

Classical 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.

A close-up photograph of several bunches of 'Heart of Gold' chard. The leaves are a vibrant, deep green with prominent veins, and the stalks are a bright, golden-yellow color. The bunches are tied with white rubber bands.

HEART
OF GOLD

For the full list of varieties from our breeding program, see Johnnyseeds.com



THE BOSS Pumpkin
Large, vibrant jack with traditional ribs, uniform sizes, and prolific yields.



MARMALADE Winter Squash
Beautiful, coral-colored fruit of the ideal size for small dinners and CSA boxes.



NIGHT SHIFT Winter Squash
Acorn that keeps its premium quality through the winter holidays and beyond.



HEART OF GOLD Swiss chard
Improved gold chard selected for bolt tolerance, uniform color, and wider petioles.



COOL CUSTOMER Cucumber
A delicious pickler with small seed cavities and exceptional crunch.



CARMEN Pepper
Sweet Italian frying pepper with exceptional flavor, adaptability, and earliness.



LUNCHBOX PEPPER MIX Pepper
Tasty, high-yielding blend of red, orange, and yellow mini peppers.



SWEET SUNRISE Pepper
Sweet, fruity, green-to-yellow bells from a sturdy plant with good leaf cover.



YANKEE BELL Pepper
Open-pollinated red bell pepper with respectable quality and uniformity.



CINNAMON GIRL PMR Pumpkin
A beautiful ornamental pumpkin with excellent eating quality.



POLAR BEAR Pumpkin
Extra-large white pumpkin that holds its color for a stunning display.



TEMPEST Summer Squash
Gourmet crookneck with distinctive ridges, nutty flavor, and firm texture.



HARVEST MOON Tomato
Impressive, golden heirloom-like fruits with red blush interior.



MARMALADE SKIES Tomato
Improved orange tomato with late blight resistance.



STRAWBERRY FIELDS Tomato
Delicious and productive late blight-resistant pink slicer.



ZEPHYR Summer Squash
Great-tasting fruits with one-of-a-kind, light green blossom ends.



BLACK BEAR Pumpkin
Unique dark, almost black, color.



HONEY BUN Acorn Squash
Striking dumpling squash with excellent flavor!



BONBON Winter Squash
Tasty squash with classic butternut appearance and productive, uniform yields.



BUTTERSCOTCH PMR Winter Squash
Conveniently sized small butternut with sweet, rich, complex flavor.



DELICATA JS Winter Squash
Our distinct, widely grown strain that is excellent for stuffing and baking.



SUNSHINE Winter Squash
Attractive, deep scarlet kabocha with superior eating quality.



BRIGHT LIGHTS Swiss Chard
Consistent speed, leaf shape, texture, and bolt resistance across all colors.



CITRINE Tomato
Crack-resistant orange cherry with rich, balanced flavor and a meaty bite.

