowers blooming all summer long. Deciduous.

Showy Goldenrod: Highly recommended for restorations and for perennial gardens. Very showy tall heads above glossy green foliage. Great butterfly plant. Yellow flowers bloom from August till September. 24"-36" in height.

Hoary Vervain: Spikes of blue flowers above greyish foliage. Adapted to dry, sandy soils. Good butterfly plant. Blue flowers bloom from June till September. 36"-48" in height.

Culver's Root: Several tall showy spikes on top of each stem make this an excellent tall garden perennial. Great for attracting butterflies. Good in most soils except for those that are extremely dry. White flowers bloom from June through September. 36"-54" inches in height.

New Jersey Tea: Under-utilized, very attractive low shrub with glossy green leaves and 2" clusters of fragrant flowers. Great for foundation plantings and dry restoration sites. Found on dry prairies throughout the region. White flowers bloom from June till August. Grows 1-2' in height

Sweet Summer Love Clematis: 'Sweet Summer Love' gives you everything you want: the flowers, the fragrance, the ease of growth and cranberry-violet blooms that start over a month earlier than others - starting in July in the Midwest and Northeast, and lasting until mid-September. It will add lots of drama to gardens when trained up a trellis or other support. It won a DGA Green Thumb award for the best new plant of 2014.

Bush Honeysuckle: Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates some drought and tolerates a wide range of soil types. Plants will spread by underground runners or stolons. Plants may freely sucker, but are not considered to be invasive. Prune as needed immediately after flowering. Will grow between 2-3' in height.

Prairie Radiance Winterberry Euonymus: A new introduction featuring unusual soft pink to cherry red fall color and pink fruit in fall that split open to expose scarlet seeds, extremely effective in mass; a highly ornamental specimen shrub for the home landscape that's at its best in autumn. Prairie Radiance Winterberry Euonymus will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions.

Limelight Hydrangea: An exciting hardy hydrangea from Holland, Limelight has unique chartreuse blooms in mid-summer that change to pink in fall. Works well as a hedge, in containers or as a cut flower. Most adaptable of all Hydrangeas to various soil types and is easy to care for. Reaches 6 to 8 ft. tall and wide.

Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle: Long blooming season of showy tubular flower clusters backed by attractive blue green foliage. These beautiful and fragrant Fuchsia-like flowers are remarkably hardy. It produces handsome, dense vine for fences, arbors, or even as a groundcover. Long lasting red berries follow the blooms. Deciduous.

Remaining perennials in the Monarch and Pollinator Sanctuary (MAPS) that were planted prior to our garden renovation in June 2016.

Evergreens:

Russian Cypress: Zone 3. Height 1' by width 3-4'. Sun or shade. Low, mounded form with arborvitae-like foliage. Plant will tolerate shade. Needs good drainage.

Macronata Spruce: Zone 2. Height 8-10' by width of 5-6'. Soft green foliage.

Shrubs:

Diablo Ninebark: Purple foliage, pale pink blooms in June, good screen, grows to 8-10'

Nanking Cherry: first to bloom in April, hardy, healthy plant, edible fruits eaten by birds, grows to 8'-10'.

Royal Purple Smokebrush: A semi-hardy in our garden. It usually dies back to the ground or is cut back and treated like a perennial. We grow it for the foliage only. Will grow to 4x4 when treated this way.

Lemon Light Azalea: Zone 4. Height 4-5' by width of 3-4'. Sun or partial shade. Bears all the fine "light series" qualities as well as lovely bicolor yellow flowers and excellent mildew resistance. The lights series were developed at the University of MN Landscape Arboretum specifically to withstand our harsh winters and variable springs. They are highly desirable Azaleas because of their dependable flowering, sweet fragrance, and good fall color.

Mandarin Lights Azalea: Zones 4. Height 4-5' by width 4-5'. Sun or partial sun. One of the newest "Northern Lights" Azaleas, blooming late May with rich, brilliant orange flowers. Hardy and outstanding. The lights Series were developed at the University of MN Landscape Arboretum specifically to withstand our harsh winters and variable springs. They are highly desirable Azaleas because of their dependable flowering, sweet fragrance, and good fall color.

Northern Highlights: Zone 3-4. Height 4-5'. Sun or partial sun. Creamy white flowers with yellow upper lip petals. Very fragrant. The Lights Series were developed at the University of MN Landscape Arboretum specifically to withstand our harsh winters and variable springs. They are highly desirable Azaleas because of their dependable flowering, sweet fragrance, and good fall color.

Royal Purple Smokebush: Zone 5. Height 8-10' by width 8-10'. Enjoys a sunny position. Velvety purple leaves and misty beige flowers make this a dramatic accent for the landscape. Best in full sun.

Tinkerbelle Lilac: Zone 3. Height 5-6' by width 5-6'. Enjoys full sun. Bailey Nursery's fabulous new release Lilac grafted onto a standard, creating a wonderful small accent tree that will fit into nearly any space. Bright pink flowers with a pleasing spicy scent in late spring.

Primrose Lilac: Zone 3. Height 10-12' by width 10-12', Likes full sun. Pale yellow buds open to creamy flowers. This is a very unique color in lilacs.

Sensation Lilac: Zone 3. Height 8-10' by width 8-12'. Enjoys full sun. Purple florets outlined in pure white. A beautiful and unique Lilac.

Summer Wine Ninebark: Zone 3. Full Sun. Grows to be 5-6' tall and 4-5' wide. This Purple Ninebark hybrid resulted from a cross between Physocarpus O. "Nana" and "Diablo". Attractive wine colored foliage that is dense and compact, half the normal size. White button-like flowers bloom in the spring.

Grasses:

Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass: Karl Foerster grass has deep green foliage that grows vertically to 2-3' high. The initially pink flower heads appear in June and turn to a golden tan as they mature. The flower spikes can reach up to 5' tall and last well into fall. This grass is clump forming and is not prone to spread much farther than 18". It grows well in hardiness zones 4-9. It grows best in full sun to part shade in a moist environment that drains well. This grass likes to keep moist but will not tolerate standing water. It will however tolerate a drier site.

Blue Fescue Grass: Zone 4. Likes a sunny location. Mound of blue leaves, shorter grass. Height 12-18".

