



CITIZEN SEED TRIAL

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SEED SYSTEM EVOLUTION!



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Hello Citizen Scientists,

We hope that all of your trials are going well and that you have a garden full of healthy plants. Gardening has a plethora of benefits including increasing self esteem and improved health. Not only does it reap benefits to you, but your efforts are helping the planet too! Each one of your plants is helping sequester carbon from the atmosphere and produce oxygen for us to breathe.

Let's get into some of the history of our plants so you can appreciate them even more.



Tomatoes

[Stupice](#) is a fairly well known old heirloom tomato from Czechoslovakia and arose in 1955 from a cross made at the cultivator station in the community of Stupice (near Prague). It was introduced to North America in 1976 by a plant breeder named Milan Sodomka. This variety was grown on our [Research and Education Seed Farm](#) in 2020. It's known as a vigorous plant yields early and abundantly, we're excited to see if it lives up to these qualities!

Alpharora was an off type that came from an accidental cross of an Alpha and Aurora tomato. This cross came from Glorious Organics Co-op and was produced in 2018. This variety is early producing and potentially has good blight resistance. As a cross, we might be able to observe some variation between the plants. Interestingly, Alpha is an indeterminate variety while Aurora is a determinate variety so height could be variable.

Sometimes accidents in gardening are blessings in disguise, this accidental cross may bring to fruition a brand new variety with beneficial characteristics from both parents plants. Even as largely self pollinated crops, tomatoes have the potential to cross with neighbours with a 16ft radius. Therefore, it's possible (although unlikely) that your two tomato

varieties may cross, gardening is full of surprises! Read more about tomato seed saving [here](#).



Snow Peas

The Beauregard snow peas are from [Row 7](#), a company that focuses on delicious, unpatented, certified organic seeds. Beauregard snow peas were named after Violet Beauregard, the gum loving contestant in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. For those who have seen the film, she leaves the Chocolate Factory as a giant inflated blueberry girl. Blueberries contain the same beneficial antioxidant, anthocyanin, that causes the purple colour in the Beauregard snow peas. Beauregard snow peas have been bred to retain their colour when cooked, so be sure to give it a try during your taste tests.

The Slocan snow peas are from [BC Eco-Seed Co-op](#), they aim to increase the quantity and quality of ecological and organic seed grown in BC. A perfect place to purchase locally adapted seeds. This heirloom was grown by the Japanese interned in Slocan. This is a great reminder that seeds are more

than just genetics, they carry stories, and unfortunately this one has been lost. All we know is this variety originated from Slocan, it would be great to find the people who have carried on this seed legacy. If anyone knows anything about the Slocan snow pea variety, or has time to do some research on figuring out it's origins, let us know.



Beets

The F2 Gold/Striped and Golden Chioggia beet varieties are crosses of a striped and golden beet. They have identical parents but have been selected by different people. While the plants should be similar you may notice variations between the two due to differences in selection pressures. This is a perfect trial for you to step into the plant breeders shoes. At the end of the season you can select your favourite beets to store over winter and eat the rest of your bounty.

Of course, in all of these variety trials seed saving is not required but it is a fun way to foster your seed saving skills.

Don't forget to enter your first harvest date in SeedLinked! Snow Peas and beets should be ready soon.

Happy Gardening,

BC Seed Security Team

PS. In case you missed it, [here](#) is the recording of our 'What is a Variety Trial + SeedLinked Q&A' webinar