Johnny's Breeding Program – Bringing the Best to the Table Since 1973

Crop	Variety	Part #	Days to Maturity	Size	Disease Resistance	Description
Corn	Double Standard OG	289G	73	—	—	Open-pollinated, early maturing bicolor sweet corn. Hardy in northern climates.
	Cool Customer OG	3449G	55	4–5"	—	A delicious pickler with small seed cavities and exceptional crunch.
Cucumbers	2198T or Diva	2198	58	5–7"	HR: S. IR: CVYY, PM.	Crisp, thin-skinned, seedless cuke that is great for the home garden. AAS winner.
	Carmen	2993G OG or 2993	60 green/80 red	6"	—	Sweet Italian frying pepper with exceptional flavor, adaptability, and earliness. AAS winner.
Peppers	Cornito Arancia OG	4200G	60 green/ 80 orange	5"	—	Mini orange Corno di Toro type. Perfect for grilling and roasting.
	Cornito Rosso OG	3128G	60 green/80 red	5"	—	Mini red Corno di Toro type. Perfect for grilling and roasting.
	Cupid OG	3026G	55 green/75 red	2" x 1 3/4"	—	Early, mini red bell on large, well-branched plants.
	Eros OG	3124G	55 green/ 75 yellow	2" x 1 3/4"	—	Early, mini yellow bell on large, sturdy plants. Great partner for Cupid.
	Escamillo OG	3125G	60 green/ 80 yellow	6"	—	Golden-yellow counterpart to lovely Carmen. AAS winner.
	Highlander OG	3829G	65 green/85 red	7"	—	Early and productive even in cooler regions where Anaheim types are shy yielding.
	Hot Paper Lantern OG	2343G	70 green/90 red	3–4"	—	Earlier and more productive than traditional habaneros.
	Lunchbox Pepper Mix OG	3515G	55–63 green/ 75–83 color	2–3"	—	Tasty, high-yielding blend of red, orange, and yellow mini peppers.
	Red Flame OG	3025G	60 green/80 red	6–6 1/2"	—	Higher-yielding Red Rocket type for ristras.
	Sweet Sunrise OG	3027G	65 green/ 85 yellow	Medium Large	—	Sweet, fruity, green-to-yellow bells from a sturdy plant with good leaf cover.
	Yankee Bell OG	566G	60 green/80 red	Medium	—	Open-pollinated red bell pepper with respectable quality and uniformity.
Pumpkins	Baby Bear	600T or 600	105	1 1/2–2 1/2 lb.	—	Kids love this perfect mini pumpkin. AAS winner.
	NEW Black Bear	4493	80	1–1 1/2 lb.	IR: PM.	Prolific, uniform mini pumpkin with dark, almost black, color.
	Champion	2601T or 2601	95	30–40 lb.	—	Upright, early, and well-ribbed jack with a thick, medium-length handle.
	Cinnamon Girl PMR OG	3996G	85	3–5 lb.	IR: PM.	A beautiful ornamental pumpkin with excellent eating quality.
	Duchess	4422T or 4422	100	19–21 lb.	IR: PM.	Lovely double-ribbed appearance from a uniform, high-yielding jack.
	Gumdrop PMR	3571T or 3571	100	11–13 lb.	IR: PM.	Rich orange color, long, strong handle, unique gumdrop shape.
	Jack of Hearts	4421	100	6–7 lb.	IR: PM.	Great for kids and U-Pick farms and a great choice for mixed fall displays.
	Pipsqueak PMR	4019T or 4019	100	4–8 lb.	IR: PM.	Productive and upright tabletop pumpkin with long handles.
	Polar Bear	2504T or 2504	100	30–65 lb.	—	Extra-large white pumpkin that holds its color for a stunning display.
	Racer	2163G OG , 2163T or 2163	85	12–16 lb.	—	Extra-early workhorse jack with good ribs and a big, dark green handle.
	The Boss	4419T or 4419	100	18–20 lb.	IR: PM.	Large, vibrant jack with traditional ribs, uniform sizes, and prolific yields.
Spinach	Equinox	4034G OG	29	—	—	A fast-growing, slow-bolting, highly uniform selection of the standard Bloomsdale.
Summer Squash	Goldfinch OG	4600G	50	4–6"	—	Yellow summer squash with convenient open habit and medium spines.
	Tempest OG	3256G	54	4–7"	—	Gourmet crookneck with distinctive ridges, nutty flavor, and firm texture.
	Yellow Crookneck OG	2450	58	4–5"	—	Garden-favorite summer squash well known for its buttery flavor and firm texture.
	Zephyr	2217	54	4–6"	—	Great-tasting fruits with one-of-a-kind, light green blossom ends.
