

# Storage Beet Trial



# Beets Have Long History

- Old crop that between 1860's and 1920's had more varieties of beet than peppers and tomatoes combined.
- Storage crops like roots hugely important.
- Subsistence crop that helped to feed families through winter.
- Originated as cattle feed then selected for table. Started as long thick roots eventually selected for roundness.

# Goals of Trial

- Identify beet varieties that would hold up to long-term storage
- Identify storage varieties that have great flavor and maintain flavor in storage
- Identify varieties that look attractive to customers
- Identify varieties that have leafy tops that have great flavor (sell leaves when topping of root for storage = more profit)

# Production

- Seeded in late July
- Used recommended rates of fertility
- Harvested in late October
- Rated for greens quality, root size, and leaf Cercospora spotting
- Leaf spots 0, low to high with high >10 spots per leaf

# Early Blood Turnip



# Early Blood Turnip

- Bulb size” 2-2.5”
- Tops green with red veins, not very flavorful
- Cercospora rating was low (2-3 spots)
- No leaf miner
- Secondary root hairs (temperatures flux from warm to cold back to warm caused root hairs – needed to pick a week earlier)

# Edmonds Early Blood Turnip



# Edmonds Early Blood Turnip

- Bulb size 3-3.5"
- Tops green/red great flavor
- Cercospora low to medium
- No leaf miner
- Some secondary hair roots



# Eastern Wonder



# Best Variety



# Eastern Wonder

- Bulb size 2-2.5"
- Tops are shorter, green/red, good for greens and small sized for bagged sales
- Cercospora low-med
- No leaf miner
- No hair roots
- Great size, shape, and appearance

# Giant Yellow Eckendorf



# Giant Yellow Eckendorf

- Bulb size tankard shape 2-2.5" x 3-4" long yellow flesh
- Tops green. Tasty
- Cercospora 0
- Leaf miner 0
- Interesting appearance, no hair roots, should attract customers for milder flavored beet

# Long Smooth Dark Red



# Long Smooth Dark Red

- Bulb size 2-2.5" slightly elongated but consistent size
- Tops green with red, tasty, chard-like
- Cercospora 0
- Leaf miner 0
- Hair roots from weather conditions

# Parma Globe





# Parma Globe

- Bulb size 2.5-3" somewhat turnip-shape
- Tops are red with fair flavor
- Cercospora low
- Leaf miner 0
- Even with tight spacing, still produced nice 2" root. Once thinned, quickly filled out larger.

# Half Sugar Rose



# Half Sugar Rose

- 1-1.5" w x 6-10" long and tapered. red then white tapered root
- Tops – green with young leaves tastier than older leaves
- Cercospora 0
- Leaf miner 0
- Very sweet and mild flavor. Roots are attractive like radish

# Moore's Yellow Tankard



# Moore's Yellow Tankard

- 1.5-2" w x 4-6" long
- Tops – green tops but not good for greens
- Cercospora 0
- Leaf miner 0
- Bright orangey flesh, more yellow inside. Tasty and mild flavor. Some hair roots.

# Winter Keeper – Great Greens



# Winter Keeper

- This beet is known for being a great storage beet for decades. It just did not grow well in this trial and will be retried in 2016.
- The top greens were very flavorful, sweet, and tasty.
- Thinning early might also be part of the solution.

# Eclipse





# Eclipse

- 2.5-3" bulb size with space up to 4" large roots
- 1.5" root with tight spacing
- Tops red but only fair flavor
- Cercospora low
- Leaf miner 0
- This beet maintained a great shape and large size. Some hair roots at first picking. We harvested out some of the mid to large sized beets leaving the smaller ones. After 3 weeks, those small beets grew to larger size of 3-4" with great quality

# First Round of Picking for Eclipse



# Eclipse – Second Picking Gave Largest Root Size

