

Utah Veggie Reviews

Early 2026 Update

WESLEY CRUMP

CODY ZESIGER

USU EXTENSION HORTICULTURE



Background

- How to share knowledge about vegetable varieties with community?
- How to do this in a *living and lasting* way?

What's everyone's favorite tomato variety? I'm having a hard time deciding which to grow this year! There are so many that sound good.

  12

30 comments

 Like

 Comment

 Send

I'm looking for some new tomato varieties to grow this upcoming season. What are some of your favorites? I can a lot of my tomatoes but I also like to make fresh salsa... Last summer I had: early girl, celebrity, roma, beefsteak, grape, cherry, purple cherokee, brandywine, and yellow pear. I'm looking for varieties with big yields and that are tasty! What are some of your favorites? I'd love to see some pictures too...

 3

45 comments

 Like

 Comment

 Send

What a re the best large tomato varieties to grow in Utah County?

  2

56 comments

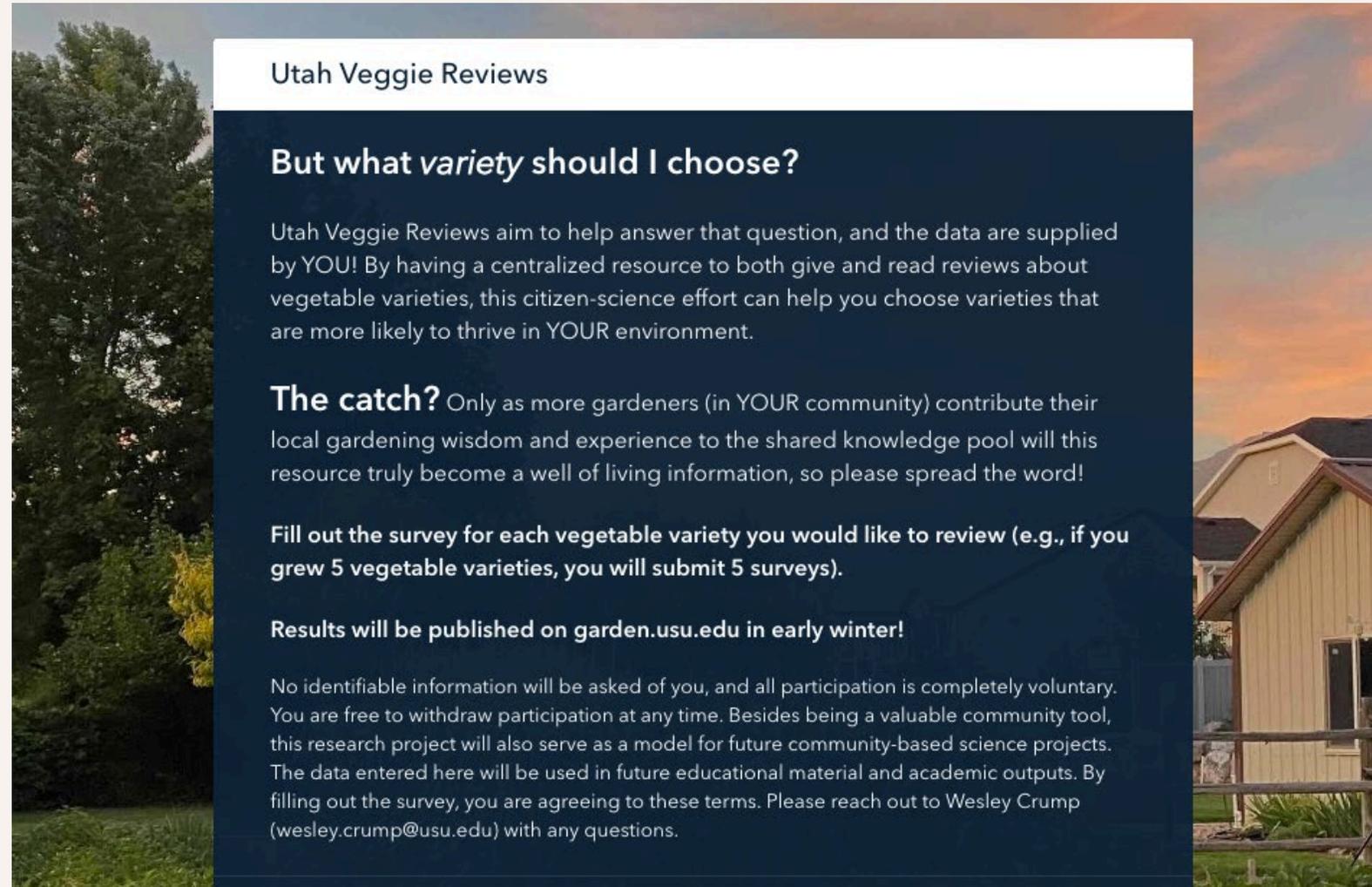
 Like

 Comment

 Send

Utah Veggie Reviews

- Introduced last year (2025) at this conference
- Posted a few times on the Utah's Gardening Experts Facebook page
- Just shy of 250 reviews to date!



Utah Veggie Reviews

But what *variety* should I choose?

Utah Veggie Reviews aim to help answer that question, and the data are supplied by YOU! By having a centralized resource to both give and read reviews about vegetable varieties, this citizen-science effort can help you choose varieties that are more likely to thrive in YOUR environment.

The catch? Only as more gardeners (in YOUR community) contribute their local gardening wisdom and experience to the shared knowledge pool will this resource truly become a well of living information, so please spread the word!

Fill out the survey for each vegetable variety you would like to review (e.g., if you grew 5 vegetable varieties, you will submit 5 surveys).

