

# *Time for Vintage Veggies!*



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**My favorite time of the gardening year—Vintage Veggie week.** This is an annual event at Milaeger's. Like many gardeners, we're always anxious to try something new. So we created Vintage Veggies (VV from now on). We are constantly on the lookout for new plants to try, and we often take suggestions from our customers. We draw up a **list of hopeful plants**, this year about 65 varieties, grow them, and invite you to try those that look interesting to you. We only grow about 100 of each, so quantities are limited. The VV plants will be on display for you beginning Thursday, May 18. Come check them out.



I'm looking forward to trying a number of these in our trial garden. In the pepper category, 'Sweet Red Habanero' looks appealing. For those of us who like interesting flavors, but can't tolerate the heat of hot peppers, this one is heatless. It has the savory habanero flavor, but without the heat. Similarly, there is a no heat version of the famous Scotch Bonnet pepper that's an integral flavor in Caribbean kitchens—its called 'Sweet Bonnet.' In the hot pepper category we have 'Tunisian Baklouti,' a North African variety with great flavor and very low heat, about half that of a jalapeño. We have seventeen pepper varieties in this program.

*photo courtesy of ivygarth.com*



**Eggplant 'Orient Express'**



**Cucumber 'Mini Munch'**

This year's VV tomato collection numbers about 35. Six of them are small fruited types—grapes and cherries. 'Mountain Vineyard' is touted as a sweet grape tomato with high lycopene content, and is crack resistant. 'Sweet Snax' is a crack resistant cherry, so they say. Experienced gardeners know that many cherry tomato varieties are prone to cracking, so this is a welcome variety, if the claim is accurate. I continue to be on the lookout for a tastier paste tomato,

and one in this year's collection claims to be the tastiest there is. 'Pink Fang' is a peculiar looking tomato, long, thin, pink fruits up to six inches long. Sweet flavor, meaty, with few seeds. Looking forward to the taste test on that one.

*image courtesy of "Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds/rareseeds.com"*



**Pepper 'Sweet Bonnet'**

*photo courtesy of ivygarth.com*



**Pepper 'Big Chili'**

In the large beefsteak category, I'm looking forward to 'Brimmer Pink,' an old variety that I've tried before and thought it was absolutely great. Very flavorful. It may find its way on our permanent list. Another is 'German Johnson Pink,' an old heirloom, a potato leaved type that has a great reputation. 'Wisconsin Chief' was introduced in 1957 but I've just learned of it. It has larger fruit than 'Wisconsin 55,' and has a compact habit—a desirable trait for many.

photo courtesy of ivygarth.com



**Tomato 'German  
Johnson Pink'**

photo courtesy of ivygarth.com



**Tomato 'Ukrainian  
Purple'**

In addition to those categories, we two kinds of collards, three cucumbers, one lettuce, two mustard greens, and an heirloom purple tomatillo called 'Purple Coban,' from Guatemala. There's bound to be something for every curious gardener.

Please email me ([kevin@milaegers.com](mailto:kevin@milaegers.com)) with your questions and comments!

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