Heavy Metal Switchgrass: Zone 4. Likes a sunny location. Blue-gray foliage turns yellow in the fall. Height 36 inches.

Little Bluestem Grass: Zone 4. Likes a sunny location. Blue grass that turns a red-orange in the fall. 3' in height.

Prairie Dropseed Grass: Zone 4. Likes a sunny location. Mounds of thin foliage, turns red in the fall. 3' in height.

Butterfly weed: As a host to butterflies it has attracted both monarchs and their caterpillars. After a slow start- we allowed it to reseed where it would. This plant grows by taproot and does not like division. Deer resistant.

Baptisia: Zone 3. Height 42" by width of 60". A large, shrub like perennial with stiff, erect stems that bear beautiful, blue, lupine-like flowers. Excellent, long lasting cut flowers and lovely blue-green foliage. Drought tolerant, but prefers even moisture.

Bravado Purple Coneflower: Zones 3-9. Rough, hairy stems and leaves, flowers 5" wide with tallish seed-head centers; flower petals drop from center. 'Bravado' grows to 24 inches tall with rose-red flowers. Requires full sun, well-drained garden soil that is rich in organic matter; will tolerate some shade; moderate water; deadheading increases bloom; tolerates summer heat.

Walker's Low Catmint: Zone 4. 16" in height by width of 24". This is the smallest, most compact Nepeta. Long blooming with blue-lavender flowers atop silvery foliage. Catmint is a low, bushy, long-blooming perennial herb with beautiful blue flowers on grayish aromatic foliage.

Sarah Bernhardt Peony: Zone 4. 35” in height. Large, fragrant, medium rose-pink flowers. This elegant, hardy, and long-lived perennial is regaining popularity as gardeners discover excellent hybrids with gorgeous flowers on strong, sturdy stems. Peonies require little care and like cold climates as well as clay soils. Shade decreases bloom.

Karl Rosenfeld Peony: Zones 4-8. Height 36-40”. Prefers full sun. Large, bright, crimson double peony. Lush foliage and lots of flowers. An excellent cut flower. Needs staking to keep all stems upright.

Alex Fleming Peony: Zones 3-8. Fully double, sweetly fragrant deep pink peony. A tall plant that blooms in mid-season. Its central petals may be curled, making the huge 8” flowers resemble a ball in shape. Plants grow about 36 inches tall. Position them 3-4’ apart in a sunny, well drained area.

Shimadaijin Tree Peony: Zones 4-8. Requires full sun. Height 3-5’ by width 3-4’. 6-12” blooms in spring to early summer. An upright woods shrub, this fragrant fuchsia tree peony boasts larger leaves, blooms 2-3 weeks earlier and is about a foot taller than bush form peonies. Perfect for dramatic focal points in mixed beds, and luxurious hedges.

Goldsturm Black Eyed Susan: Zone 4. Height 24” by width 24”. Bright golden-yellow daisies with dark cone centers are borne for a very long time. Vigorous and easy to grow, this group of perennials is not fussy about soil types and tolerates hot, dry conditions. They are rewarding long bloomers producing flowers over a very long time.

Autumn Fire Sedum: Zones 3-9. Enjoys full sun. 24” tall. Blooms are coppery pink in color.

Franz Schubert Phlox: A bold, yet airy display with cool lilac flowers contrasted by lavender star-shaped centers and dark green foliage. Reliable and unique, and of course a big hit with the butterflies and hummingbirds.

Rubustissima Anemone: Mauve-pink flowers are produced on well-branched stalks held about 2’ above the attractive, dark green foliage. The leaves are lobed rather than divided like the hybrids, and are woolly grey-green underneath. ‘Robustissima’ is an excellent choice for colder climates with shorter growing seasons. It is hardier than other hybrids and blooms earlier.

Red Jewel Helenium: Helenium is a sun-lover and red Jewel thrives in any well-drained soil. Pay it plenty of attention the first season to get it established, and then let it go! It weaves its way into the border effortlessly, flower stems bobbing up among neighboring plants for a merry cottage garden effect. Its homespun beauty is as effective among large-flowered perennials as foliage plants and other standouts. Heleniums are always a popular addition to the middle or back of sunny borders, and they make lovely cut-flowers. Once you get them in the vase and can examine them at close range, you notice that they aren’t simply dark red daisies: the petals harbor a hint of blue, and may even display yellow on their tips. A miniature beauty!

Summer Storm Hibiscus: Produces 5' tall stalks, clothed with deeply-lobed dark purple leaves and adorned from July until September with both axillary and terminally produced, 10" wide, medium pink flowers, highlighted with a dark red center and bloodshot-eye-like veins...a hummingbird favorite. Moist soils are ideal, but these are amazingly drought-tolerant in the short term.

Hollyhock Mallow: Produces a flurry of flowers that cover the whole stem from early through late summer. The foliage of this variety is more finely dissected than a typical Malva, looking similar to the leaves of a scented Pelargonium (annual geranium). In trials, the foliage remained clean and attractive all season long, setting it apart from many other Malvas. Heat and drought are not a problem for this perennial.

All America Selections Display Gardens

The Teaching & Display is an official AAS Display Garden site, one of only 7 found in the state of Wisconsin. Each year the Garden displays AAS winners from the past 5 years and includes AAS winners selected for the next growing season. The Teaching & Display Garden has an AAS Display Garden for annual flowers and bedding plants and displays AAS vegetables throughout the vegetable garden area.

Descriptions of AAS winners can be found on the All-America Selection website at <http://all-americaelections.org/>

Other plants found in AAS Annual Garden

These flowers can be found in the pinwheel beds alongside our AAS annuals.

Lantana: A low maintenance annual which has showy flowers that bloom all season long. Lantana can be found in many bright colors. Well suited to container gardening and even hanging baskets. Flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Enjoys a sunny and well-drained soil. Will grow quickly as the days and soils warm up.

Marigold Janie bright yellow and Janie Flame: Janie Yellow and Janie Flame are some of the earliest and most floriferous French Marigolds. These 1 1/2- to 1 3/4-inch blooms will bloom abundantly all summer long. Both the blooms and the plant keep their neat shape despite the hot weather. These dwarf plants reach just 8 inches high, with an exceptionally uniform habit. Janie is a great choice for the front of the border, edging, and containers of all types. The yellow and orange-red blooms really bring in the butterflies.