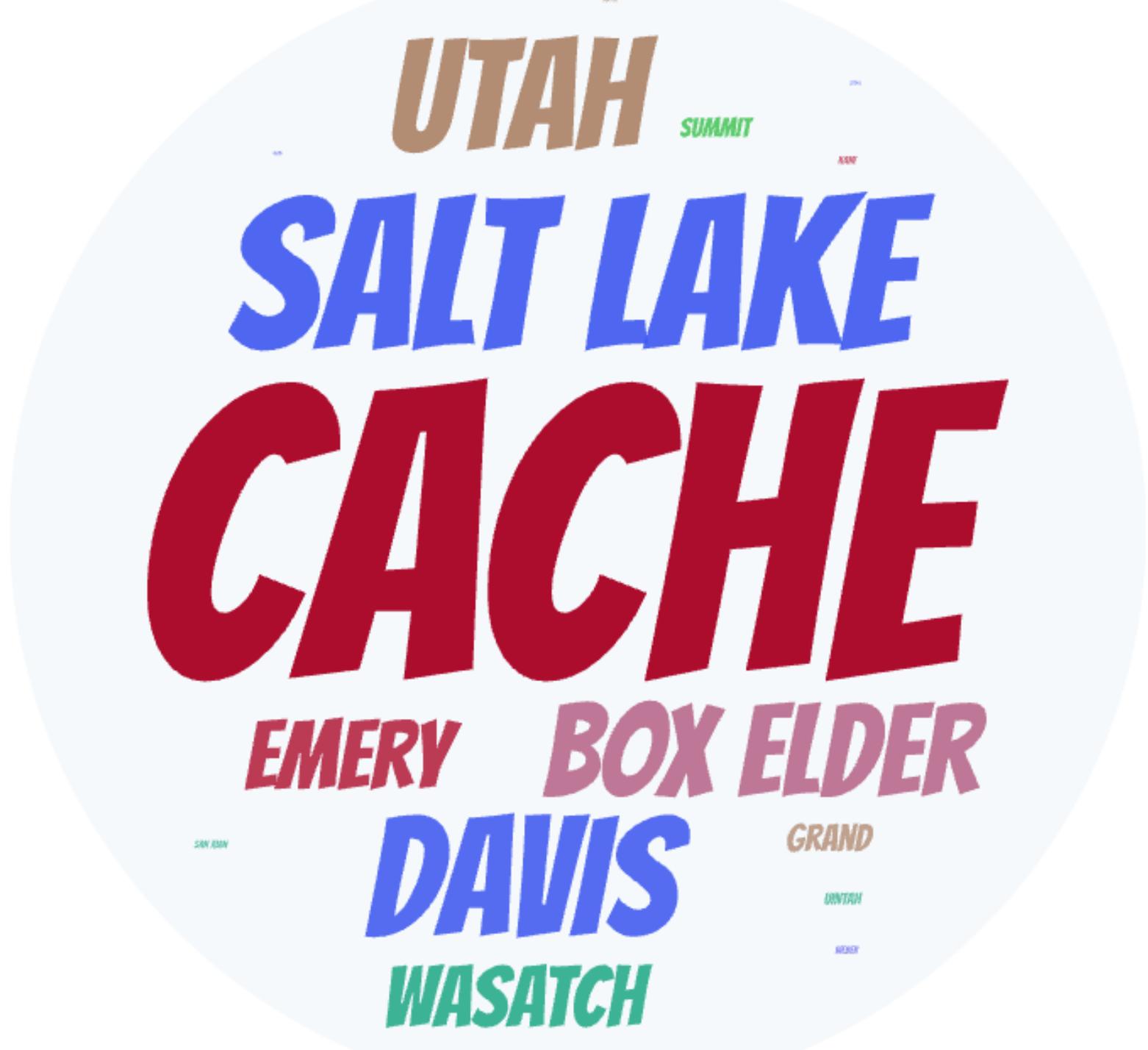
Results will be published on garden.usu.edu in early winter!

No identifiable information will be asked of you, and all participation is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw participation at any time. Besides being a valuable community tool, this research project will also serve as a model for future community-based science projects. The data entered here will be used in future educational material and academic outputs. By filling out the survey, you are agreeing to these terms. Please reach out to Wesley Crump (wesley.crump@usu.edu) with any questions.

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/77dc36f886ca4effa0a42875988a81bc>

2025 Reviews

- Who is reviewing?
 - 16 counties involved
 - Cache - 71
 - Salt Lake - 37
 - Davis - 29
 - Utah - 27
 - Box Elder - 24



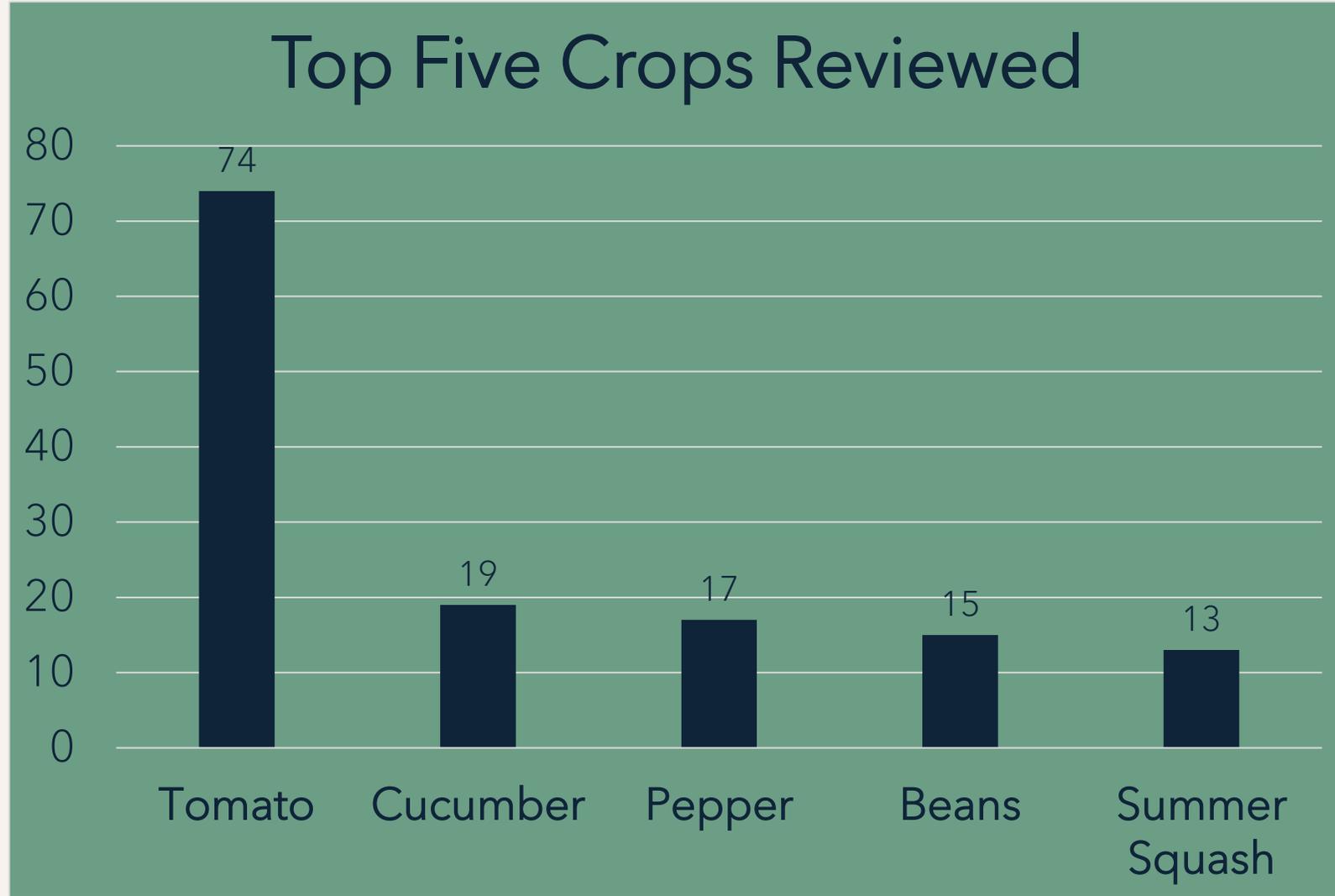
2025 Reviews

- Who is reviewing?
 - 16 counties involved
 - Cache - 71
 - Salt Lake - 37
 - Davis - 29
 - Utah - 27
 - Box Elder - 24
 - 57 cities involved
 - Ferron - 18
 - Hyde Park - 17
 - Logan - 16
 - Heber City - 15
 - Brigham City - 13



2025 Reviews

- What crops were reviewed?
 - 44 crops
 - Tomato (74)
 - Cucumber (19)
 - Pepper (17)
 - Beans (15)
 - Summer Squash (13)



2025 Reviews

- Tomatoes
 - 47 cultivars reviewed
 - Sun Sugar - 7
 - Cherokee Purple - 4
 - Celebrity - 4
 - Black Cherry - 4
 - San Marzano - 3

Sun Sugar



<https://www.ufseeds.com/>

Cherokee Purple



<https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>

Sun Sugar

"An extremely high yielding orange cherry tomato that is larger and more crack resistant than Sun Gold. Has a sweet, almost fruity flavor. A favorite of visitors to my garden."