Winter Squash	Bonbon	2996T or 2996	95	4–5 lb.	—	Tasty squash with classic buttercup appearance and productive, uniform yields. AAS winner.
	Butterscotch PMR	3983	100	1 1/2–2 lb.	IR: PM.	Conveniently sized small butternut with sweet, rich, complex flavor. AAS winner.
	Cha-Cha OG	2187G	95	4–5 lb.	—	Standard, bright orange kabocha bred for flavor and storage.
	Delicata JS OG	675G	100	1 1/2–2 lb.	—	Our distinct, widely grown delicata strain. Excellent for stuffing and baking.
	NEW Honey Bun	4303	95	1–1 lb.	IR: PM.	Striking dumpling squash with excellent flavor!
	Jester	3836	95	1 1/2 lb.	—	Delicata squash with superb flavor and eye-catching, inter-rib striping.
	JWS 6823 PMR OG	2604G	100	2 1/2–3 1/2 lb.	IR: PM.	Ideal butternut for larger plantings: High, uniform yields on shorter-vined plants.
	Marmalade OG	4424G	100	2–3 lb.	—	Beautiful, coral-colored kabocha. The ideal size for small dinners and CSA boxes.
	Metro PMR	2867	105	2 1/2–3 1/2 lb.	IR: PM.	Exceptional butternut flavor and storage, deep into the winter.
	Night Shift OG	4423G	95	1 1/2–2 1/2 lb.	IR: PM.	Acorn that keeps its premium quality through the winter holidays and beyond.
	Starry Night PMR OG	4026G	95	2–2 1/2 lb.	IR: PM.	Delicious acorn that says reliably smooth and sweet through the New Year.
	Sunshine	2998G OG , 2998T, or 2998	95	3–5 lb.	—	Attractive, deep scarlet kabocha with superior eating quality. AAS winner.
	Sweet Jade OG	4030G	95	1–2 lb.	—	Delicious, personal-size kabocha with heavy yields and exceptional storage. AAS winner.
	Tiptop PMR	2269G OG or 2269	92	2–2 1/2 lb.	IR: PM.	Better-tasting larger acorn. A real improvement over old standards.
	Tuffy OG	2054G	90	2 lb.	—	A favorite acorn squash for baking because of its dry texture and great flavor.
	Waldo PMR	3264G OG or 3264	100	3–4 lb.	IR: PM.	Larger-sized butternut with rich internal color, big yields, and excellent flavor.
Winter Blush OG	4029G	95	3–4 lb.	—	A welcome splash of color in winter. A beautiful complement to Winter Sweet.	
Winter Sweet OG	3034G	95	4–5 lb.	—	Mainstay kabocha with unparalleled eating quality and extra-long storage.	
Swiss Chard	Bright Lights	703D or 703JP	55 bunching	—	—	Consistent speed, leaf shape, texture, and bolt resistance across all colors. AAS winner.
	Heart of Gold OG	4614G	30 baby/ 60 bunching	—	—	New and improved gold chard selected for bolt tolerance, uniform color, and wider petioles.
Tomatoes	Citrine OG	4025G	60	20 gm.	HR: F (1, 2).	Crack-resistant orange cherry with rich, balanced flavor and a meaty bite.
	Clementine OG	3991G	68	2 oz.	HR: F (1), V.	Unique tangerine-orange cocktail tomato.
	Five Star Grape OG	2527G	62	15–20 gm.	—	Crack-resistant grape tomato (our sweetest).
	NEW Harvest Moon OG	4499G	75	7–10 oz.	HR: LB.	Impressive, golden heirloom-like fruits with red blush interior.
	Jasper OG	3812G	60	7–10 gm.	HR: LB. IR: EB.	Small, deep red cherry with late blight resistance. AAS winner.
	NEW Marmalade Skies OG	4498G	75	7–8 oz.	HR: LB.	Improved orange tomato with late blight resistance.
	Martha Washington OG	3818G	78	8–12 oz.	—	Heirloom-quality pink slicer with a more reliable plant.
	Red Pearl OG	97G	58	15–20 gm.	IR: LB.	Tender, nearly seedless grape tomatoes with great flavor and texture.
	NEW Strawberry Fields OG	4501G	75	7–10 oz.	HR: LB, N.	Delicious and productive late blight-resistant pink slicer.
	Valentine OG	3371G	55	12–14 gm.	IR: EB.	Delicious, high-lycopene grape. AAS winner.
Verona OG	3811G	67	2 1/2 oz.	HR: F (1), V. IR: EB.	Large, flavorful, "cocktail plum" tomato of the Juliet type.	

Part Numbers with T=Treated seeds, G=Organic seeds, JP=Conventional seeds/NOP-compliant pellet, D=Decorticated (rubbed) seeds. **OG**=Organic seeds