

1820s-50s Garden Research:



Bean, Housewife: “Claimed to be the first completely stringless bean, introduced around 1810. First listed in W. Atlee Burpee’s 1888 catalog, “We presume it derived its name, which seems discourteous, from its productiveness making it easy to gather...” One of our oldest documented beans, and most productive.” (Seed Savers Exchange)

Bean, October: “Native back to the 1830s from the Tennessee. Our seed comes was a nearly full-blood producer, great winter staple.



American variety dating Cherchei Nation in from Beulah Hunn who Cherokee. Prolific (Seed Savers Exchange)



Bean, Speckled Cranberry: “Brought to America from England about 1825. Undoubtedly the best of the pole horticultural beans. Produces heavy crops of slender green stringless 7-9” nearly round pods until the first frost. Preferred by some growers as a green shell bean at around 80 days or used as a dry bean if grown to full maturity.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Beet, Burpee’s Golden: “Introduced to gardeners before 1828. Dual-purpose beets for roots and greens. Roots are globe-shaped and orange, turning golden yellow when cooked. Tender and mild even when large. Great for salads since the roots do not bleed. Sweet, flavorful leaves.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Turnip, Early Blood: “A good all-purpose variety that dates back to 1825. Dark red flesh is sweet, crisp and tender. Excellent market and home garden variety for summer and autumn use. Good for canning. Hard-to-find.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Ground Cherry, Aunt Molly's: "Ground cherries were recorded as early as 1837 in Pennsylvania. This outstanding Polish variety is prized for its clean flavor. Fruits are 1/2 to 3/4" in diameter and are encased in a papery husk that turns brown when the fruits ripen. Stores 3-4 weeks in the husk. Extremely productive plants have a sprawling habit and grow 18" tall and 24" wide. Excellent citrus flavor can be used for preserves,

pies, over ice cream or in fresh fruit salads. Starts fruiting by the end of July and continues until frost and a little beyond, extremely productive. Excellent results at Heritage Farm when grown on landscape cloth, which suppresses weeds and makes collecting the fruits easy. 70 days from transplant." (Seed Savers Exchange)



Cauliflower, Purple Cape: "Introduced from South Africa in 1808. Rich purple heads with excellent flavor. Winter-heading type ready in late winter or early spring. Best planted in late fall in a coldframe and overwintered. Winter hardy in zone 6. 200 days from transplant." (Seed Savers Exchange)



Cabbage, Early Jersey Wakefield: "First grown in the U.S. by Francis Brill of Jersey City, New Jersey in 1840. The earliest market variety we offer. Conical, solid, tightly folded heads are 10-15" tall by 5-7" in diameter and weigh 3-4 pounds. 60-75 days from transplant." (Seed Savers Exchange)

"Originally introduced as an ornamental in the 19th century. Referred to as florists. An abundance of 2" on 20" plants. Fruits are bitter, Asian cuisine. 65-75 days from transplant." (Seed Savers Exchange)



Eggplant, Red Ruffled: ornamental in the 19th century. Referred to as florists. An abundance of 2" on 20" plants. Fruits are bitter, Asian cuisine. 65-75 days from transplant." (Seed Savers Exchange)



Lettuce, Speckled: "Sent to SSE in 1983 by Mark Reusser. His father obtained it from Urias Martin, whose Mennonite family brought it to Waterloo County, Ontario in 1799 in a covered wagon from Lancaster County, PA. The Martin family immigrated to America from Germany, and earlier from Holland in 1600. Looseleaf, 40-55 days." (Seed Savers Exchange)

Exchange)



Leek, Giant Musselburgh: “Enormous size, 9-15” long by 2-3” diameter. Tender white stalks, medium dark blue-green fan-shaped leaves. Nice mild flavor, stands winter well, good buncher. Scottish variety introduced in the early 1800s. 80-150 days from transplant.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Melon, Prescott Fond Blanc: “Unique French melon documented before 1850. Fruits weigh 4-9 pounds and have beautifully warted skin and dense, sweet flesh. The fragrance when fully ripe his incredible. Like all rock melons, Prescott will not slip. Very beautiful appearance almost too pretty to eat! Good drought tolerance. 85-95 days.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Onion, Red Wethersfield: “First listed in 1834 by Hovey & Co. Developed by growers in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Large flattened globe, deep purplish-red skin, fairly firm pink-tinged white flesh with red concentric circles, fine flavor. 100 days from transplant.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Potato, French Fingerling: “This is a wonderful variety! The rose-colored skin covers its creamy yellow flesh, Very versatile and good for any style of preparation. Peeling is not necessary or recommended. Rumored to have been smuggled into America in horse’s feedbag in the 1800s. 90-110 days.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Pepper, Bull Nose Large Bell: “Grown at Monticello by Thomas Jefferson and listed in 1863 by Fearing Burr. Good flavor, crisp fruits ripen from green to red. Productive, sturdy plants. (Seed Savers Exchange)



