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All-America Selections® Vegetable Trial

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All-America Selections® Vegetable Trial

Abstract

All-America Selections® (AAS) is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1932 by industry leaders to organize and oversee unbiased evaluations of new, soon-to-be released, flower and vegetable varieties. The goal of the AAS is to identify truly improved home garden varieties through a national network of trial grounds and then promote these proven winners as All-America Selections® .

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All-America Selections® (AAS) is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1932 by industry leaders to organize and oversee unbiased evaluations of new, soon-to-be released, flower and vegetable varieties. The goal of the AAS is to identify truly improved home garden varieties through a national network of trial grounds and then promote these proven winners as All-America Selections®.

There are several AAS vegetable trial sites across the country hosted by universities, seed companies, and other public gardens. AAS requires all trial sites to have a knowledgeable judge to evaluate entrants in blind tests (seed sources are unknown to judges) on several traits including earliness, yield, taste, disease resistance, and shelf life. AAS winners are

selected by receiving high ratings from majority of trialing locations.

The 2010 AAS Vegetable Trial was grown in replicated plots with each entrant compared with at least two other established, similar varieties. Common cultural practices were followed including irrigation and pest control as needed. Table 1 provides a short description of each AAS entrant and trial score awarded. The trial scores were then forwarded to the AAS Committee, who has the responsibility of compiling scores from all trialing locations to decide which entries, if any, will receive the AAS Award.

All-America Selections has announced that three vegetable cultivars will receive the AAS Winners award in 2011: Hijinks pumpkin (trialed in 2008); Terenzo red cherry tomato (entrant 10V02), and Lizzano red cherry tomato (entrant 10V03). For more information and a list of recent AAS Winners with pictures and full descriptions, visit www.aaswinners.com.

Table 1. The 2010 AAS vegetable trial entries, descriptions, and scores at the Muscatine Island Research Farm.

Entry	Description and comments	Trial Score ^a
10V01	Small compact plants bore small conical shaped peppers. Fruit were	1
Compact pepper	green changing to red and weighed about 1 ounce. Fruit had thin walls	
	and were pungent to taste. Suitable for small gardens or pot culture.	
10V02	Determinate plants were small and compact making them good for	2
Cherry red tomato	small gardens or pots. Small red fruit weighed approximately 0.7	
	ounce and good flavored.	
10V03	Vigorous strong plant with disease resistance produced small red	3
Small cherry tomato	cherry tomatoes weighing approximately 0.5 ounce. Fruit were sweet	
	and good flavored.	
10V04	Good emergence and early season growth vigor, attractive ears were of	1
Bicolor sweet corn	good quality but plants lodged badly and developed leaf blight.	
10V05	Strong yield of 5 lb fruit with light green rind color and red flesh. Fruit	2
Yellow watermelon	were seedy but good tasting. Early maturity and unique rind color	
	make it a good candidate for home gardens.	

^aTrial score: 0 = entry did not meet claims/inferior to comparisons, 1 = some merit but no award, 2 = improved entry, merits an award, 3 = superior entry worthy of award.