Celebrity



<https://www.burpee.com/>

Black Cherry



<https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>

San Marzano



<https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>

2025 Reviews

- From review of:
 - Azoychka Tomato

"I know this isn't a popular variety but I think it's because people are unaware of this treasure. It's a Russian yellow variety that takes off early in the colder May weather. It will produce as early as an early girl, but has a tangy sweet almost citrus flavor. Yields continue until the late fall making this a great producer."



<https://victoryseeds.com/products/azoychka-tomato>

I'M TRYING
THIS ONE
IN 2026

2025 Reviews

- Seed vendors
 - 35 vendors listed



2025 Reviews

- Seed vendors
 - 35 vendors listed
- Extended reviews
 - 169 out of 247
 - 68%

'Blue Venture' Cabbage

"Absolutely the longest holding cabbage I have grown. Very long harvest window. Has a good, sweet flavor, and heads just grow larger and larger without splitting."

'Gemika' Pepper

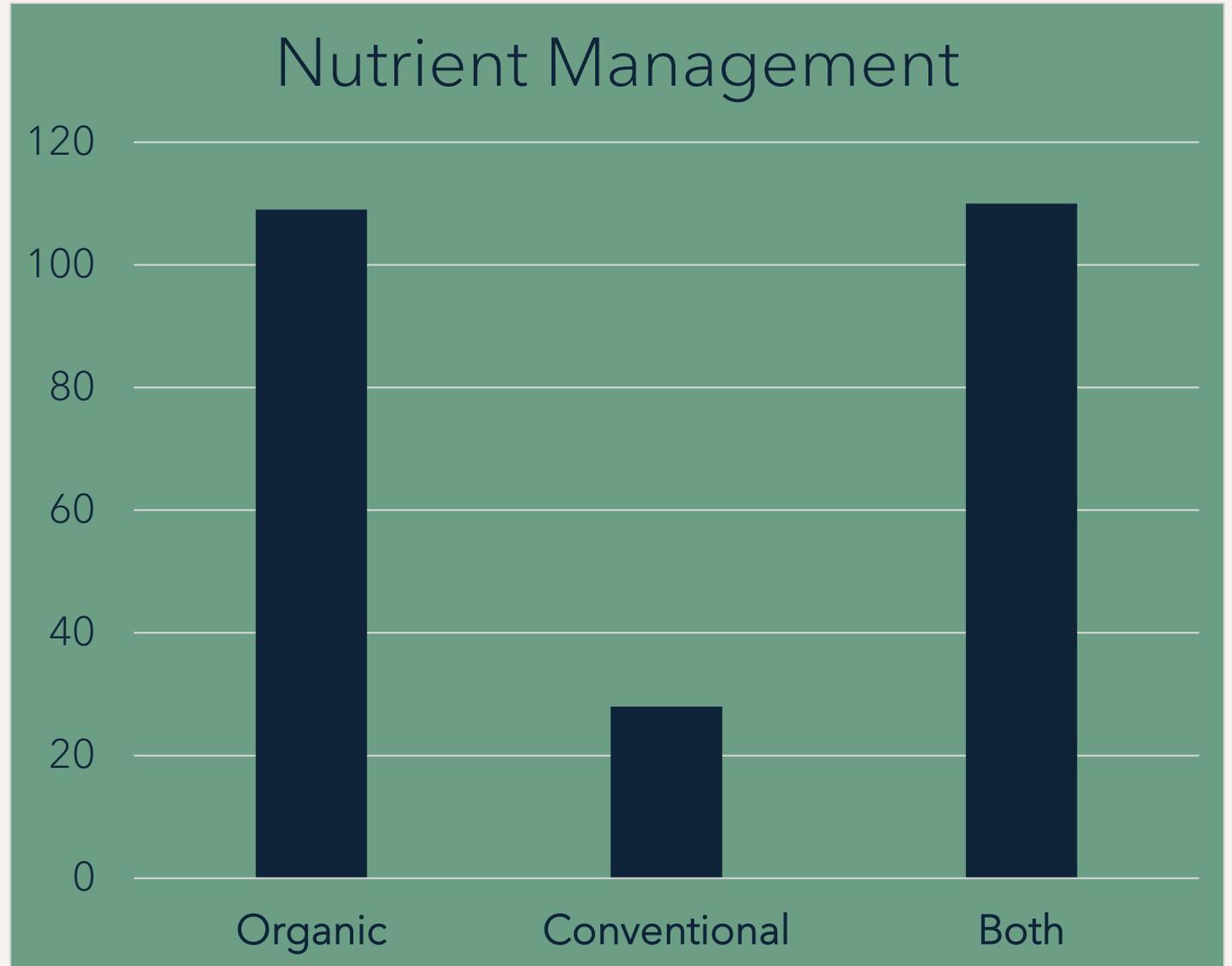
"Heirloom basque pepper, very similar to shishito but not at all spicy. Can be fried and eaten green, or I have saved many and let ripen to deep red. when ripe can be dried and ground into paprika!"

'Georgia Jet' Sweet Potato

"The best of several sweet potatoes I have tried. Produces smooth, attractive sweet potatoes that look like store bought. Some will be very large. Need lots of heat and as much growing season as you can give them."

2025 Reviews

- Seed vendors
 - 35 vendors listed
- Extended reviews
 - 169 out of 247
 - 68%
- Nutrient Management
 - "Organic" = 109
 - "Conventional" = 110
 - "Both" = 28

