



Winter Squash 'Lakota'

At Milaeger's we love heirloom vegetables---we've been growing them for many years. "Old fashioned" heirloom vegetables have lots of fans---folks appreciate their rich flavor---something that is lacking in many of the modern hybrids. The newer hybrids have oftentimes been bred for characteristics such as appearance, yield, earliness, skin thickness, shipping suitability, disease

resistance, etc---rather than flavor. But many gardeners have discovered that the "old fashioned" flavor can still be found---in heirloom vegetables. If you've been perusing seed catalogs this winter you have likely seen many heirloom vegetables you'd like to try. Problem is, you would need to buy much more seed than you would probably ever use. Plus, you have to raise them from scratch---and that can be tricky.

The good news is that Milaeger's can help---this year we are planning a new event---an heirloom and gourmet vegetable plant festival. For ten days in mid-May we will be offering over 80 varieties of these intriguing plants. (This is in addition to our regular vegetable and small fruit offering of over 200 varieties---which includes about 100 kinds of tomatoes alone.) In planning this event, we have reviewed countless vegetable seed catalogs and have carefully selected some rare and fantastic varieties. While most of these plants are heirloom varieties, some are more recent selections that have been bred with the gourmet gardener in mind. But regardless of their pedigree, we feel all these selections merit a test---so make your choices. And at season's end, let us know how things turned out---your feedback helps us to keep improving our offerings. To see a list of the plants for the event [click here](#). To see our regular list of vegetables, [click here](#). Here are a few highlights for the heirloom event.



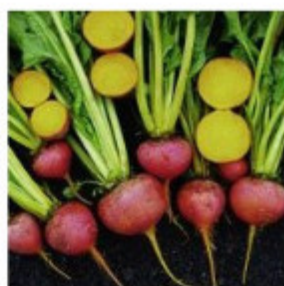
Tomato 'St. Pierre'



Cucumber 'Striped Armenian'

Cucumber 'Striped Armenian'---hard to believe---although this behaves like a cucumber, it is technically a melon. This long burpless "cuke" is decorative as well as tasty. Like all of the long cukes, it needs to be grown on a trellis if you want the fruit to be fairly straight. Gravity will then keep it from developing coiled or twisted fruit. Harvest is best when the fruit is from 8-18" long.

Beet 'Touchstone Gold' is a curious and promising plant. There are other golden beets, but 'Touchstone Gold' is a newer hybrid from a northern seed source and its flavor is reputed to be superior to other golden beets. You be the judge.



Beet 'Touchstone Gold'



Melon 'Noir des Carmes'

We will be offering a nice selection of melons, among them a French heirloom known as 'Noir des Carmes.' It is a very fragrant melon, with sweet, pale orange flesh. The skin is quite smooth, dark green in color, turning to mostly orange as it matures, and is very deeply ribbed. Gorgeous.

We will be offering several distinctive potatoes. One is a fine gourmet fingerling potato known as 'Russian Banana'---it is crescent shaped, about 4-5" long, with flavorful, pale yellow flesh.



Spaghetti Squash 'Orangetti'

A fine winter spaghetti squash known as 'Orangetti.' This a newer hybrid is an improved form of the traditional spaghetti squash. This beautiful



Potato 'Russian Banana'

orange gourmet squash is more flavorful and more nutritious, being higher in beta-carotene.

A second winter squash known as 'Lakota'----reputed to have originated with the Lakota Sioux Native Americans who live on the Dakota plains. This open pollinated squash is a Hubbard type, meaning it is vaguely pear-shaped. Size averages about 7 lbs. Color is either dark orange or black green, or a mottled combination of the two----they vary widely. The flesh is typical squash colored, not stringy, and has a sweet, nutty flavor.



Tomato 'Goldman's Italian American'

Of course, tomatoes are well represented in these heirloom offerings. We plan on over twenty kinds (in addition to the 100 we offer regularly). 'St. Pierre' is a French heirloom tomato with a full, rich flavor and bears a heavy yield. 'Goldman's Italian American' is a newer discovery. Amy Goldman, author of "The Heirloom Tomato," found it at a roadside stand in Italy. Its flavor is described as sweet and luscious. It is a large red tomato, vaguely pear shaped, ribbed and pleated. It is quite dense, and

has few seeds.

To see a listing of vegetable for this limited heirloom event, [click here](#). To see our regular vegetable listing, [click here](#). Please remember that we'll try to have all varieties available, but we do occasionally experience crop shortages. Quantities of all these plants are limited. You can always send us an [email](#) to check on the availability of any plant.