

Grower Survey: Cucurbit Variety and Seed Needs

A SARE-funded project of Twin Oaks Seed Farm (twinoaksseedfarm.com) in Louisa, Virginia.

This survey is part of a research project on cucumber, muskmelon and winter squash seedstocks for the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. We are seeking input from growers to assess cucurbit seed and variety needs. The project also includes variety trials focused on Downy Mildew and striped cucumber beetle resistance. Please read more at twinoaksseedfarm.com/variety-trials/

How the survey results will be used:

- To assess what problems are most significant for cucurbit producers in the region.
- To assess what variety traits are most needed and desirable for cucurbit producers in the region.
- To assess priorities for future variety trials and breeding projects.

Please select what best describes you:

- Market Farmer
- Wholesale Producer
- Gardener

How many years have you been involved in farming or gardening?

What is the approximate area of cucumbers that you plant annually?
in square feet or in acres (please indicate which)

What is the approximate area of muskmelons that you plant annually?
in square feet or in acres (please indicate which)

What is the approximate area of winter squash that you plant annually?
in square feet or in acres (please indicate which)

What is your growing practice?
Mark all that apply.

- certified organic
- conventional
- no spray
- low spray
- biodynamic
- organic not certified
- IPM (integrated pest management)

What are the primary pest and disease problems you encounter with cucumber production?
Mark all that apply.

- Downy Mildew
- Cucumber Beetle damage to young plants
- Cucumber Beetle damage to fruit
- Powdery Mildew
- Aphids
- Bacterial Wilt
- Anthracnose
- Alternaria
- Fusarium Wilt
- Fusarium Fruit Rot
- Angular Leaf Spot
- Gummy Stem Blight
- Squash Bugs
- Zucchini Yellow Virus
- Cucumber Mosaic Virus
- Other:

What are the primary pest and disease problems you encounter with muskmelon production?
Mark all that apply.

- Downy Mildew
- Cucumber Beetles
- Powdery Mildew
- Aphids
- Bacterial Wilt
- Anthracnose
- Alternaria
- Fusarium Wilt
- Fusarium Fruit Rot
- Angular Leaf Spot
- Gummy Stem Blight
- Squash Bugs
- Zucchini Yellow Virus
- Cucumber Mosaic Virus

- Other:

What are the primary pest and disease problems you encounter with winter squash production?
Mark all that apply.

- Downy Mildew
- Cucumber Beetles
- Powdery Mildew
- Aphids
- Bacterial Wilt
- Anthracnose
- Alternaria
- Fusarium Wilt
- Fusarium Fruit Rot
- Angular Leaf Spot
- Gummy Stem Blight
- Squash Bugs
- Zucchini Yellow Virus
- Cucumber Mosaic Virus
- Other:

What strategies do you use to control pest and disease problems?
Mark all that apply.

- variety choice
- row cover
- organic sprays
- conventional sprays
- crop rotation
- cultural controls
- growing in high tunnels
- Other:

Are you able to find cucumber varieties with adequate disease resistance?

- yes
- no

Are you able to find muskmelon varieties with adequate disease resistance?

- yes
- no

Are you able to find winter squash varieties with adequate disease resistance?

- yes
- no

Are you able to find adequate information about disease resistance?

- yes
- no

What disease resistance traits that are currently unavailable or hard to find would you like to see?

What variety traits (other than disease resistance) that are currently unavailable or hard to find would you like to see?

Have you noticed an increase in Downy Mildew pressure, or a decrease in resistance?
If yes, please fill out the "other" box with the years you've made this observation.

- no
- yes
- Other:

What varieties of cucumber are the most valuable to your farm or garden?
Please list variety names.

What varieties of muskmelon are the most valuable to your farm or garden?
Please list variety names.

What varieties of winter squash are the most valuable to your farm or garden?
Please list variety names.

Mark the following variety traits that are important to you in cucumbers.

- disease resistance
- insect resistance
- flavor
- color
- shape and size
- pickling quality
- keeping quality
- thin skin
- yield
- uniformity
- Other:

Please elaborate on each trait as needed.

For example, if you chose color, please indicate what color.

Please rank each trait you marked above in importance (1= lower priority; 5 = high priority).
Say you marked flavor, color and shape as traits that are important to you. You could then write " flavor=5 color=2 shape=3" below.

Mark the following variety traits that are important to you in muskmelons.

- disease resistance
- insect resistance
- flavor
- sweetness
- interior color
- keeping quality
- appearance/netting
- size and shape
- yield
- uniformity
- Other:

Please elaborate on each trait as needed.
For example, if you chose color, please indicate what color.

Please rank each trait you marked above in importance (1= lower priority, 5 = high priority).
Say you marked flavor, color and shape as traits that are important to you. You could then write "
flavor=5 color=2 shape=3" below.

Mark the following variety traits that are important to you in winter squash.

- disease resistance
- insect resistance
- flavor
- sweetness
- interior texture
- interior color
- keeping quality
- appearance
- size and shape
- yield
- uniformity
- Other:

Please elaborate on each trait as needed.

For example, if you chose color, please indicate what color.



Please rank each trait you marked above in importance (1= lower priority, 5 = high priority). Say you marked flavor, color and shape as traits that are important to you. You could then write "flavor=5 color=2 shape=3" below.



Where do you currently source your cucurbit seeds from?



What advantages and/or drawbacks do you experience when using open-pollinated seeds as they are currently available?



What advantages and/or drawbacks do you experience when using hybrid seeds as they are currently available?

What advantages and/or drawbacks do you experience when using organic seeds as they are currently available?

What advantages and/or drawbacks do you experience when using non-organic seeds as they are currently available?

What advantages and/or drawbacks do you experience when using self-produced seeds?

Have you noticed differences between different seed sources or seed lots of the same open-pollinated varieties?

- yes and it's been a problem
- yes but only small differences
- no

Do you save cucurbit seeds for on-farm or home use?

- yes
- no

Do you produce cucurbit seeds for sale?

- yes
- no

Are you interested in saving your own cucurbit seeds?

- yes
- no

Are you interested in producing cucurbit seeds to sell?

- yes
- no

Are you interested in attending workshops about cucurbit seed growing and seed saving?

- yes
- no

Would you be interested in using regionally trialed & regionally produced open-pollinated cucurbit seeds?

- very interested
- somewhat interested
- not interested

What other research about cucurbit varieties and seed stocks would be of value to you?

Any additional comments?

Your name:
will not be used publicly

Farm Name:
if applicable - will not be used publicly

Your location:
(county/town/city, state)

Thank you for completing the survey!

Additional, optional questions follow.

May we contact you to share results from this survey and trials project?

- no
- yes

If yes, please write your email and/or mailing address.

Twin Oaks Seed Farm is part of Common Wealth Seed Growers, a newly formed farmers cooperative that sells seeds grown by member growers. Would you like to receive a catalog?

- no
- yes

If yes, please write your email and/or mailing address.

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