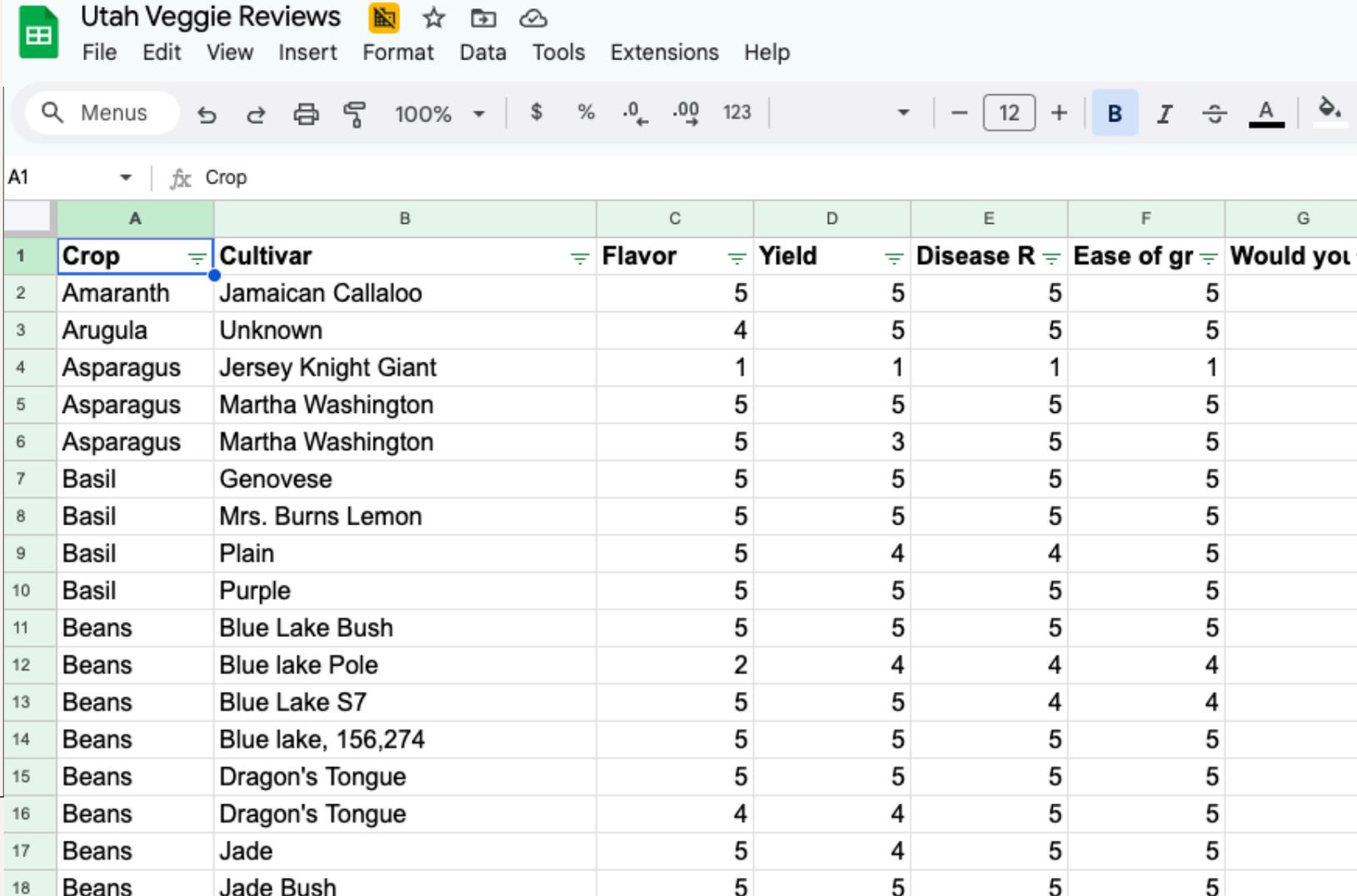


Shortcomings of current format

- Currently just a google sheet linked on garden.usu.edu
 - Fruit, Vegetable, and Herb Growing Guides
- Survey and outputs are separate
- No real-time updates
- Data entry can be cumbersome
- WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?
 - Link at end of slides

Utah Specific Planting Dates and Variety Recommendations

- [View Suggested Vegetable Planting Dates for Utah](#)
- [View Home Vegetable Garden-Variety Recommendations for Utah](#)
- [View our Utah Veggie Reviews spreadsheet to see fellow gardeners' experiences with different Utah cities and counties.](#)



The screenshot shows a Google Sheet interface with the title 'Utah Veggie Reviews'. The spreadsheet contains a table with the following columns: Crop, Cultivar, Flavor, Yield, Disease R, Ease of gr, and Would you. The data rows are as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Crop	Cultivar	Flavor	Yield	Disease R	Ease of gr	Would you
2	Amaranth	Jamaican Callaloo		5	5	5	5
3	Arugula	Unknown		4	5	5	5
4	Asparagus	Jersey Knight Giant		1	1	1	1
5	Asparagus	Martha Washington		5	5	5	5
6	Asparagus	Martha Washington		5	3	5	5
7	Basil	Genovese		5	5	5	5
8	Basil	Mrs. Burns Lemon		5	5	5	5
9	Basil	Plain		5	4	4	5
10	Basil	Purple		5	5	5	5
11	Beans	Blue Lake Bush		5	5	5	5
12	Beans	Blue lake Pole		2	4	4	4
13	Beans	Blue Lake S7		5	5	4	4
14	Beans	Blue lake, 156,274		5	5	5	5
15	Beans	Dragon's Tongue		5	5	5	5
16	Beans	Dragon's Tongue		4	4	5	5
17	Beans	Jade		5	4	5	5
18	Beans	Jade Bush		5	5	5	5

Future format (hopefully)

- Standalone website interface
- Mobile app
- Create user profile
 - Eliminates needs to answer contextual questions for each review
- Photo submission option
- Increased uniformity for cultivar names
- Visually easy to digest, intuitive
- Summary statistics and graphs
- Applying for grant to help with development
 - Send us a letter of support!

Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners

Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners is a citizen science program

Menu

- ☑ VVFG home
- ☑ For Youth (Vvi)
- ☑ Cornell Garden Info
- ☑ Contact us
- ☑ Login

Explore Varieties

Find:

In:

crop:

sort by:

order:

[Login](#) to limit results to your state or frost-free growing season.

Garden Profile

[Login](#) to share your variety reviews.



Browse Varieties

Your search for 'lettuce' returned the following **374** results:

(Click on the variety name to add a review of, or view reviews, ratings and seed sources of the variety)

Black Seeded Simpson Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.2 Stars) ★★★★★☆	38 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 42 - 46
Heirloom. Looseleaf type. Light-green, crumpled leaves can be picked very young and are never bitter. Stands hot weather and drought. Resistant to downy mildew and white mold. Heat, bolting and tip burn tolerant. Also known as 'Henderson's Black-Seeded Simpson'. About 42 to 46 days to maturity.			
Buttercrunch Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.5 Stars) ★★★★★	28 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 28 - 60
Butterhead Bibb or Boston type. Compact, 10-inch heads with light green, thick outer leaves and loosely folded, thick, creamy inner leaves. Good for both spring and fall crops. Pick baby leaves at 28 days. All American Selection 1963. Bolting tolerant. Also known as Buttercrunch.			
Red Sails Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.1 Stars) ★★★★★☆	21 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 29 - 55
Looseleaf type. Very open plants with deep-burgundy-red over light-green leaves that are slow to become bitter. Fast-growing, heat-tolerant. Pick baby leaves at 29 days. Grows well indoors under lights. All America Selection 1985. Heat, tip burn and bolting tolerant.			
Flashy Troutback Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.5 Stars) ★★★★★	14 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 24 - 55
Lactuca sativa. Open pollinated. Romaine lettuce (cos) type with dark green leaves splashed with wine-red speckles that darken from red to purple as they mature. Also known as Forellenschluss. About 24 days for baby and 55 days to maturity.			
Lettuce Marciano MTO Organic Amaranth	Overall Rating: (3.5 Stars) ★★★★★☆	13 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 60 - 0
A compact variety with smooth leaves showcasing deep burgundy color and fresh bright green well-filled interiors. Sweet tender leaves and a trial favorite. High resistance to Downy Mildew, Lettuce Leaf Aphid, and Tomato Bushy Stunt Virus, and intermediate resistance to Lettuce Mosaic Virus.			
Magenta Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.7 Stars) ★★★★★	10 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 28 - 48
French crisp type. Conical heads with slightly puckered, red-tinged outer leaves and green heart. Pick at 28 days for baby leaves. Resistant to downy mildew and lettuce mosaic virus. Bolting and tip burn tolerant.			
Jara Lettuce Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.2 Stars) ★★★★★☆	10 Reviews	Days to Maturity: NA
Butterhead (bibb/Boston) type. Similar to Ermose but larger and with broader disease resistance. Full, dense, dark-green heads. Resistant to downy mildew and lettuce mosaic virus. Heat, bolting and tip burn tolerant.			
Adriana Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.9 Stars) ★★★★★	9 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 48
Butterhead (bibb/Boston) type. Similar to Ermose but larger and with broader disease resistance. Full, dense, dark-green heads. Resistant to downy mildew and lettuce mosaic virus. Heat, bolting and tip burn tolerant.			
Forellenschluss Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.8 Stars) ★★★★★	9 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 28 - 55
Cos (romaine) type. 8- to 10-inch heads with semi-savoyed, bright-green leaves covered with dark-red speckles. Meaty leaves are slow to mature. Pick at 28 days. Also known as Forenshchluss, Freckles, Flashy Troutback or Trout Back. Tolerant to bolting and heat.			
Cherokee Lettuce	Overall Rating: (4.4 Stars) ★★★★★☆	8 Reviews	Days to Maturity: 45 - 48
Lactuca sativa. Open pollinated. Summer crisp / French crisp / Batavian lettuce type that is at first open, much like a loose-leaf lettuce, then forms a compact bunch or head. Plants produce dark red leaves. Resistant to bolting, heat, and tip burn. Disease resistant variety. Resistance to bolting and tip burn. About 45 to 48 days to maturity.			

Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Companion program to the Utah Veggie Reviews
- Focused trialing of three cultivars of tomato
- Model can be expanded to include other crops
- Five counties involved in 2025
 - Cache
 - Davis
 - Iron
 - Wasatch
 - Summit
- Master Gardener volunteers grew out tomatoes and reported



Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Tomatoes trialed
 - Brandywine Red
 - Mortgage Lifter
 - Moskvich

Brandywine



"80-100 Days to maturity (from transplant). *Solanum lycopersicum*. Brandywine Red Tomato Seeds. Non-GMO, warm season annual, open-pollinated, heirloom, **potato leaf**, indeterminate, slicing tomato...If you are looking for a trusted red beefsteak-style tomato with that classic old-time flavor, this is it. Open pollinated "
- True Leaf Market

Mortgage lifter



"85 days, *indeterminate* - ...It has been a popular variety in the Logan, West Virginia area since it was introduced in the 1940s^[2] and got international attention when its seed was introduced to gardeners in the mid-1980s. The regular leaf vines produce fruit that are large, some reaching over a pound each, pink in color, and one of the best flavored beefsteaks available. Open pollinated"
- Victory Seed Company

Moskvich



"One of the most appealing extra-early tomatoes [60 days]. Fruits are early, deep red, and cold tolerant. Rich flavor. Smooth and globe-shaped. 4-6 oz. with a small stem scar. Indeterminate. Open pollinated."
- Johnny's Selected Seeds

Homegrown Tomato Trials

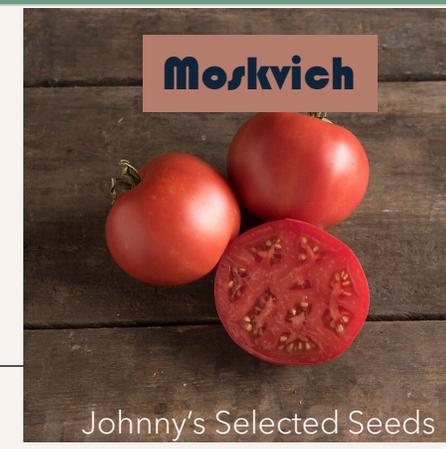
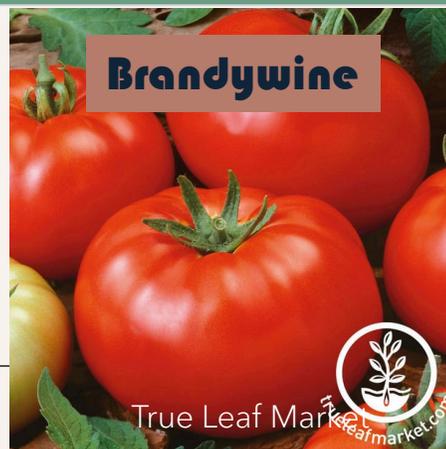
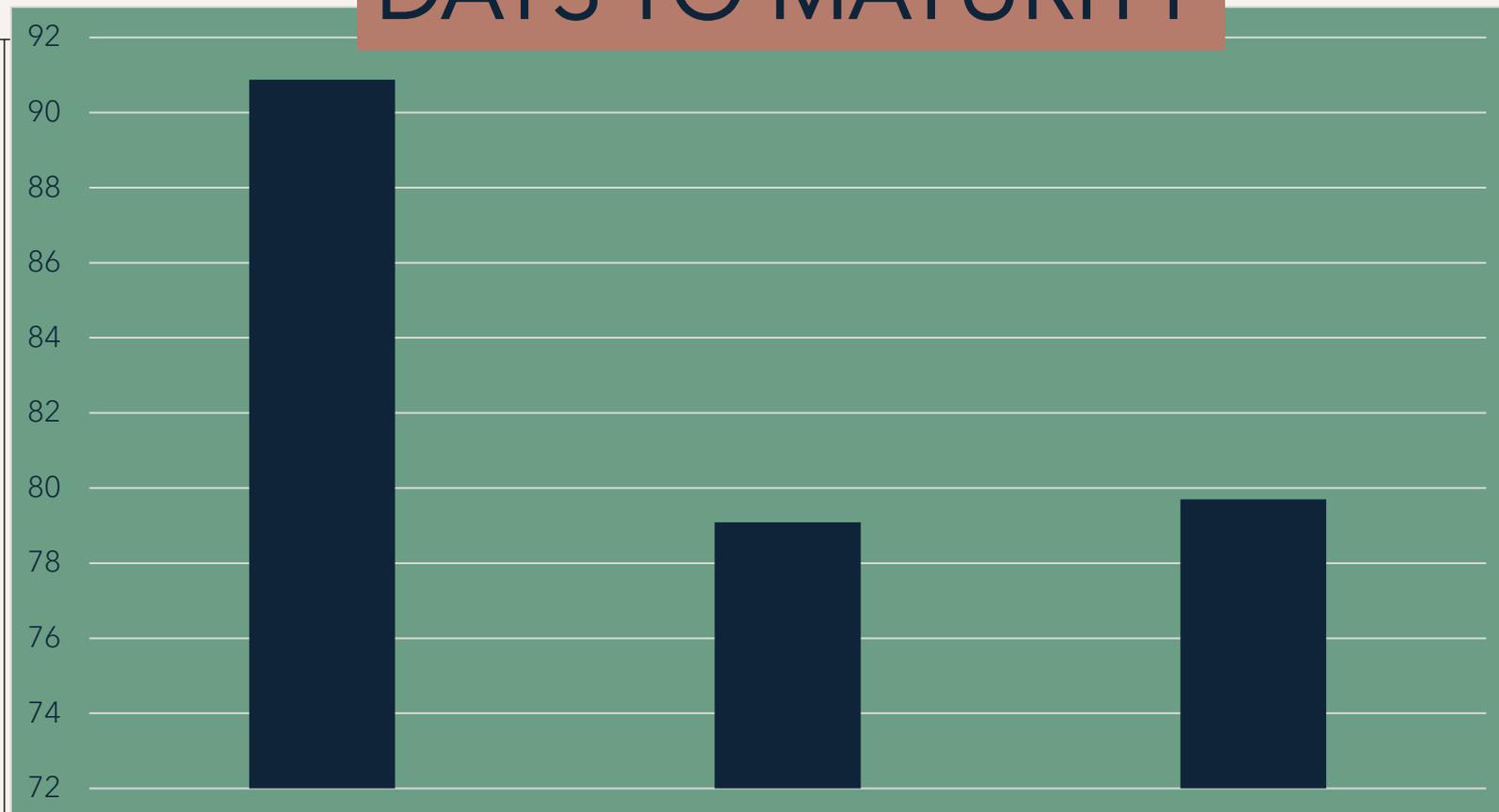
- Participants received plants (3 plants per cultivar) at appropriate time for transplanting outside in their area
- Planted and grew plants as they would normally
- Noted when first harvested
- Post-harvest survey (rated 1-5)
 - Harvest amount/size
 - Continuous production
 - Cracking resistance
 - Blossom end rot resistance
 - Taste
 - Grow again?



Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Brandywine: n = 16
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=4
- Mortgage Lifter: n=11
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=3
 - Cache: n=5
 - Davis: n=3
- Moskvich: n=20
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=8

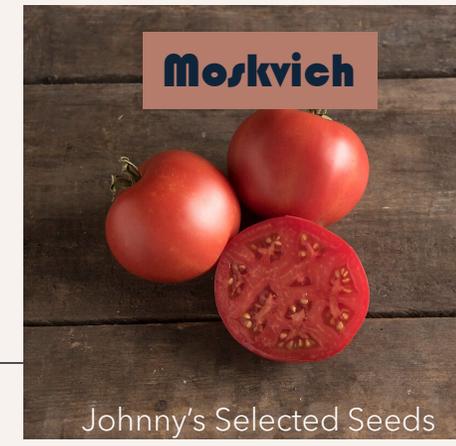
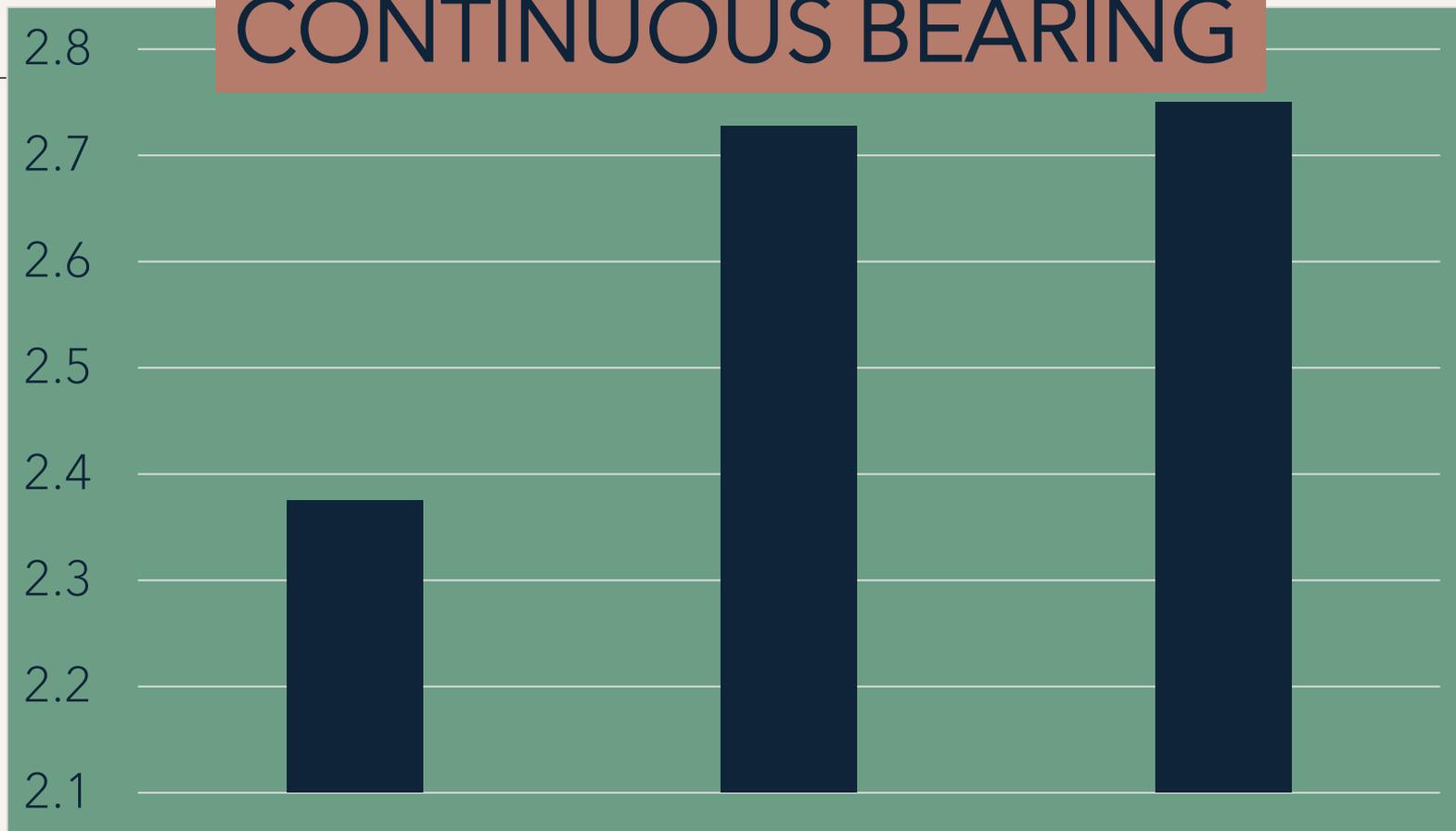
DAYS TO MATURITY



Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Brandywine: n = 16
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=4
- Mortgage Lifter: n=11
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=3
 - Cache: n=5
 - Davis: n=3
- Moskvich: n=20
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=8

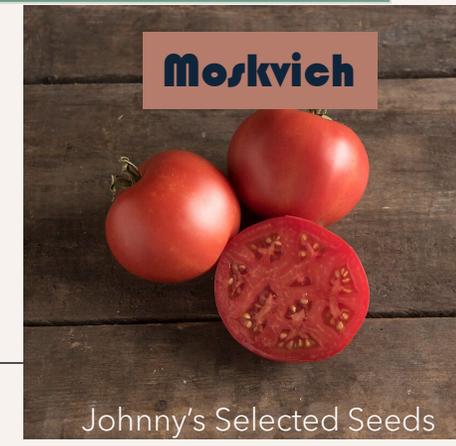
CONTINUOUS BEARING



Homegrown Tomato Trials

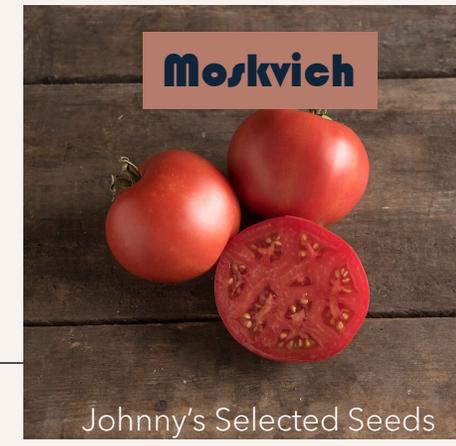
- Brandywine: n = 16
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=4
- Mortgage Lifter: n=11
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=3
 - Cache: n=5
 - Davis: n=3
- Moskvich: n=20
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=8

