



Plant Breeding at Johnny's

For over 50 years, our breeding efforts have concentrated on delivering crop varieties that perform optimally under organic farming practices. Most vegetable breeding in North America is geared toward large acreages in the primary commercial production areas. We focus on introducing varieties that meet the needs or solve challenges faced by mixed-market, small farmers and avid home gardeners.

These growers sow a wide variety of crops and likely won't have ideal soil or weather conditions in their local region to grow all of them, but they still want good yields of high-quality, flavorful produce. We aim to provide the seeds that will best help them do that.

The two keys to providing those seeds are our Plant Breeding Program and our cooperators: breeders and seed producers of innovative vegetables, herbs, and flowers. We focus our plant breeding efforts at Johnny's on the niches left unfilled by our cooperators. Each year we grow and evaluate thousands of side-by-side trials of various crops to identify and offer the very best varieties to growers.

Johnny's Breeding Program-Supporting Market Growers and Gardeners



Agave

Gorgeous blend of large cactus-flowered zinnias in sunset colors.



Block Party

Our highest-yielding butternut with blocky shape and great flavor.



Butterscotch PMR

Single-serving butternut with sweet, rich, complex flavor.



Cinnamon Girl PMR

Beautiful pie pumpkin with excellent eating quality.



Aurora

Two-tone, dahlia-shaped double blooms in a vintage palette.



Bonbon

A tasty, uniform, high-yielding buttercup with classic appearance.



Carmen

High-performing Italian frying pepper—early, adaptable, and sweet.



Cool Customer

A rugged organic pickler with great flavor and uniformity.



Ballerina

Pastel pink blend with a high percentage of large double blooms.



Bright Lights

The gold standard for multicolored Swiss chard with nicely savoyed, glossy leaves.



Cherry Bomb

Vigorous and uniform field cherry with late blight resistance.



Cornito Pepper Mix

Our 3 cornito peppers Rosso, Giallo, and Arancia, all in one mix.

For the full list of varieties from our Breeding Program, see Johnnyseeds.com



Defiant PhR

Mid-size slicer bred for earliness, disease resistance, and flavor.



Harvest Moon

Firm, consistently sized, golden fruits with red blush internal color.



Jasper

Small, crack-resistant red cherry with late blight resistance.



Mambo

Gorgeous dark green kabocha with notable improvements over Cha-Cha.



Delicata JS

Our distinct, widely grown strain—excellent for stuffing and baking.



Honey Bee

Early, late blight-resistant cherry tomato with excellent flavor.



NEW Linen

Improved pastel zinnia with a high percentage of double blooms.



NEW Sequin

A unique color in gomphrena—rose with a creamy, glowing center.



Goldfinch

Early summer squash with open plant habit for easier harvests.



Hot Paper Lantern

Magnificent lantern-shaped fruits. Early and productive for a habanero.



Lunchbox Pepper Mix

All 3 Lunchbox pepper colors—delicious sautéed and for snacking.



Shimmer

Pastel celosia blend with airy, shimmering plumes.



NEW UnityEarly red beefsteak with excellent performance for field and tunnel production.



Winter SweetKabocha with unparalleled eating quality and extra-long storage.



WoodstockTasty and fun green beefsteak with psychedelic swirling interior.



SunshineDelicious scarlet kabocha—great for baking, mashing, and pies.



TempestYellow crookneck with gourmet flavor and distinctive appearance.



ZephyrDelicious yellow summer squash with distinctive green blossom ends.

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