Pepper, McMahon’s Bird: “Introduced to the seed trade by Bernard McMahon in Philadelphia from seeds he had received from Thomas Jefferson in the early 1800’s. Peppers are about ¼” long, ovoid, bright red, they look lovely strung up like cranberries, plants can be dug up over wintered. 90 days from transplant.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Runner Bean, Painted Lady Improved: “Incredibly beautiful bi-colored blossoms are extremely attractive to hummingbird moths. Described by Arrabida in *Flora of Rio de Janeiro* in 1827. This strain is less affected by warmer temperatures and is a prolific bloomer. 295 seeds/pound. Pole habit, 68 days.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Squash, Boston Marrow (*C. maxima*): “Originates from J.M. Ives of Salem, Massachusetts who received the seeds from a friend in 1831. Originally this variety was obtained from Native Americans in New York State. Striking reddish orange skin, average fruits weigh 10-20 pounds. Excellent eating qualities, fine grained, sweet flesh.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Squash, Pattison Panache, Verte et Blanc (*C. pepo*): “French heirloom that was listed by Vilmorin in the 1800s. Excellent summer squash, scallops should be eaten when seafoam green, dark green stripes appear as the fruits continue to mature. Keep picked clean for best yields. 60-70 days.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Tomatillo, Prickly Caterpillar (*Scorpiurus muricatus*): “Native of southern Europe listed by Vilmorin in the 1800s along with several other varieties. We were thrilled to find an entire collection of caterpillars is being maintained by a European seed company. Seed is very hard to extract from the tight pods and, for that reason, no other companies bothered to maintain these novelties. Pods are narrow and twisted like a caterpillar rolled upon itself. Low-growing plants make a nice ground cover and are sure to be the best conversation piece in your garden. In days past, caterpillars were added to salads unexpected diners, but not meant to be eaten, mostly because they are hairy. Try growing in containers, if space is tight. Great historic novelty that should be grown in every garden. Annual.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Flowers, Nigra Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*): Grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, but mentioned even earlier by John Parkinson in 1629, who described this single hollyhock as being “of darke red like blackblood.” Appears black on overcast days, but will have a hint of red in the bright sun. Plant next to a white fence for a spec-tacular contrast. Self-seeding biennial, 5-6’ tall.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Flowers, Love-Lies-Bleeding (*Amaranthus caudatus*): “Recorded in South America before the 16th century, often referred to as Inca Wheat. Grown for use as a cereal and in ancient religious ceremonies. Long rope-like red seed-bearing trusses give plants an ornamental and graceful appearance. Great for long-lasting displays. (Pictured with purple *Verbena bonariensis*). Tender annual, 3-4’ tall.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Flowers, Calendula Mixture (*Calendula officinalis*): “Spectacularly colorful and diverse mixture of varieties in many shapes and colors, great for borders or mass plantings. This European native has been used for thousands of years in creams to soothe irritated skin and other inflammatory problems. Self-seeding hardy annual. 20-24” tall.” (Seed Savers Exchange)

Flowers, Amish Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*): “Native to the tropics and introduced to Europe in the 1570s. This variety was given to SSE by longtime members Orral and Joan Craig, who discovered it growing in an Amish garden near Arthur, Illinois. We cannot imagine not growing this variety each season. Annual, 12” tall.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Flowers, Spider Flower Mixture, Helen Campbell (White), Cherry Queen (Rose), Pink Queen (Pink), Violet Queen (Purple) (*Cleome hassleriana*): “Cleome or Spider Flower was introduced from the West Indies to England in 1817. The thorny stems resemble those of a rose bush. Flowers are followed by narrow 4-5” intriguing seedpods which resemble spider legs. Extremely low maintenance. Self-seeding, half-hardy annual, 3-4’ tall.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Flowers, Ensign Mixture (*Convolvulus tricolor*): “Beautiful free-flowering mixture, remarkably showy blossoms are open all day. Extremely handsome flowers often planted in beds or mixed in borders. Referred to for centuries as Dwarf Morning Glory. Captivating flower that has inspired many artists. Hardy annual, 12” vining plants.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Flowers, Diablo Cosmos (*Cosmos sulphureus*): “Diablo in Spanish translates as the Devil. Native to Mexico, introduced into English horticulture late in the 18th century. This scarlet strain is beautiful when planted in a random pattern, and lasts up to a week when cut for arrangements. Thrives in poor soil with minimal care. AAS winner in 1974. Half-hardy annual, 2-3’ tall bushy plants.” (Seed Savers Exchange)