CRACKING RESISTANCE



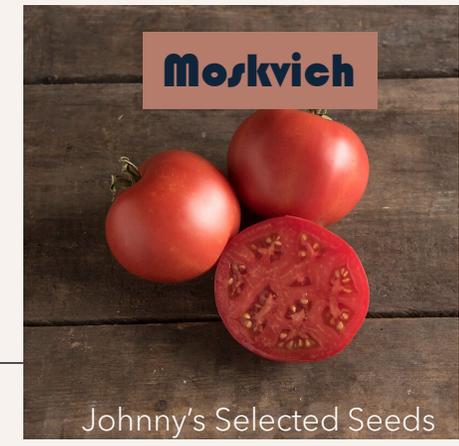
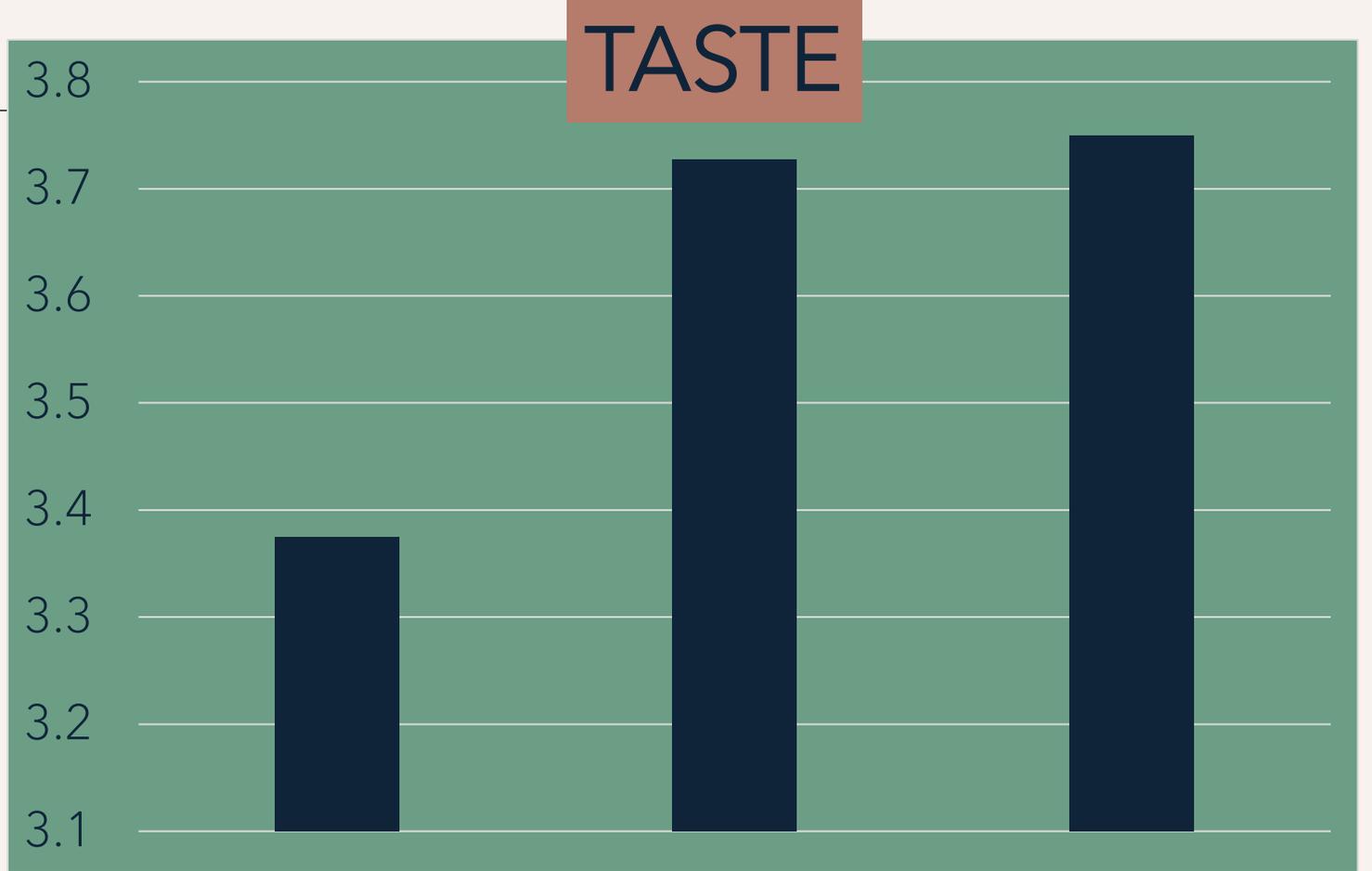
Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Brandywine: n = 16
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=4
- Mortgage Lifter: n=11
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=3
 - Cache: n=5
 - Davis: n=3
- Moskvich: n=20
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=8



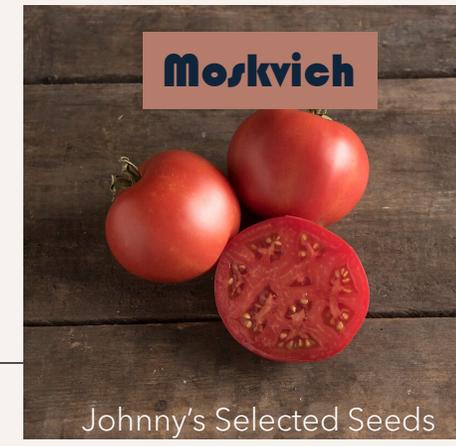
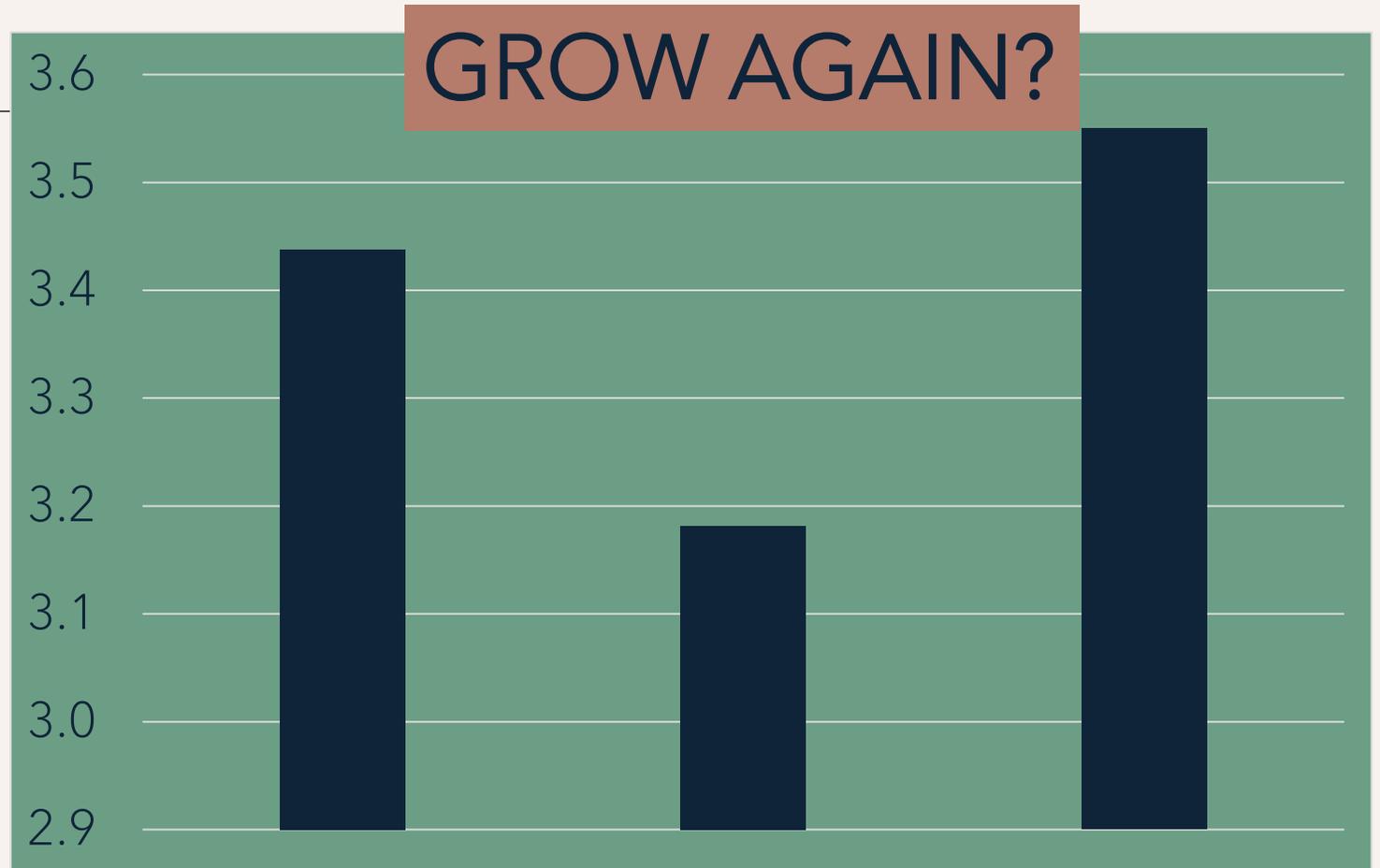
Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Brandywine: n = 16
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=4
- Mortgage Lifter: n=11
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=3
 - Cache: n=5
 - Davis: n=3
- Moskvich: n=20
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=8



