

## Greenbank Farm Swiss Chard Variety Trial 2014

We evaluated 9 varieties of Swiss chard: six red/pink varieties and three rainbow varieties. We did two side-by-side replications of all varieties except 'Prismatic Rainbow' of which we did not have enough seed. One of our primary goals was to find red chards that are more bolt-tolerant.

Of the red varieties, Crimson 2592 from Organic Seed Alliance was the standout. It exhibited excellent savoyedness and relatively uniform color in addition to being very healthy upright plants. Three varieties (Magenta Sunset from Johnny's Selected Seeds and True Magenta and Fire Engine, both from Organic Seed Alliance) showed very little savoyedness. They also happened to be the bottom three red varieties overall.

Of the rainbow varieties, Bright Lights from Johnny's Selected Seeds was the clear winner. Prismatic Rainbow did well too, but with only one small plot of it as opposed to two, our results were inconclusive. Regardless, Bright Lights had the best variety of colors on large, upright, very healthy plants.

We had a sudden prolonged cold snap early in November, and for the first night of that cold spell, the chard was uncovered. Even after it was covered, the cold continued to cause extensive damage to the chard. Many of the varieties eventually recovered, some better than others. Unfortunately, we were unable to do another evaluation in the spring to see which varieties fared best. This is an opportunity for future trials.

Seeded in GH: 7/9/2014

Transplanted to field: approx. 8/4/2014

Evaluated: 10/1/2014

Soil: Sandy Loam

Spacing: Beds 5' O.C. / 3 rows @14" / 12" in-row

Used row cover initially

Irrigated with over head mini-sprinklers

All data scores are averages from 9 evaluators.

Data shown on following page:

Eval date: 10/1/2014

Evaluation Criteria

Var.	Rep	bolt resistance (BR)	plant stature (PS)	color uniformity /variety	leaf color (LC)	stem thickness (ST)	leaf size (LS)	disease resistance (DR)	saveydeh ess (S)	Avg Score	Total Avg Score	Avg by Color
402	1	5.78	7.78	3.78	6.56	4.11	6.22	6.67	5.78	5.83	5.60	5.60
	2	1.44	5.67	6.44	7.11	4.11	5.78	5.56	6.89	5.38		
404	1	7.67	6.11	5.11	6.11	5.00	6.33	5.33	6.67	6.04	5.88	5.88
	2	7.22	5.78	4.89	6.33	3.78	5.33	5.89	6.44	5.71		
405	1	6.89	6.33	4.89	6.89	4.33	6.33	6.56	7.11	6.17	6.47	6.47
	2	7.67	6.22	7.56	7.89	5.00	6.00	7.22	6.56	6.76		
406	1	8.22	2.00	4.44	4.78	6.00	3.00	4.89	3.22	4.57	4.88	4.88
	2	7.89	4.33	5.33	5.22	7.00	3.89	5.00	2.78	5.18		
408	1	6.89	3.11	5.56	6.00	5.44	4.00	5.33	3.11	4.93	5.17	5.17
	2	8.67	4.44	6.11	4.44	6.78	5.11	4.44	3.22	5.40		
409	1	7.89	5.67	3.78	4.11	2.78	4.11	5.00	1.44	4.35	4.38	4.38
	2	2.78	6.00	4.00	4.33	3.67	5.78	6.33	2.44	4.42		
410	1	8.11	7.00	7.00	6.00	6.56	7.33	6.78	6.56	6.92	6.94	6.94
	2	7.11	6.67	7.67	6.33	7.56	7.78	6.22	6.44	6.97		
411	1	6.67	4.11	4.78	4.67	3.22	3.67	5.67	5.44	4.78	4.42	4.42
	2	3.67	3.22	5.11	4.56	2.22	2.56	6.00	5.11	4.06		
B-PR	n/a	7.63	7.13	4.00	5.63	7.38	7.13	8.13	8.25	6.91	6.91	6.91

Variety	Trial #	Seed Source
Rhubarb	402	High Mowing
Rhubarb Supreme	404	OSA
Crimson 2592	405	OSA
Fire Engine	406	OSA
True Magenta	408	OSA
Magenta Sunset	409	Johnny's
Bright Lights	410	Johnny's
Celebration	411	Osborne
Prismatic Rainbow	border	Siskiyou Seeds