Lance Lead Coreopsis: Wiry stems bearing yellow daisies. Easy to grow on even the toughest, driest soil types. A very good butterfly plant. Yellow flowers bloom June through October. Reaches heights between 24"-36".

Asti Purple Osteopernum: A very heat- and drought-tolerant variety. Petal color varies from Purple to maroon and they surround a handsome dark center. The flowers reach about 2 inches wide, with tightly-spaced petals held straight out on long, wiry stems. Perfect for cutting, these blooms also look good on the plant, thanks to a more compact, tight habit. Asti is long blooming, so expect the flowers to keep coming from early summer all the way into fall. A former AAS winner.

Lemon Symphony Osteopernum: Displays lemon yellow daisy-like flowers with a dark purple eye that bloom continuously from Spring until Fall. Lemon Symphony is a low maintenance with new flowers quickly covering old ones so you never have to deadhead. It does best in full to part sun and is heat tolerant. Expect growth between 8-12” in height.

Little Ruby Alternanthera: A great, low-maintenance, low-growing plant to add color to your landscape. Little Ruby offers an alternative to traditional blooming bedding plants. The beautiful foliage in shades of burgundy and purple adds rich color to the landscape and is consistently attractive throughout the season.

Heirloom Tomatoes

An heirloom is generally considered to be a variety that has been passed down, through several generations of a family because of its valued characteristics. Typically they are at least 50 years old, and are often pre-WWII varieties. Most heirlooms come from seed that has been handed down for generations in a particular region or area, hand-selected by gardeners for a special trait. All heirloom vegetables are open-pollinated, which means they’re pollinated by insects or wind without human intervention. In addition, they tend to remain stable in their characteristics from one year to the next. Many gardeners agree that most heirloom varieties boast greater flavor than that found in hybrids, especially among tomatoes.

Cherokee Purple: An indeterminate heirloom. The plant bears 12-16oz attractive dark pink-purple fruits that have an excellent complex flavor. These have a slightly sweet aftertaste and are perfect for slicing. Its flavor is rich and full—often compared with Brandywine. This large tomato from Tennessee is rumored to have come from Cherokee gardeners.

Russian Persimmon: An indeterminate, beefsteak type. This is a very attractive yellowish-orange tomato originally from Russia. The flavor is outstanding, with significantly more acid than in most yellow tomatoes. These short plants are less than 4 ft. tall, but bear an abundance of these striking tomatoes that can weigh up to 1 lb. Performs well in short-season areas.

Stupice: A great indeterminate, potato leaf variety that comes from Czechoslovakia. This variety is among the earliest producers and has an excellent flavor for an early type. The fruit is considered to be rich and tangy. It is perfect for gardeners in northern climates with short summers. These produce lots of red, small to medium sized fruit over a very long season.

San Marzano: An indeterminate plant. This is the classic Italian paste tomato with rich, complex and sweet flavors. This type of tomato is essential for making traditional Napolitano sauces and whole canned tomatoes. The large plants produce loads of small, elongated red tomatoes late in the season and will need to be staked. 80 days to maturity.

Yugo Pink: Also known as the Crnkovic Yugoslavian. Produces vigorous, indeterminate, regular-leaf tomato plants that yield large amounts of extra-large, 1-2 pound, slightly flattened, pink beefsteak tomatoes that are full-flavored, deliciously juicy. A crack-resistant tomato variety. If you can't pronounce the name...the taste will make up for the difficulty. A great tomato for eating fresh in salads or sliced thick for sandwiches. Open pollinated. 80 days to maturity.

Prudens Purple: An indeterminate type heirloom that can produce very large fruits over one pound. Often favorably compared with the illustrious Brandywine, the gold standard of heirloom tomatoes. Fruits are flattened, smooth and resist cracking. This medium tall plant produces fruits that have a vivid dark pink skin with crimson flesh and few seeds. Fruits have a firm, meaty texture.

German Johnson: An indeterminate heirloom which bears 12-24 oz. fruit with smooth tops. They are very productive and resistant to disease. Originally grown in West Virginia, this heirloom was one of the parent lines for another cherished heirloom: the legendary Mortgage Lifter. With pinkish-red skin and nearly seedless meaty, mild flesh, the large, lobed fruits are a favorite variety for both slicing and canning.

Roma: Determinate type that does not usually exceed 4' in height, making it a great choice for those with limited space. This is a quality paste variety with very thick, meaty flesh and few seeds. A popular old favorite with good yields. The Roma tomato is a smaller, pear or plum shaped tomato that makes a great choice for canning or making sauce and produces good quantities of fruit. Resistant to Verticillium and Fusarium wilts.

Black Krim: This variety hails from the Black Sea, near the Crimean Peninsula of Russia, where warm influences from the Black Sea make summers perfect for growing tomatoes. Heat-tolerant Black Krim has a dark brown-red color that gets even darker in hotter weather. Always a favorite in taste tests, Black Krim has a flavor that is described as tangy, rich, and sweet. It makes beautiful dark slices. Black Krim is prone to cracking, so be sure to water regularly, especially when there is not enough rain, to avoid cycles of wet-to-dry-to-wet-to-dry soil that causes the fruit to crack. Vigorous plants grow best with strong staking or tall cages.

Dwarf Tomatoes

The "Dwarf Tomato Project" is a group of all volunteer, amateur, hobby gardeners led by Craig LeHoullier and Patrina Nuske-Small. They designed this project in order to make strategic crosses, which result in new hybrids. These plants are grown out, and then their seeds are shared

for work on selection of promising new varieties with the desired characteristics. These dwarf types are very distinctive in having a thick central stem, stout compact growth, and dark green, crinkly looking (so-called rugose) foliage.

Uluru Orchre: 65 days, *tree-type* — The vigorous, dwarf, rugose, regular leaf plants are relatively compact, quite early to produce and prolific. Producing a good yield of medium to large sized (six to twelve ounces) oblate uniquely colored tomatoes that are essentially the first "black/orange" variety we've seen - orange flesh with green overtones, and somewhat amber/orange/green in appearance. The flavor can be a bit variable season to season, but at its best, it has an absolutely delicious, smokey flavor.

