

Variety trial of OP Winter Leeks 2014-15

Trial by Steven Wrubleski

Lopez Island, WA, 2014

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Goals: I am seeking leeks which remain desirable throughout our NW winters, AND which have a long stem (meaning the white portion of the stem before leaves begin, without hilling).

Varieties and sources:

My leek (? which I have saved 3 generations)

King Sieg (source?)

Bandit (Johnnys)

Bleu De Solaize (Fedco)

Verdonnet (Adaptive Seeds)

Lancelot (Johnny's)

Tadorna (Osborne)

Blau Gruener(Turtle Tree)

Planting details:

Seed started mid February 2014, transplanted 4/27/14

Row spacing 2' / In-row spacing 6"

Soil is a slightly sandy clay loam. Full sun, low weed pressure, got a slow start.

Sprinkled an organic fertilizer mix down rows at planting. Wet soil in winter.

General conclusions:

I believe that these are all northern European based varieties. There was no observable variation in seedling vigor, cold tolerance, or flavor. It appears that certain varieties have had some selection for longer stem length, (see my evaluation ratings), but not much else. Reviewing the seed catalogs, it appears that the truly long stems are associated with early, warmer season (Mediterranean?) leek varieties. Some of the hybrid leeks appear to be somewhere in the middle regarding stem length. I have not found a knowledgeable source to inform if these hybrids are crossed with longer stem Mediterranean leeks to produce these hybrids. In the future King Richard and Lincoln seem like likely prospects to introduce the longer stem quality into a hardier gene pool, then stabilize the trait through selection over some years.

I realize that I would ideally have a wider range to spread my evaluative assessment over in order to tease out variation, but there was so little variation. Based upon this data I would consider using Bandit, Lancelot, and Tadorna as a beginning gene pool in which to introduce longer stem genetics from more southern leek

| Evaluation Ratings | Stem length | Diameter |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| King Sieg | 5 | 5 |
| my leek | 5.5 | 3 |
| Bandit | 6 | 6 |
| Bleu De Solaise | 5.5. | 5 |
| Verdonnet | 5.5 | 6.5 |
| Lancelot | 6 | 7.5 |
| Tadorna | 6 | 6 |
| Blau Gruener | 5.5 | 5 |