



Milaeger's

Vintage Veggies---All New Selections for 2013!

Kevin Milaeger

I am putting the finishing touches on this year's Vintage Veggie program (VV from here on), so I thought you might like a preview. For those unfamiliar with the program, VV is a limited time offering (this year's dates are May 9-19) of an assortment of interesting edibles for you to try; this year we have about 75. Many are old, heirloom varieties, but there are some new ones that you may find appealing, too. The VVs are not part of our regular production of over 260 vegetables and herbs. The supply of VV is limited, and they are available only while that supply lasts.



Pepper Aji Dulce

[Here is a link](#) to a spreadsheet that briefly describes all of the new VV varieties. There are a number of peppers in the trial that belong to that gray area of pepper categories, those that have very mild heat. I know that sounds like an oxymoron, but I think it is apt. I blogged about this category last year---[here is a link](#) if you are interested. This year, we are planning on six kinds of mild heat peppers. One pepper that looks particularly promising is 'Venezuelan Sweet Habanero' (aka 'Aji Dulce.')



Pepper Piquillo

The flavor is described as fruity, with no heat. Another pepper that looks intriguing is 'Piquillo.' This heirloom hails from Northern Spain, where it is a favorite for tapas. It is a 3" long, tapered pepper that registers less than 1,000 scovilles on the heat scale. To me that means more flavor, with just enough heat to keep

it interesting. Of course, there are also a number of truly hot peppers including the pea-sized 'Chiltepin,' about twenty times hotter than a jalapeno.

Another plant that is piquing our interest is a new pea called 'Super Sugar Snap.' Being a "sugar snap" type it is very sweet and it has an edible pod. I never understood why some people didn't like fresh peas, but I think I now might have a clue. They may have picked the peas too late. Peas should be picked young and eaten quickly. If left too long on the vine they have a "starchy" taste. Eat them when young and you will quickly understand why peas were Thomas Jefferson's favorite vegetable. This new pea is sweeter, plumper, more productive and more vigorous than previous "sugar snap" varieties. It is a climber, eventually reaching 5' high, so some support is needed.



Super Sugar Snap Pea

Those of you who have read my past blogs may recall one from 2012 on miniature cucumbers. [Here is a link](#) if you want to refresh your memory. We are looking forward to trying a new mini cuke this year, called 'Manny.'



Cucumber Manny

This one has all, or nearly all, female flowers. Therefore, fruit production is very high. It is reportedly very tasty, and it also has thin, tender skin so peeling is not necessary.

I hope some of the plants on this year's list interest you. It's always fun to grow something new, and to share new things with visitors to your garden. I am always looking for new things to try, so let me know if you

have any suggestions for the 2014 list---I already have it started, with a suggestion from a customer.

Please feel free to [email](#) me with any questions or comments.