

OUR VARIETY TRIALING PROGRAM 2008

We began a trialing program through our catalog in 2007. Last year 233 people expressed interest and asked for the trialing form with their seed orders. We are still awaiting the results, most of which will come in with this year's seed orders. The aim is to see how varieties work in local circumstances, how they compare with other varieties and/or with the same variety from other sources, to determine their quality and how it can be improved, and to come up with better descriptions and guidelines for growing and using the crops. When we receive the trial results our task is to sort through and utilize them, to follow them up with further trials and evaluations, to see that seed stock is worked on and multiplied, and in the end to have an improved quality and selection of both seeds and information for everyone. In the future we will work to help and encourage people to grow, save, and select seeds, in order that the varieties become adapted to specific conditions and new qualities and characteristics are developed.

This year we have refined, revised and simplified the trialing evaluation form, both to make it easier for participants to use and to facilitate entry, storage, accessibility and analysis of the data in our database. Our gratitude and appreciation go to the folks at Cornell University's breeding program for letting us use the variety trialing form that they developed for their Organic Seed Partnership program in revising our form. We are asking everyone to consider becoming active participating members of the Turtle Tree Biodynamic Seed Initiative by trialing and evaluating some (at least one) of the varieties that you order. **We, in turn, are offering all participants a 5% discount on next year's (2009) seed order. Or you may participate in the trialing program without the 5% discount as a contribution to our efforts.**

I wish to receive a 5% discount on my order. I do not wish to receive a 5% discount on my order.

***Please answer all questions and any of the ratings that can help you to evaluate the variety.
We are especially interested in your comments!***

Variety: _____ Lot # and Germ:% (from seed packet label) _____

Comparison varieties (if any): 1. _____ 2. _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of years farming/gardening: _____ Commercial grower *or* home gardener? (circle one or both)

Land in production (circle one): < 2 acres 2-5 acres 6-10 acres 11-15 acres ≥16 acres

Markets (circle all that apply): CSA Farmers' Market Restaurant Wholesale Other: _____

Landscape description including exposure, slope, etc.:

Population: Number of plants grown: _____ *and/or* Number of row feet planted: _____

Spacing between plants and rows: _____ Direct seeded or transplanted? (circle one)

Elevation above sea level: _____ Climate zone: _____ Average rainfall: _____ This year's rainfall: _____

Avg. last spring frost: _____ This year's last spring frost: _____

Avg. first killing fall frost: _____ This year's first killing fall frost: _____

Planting date: _____ Transplant date: _____

First harvest date: _____ Peak harvest: _____ Last harvest: _____ Yields (number or weight of harvested crop): _____

General comments on this growing season (use another sheet of paper if needed)

(continued)

Soil type (e.g., silt loam, heavy clay, etc.): _____

Mulch used (circle one): None Straw Hay Plastic (type? _____) Other: _____

Irrigation (circle one): None Hand Drip Overhead Other: _____

Fertility inputs (kind, amount and timing of applications):

Biodynamic Preparations 500 & 501: Number and timing of applications: _____

502-507 in compost? yes / no (circle one) 508 (Equisetum): yes / no Barrel compost: yes / no

Biodynamic compost preps 502-507: _____ 508 (Equisetum): _____ Barrel compost: _____

Other biodynamic practices? _____

Comments and observations (use another sheet of paper if needed):

Would you grow this variety again? (circle one) No Probably not Probably Yes Absolutely!

Ratings: (1 = unacceptable, 2 = poor, 3 = average, 4 = good, 5 = excellent) A) Germination: ____ B) Vigor: ____

C) Disease/pest tolerance or resistance: ____ D) Heat tolerance: ____ E) Cold tolerance: ____ F) Yield: ____

G) Storage (for root crops, etc.): ____ H) Flavor/taste: ____ I) Appearance: ____ J) Texture: ____

K) Fruit/edible portion quality: ____ L) Fruit/edible portion uniformity: ____ M) Customer (family member) reaction: ____

Comments, observations, explanations of ratings (use another sheet of paper if needed):

Did it fit the catalog description? _____

What would you add or change?:

Comparison varieties:

Have you previously grown *this variety* of this crop? ____ What was the source of that seed? _____

How did this year's crop compare with previous years'? _____

Are you growing, or have you grown, *other varieties* of this crop? ____

Which varieties, which year(s), and what were the sources of the seed?

How did this variety compare with the others you have grown? (use another sheet of paper if needed)