



Kevin Milaeger

Milaeger's

Vintage Veggies #4---available this weekend!

Kevin Milaeger

It's time for "Vintage Veggies 4!" This limited time event is upon us once again, cool weather notwithstanding. For those unfamiliar, VV is a ten day offering of hard to find vegetable varieties here at Milaeger's. Years ago we started this event featuring only heirloom varieties, but we have gradually expanded the program to include some interesting new plants. While we share your enthusiasm for heirloom varieties, we feel it is foolish to think that there can be no worthwhile new ones. You be the judge. Here are some of the ones that caught my eye. You can see the full list by [following this link](#).

One group of plants that has interested me is the smaller cucumbers. I'd grown tired of discarding half a cucumber that had spoiled, and then I discovered these small varieties---now I use up the entire cuke for a couple of salads. ([Here is a link](#) to my blog about cukes.) Many of these cukes do not need pollinating insects, they are self-pollinating. (No, they aren't GMO plants---this is a naturally occurring phenomenon.) Requiring no insects for pollination, they attracted the attention of large commercial greenhouse

Photo courtesy of Territorial Seed Company



Cucumber 'Lemon'

Photo courtesy of Territorial Seed Company



Pepper 'Yum Yum Mix'

growers that grow cukes under glass (where there are few insects), but they grow great for the home gardener, too. Varieties include 'Beit Alpha,' 'Iznik,' and 'Silor.' We have a couple of other interesting cukes, too; the round, yellow skinned heirloom called 'Lemon,' and 'Supremo Hybrid,' a heavy bearing bush type that is ideal for pickle production.

We have several interesting sweet peppers. "Yum Yum Mix" is a miniature bell pepper, perfect for snacking. Fruit color in this mix is gold, yellow, and red when fully ripe. They can be eaten green, but they are less nutritious at that stage. Next is 'Fushimi,' described as a sweet chili pepper. I know, that caught our attention too. This is a finger sized pepper from Asia, where it is usually served cooked. We've read that it is usually picked green, but it will turn red when fully ripe. The sweet Italian frying pepper called 'Friariello Di Napoli' looks like a winner to us, though we will probably be either roasting or grilling them. It is reputed to be a very productive plant, with

Photo courtesy of Ivy Garth Seeds & Plants



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slender 4" long fruits that are deep red when ripe.



Pepper 'Fish'

New additions in the world of hot peppers are three new Thai peppers---

'Bangkok,' 'Thai Hot,' and

'Thai Dragon.'

These finger sized peppers have a heat range from 15,000-

100,000 scovilles, with 'Bangkok' being by far the mildest in this group. We

Photo courtesy of Ivy Garth Seeds & Plants



Tomato Plum 'Crimson'

decided to reoffer 'Fish' pepper this year. This lovely plant has splashy variegated leaves and the fruit is sometimes variegated, too. Fruit size is about four inches long, and they are slender and curved, like small horns. It is quite hot, with a scoville rating of 45k-75k. This is an African American heirloom variety that originated in Chesapeake Bay area, where it was frequently used in fish recipes.

Of course, tomatoes are the most popular vegetable, so we have the greatest number of new plants in that category---more than twenty. 'Plum Crimson' is a very dark red salad tomato, perfect for container culture, plus it is very high in lycopene.

'Apricot Dream' is a new grape tomato, with a blunt tip. The color is similar to an apricot, and the flavor is robust. With a very high brix rating, it is among the sweetest of tomatoes. Although indeterminate, it has a compact habit so it should be a good choice for container growing. 'Carmello' is a fine French variety, with a rich sweet flavor. Average size is 5-7 ounces,

and it has a heavy yield and thin skin. 'Armenian Bicolor' is a large beefsteak type, with mottled coloring of red, orange, and yellow. "Slava Plum' is a salad tomato, less than 2" wide. It is pinkish red, with superb flavor and good resistance to blight.

Unfortunately, due to an error on my part we will not have 'Macedonia' tomato available at this time, but it should be ready at the end of the month.

Photo courtesy of Territorial Seed Company



Broccoli 'Purple Peacock'

A couple of other interesting plants are 'Purple Peacock' broccoli. It has stems colored neon purple and the leaves are brightly colored too. The entire plant is edible, even the leaves. Also in the leafy category is a compact kale called 'Dwarf Green Curled.' Sweet, curly leaves are best when picked young---it's ready about 45 days after planting.

Perhaps some of you aren't fortunate to have a garden. We have



something that may work for you. It is an Italian kitchen garden, in a pot. It holds a 'San Marzano' paste tomato, a sweet Italian frying pepper called 'Carmen' (a bull's horn type), and four herbs---'Genovese' basil, 'Nura' garlic chive, 'Gorizia' rosemary, and Italian oregano. This would make a fine gift, too. Buon appetito!

Remember, quantities of these plants are limited. We usually try to do at least 100 of each, but



Kevin Milaeger with an Italian Garden Pot

sometimes the seed doesn't germinate as well as we'd hoped. Pretty much anyone who likes to garden likes to experiment a little with new plants. We hope you find something fun to try. Let me know how it turned out---your feedback is important!

Please email me (kevin@milaegers.com) if you have any questions or comments.



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