Flowers, Four O’clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*): “Discovered by Conquistadores in the 16th century. Also called Marvel of Peru. Wide range of beautiful colors. Abundant flowers open after 4 p.m. and attract hummingbird moths. Tender perennial, grown as an annual, 2-3’ tall.” (Seedsavers.org, catalog #228)



Flowers, Helen Cleome (*Cleome hassleriana*): “Cleome or Spider Flower was introduced from the West Indies to England in 1817. The thorny stems resemble those of a rose bush. Flowers are followed by narrow 4-5” intriguing seedpods which resemble spider legs. Extremely low maintenance. Self-seeding, half-hardy annual, 3-4’ tall. (PURE WHITE)” (Seedsavers.org, catalog #1323)



Flowers, Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella damascena*): “First appeared in England around 1570. Some very imaginative folk names include Love-Entangle and Jack-in-Prison. Intriguing striped seedpods dry well. It is hard to resist popping the seedpods when they are green, because they pop like little balloons! Self-seeding, hardy annual, 18-24” tall.” (Seedsavers.org, catalog #291)

Corn, Black Aztec: 75-90 days. The same corn raised by the Aztecs over 2,000 years ago. The white kernels are deliciously sweet when eaten fresh, or when fully ripe, the black kernels can be ground into flour. Ears are 7-8 inches long on 5-6 foot tall plants. Drought tolerant.” (Abundant Life Seeds, 6)





Pepper, Cayenne: “70-75 days. Slim, tapering, very hot peppers used to make crushed red pepper flakes and ground pepper. At our trials, this variety matured earlier than any other cayenne type. Can be grown in containers successfully. 1828 heirloom.” (Abundant Life Seeds, 21)



Flowers, Petunia ‘Rainmaster’ (*P. axillaris*): “This heavenly scented white petunia has a modern name, but harks back to 1823 when an explorer plucked it from the mouth of the Rio de la Plata in South America. It does survive rainstorms with no marking and dissolving as some petunias are prone to do, and its sweet scent makes it an essential part of the evening garden. Self sows. 1.5-2’ tall.” (Select Seeds)



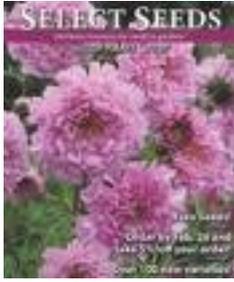
Flowers, Pink ‘Bat’s Double Red’ (*Dianthus hyb.*): “A free-flowering antique pink from 1707, with a layer upon layer of rouge-red fringed petals scented of clove. Grow with lavender and honeywort in well-drained lime enriched soil and enjoy a scented early summer garden. 1’ tall. *Perennial, zones 5-9.* (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Pink-Clove ‘Inchmery’ (*D. hyb.*): “A hint of pink is found on large double flowers. This variety hails from the 18th century and is still treasured today for its scent and silvery gray foliage. A spring-blooming, award winning pink! 8-12” tall. *Perennial, zones 5-9.* (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Red Swallowwort (*Asclepias incarnata*): “The round, flat flower heads of this deep pink, native wildflower are deliciously scented of vanilla. Their lance-shaped leaves turn glorious colors in fall, and their graceful seedpods are decorative in dried arrangements. Listen in an 1827 catalog. Moist, but well-drained soil. 4’ tall. *Perennial, zones 4-9.*” (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Schizopetalon 'Star Band' (*Shizopetalon walkerii*): "A sweet almond fragrance emanates from these petite feathery flowers as they open in the evening hours. Described as new in 1817. Grow in well-drained soil and shear lightly or sow successively for continued bloom all summer long. 1' tall. HHA. 8-10 wks." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Cosmos 'Seashells Mix' (*C. bipinnatus*): "An old form popular in the late 19th century, 'Seashells' has fluted petals curled into tubes of color in pink, white and deep rose. They bloom in summer and fall on tall graceful stems. Combine with masses of tall verbena. Self sows. Tolerates humid heat. 4-5' tall. HHA. 8-12 wks." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Love-in-a-Mist 'Midnight' (*Nigella hispanica*): "More commonly called fennel flower, for the whorl of bracts that create the 'mist' is missing in this species. 'Midnight' has large velvety purple flowers with contrasting burgundy stamens, the flower displayed on tall stems. Self sows. 2-2.5" tall. HA. 12 wks." (Select Seeds)

