

2015 Greenbank Farm Spinach Variety Trial

We evaluated 10 varieties of savoyed and semi-savoyed spinach with two side-by-side replications. The plan was to seed the spinach early in March, but we were delayed by nearly two months. This error actually turned out to be the source of some excellent information for the trial since it allowed us to put the varieties' bolt tolerances to the test.

The overall star of the trial was Solstizio from Nash's Organic Produce; it came out on top in every category except for flavor, and it was satisfactory in that category as well.

The most flavorful spinach was Tye from Osborne Seed Company followed closely by Winter Bloomsdale from High Mowing Organic Seeds and Long Standing Bloomsdale from Wild Garden Seeds with a tie for second place.

I confess I had high hopes for Abundant Bloomsdale, a new variety from Organic Seed Alliance by way of High Mowing Organic Seeds. It performed solidly in most categories, especially plant habit and leaf savoyedness, but had less than stellar bolt tolerance. This variety was bred for cold tolerance, so I believe it would have performed much better if we had stuck to our original planting schedule.

We did one large harvest of all of this spinach on the evaluation date in order to see how the different varieties would yield. Normally, we do selective loose-leaf harvesting, so this harvest was out of the ordinary for our production system. Ideally, we would do another trial to see which varieties perform best under our ongoing looseleaf harvest methods. In this one-time harvest, we did not harvest off of bolting plants, so we can assume that bolting varieties would have yielded better if we had harvested them earlier. Tye was the highest yielder with Sostizio coming in second.

Seeded: 4/29/2015

Evaluated: 6/11/2015

Spacing: rows @ 14", 1 seed/inch

Soil: Sandy Loam



Eval date: 6/11/2015

Evaluation Criteria

Var	Rep	bolt resistance (BR)	Leaf Savoyed-ness (LS)	Leaf Color (LC)	Plant Habit (PH)	Disease /Pest Resistance (DR)	Flavor (FL)	Avg Score	Total Avg Score	Yield (lb)	Avg Yield (lb)
501	1	3.40	5.17	5.67	6.17	5.17	5.83	3.93	4.37	1.91	3.13
	2	3.80	8.20	6.25	7.75	6.25	6.25	4.81		4.34	
502	1	5.17	6.00	6.00	4.50	7.00	6.00	4.33	4.24	2.88	3.11
	2	5.40	7.60	4.50	6.25	4.50	5.00	4.16		3.34	
503	1	2.50	2.33	4.50	2.50	6.17	4.17	2.77	2.66	3.29	4.75
	2	2.40	2.00	4.00	3.75	4.50	3.75	2.55		6.21	
504	1	3.50	1.50	2.33	4.83	5.50	6.50	3.02	2.67	1.78	1.98
	2	3.20	1.40	2.25	2.00	5.75	4.00	2.33		2.17	
505	1	2.33	4.67	6.67	7.83	6.33	4.83	4.08	4.19	3.04	3.46
	2	4.80	6.00	6.25	5.75	6.75	4.75	4.29		3.87	
506	1	6.33	5.33	6.83	4.67	5.17	6.83	4.40	4.40	3.54	3.72
	2	7.80	8.20	5.00	3.50	5.00	5.75	4.41		3.90	
507	1	8.83	6.17	6.50	1.67	3.50	1.17	3.48	3.36	1.76	2.45
	2	7.80	5.60	6.25	2.00	2.75	1.50	3.24		3.14	
508	1	8.17	8.83	7.67	8.33	7.33	4.50	5.60	5.40	3.80	5.10
	2	5.20	7.40	7.25	8.25	7.67	5.75	5.19		6.40	
509	1	9.00	4.17	2.50	6.17	6.50	6.67	4.38	4.63	5.07	6.79
	2	7.40	4.40	5.50	7.75	6.75	7.25	4.88		8.50	
510	1	7.00	7.17	7.33	6.00	5.50	6.33	4.92	4.36	2.58	2.79
	2	5.40	4.80	5.00	4.50	4.50	6.25	3.81		3.00	

Variety	Trial #	Source
Abundant Bloomsdale	501	Midori
Bloomsdale Long Standing	502	HMS'15
Butterflay	503	HMS
Giant Winter	504	HMS
La Dolce Vita	505	Nash 2009
Long Standing Bloomsdale	506	WGS'13
Lyra	507	Oatsplant
Solstizio	508	Nash 2009
Tyee	509	OSB'13
Winter Bloomsdale	510	HMS'14