Maralinga: 75 days, *tree-type* — The rugose, regular leaf dwarf produce heavy yields of rich brown (yellow skinned black) tomatoes with deep crimson flesh that range between six to twelve ounces. The flavor shares the typical intensity of the best black tomatoes - rich, intense and memorable.

Adelaide Festival: 80 days, *indeterminate tree-type* — 'Adelaide Festival' is a vigorous, rugose, regular leaf variety that produces fruits that are a rich purple color (clear skinned black) with green stripes that ripen to olive-gold. They are medium-sized (six to ten ounce), smooth, and oblate in shape, very juicy and tender with a delicious, well-balanced flavor that is neither too tart nor too sweet.

Boronia: 70 days, *determinate tree-type* — 'Boronia' is a rugose, regular leaf, dwarf variety producing medium to medium large (four to sixteen ounce), oblate fruit that are pink with dark shoulders and have a smooth, meaty texture. It resembles 'Cherokee Purple' both in its appearance as well as in its delicious, intense flavor quality.

Arctic Rose: 60 days, *determinate tree-type* — The plants have regular leaf, dark green rugose foliage with stout central stems and grows to about three feet tall. Fruit are smooth and round to oblate, ranging from three to eight ounces, and ripen pink (clear skin, red interior). Flavor is well balanced and delicious.

Rosella Purple: 75 days, *tree-type* — This was a Victory Seed Company introduction for 2011 and one of the dwarf varieties from the "Dwarf Tomato Project." Similar to 'Cherokee Purple' in color, size, shape and flavor but on a dwarf growing plant. Regular leaf, dark green rugose foliage, stout central stem, grows to three to four feet in height. Perfect for a large container or a small garden space. The fruits are oblate, ranging from six to twelve ounces, and ripen to a deep purple-pink color. Flavor is full, intense, balanced and delicious.

Sarandipity: The vigorous, relatively compact dwarf regular leaf plants produce a heavy yield of medium to medium small sized (two to four ounce) round chocolate fruit with vertical green stripes. The firm, deep crimson flesh is mild and sweet, and the productivity and fruit size and texture make this a great canning or grilling variety.

Non AAS- Other Peppers

Wisconsin Lakes: A sweet pepper that is great for short seasons. A good producer of 4-6 oz. fruits. Peppers will turn from green to red when mature. This thick walled pepper is very delicious and sweet.

Purple Beauty: This stunning bell pepper is ready to eat when the fruits turn deep purple with a green undertone. The fruit is thick, succulent, and crisp. This variety is very productive and sets fruit in both the crown and on the limbs. 75 days to maturity.

King Arthur: These widely adapted Plants are large and early to bear big crops of large, thick walled fruits that are sweet and crunchy. Tolerant to most diseases, with High resistance to bacterial leaf spot races. Upright plants reach about 22" in height bearing fruits that are about 4-1/2" by 4-1/2".

King of the North: This reliable variety produces sweet, blocky and uniform fruits which are excellent for stuffing or fresh eating. Perfect for northern gardeners where season are cool and short. Plant is 24" – 36" tall and fruits are 4"-6" long. 70 days to maturity.

Ruby King: Claimed to be one of the best peppers of all times! This Heirloom is a super sturdy 24" plant that supports heavy crops of blocky, 4 lobed peppers that ripen from green to red. It has a candy like, mild, sweet flavor. Ready to pick in 70-75 days.

Giant Marconi: A 2001 AAS winner. This hybrid plant produces large, tapered, elongated fruits that grow up to 8" long and 3" wide at the upper end. Fruits are sweet, yet smoky and are equally delectable whether eaten green or red, fresh or grilled. Great, reliable yields. 72 days to maturity.

Healthy: A gardener couldn't ask for more in a pepper. Healthy produces heavy yields of appealing, sweet, disease-resistant fruit even in cloudy, cooler growing season. The fruit is blocky and measure 2" across and 5" long. They ripen from yellow to orange and finally red. A dependable producer of delicious fruit. 70-75 days to maturity.

New Ace: Huge yields of medium sized 3-4 lobed fruits. This variety seems to have a tolerance to blossom drop as nearly every flower produces a pepper. Widely adapted but performs particularly well in cool climates where bell peppers are difficult to grow successfully. F1 hybrid. 62 days to maturity.

Vine Crops (Cucurbits)

BonBon Buttercup Squash: A 2005 AAS winner. This hybrid that has improved flavor, uniformity, and yield. BonBon has the classic appearance of the perfect buttercup squash: deep green, smooth skin, and a prominent gray "button" at the base. Weight avg. 4-5 lb. Harvest 50-55 days after fruit set.

Chiogga: This heirloom sea pumpkin is named for the fishing village Chioggia, which is situated on the coasts of Italy. The large turban shaped fruit are deep blue-green. It is one of the most beautiful and unique of all squash. A perfect variety for market gardeners. The rich, sweet flesh is a deep yellow-orange and of good quality, delicious baked or in pies. The fruit weigh about 10 lbs. each and are produced on vigorous vines. Stunning! 95 days to maturity.

Delicious 51 Melon: This melon has a reputation for being the best open pollinated melon available for cool climates. This reliably early melon ripens quickly for heavy yields of aromatic, juicy fruit. The perfectly sweet flesh is dark orange with creamy texture and strong flavor. It has thinner skin than hybrids but holds well for market and in storage. Excellent resistance to powdery mildew and well-adapted for northern growers. 75 Days to maturity.

Sugar Baby Watermelon: This small, round melon is called an icebox type because it is petite enough to fit in the refrigerator. This widely adapted heirloom variety is solid, dark green on the outside with a bright red, firm and fine-grained flesh that is super sweet. Watermelon contains high levels of healthy antioxidants, making Sugar Baby a great sweet way to pack in good nutrition.

Lambkin Melon: This former AAS winner produces medium small, oval fruits avg. 3 lb. with yellow skin with green mottling. It has a very sweet, aromatic white flesh. Lambkin is early and much more widely adapted than others of this type with excellent uniformity and good yield. For best flavor, harvest when the fruit turns from green to yellowish green and slips from the vine. Melons may also be cut from the vine before slip for better shelf life (up to 7 days) but this will result in slightly less sweet fruits.

