

## 2013 Bell Pepper Variety Trial Results

Every year the Extension Office does a variety trial of a common vegetable crop. The purpose of the variety trials is to determine which cultivars are best adapted to growing in our climate and will yield the best. The information may aid in variety selection for gardeners, CSA's and market farms. It may also help them plan for expected yields when having to produce a certain quantity of a vegetable for a given market. Each garden or farm may have different growing conditions and soil fertility that will cause a variation in variety performance and yield. The trial results are meant to be a guide and not a guaranteed of performance. This year we evaluated 16 sweet bell pepper varieties. The peppers were planted May 31<sup>st</sup>. Row covers were used for the first 6 weeks and for a couple of weeks in the fall. A drip irrigation system was used. The peppers were harvested when they began to mature and turn color (red, orange or yellow depending on the variety). At the end of the season all the peppers were picked except those that were less than 2" in diameter and immature.

The first harvest date was July 31<sup>st</sup>. The last harvest date was September 25<sup>th</sup>. The first early producer that had the highest yield was Flavorburst that yielded 1 pepper per plant that had an average weight of 3.2 ounces. Flavorburst is a yellow skinned pepper with good flavor. Beaver Dam was the next highest early yielding variety with 1 pepper per plant that had an average weight of 2.6 ounces. Beaver Dam has a chili pepper shape that turns from a light green color to a dark red when mature. When eaten as an immature pepper it has a slight amount of heat, but once it matures it has very little to no heat flavor. The variety that had the highest yield for the season was Yankee Bell with 2 pounds of peppers per plant; the average size of the peppers was 3.7 ounces. Yankee Bell is a medium sized pepper, oval shaped with good flavor. The pepper that yielded the most fruit was Beaver Dam with 15 peppers per plant and an average weight of 1.8 ounces. The variety with the largest fruit was Snapper, 5 ounces. The average plant yield for all the varieties was 1.4 pounds; the average fruit weight was 3.5 ounces, and the average number of fruit per plant was 6.7. Below are a list of the varieties, their seed source and a graph of the results.

<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Seed Source</b>
Olympus, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds
Yankee Bell	Johnny's Seeds
X3R Red Knight, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds
Snapper, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds
Ace, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds
Flavorburst, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds
Gourmet, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds
King Arthur, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds
Sweet Sunrise, hybrid	Johnny's Seeds

Beaver Dam	Seed Savers Exchange
Bull Nose	Seed Savers Exchange
Buran	Seed Savers Exchange
Ruby King	Seed Savers Exchange
Napoleon Sweet	Seed Savers Exchange
Wisconsin Lakes	Seed Savers Exchange
King of the North	Seed Savers Exchange



