

## All-America Selections<sup>®</sup> Vegetable Trial

### RFR-A9027

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All-America Selections<sup>®</sup> (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<sup>®</sup>.

There are several AAS vegetable trial sites across the country hosted by universities, seed companies, and public gardens. AAS requires all trial sites to have a knowledgeable judge 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 a majority of trial locations.

The 2009 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 trial locations to decide which entries, if any, will receive the AAS Award. From this year's trial we recommended the 09V01 white cucumber and 09V05 orange tomato be considered for AAS designation. No vegetable cultivars were selected as AAS award winners for 2010. The 2011 AAS winners will be announced in 2010. For more information and a list of recent AAS winners with pictures and full descriptions, visit [www.aaswinners.com](http://www.aaswinners.com).

**Table 1. 2009 AAS vegetable trial entries, descriptions, and scores at the Muscatine Island Research Farm.**

Entry	Description	Trial Score <sup>a</sup>
09V01 White cucumber	Vigorous vines had less disease than comparisons. Pale green to whitish fruit were 4 to 5 in. long with less bitterness, stayed sweet and tender.	3
09V02 Orange grape tomato	Strong indeterminate vines bore orange-colored grape tomatoes. Nice flavor, good yield and unique fruit color.	2
09V03 Red grape tomato	Open pollinated, indeterminate vines, red grape tomato. Nice entry but no obvious improvement over comparisons.	1
09V04 Saladette tomato	Bell-shaped fruit 5 to 6 oz. in size. Meaty, not a lot of seeds. Bland flavor, best for cooking. Fruit held well on vines, extended harvest period. Yellowish-red fruit color.	0
09V05 Orange tomato	Main season tangerine-colored table tomato. Good quality, 8 to 10 oz. fruit had better flavor than comparison varieties.	3
08V07 (retrial) Red watermelon	Red fleshed, seeded, watermelon weighing 14 to 18 lb. Only fair performance in trial – fruit flesh was soft and many fruit showed hollow heart.	1

<sup>a</sup>Trial score: 0 = entry did not meet claims/inferior to comparisons; 1 = some merit but no award; 2 = improved entry, merits an award; and 3 = superior entry worthy of award.