

**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Yard and Garden Workshop – May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hope American Legion at 6:30 pm.** Esther McGinnis, NDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist, is the keynote speaker.

Growing good vegetables starts with planting good varieties that are suited for North Dakota. Luckily for North Dakota vegetable growers, NDSU Extension coordinates vegetable variety trials with home gardeners all across the state. Last year over 200 families participated in the project. The team of home gardeners compared varieties head to head to evaluate the germination, vigor, earliness, yield and taste of each variety and also gave each variety an overall rating score.

Here is a very brief list of the top rated vegetable varieties from last year:

- 'Maxibel' for green beans
- 'Laguna' for carrots
- 'Trinity' for sweet corn
- 'Tasty Green' for slicing cucumber
- 'Homemade Pickles' for pickler cucumber
- 'Sugar Ann' for snap pea
- 'Spineless Beauty' for zucchini
- 'Sweet Dakota Rose' for watermelon
- 'Orange Blaze' for sweet bell pepper

Anyone is welcome to participate in the home garden variety trials. There are fifty-five different trials available this year to choose from and each family can participate in up to six trials. Each trial consists of comparing two different varieties head to head. Seed packets contain enough seeds to plant a 10-foot row of each variety. If a gardener chooses to participate, they must agree to manage their seeds in a responsible manner. They must seed, grow, harvest, and taste the vegetables, agree to evaluate each variety fairly, and report their results to NDSU. There is a cost of \$1 for each trial (this includes enough seed to plant a 10-foot row of two varieties) and a \$4.00 postage and handling fee for each order.

Most of these vegetable varieties are most easily found by ordering them through seed catalogs. Here is a short list of a few seed companies that you can contact for a free seed catalog: Burpee Seed [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com); Gurney's Seed and Nursery [www.gurneys.com](http://www.gurneys.com); and Johnny's Selected Seeds [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com).

For a complete summary of last year's variety trial results, more information about participating in the home garden variety trials, and a more complete list of seed companies go to the NDSU Extension Home Variety Trial website at [www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/homegardenvarietytrials) or contact the Steele County Extension office by phone 701-524-2253, e-mail [alicia.harstad@ndsu.edu](mailto:alicia.harstad@ndsu.edu), or Facebook [www.facebook.com/steelecountyextension](http://www.facebook.com/steelecountyextension). NDSU is an equal opportunity institution.