Flowers, Love-in-a-Mist 'Miss Jekyll Blue' (*N. damascena*): "Sky blue flowers grace this favorite of Gertrude Jekyll, the famous English garden designer who lent her name to this selection. Ruffs of cut-edged petals are set off by the thread-like foliage; leading to common names such as Love-in-a-Puzzle, or Devil-in-a-Bush. Round maroon-striped seedpods soon follow, beautiful in winter arrangements. This species was offered in a seed list in 1810; the variety 'Miss Jekyll' late in that century. Self sows. 1-1.5' tall. HA. 12 wks." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Marigold-Signet Tangerine Gem' (*Tagetes patula*): "Available in the early 1800s, this rediscovered variety has golden orange flowers with mahogany red striping that becomes more pronounced in the cool weather of fall. Grow with nasturtium 'Alaska' and zinnia 'Benary's Giant Orange' for a glowing late summer garden. 2-3' tall. TA. 10-12 wks." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Pimpernel 'Gentian Blue' (*Anagallis monellii*): "Brilliant azure flowers tinged with violet red in their centers are a dramatic addition to containers and garden edging, for the plants branch freely, and produce scads of flowers all summer. The species known as Italian pimpernel in 1795 when it was described in Curtis's Botanical Magazine. Plant in fertile, well-drained soil. 6-10" tall. HHA. 12 wks." (Select Seeds)

Flowers, Poppy 'Berries & Cream' (*Papaver paeoniflorum*): "Tightly packed petticoats of petal burst from buds that seem too small to hold such luxuriant flowers. The myriad petals are stitched with cherry-red for a lovely soft color effect. These are the poppies of celebrated 17th century Flemish still life paintings. Self sows. 2-3' tall. HA. 14 wks." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Salvia-Gentian Sage (*S. patens*): "A deep true blue flower, the loose spikes look good with lime and pink tobaccos, or for drama, vivid red flowers. Circa 1838. 1.5-2' tall. Tender perennial zones 8-9. HHA. 16-18 wks." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Morning Glory 'Carnevale di Venezia' (*I. purpurea*): "A vigorous climber with large dark green heart-shaped leaves and masses of smaller striped flowers in pink and white and cobalt blue and white with some single colors. A rare reintroduction called Striped Flowered Bindweed in the early 1800's. Seeds poisonous. 6-10' tall. TA. 12-14 wks. Cannot ship to AZ." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Red Cypress Vine (*Ipomea quamoclit*): "Heralded in 1828 as "the most beautiful annual vine cultivated in our gardens, producing great quantities of the most delicate star-shaped flowers of the richest crimson color." Tolerates humid heat. Seeds poisonous. 6-15' tall. TA. 12-14 wks. Cannot ship to AZ." (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Spanish Flag (*Mina lobata*): “Introduced in 1841. This member of the morning glory family has arching sprays of tubular flowers that change from crimson to butter yellow, giving a delightful multi-colored effect. Twining to 15’ tall. TA. 13-15 wks.” (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Passion Flower-Blue (*Passiflora caerulea*): “Name in the 1600s for the religious significance of the 10 petals and sepals which represented the 10 apostles present at the crucifixion, the filaments embodied the crown of thorns or halo of Christ, the five anthers his wounds, and the three stigmas the nails. Popular today for its masses of scented flowers and ease of culture. 10+’ tall. Perennial zones 6-9.” (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Columbine ‘Tower Pink’ (*A. vulgaris*): “Described by Gerard in 1597, as “very double, that is to say, many of those little flowers are thrust one into the belly of another.” Grow with sweet rocket for a peek into romantic gardens of the past. Late spring bloom. Self sows. 2-3’ tall. Zones 3-8.” (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Foxglove-White (*D. purpurea* ‘Alba’): “ANTIQUE GROWN IN 1838 IN AMERICA!” “ This beautiful white flowered form of foxglove, when grown with the purple form, can result in soft pink flowers from self sown seeds. Late spring bloom. Self sows. Poisonous. 3-6’ tall. Biennial. Zones 4-8.” (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Maltese Cross (*Lychnis chalcedonica*):
“This gorgeous survivor has acquired many names such as London Pride, Scarlet Mountain Lychnis, and Jerusalem Cross over its 400+ years in cultivation. The intense flame colored flowers look great with blue Canterbury bell and sundrops. Now sought after in hot-colored planting schemes. Late spring bloom. 3’ tall. Zones 4-8.” (Select Seeds)



Flowers, Primrose-Cowslip (*Primula veris*):
“Fragrant tiny nodding yellow flowers bloom in early spring. A much loved English wildflower that was once gathered by the armful to make wine. It spreads to form large cheerful-looking clumps. Listed in an 1827 seed catalog. 6-12” tall. Zones 3-8.” (Select Seeds)