Lemon Cucumber: A yellow heirloom cucumber that is tender and sweet, excellent for salads and pickling. Don't be fooled by this unusual shape, these bright yellow balls are excellent for salads and pickling. They have a clean, crisp taste and are never bitter. 65 days to maturity.

Pole Beans

Rattlesnake Pole Beans: This heirloom pole bean is easy to grow and produces lots of green pods that have purple streaks. Good flavor and very tender; the speckled seeds are popular in soup. 8" long beans, 10' tall vines. 65-70 days to maturity.

Large Italian Flat Bean: A highly productive, 6" long, broad, flat, medium-green pods have a remarkably sweet, tender flavor, even when over mature. Cook no longer than 3-5 minutes for best flavor and texture

Cherokee Trail of Tears: A vigorous, prolific and vining plant. This heirloom pole bean is perfect for dry beans, fresh eating, canning and freezing. The Cherokee people brought this bean along with them as they were forcibly marched from Tennessee to Oklahoma. This variety will grow well in most regions of the United States. Has 6" long bean pods filled with jet black beans. 65 days to maturity.

Insectary

The idea of an insectary is that certain plants contain properties that either invite beneficial insects or repel harmful insects. Beneficial insects prey on pests that cause damage in the garden. Ladybugs and praying mantis are good examples of beneficial insects. Using plants for pest control not only cuts down on your workload, but it also reduces the amount of insecticides that you use in your garden. And fewer insecticides mean more good bugs, which in turn means help in controlling bad bugs.

Lemon Balm: Lemon balm is valued as a culinary, cosmetic and medicinal herb. Use fresh sprigs to top drinks and as garnishes on salads and main dishes. The fresh or dried leaves make a great cold or hot tea, and the dried leaves can be used pot-pourris. Traditionally valued as a medicinal herb, lemon balm has mild sedative properties. Lemon balm is easy to grow from seed sown in the spring or early fall.

White Alyssum: This fragrant garden favorite produces masses of crisp white blooms Perfect choice for lining walkways or in window boxes. This annual attracts Hoverflies, Lacewings and Tachnid flies. Alyssum is deer resistant and tolerates partial shade.

Fennel: Use fresh fennel leaves in salads or with eggs, fish and sauces.

The bulbous stem can be steamed, grilled or served raw; it's like celery with a delicate anise aroma. It has many medicinal properties. Likes full sun and mild to cool weather. Start outside after danger of frost.

Dill: Dill attracts hoverflies and predatory wasps (good guys), and swallowtail butterfly caterpillars use its foliage as food. Tomato hornworms are also attracted to dill, so if you plant it at a distance, you can help draw these destructive insects away from your tomatoes. Dill repels aphids and spider mites. Try sprinkling dill leaves on your squash plant to repel squash bugs. But be forewarned: Dill re-seeds with a vengeance and takes over the garden in a hurry, so you need to cut the seed heads before they ripen.

Parsley: A high-yielding, very large and vigorous herb. This herb's dark green leaves have a beautiful, ferny appearance, and they grow in mounded clumps that look especially attractive along a border. Parsley leaves are rich in vitamins and minerals.

Cosmos: Excellent eye-catching border plant, and in pots and bouquets. Cosmos require little fertility or care, making them great for beginner gardeners. Attracts Hoverflies, Parasitic Wasps and Lacewings. Cosmos are great source of nectar and pollen for beneficial insects.

Borage: This plant is a real workhorse in the garden. It repels tomato hornworms and cabbage worms and attracts beneficial bees and wasps. Borage also adds trace elements to the soil. This is an annual, but readily comes back each year from seed.

Sunflower: Attracts beneficial Pirate Bugs, Aphidius and Parasitic Wasps. Use sunflowers as a way to draw aphids away from other plants. Ants will move their colonies on to sunflowers. The sunflowers are tough enough that they suffer no damage. However, if you have friendly neighborhood deer, they find sunflower sprouts quite tasty.

Achillea: An all-time favorite for the sunny border. Tall, flat clusters of delicate flowers are outstanding as dried cuts, with stiff stems and persistent color. Start indoors 8 weeks before last frost. Achillea is tolerant to drought and butterfly friendly. Attracts beneficial insects like Lacewings, Aphidius and Ladybugs

Lemon Verbena: A plant for every garden space. Give this herb soil with good drainage and watch it take off. Lemon Verbena has a delightful lemon fragrance. This is an easy, low maintenance plant. Does well in containers.

Raised Beds

Parcel: Parcel is an unusual plant in Australia but used extensively in European gourmet cooking and in Asian style dishes. It resembles a flat-leaf parcel, but the foliage has a distinct celery flavor. Sometimes known as ‘leaf celery’, this vigorous biennial plant is great for flavoring a wide variety of dishes.

Celariac: Closely related to Celery, both plants are cultivated for their edible stalks and roots, respectively, which differ in texture but share the distinctive celery flavor. Also known as turnip-rooted celery and knob celery, celeriac has smooth, white flesh that is packed with pure celery flavor. A traditional winter root vegetable in Europe, celeriac lends its distinctive yet delicate flavor well to soups, gratins, and stews, as well as juices, slaws and salads, throughout the cooler months.

AAS Radish and Lettuce

Three Sisters Planting

According to Iroquois legend, corn, beans, and squash are three inseparable sisters who only grow and thrive together. This tradition of inter-planting corn, beans and squash in the same mounds, widespread among Native American farming societies, is a sophisticated, sustainable system that provided long-term soil fertility and a healthy diet to generations.

As older sisters often do, the corn offers the beans needed support. The beans, the giving sister, pull nitrogen from the air and bring it to the soil for the benefit of all three. As the beans grow through the tangle of squash vines and wind their way up the cornstalks into the sunlight, they hold the sisters close together. The large leaves of the sprawling squash protect the threesome by

creating living mulch that shades the soil, keeping it cool and moist and preventing weeds. The prickly squash leaves also keep away raccoons, which don't like to step on them.

Gete Okosomin: An old variety of winter squash that was traditionally grown by Native Americans. These heirloom seeds have been cultivated, saved and passed down for hundreds of years. This prolific plant can produce extensive vines and very large squash up to 30 lbs. The fruit has abundant flesh and good flavor. A delicious variety.

