

All-America Selections® Vegetable Trial

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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. All-American Selections 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. The AAS winners are selected by

receiving high ratings from the majority of trialing locations.

The 2011 AAS Vegetable Trial included 18 entrants that were evaluated in comparison plots. 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. Trial scores were sent to the AAS Selection 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 two vegetable cultivars will receive the AAS Winners award in 2012: Cayennetta pepper (tried in 2011); and Faerie watermelon (tried in 2010). For more information and a list of recent AAS Winners with pictures and full descriptions, visit www.aaswinners.com.

Table 1. The 2011 AAS vegetable trial entries, descriptions and scores.

Entry	Description and comments	Trial score ^a
11V01 Bush cucumber	Bush growth habit, high yields of thick, light-colored fruit	3
11V02 Piel de Sapo melon	Large fruit with snow-white flesh, unusual sour then sweet taste	1
11V03 Small bell pepper	Small plant and small blocky red bell peppers with tough texture	1
11V04 Yellow bell pepper	Yellow bell peppers had tough texture and strong flavor	1
11V05 Bush hot pepper	Attractive bush plant, green to red chili peppers 3-4 in. long	3
11V08 Poblano pepper	Tall, open branching plant, 4-5 in. long poblano peppers	2
11V11 Striped acorn squash	Compact growth, oval shaped squash weighing 1-1.5 lb	2
11V12 Large tomatillo	Large spreading plant bore huge tomatillos weighing 3-4 oz	3
11V13 XL beef tomato	Determinate plant, uniform-red fruit weighing 8-10 oz	2
11V14 Beefsteak tomato	Large vines produced only a few pink fruit that weighed 16 oz	0
11V15 Cherry tomato	Vigorous vines, no disease, many small cherries, very sweet	4
11V16 Globe tomato	Fruit slow to ripen, meaty 8 oz fruit, late blight resistance	3
11V17 Round tomato	Vigorous vines, potato-like foliage, late fruit maturity, cracking	0
11V18 Plum tomato	Indeterminate, red plum tomatoes weighing 1-2 oz, cracking	2
11V19 Small plum tomato	1-2 oz tomato cracked and rotted quickly, yellow shoulders	0
11V20 Roma tomato	Strong vine growth and foliage cover of blocky round fruit	2
11V21 Salad tomato	Compact plant bore 1 oz juicy fruit with good flavor, cracking	1
11V23 Oblong watermelon	15 to 20 lb fruit were oblong and striped, sweet pinkish flesh	1

^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, 4 = excellent, possible Gold Medal winner.