



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Vintage Veggies 2----a ten day event!

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Garlic Romanian Red

Milaeger's "Vintage Veggie" event is coming soon----get your garden ready! At Milaeger's we like to grow unusual plants just for fun---especially "heirloom" vegetables. These are old plant varieties that are no longer commonly grown. We like to try them to see if they have that "old fashioned flavor" that everyone is looking for.



Garlic Siberian

There are thousands of heirloom varieties out there, and probably many more to be rediscovered. This year we are growing about 80 varieties, and we'll have them available in mid-May. Everything on the [Vintage Veggie list](#) is in addition to our regular offerings. You can look them over on our milaegers.com website, but here are a few highlights.

We will have six types of garlic, including 'Romanian Red,' a hardneck variety with strong, pungent flavor, and 'Siberian,' a purple striped hardneck variety with large bulbs and a pronounced flavor that is not overpowering.

I like growing okra because it is such a great looking plant, but of course it is also a prized edible, especially in the South. We have two kinds, including 'Jing Orange,' a six foot tall variety with orange/scarlet fruit and stems. Visitors to your garden will marvel over this.



Okra Jing Orange



Pepper Sweet Heat

'Sweet Heat' pepper is considered to be a sweet pepper, but it does have a small amount of heat. Its scoville rating is 235 when the pepper is fully ripe. For comparison, a jalapeno is typically 2,000-3,000 scovilles. 'Sweet Heat' is a tapered pepper, about 3.5" long. Also new this year is a Basque pepper known as 'Corne de Chevre.' It is a long, thin pepper, about 6" x 1.5", with a scoville rating of 2,000. Remember, hot peppers are at their hottest if we have a hot summer.



Saltwort

Saltwort is a Japanese herb that has long, thin leaves that are crunchy, with a slight salty taste. They are at their best when picked young. We haven't tried this yet, but I am looking forward to trying it in my salad. The botanical name is *Salsola komarovii*.



Tomato Rosso Sicilian

'Rosso Sicilian' is a new paste tomato for us. It has an oblate (squat) shape and averages six ounces in weight. It has firm, dense flesh, with thin skin. Most paste tomatoes have very few seeds---not yet sure about this one.

Tronchuda, or Portuguese Kale, is commonly known as Loose Head Cabbage. It has broad, white ribbed leaves. If you keep picking the outer leaves, it will continue to produce new leaves.



Tronchuda (Portuguese Kale)



Potato Adirondack Blue

Potato 'Adirondack Blue' is a strikingly colored potato, perhaps more purple than blue. It retains its color after cooking. It is high in antioxidants and gives a heavy yield.

Although we love the heirloom plants, we are also well aware of new breeding breakthroughs in the plant world (Here we are *not* talking about GMOs---genetically modified organisms.) Breeders from around the world are continually working to create better tasting, more productive plants that have improved disease resistance. Every year we trial some new selections, comparing them to old favorites, looking for tomorrow's favorites. At "Vintage Veggies," these will also be available for you to trial in your own garden.



Tomato, grafted

One plant in this category is the grafted tomato plant. You can read plenty about this on the web. This is a first for us. We have several varieties that are grafted, and we think if you

are a tomato enthusiast you might want to give this a try. Grafting plants has been going on for thousands of years, with superior performance and yield always being the goal. Grafting tomatoes for retail sale is a relatively new concept and we are anxious to try it.

We'll be offering "Vintage Veggies" at both of our stores starting on Thursday, May 10 through Sunday, May 20, while supplies last.