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All American Selections

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All American Selections

Abstract

The year 2007 was the second for the All American Selections Vegetable Trial at the Muscatine Island Research Farm. The AAS is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1932 by industry leaders to organize and oversee unbiased evaluations of new and soon to be released flower and vegetable varieties. The goal of the AAS is to identify extraordinary breeding breakthroughs in their trials and then promote these proven winners to the public with the AAS Winner designation.

Disciplines

Agricultural Science | Agriculture

All American Selections

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There are several AAS vegetable trial sites across the country hosted by universities, seed companies, and other public gardens. The AAS requires all trial sites to have a knowledgeable judge to evaluate entrants in blind tests (seed sources are unknown to judges) on several traits including earliness, yield, taste, disease resistance, and shelf life.

The 2007 AAS Vegetable Trial evaluated 10 entrants:

1. An extended season bush bean with large pods.
2. A large reddish-purple radish.
3. A crisp, light green cucumber with few spines.
4. A high yielding white cucumber with few spines.
5. A red chili pepper with semi determinate growth and a concentrated fruit set.
6. An indeterminate edible soybean with a sharp nutty flavor.
7. A determinate edible soybean having good flavor and yield.
8. A compact bush hybrid acorn squash with powdery mildew tolerance in both parents.
9. A very juicy, plum-shaped determinate tomato.

10. A crisp diploid watermelon with deep red flesh.

Each entrant was grown in replicated plots with at least two other established, similar varieties for comparison. Common cultural practices were followed including irrigation and pest control as needed. Most entrants performed well but only one entrant stood out in the trial as a possible award recipient. The hybrid acorn squash maintained its bush habit all season and did not send out any runners. It was also tolerant to powdery mildew showing no signs of the disease. The fruit was unique among acorn squash types. It was smaller with shallow lobes and a small seed cavity. Even with smaller fruit size, total yield was comparable with other acorn squash.

The 2008 vegetable winner was the miniature F1 hybrid eggplant *Hansel*. *Hansel* is a smaller 3-foot plant producing copious amounts of purple finger-sized fruit. It matures early; about 55 days from transplanting and fruit remains tender and edible as size increases. *Hansel* is also an excellent choice for container gardening. Its smaller form is well suited for small areas while maintaining high yield.

New AAS Winners will officially be announced in January 2008. For more information and a list of recent AAS Winners with pictures and full descriptions, visit www.aaswinners.com.