

third of the site was covered with commercial white plastic mulch, one-third was covered with straw, and the rest just had soil over the crown. At the Richmond site of IPPFBE, Inc., plants were cut back to ground level and were mulched with 4-6 inches of sawdust, leaves, or cut artichoke leaves then soil to 12 inches. Field soil (6-8 inches) was mounded over half the plants at the Hobbs farm in Franklin, ID and then these were covered with commercial white plastic mulch. The other half was covered with 12 inches of composted manure.

### Results and Observations:

**Objective 1: Variety Evaluations - Richmond, UT:** Tolerance to early spring freezes following transplanting appeared to vary in five varieties tested at the IPPFBE, Inc. site spring 2006 (Table 1). Although the artichoke is frost tolerant and requires chilling temperatures to flower, freeze damage resulting from transplanting to early may significantly affect plant survival and production.

Table 1.

Artichoke survival early spring planting – IPPFBE, Inc. 2006			
Variety	# Planted (3/2/06)	# Survived (5/1/06)	% Survival
Purple Italian Globe	18	11	61%
F2 (local cross)	36	28	78%
Purple Romagna	18	8	44%
North Star	18	11	61%
Green Globe	18	16	89%

Note: Violetto and Imperial Star planted later.

**Objective 1: Variety Evaluations - Kaysville, UT:** There were obvious differences in plant growth and flowering potential (suckers and flowers initiated during the 1<sup>st</sup> year – November 21, 2006) between the nine commercial varieties tested (Table 2).

Table 2.

Variety	Source	Fresh Wt (lbs)	Suckers/plant	Flowers/plant
Dayton F2 hybrid		7.5	5.3	3.2
Purple Italian Globe		2.8	2.6	1.0
Green Globe	(N)	3.6	3.8	0.9
Violetto		15.3	2.8	4.2
Emerald		4.1	2.9	5.2
North Star		2.3	3.0	1.0
Imperial Star		2.2	3.4	6.1
Purple Romagna		0.9	1.6	1.0
Green Globe	(BC)	3.3	4.7	0.8
average		4.7	3.3	2.6

Violetto grew very large plants, had approximately 3 suckers per plant but the flowers produced in the first year were very small and spiny and of inferior quality. Emerald, North Star, and Imperial Star, had limited vegetative growth but produced adequate numbers of suckers and some flowered well in the first year with good size buds produced. The open-pollinated Dayton F2 hybrid grew well, produced a lot of suckers and flowered well but had plant and flower