Cherokee Trail of Tears Beans: A vigorous, prolific and vining plant. This heirloom pole bean is perfect for dry beans, fresh eating, canning and freezing. The Cherokee people brought this bean along with them as they were forcibly marched from Tennessee to Oklahoma. This variety will grow well in most regions of the United States. Has 6" long bean pods filled with jet black beans. 65 days to maturity.

Oaxacan Green Dent Corn: Grown for centuries by the Zapotec Indians of Southern Mexico where it is used to make green flour tamales. Traditionally grown with squash and beans. Drought resistant, sturdy, 7' plants produce iridescent green kernels on 10" ears. 75-100 days.

Research Project Vegetables

NOVIC

These varieties are part of a trial for the Northern Organic Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC) which brings together researchers and organic farmers in Northern US states to address their seed and plant breeding needs. The collaborative includes researchers and educators from four universities including the University of Wisconsin, Organic Seed Alliance, and the USDA. NOVIC is partnering with organic farmers to breed new varieties, identify the best performing existing varieties for organic agriculture, and educate farmers on organic seed production and plant variety improvement. These trials are conducted on behalf of Dr. Erin Silva at the University of Wisconsin to test peppers and tomatoes, so to find the best varieties for more northern organic growers based on fruit quality, yield, time to maturity and pest/disease resistance.

Peppers:

Bridge to Paris: An open pollinated variety. Plants are large, up to 36" in height, and loaded with big peppers. The flavor and texture are first-rate. They are extremely sweet when ripe, with thick bell pepper-like skin. 88 days to maturity from transplant.

Ace F1: An extra early variety and highly productive plant. Huge yields of medium sized 3-4 loved fruits. Has apparent tolerance to blossom drop as nearly every flower produces a pepper. It is widely adapted but performs particularly well in cool climates where bell peppers are difficult to grow successfully.

Carmen: An Italian frying pepper. Tapered fruit average 6" long and 2 ½" wide, weight around 5 oz. and ripen from green to deep carmine red. Maturity is early on an upright, medium sized plant. A former AAS winner in 2006.

Stocky Red Roaster: An open pollinated variety. Selected to have smooth skin, thicker walls and a rich red color. By far the quickest for uniform roasting and easy skin removal, and the thicker flesh hold up well to fire. Fruits are 6-7" long and 2 ¼" wide. They are broad at the crown, sweet, heavy fruiting and long keeping. 102 days to maturity from transplant.

Enza Zaden: Unreleased experimental variety.

Tomatoes:

Iron Lady: A disease resistant red slicer. This fine-textured fruit is both dense and juicy with good tomato flavor. It must be planted away from other tomatoes to prevent early blight infection. Determinate plants bare fruits that are weight approximately 5oz. 75 days to maturity.

Mountain Merit: Mountain Merit is a medium-large, 8-10 oz., red slicer with an excellent disease package to keep it healthy in the field. Mountain Merit has one of the best disease packages around for a variety of field conditions. High resistance to fusarium wilt, late blight, nematodes, and tomato spotted wilt virus. Determinate. Former AAS winner.

Stellar: This variety produces lots of round, red, slicing tomatoes, perfect for all uses. Also has intermediate resistance to Early Blight. Highest level of disease resistance occurs when planted apart from other tomatoes. It does best in-ground and benefits from trellis for support. Determinate. 70-75 days from transplant to ripe fruit.

Plum Regal: A productive plum tomato with late blight resistance. Medium-size plants with good leaf cover produce high yields of blocky, 4 oz. plum tomatoes. Fruits have a deep red color with good flavor. Good disease resistance package. High resistance to fusarium wilt races 1, 2, late blight, tomato spotted wilt virus, and verticillium wilt; and intermediate resistance to early blight. Determinate. Avg. 12,900 seeds/oz. Packet: 15 seeds.

Plum Perfect: Unreleased experimental variety.

LB8-3-1-1-1: Unreleased experimental variety.

LB8-7-1-1-1: Unreleased experimental variety.

N2C12: Unreleased experimental variety.

Seed to Chef

Julie Dawson is UW-Madison's new urban and regional food systems specialist. She is interested in providing research support for small-scale farm and food enterprises serving regional markets, and community gardens focused on food security. Vegetable varieties are trailed and selected for

flavor and quality. This project supports collaboration with other plant breeders, seed producers, farmers, chefs and local food consumers to test varieties for local food systems.

Kale

Darkibor: Early maturing, easy growing kale for late summer and fall harvest. Upright plants, finely curled leaves. Good field holding ability.

Curly Roja: Densely frilled leaf edges, stunning purple sage color, deep purple stems and cold hardiness are all element of an exquisite kale bunch that holds well after harvest. Does especially well under fertile conditions.

Nash's Green: Nash's green kale is an on-farm selection from grower Nash Huber of Nash's Organic Produce in Sequim, WA. Tall plants have shown exceptional tolerance to cold, making this a great variety for overwintering.

Olympic Red: Color is variable, ranging from dark reddish-green with purple ribs to full purple. Tightly curled leaves with long petioles make colorful bunches. Uniform size, shape and yield with excellent vigor and cold hardiness. Sustained harvest from the lower leaves up.

Onions

Cortland: A steady performer. Cortland has Consistently good yields. High quality and long storage.

Yankee: Very productive, round bulbs. These are resistant to downy mildew. Excellent for storage.

Zoey : A widely-adapted sweet onion with excellent quality. Zoey has beautiful pale yellow skin, narrow necks and sweet, flavorful white flesh. It is high yielding, uniform and vigorous, and has leaves that flow down without crimping, allowing bulbs to size up while creating a barrier against disease. Best planted early in the season to maximize size potential. Has some tolerance to pink root. Intermediate day 4" bulbs.

Talon: High yielding, darker Tamara type with an improved root system. Tall, blocky globe.

Carrots

Bolero: Medium long, 7-8", roots are uniform, thick, slightly tapered and blunt, with a medium core and average internal color. The flavor is great and tops the charts after long term storage. This variety is a good choice for fall and winter harvest. Heavy, tall tops. High resistance to Alternaria blight and powdery mildew and intermediate resistance to cavity spot, bacterial blight, and cercospora blight.

Namdal: Long and smooth with a nice flavor.