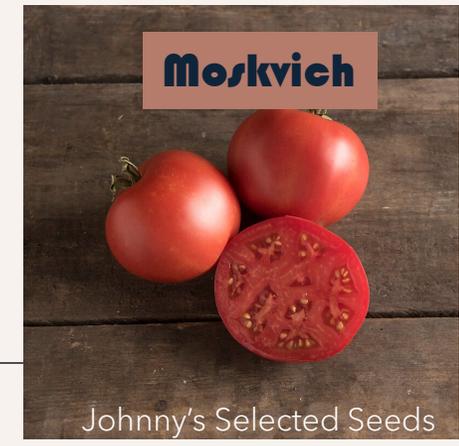
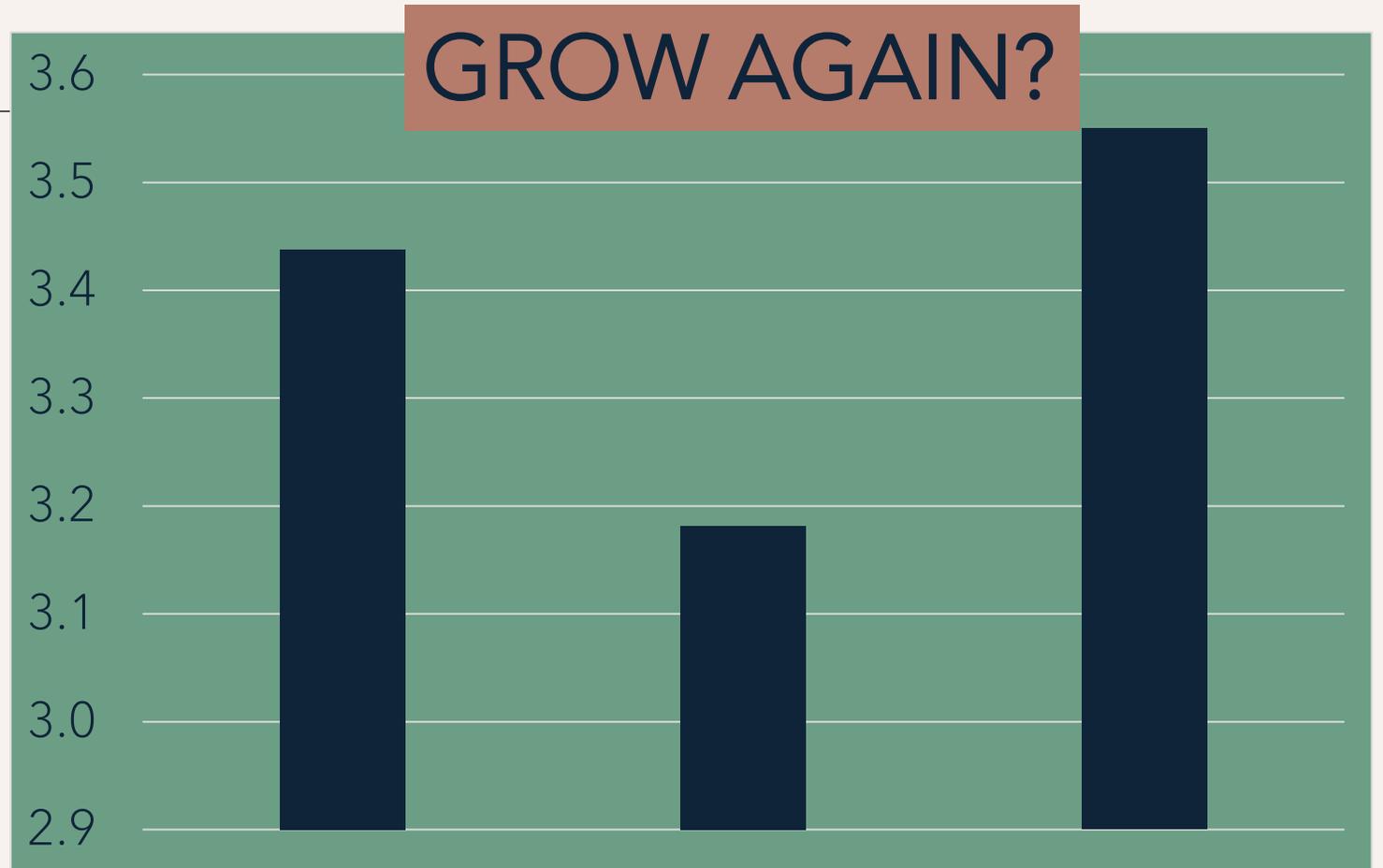
Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Brandywine: n = 16
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=4
- Mortgage Lifter: n=11
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=3
 - Cache: n=5
 - Davis: n=3
- Moskvich: n=20
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=8



Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Brandywine: n = 16
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=4
- Mortgage Lifter: n=11
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=3
 - Cache: n=5
 - Davis: n=3
- Moskvich: n=20
 - Wasatch/Summit: n=8
 - Cache: n=4
 - Davis: n=8



Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Challenges
 - ¼ reported

GETTING
PEOPLE TO
REPORT!!!!

Homegrown Tomato Trials

- Looking to the future...
- Hoping to continue/expand

INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING?

Links & Resources

- Suggestions on Utah Veggie Review formatting
 - https://usu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PdmZ5BX3pjC8lw
- Letters of support for Utah Veggie Review Website/App development
 - Wesley.crump@usu.edu
- Utah Veggie Review Survey
 - <https://arcg.is/0brujG1>
- Utah Veggie Review 2025 results
 - asdf