

Regional Seed Variety Trials

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WHAT IS A VARIETY TRIAL?

A variety trial is how farmers and scientists figure out what varieties of fruits and vegetables grow well in our area AND taste great. You play an important role! We want to know what *you* think about these different vegetables.

In this trial, we are testing seeds produced by growers from the Intermountain West. Information from this trial will be used by the seed growers and local farmers to choose the best varieties to grow.

All food is donated to families who need it through the Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief as well as The Learning Council of Paonia.

Thank you and enjoy!

Thank you to the following seed growers!

HIGH DESERT SEED
MONTROSE, CO

HORTON NASH
PAONIA, CO

SEEDS TRUST
GRAND JUNCTION,
CO

WILD MOUNTAIN SEEDS
CARBONDALE, CO

HIGH GROUND
GARDENS
CRESTONE, CO

MIKE BARTOLO
ROCKY FORD, CO

MASA
BOULDER, CO

FOLKS FARM & SEED
FORT COLLINS, CO

GRAND PRISMATIC SEED
WEST VALLEY, UT

SNAKE RIVER SEED COOP
BOISE, ID

NMSU CHILE PEPPER
INSTITUTE
LAS CRUCES, NM

CURRY SEED & CHILE CO
PEARCE, AZ



LIKE GETTING LOCAL FOOD?

We hope you enjoy this produce grown right here on the Western Slope. If you like adding local food to your meals, consider shopping at seasonal farmers markets in Grand Junction, Fruita, Palisade, Delta, and Montrose. It can be an affordable option because several markets accept SNAP and you can double your purchasing power using Double Up Food Bucks.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) are a way to routinely get produce all growing season. You usually subscribe to a produce box and some places even deliver each week.

Did you know that food pantries often have local produce during the growing season? CSU distributes thousands of pounds of fresh produce to food banks, pantries, and meal programs each season. Many food pantries are able to purchase from local farmers thanks to grants made available from the State Legislature.

To explore local food options, check out these links coloradoproud.com or valleyfoodpartnership.org.

CSU WORKING TO HELP LOCAL GROWERS

The Western Slope of Colorado is a challenging place to successfully grow vegetables due to a short growing season, variable climatic events, drought, and poor soils. Most local farmers purchase seed from companies that have growing operations in regions unlike Colorado's unique environment. Many seed companies throughout the Intermountain West are selecting for and breeding vegetable varieties that are adapted to local conditions.

These companies are not usually able to conduct a scientific analysis of variety performance and consumer preference.

A thriving local seed economy has the potential to increase farm sustainability and community resilience, especially as the effects of climate change bring about predictions of greater environmental fluctuations. CSU's Western Colorado Research Center, with farms in the Hotchkiss and Orchard Mesa areas, is working to promote local seed production by: (1) identifying vegetable varieties that are well-adapted to our region and enjoyed by consumers; and (2) increasing the awareness of and access to these varieties by farmers.

Want to taste more?

Join us on August 31st from 4:30 - 7:30 pm at the Western Colorado Research Center - Rogers Mesa for our Field Day event! Learn about interesting agricultural research through our farm tours and workshops. Stay for food and mingle with the community!

For more details:
(970) 872-3437

<https://aes.colostate.edu/wcrc/stations/rogers-mesa/>
FaceBook: @OrganicRogersMesa

Questions?

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