Yaya: Flexible and adaptable with good flavor. Similar to Nelson but roots are a little smoother and slightly more uniform. The 5 1/2-6 1/2" roots have a good flavor, but not quite as sweet as Nelson. Medium short tops. Early Nantes type.

Cupar: High yielding, vigorous roots with disease-resistant foliage. Tapered deep orange roots with broad shoulder and very little greening. Maintain is attractive, uniform appearance well into storage, while its sweet flavor improves; ideal for CSA growers looking for a reliable and long storing carrot for bunching or season extension. 8" Chantenay type.

Naval: summer and fall, long storage. Good internal and external color. Superior storage Nantes. Rivals Nelson for taste and Bolero for long term storage. Naval develops smooth 8-9" long blunt ended carrots with exceptional smoothness, sweetness, flavor and deep orange color. Naval's tops are healthy and strong 14" long and tolerant to leaf diseases. Unlike Bolero, Naval is sweet right out of the field.

Texto: High marketable yield. Good internal and external color. Hybrid storage.

Beets

Rhonda: Excellent storage beet with sweet flavor. Very similar to Boro, sharing its sweet flavor and smooth texture, even after months of storage. Tuck Rhonda away all winter and beets will still be hard and sound come spring. Round, deep red roots and nice strong tops. Two weeks later than Boro for staggered harvest from a single planting. Very long storage · Uniform size and shape · 3-4" roots (*Beta vulgaris*) 65-70 days

Boro: One of the sweetest beets we've tasted! Superb flavor, resistance to leaf spot and the ability to stay tender throughout storage. Boro supports a wide range of uses. Juicy roots can be harvested baby and beyond 3" with good quality up to 6". Tops regenerate quickly for clean, healthy leaves all season. Deep red color with minimal zoning. Stores well · Baby or full sized · 2-6" roots. 50 days to maturity.

Sweet Dakota bliss: Sweet, deep burgundy beets with lush, green leaves and bright red stems, make this fast-growing, stress-tolerant beet, a perfect dual-purpose choice. Cut the greens for salads or steaming as a delicious table green. An outstanding keeper for winter storage and excellent for roasting, boiling, or canning. 55 days to maturity.

Badger flame: Flame is a new open pollinated cultivar from the university of Wisconsin-Madison table beet breeding program. Flame has a red and yellow interior and is oblong in shape. Foliage is light green. Petioles are yellow. Just below the skin, the beet has an orange pigmentation.

Moneta: Monogerm beet, easy seeding, uniform sizing. Round and smooth.

Pablo: A baby beets variety. Round beets without flat sides. Plant these at higher density for higher yields and efficiency. No thinning needed.

Red onion

Cabernet: Cabernet produces medium-large globe shaped onion with deep red color. Late intermediate adaptation gives an earlier harvest than long day red without sacrificing size. Good internal color, mostly single centers. 4-6 month storage.

Red hawk: Medium to large, uniform bulbs are slightly flattened with consistent color and excellent skin retention. Red Hawk is adaptable enough to also be grown as a late intermediate day variety. High resistance to pink root.

Monastrell: Matures slightly later than cabernet and is larger in size. Highly adaptable, with a broad harvest window, this variety produces medium to large onions, averaging 3.5-4.0 inches featuring single centers and excellent internal ring color development. Monastrell has a dark red exterior and a round to slightly flat shape. Bulbs are uniform and resistant to sunscald in the field. Vigorous plants have an upright habit and tight necks. These traits, combines with partial resistance to foliar disease, make Monastrell and excellent choice for organic growers. An intermediate Day variety, this flexible onion can be harvested in the mid-intermediate to early long day slot depending on location and planting date.

Talon: high yielding, darker skinned tamara type with an improved root system. Tall blocky globe.

Cold Hardy Wine Grapes

There has been much interest in growing wine quality grapes in the upper Midwest. The University of Minnesota is known worldwide for expertise in cold hardy varieties. They have bred grapes for over a century and formally initiated a breeding program for wine grapes in the mid 1980's. Their goal is to develop high quality, cold hardy, and disease resistant wine and table grape cultivars. The vines are trained for either Vertical Shoot Positioning (VSP) or High-wire Cordon and will remain up on the trellis over the winter.

Frontenac Gris- Pronounced "gree". This variety is a natural variant of Frontenac with light red-gray fruit. Makes a wine with peach flavor and tropical fruit/grapefruit undertones. Considered a white wine grape because of its connection to Frontenac. Ripens in late mid-season. University of Minnesota

Frontenac- Very cold hardy variety that has borne a full crop after 30 degrees below zero. It has near immunity to downy mildew. Frontenac's small black berries are produced on medium to large clusters that are usually slightly loose. Heavy producer and sometimes requires cluster thinning. University of Minnesota

MN 1200- New, experimental unnamed cold hardy wine grape variety from the University of Minnesota.

Marquette MN 1211- This variety is a promising red wine variety from the U of M that combines high levels of cold hardiness and disease resistance with excellent wine quality. Has withstood temperatures of 36 degrees below zero without serious injury. University of Minnesota.

Frontenac Blanc - This is the newest member of the Frontenac family! Just like the family of Pinot noir, Pinot gris, and Pinot blanc, another mutation of Frontenac has been found. In the vineyard, Frontenac blanc performs identically to Frontenac and Frontenac gris. Very productive, vigorous, immune to downy mildew, and hardy to near -36F. Berries are yellow to gold when ripe, producing a very light straw colored wine. Exposure of clusters to full sun will achieve the best aromatics. Early wine samples have been distinctly different from Frontenac gris, expressing more pure stone fruit and melon in the nose. Ripens late mid-season with moderate to high acidity. Dry white blends, semi-sweet whites, late harvest, ice wines and straw wines are all possible with Frontenac blanc and Frontenac gris. This may be a good choice for those who have difficulty with La Crescent in the vineyard.

LaCrescent- This variety is a combination of St. Pepin and Swenson grapes. This is one of the hardiest grapes surviving temperatures below 36 degrees below zero. Superior grape for production of off-dry or sweet white wines.

Baltica- Interspecies hybrid. A very cold hardy, early maturing grape selection originating from Estonia (Europe). Medium sized berries in long loose clusters. Blue-skinned berry, low tannin, moderate. Good for juice, jellies and light fruity wine with a cherry aroma and brilliant red coloring. Suited for areas with a very short, cool growing season; has potential for backyard production.

