

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

Bonneville County, 208.529.1390, Fax: 208.529.1391
2925 Rollandet, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Vegetable garden variety trials draw state wide interest

The Situation

Growing a garden in many parts of Idaho can be a challenging undertaking. Soil conditions, weather fluctuations, disease and insect pressures and vegetable varieties not suited to the area make it difficult to grow good quality produce. Each year the seed companies come out with new and improved varieties of many of the common crops grown in the garden. It is difficult to ascertain which of these varieties will be able to handle the harsh climatic conditions found in Idaho.

Our Response

The garden variety trial program was implemented to offer gardeners and small acreage growers the opportunity to test new varieties next to the standard varieties that are currently grown. Variety selections were made based on descriptions in seed catalogues and local growing conditions. Seeds were then purchased and counted out for individual trials. A planting kit was assembled with labels, a length of sting for planting the required length of row, and instructions on how to plant the seeds. A website was established for participants to purchase the trials online.

Program Outcomes

A total of 291 individual trials were conducted during 2012. Participants were very enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate and many have requested that the program continue. Several new varieties were shown to out perform the standard varieties that have been grown for several years in the area. Some of the traits noted in the new varieties included better flavor, better vigor, and increased yields.



The Future

The program will continue to be marketed to Master Gardeners, small scale growers, farmers market entities, garden clubs, and avid gardeners in Idaho as well as to these groups in adjoining states. Results of the 2012 trials will be posted online prior to the new growing season at the following web address: <http://gardentrials.cals.uidaho.edu>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wayne B. Jones, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County
2925 Rollandet
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208.529.1390
Fax: 208.529.1391
E-mail: wjones@uidaho.edu

45-12jones-garden.pub
12/12