

Garden

Hoke Agricultural Extension News

by Wilb Fotherston, Jr., Agricultural Extension Agent

New Vegetable Varieties for 1983 Home Gardens

Testing new vegetable varieties in the backyard garden is one of the fun parts in the food production process.

However, new varieties are not always better when the harvest season rolls around. With this point in mind, vegetable gardeners would be wise to continue to plant the bulk of the vegetable garden in those varieties that have been tried and proven to be true performers in the years past. The release of several new varieties should give most gardeners an ample opportunity to do some serious experimenting this year. New introductions for 1983 are as follows:

BEANS

'Jumbo': A bush bean developed by crossing Romano and Kentucky Wonder varieties. Pods are still delicious when 8-12 inches long.

'Northeast': Pods are extra long with a buttery flavor. The pole bean plants will remain vigorous under adverse weather conditions. Matures in 55 days.

BEETS

'Royal Detroit' Hybrid: Beets will not stop growing and become fibrous during stressful conditions like Detroit Dark Red. Matures early; no zones; green tops.

COLLARDS

'Blue Max' Hybrid: Bred to produce 25% higher yields than standard varieties. Plants grow upright with large blue-green leaves. Matures in 68 days.

CORN

'Sweet-Time' Hybrid: A mid-season variety that keeps its flavor after 30 days in refrigerator. Silks can be removed with one pull. Matures in 80 days.

'Miracle Sweet' Hybrid: Produces super-sweet kernels in 85 days. Ears are 9½ inches long.

MELONS

'Golden Crispy' Hybrid: A high sugar content melon that was

developed in Japan. Fruit is 4-5 inches long, yellow with an oval shape. A mildew resistant variety that sets ten or more fruits per plant. Soil temperature should be at least 60°F before planting. Matures in 70 days.

'Honeybush' Cantaloupe: Fruit flesh is salmon-colored, sweet and firm. Melons weigh 2½-3 pounds. Plants are tolerant to fusarium wilt. Matures in 82 days.

OKRA

'Annie Oakley' Hybrid: Plants are 4½ feet tall. A completely spineless type with fine textured, slightly ribbed pods. Matures in 57 days.

PEPPERS

'Crispy' Hybrid Sweet Pepper: An early maturing type that produces smooth, 3-4 lobed fruits on plants 13-14 inches tall. Matures in 70 days.

'Sweet Pickle': Orange, yellow, purple, and red peppers produced on plants 12-15 inches tall. An early maturing type.

SQUASH

'Autumn Pride': A winter squash with deep reddish-orange skin. Fruits are in the 20-pound range.

TOMATOES

'Champion' Hybrid: An early maturing type with large tasty fruits. Tolerant to verticillium and fusarium wilts, and nematodes.

'Red Express': Large tasty tomatoes are produced on determinate plants in 74 days. Fruits have a longer than normal shelf-life. Resistant to verticillium, fusarium race 1, and nematodes.

'Super Beefsteak' VFN: A non-hybrid that bears red, very large fruits weighing one pound each. Tolerant to verticillium and fusarium wilts, root-knot nematode. Matures in 80 days.

TURNIPS

'Roots': Produces white, 5-6 inch globe shaped roots with a purple crown. Resistant to aphids.



TREES FOR THE ASKING - Bob Hendrix (right) of the Red Springs Wood Yard and Mike Watson of Stone Container Corporation of Florence, S.C. are offering pine seedlings to any who want them free of charge. Anyone wanting seedlings should contact Bob Hendrix. He will furnish the seeds and tell you who to contact to get them planted.

Deadline Nears For Crop Swap

Hoke County farmers have only a few weeks left to sign up for the payment-in-kind program.

The signup period ends March 11, and will not be extended, according to John J. Cooper, State Executive Director, North Carolina Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

"Farmers will not have the opportunity to change their mind and sign up after this deadline."

"However, those who have already enrolled and those who enroll before March 11 will have

the option of withdrawing or changing their enrollment without penalty provided it is done before enrollment ends," Cooper said.

Severe weather conditions may have caused some problems for farmers around the country. However, recurring storms or any other problems will not change the signup deadline.

The PIK program is designed to bring supplies more in line with demand to improve the farm economy.

Farm Focus

by Richard Walton
Extension Livestock Agent

Planning Ahead

Now is the time of year that everyone is looking forward to the coming growing season. Tobacco beds are being planted and cared for. Also, other plant beds are beginning to show up over the county.

In a couple more months bermudagrass pastures will begin to turn green as well.

Before things get much further along, however, you need to sit down and make sure you have all your plans made for this coming growing season.

After all, you don't want to get caught short of time.

First, have you soil sampled your fields? Soil sampling is one step in assuring proper soil fertility. Not only will it tell you what nutrients you need, but it will also tell you what nutrients you don't need.

Second, have you followed-up on the recommendations from your sample results?

Third, have you made contact with your fertilizer, chemical, and seed dealers for this year's crop?

Fourth, have you started checking on any seasonal labor you might need? It's never too early to get a commitment from good workers.

Finally, all of these suggestions have been made under the assumption

that you have already made-up your farm plans for this year and checked with your creditors about financing for the year.

Pigs and Profit

Before most piggies get to market a lot of time, money, and work has gone into them. It's not as easy to get that pig to market as most of us think when we look at the price of a pork chop at the grocery store.

In fact, contrary to popular belief I don't know any farmers "getting rich fast" from raising pigs.

The facts are that in 1980 and 1981 most pork producers lost rather than made money.

The pork you eat today has gone from the farm to a livestock market, to a meat packer and processor, and finally from a retailer to you. In the process a 210 pound live hog became a 150 pound carcass. Of that 150 pound carcass, about 20 pounds are saleable shoulder cuts, 24 pounds are saleable loin cuts, 32 pounds are saleable side cuts, 25 pounds are saleable ham cuts, and 20 pounds are miscellaneous cuts.

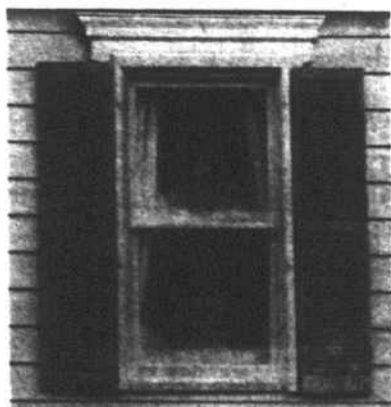
The rest of the 150 pound carcass is fat for lard, plus bone and shrink. So you can see that only a small part of what a swine producer sells for slaughter actually gets to you.

grams are eligible to participate in PIK.

The ASCS official said farmers who would like to see an improvement in the market situation should seriously consider the program and do their part toward reducing the surplus that is hurting the economy.

"We urge farmers to sign up now and not miss the opportunity by waiting or expecting the deadline to be extended. The signup period will end at the close of business on March 11."

HOW YOU CAN STOP YOUR HEATING DOLLARS FROM GOING OUT THE WINDOW.



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