Cold Hardy Table Grapes

Based on a variety survival and production performance of grape varieties evaluated at the Spooner Ag Research Station, the following selections have potential for northern growing. Major factors in selecting varieties for northern growing trials were potentials for fruit maturing within the variable growing season, hardiness with limited to moderate winter vine protection, and consistent fruit production. These vines are trained using Four Arm Kniffen.

Beta - Originated by Louis Suelter in central Minnesota in the late 19th century. This blue grape is very hardy, vigorous and disease resistant. It generally pushes buds around April 15th and can be harvested the second week in September. It has medium-sized acidic fruit and is best suited for making jelly. Hardy, with little or limited damage in a typical winter.

King of the North - A hardy blue grape excellent for juice and jelly. The vine is very vigorous and productive and ranked highest in performance within the trials. Fruit is medium-size, juicy, tart, borne on tight clusters and ripens in late September. Requires annual pruning and performs best when provided winter protection.

Suelter - Like its sister seedling, Beta, this variety was developed a century ago by Louis Suelter in Carver County. Suelter is very cold hardy and disease resistant. Its berries are medium-large on medium size loose clusters and ripen 3-4 weeks before Concord. Makes excellent jelly. Requires cross-pollination. It can be grown almost anywhere in our region, and performs best with some winter protection. Cane prune.

Edelweiss- A very winter-hardy grape variety derived from crossing the MN 78 and Ontario grapes. It produces a green to amber colored, early-ripening, fruit. Although it can be used to make a white wine, it is better as a table grape. Edelweiss has strong resistance to disease and fungus and can tolerate negative thirty-five degree temperatures. Edelweiss has best results as a semi-dry white riesling table wine.

Swenson Red- The unique, fruity flavor of this firm, meaty grape is like no other. While it is generally red, it may have blue in the color where nights are cool, and it can even be green in color when grown where nights are hot. Hardy to -30°F. Few major disease problems, except that it is susceptible to downy mildew.

Bluebelle - An old University of Minnesota introduction that almost disappeared, but is now being planted again. It has very good eating quality and makes excellent juice. A blue grape, it pushes buds by May 1 and is fully ripe by mid-September.

Foch - This quite hardy French hybrid is one of the hardiest wine grapes. Bluish-black fruit with a good sugar/acid balance make it an excellent wine grape. Good disease resistance. Vine has small clusters and berries. Needs winter protection. Ripens in mid-September.

MN-78 - An early Minnesota selection popular early in the century as a commercial market grape. The vigorous vine produces a blue, medium-sized berry, reflecting vinifera flavor, with medium sized tight clusters. Fruit ripens early. Cane prune.

Somerset Seedless- The earliest, sweetest, hardiest and highest quality red seedless grape available. This table grape bears clusters of medium sized, seedless berries with sweet strawberry-like flavor. While edible at the pink stage in August, flavor will be even sweeter if left to ripen to full red. Superb for fresh eating, juice and jelly. Very vigorous vines, good resistance to downy and powdery mildew. Bred by Elmer Swenson, a pioneer of grape breeding from Osceola, Wisconsin.

Trollhaugen - This highly productive grape variety has blue, almost black berries that are medium to large size, and which are very sweet and delicious. The Trollhaugen variety flowers in the spring and is harvested in September (early crop). This fruit shrub is zoned 4 for hardiness, and it resists temperatures of -30 degrees Celsius. This grape variety is slightly sensitive to powdery mildew. Very good seedless table grapes. - See more at: <http://terra-boreal.com/en/product/trollhaugengrapes/#sthash.8eMbE3yt.dpuf>

Fruit Trees & Small Fruits

Apple

Zestar - Growers and apple lovers will delight in this tasty apple that ripens so early in the season. Fruit ripens in late August to early September. It's the perfect way to start the apple season on a good note. They maintain their great taste and crunch for two months in refrigeration. Zestar!® Apples are nice and round, with an average diameter of approximately 3 inches. Their color is 60-85 percent red depending on exposure to the sun. Where the sun shines on the fruit, a bright rosy-red blush develops. Shaded areas are often creamy yellow.

Snowsweet - SnowSweet® is becoming increasingly popular because of its delightful sweet taste, with a slight tart balance and rich overtones. Plus, it has a unique characteristic that consumers love. The fruit's snowy white flesh is very slow to oxidize and turn brown after cutting. SnowSweet® can be sliced for snacking or cut for salads well in advance and dishes maintain an appetizing appearance.

Frostbite - The Frostbite™ Apple packs a punch. It's almost tangy, very sweet, and juicy. By its late harvest season, fruit is only about 2 1/2 inches in diameter. At maturity, it has a stripped maroon-red skin over a gold-yellow background. Its firm and juicy, cream colored flesh, delivers small, intensely sweet bites. This apple is great for making cider. Has a tendency to get russetting (cracks around the top of the apple), which can attract wasps and other pests. The cracks also make the apple susceptible to mold during its relatively short storage life. This apple is extremely cold hardy. It has performed for decades in USDA zone 3b (-30 to -35°F). This durability allows Frostbite™ to thrive in northern climates where very few good quality apples can grow.

Honeycrisp - Sweet as honey. These 3" beauties are quickly becoming a new American favorite. Crisp, cream-colored flesh is mild, sweet and aromatic. Cold-hardy. Ripens in early September. Best pollinators: any Golden Delicious, Stark® Jon-A-Red® Jonathan or Starkspur® Red Rome Beauty.

Plum

Black Ice- A large-fruited dessert plum with superior winter hardiness. Bred by Professor Brian Smith of UW-River Falls who spent years crossing cherry plums with Japanese dessert plums. The large, round plums are blue-black with very sweet, juicy, yellow flesh. Fruit ripens in early August, about 2 to 4 weeks earlier than other plums grown in the Midwest.

Superior- Fast-growing clingstone bears red-blushed crimson fruits bursting with super-sweet yellow flesh. Ripens mid to late Aug. Hardy Japanese- American hybrid.

Toka- The Toka plum tree produces a fruit that is red and of medium size, this is one of the best pollinators for other plums. Richly flavored with apricot colored flesh. Ripens mid- August.

*Descriptions are for informational purposes only and are not an endorsement or criticism of one variety over another variety.