

Cornell University’s web-based Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners citizen science projects provides an opportunity for gardeners to share their knowledge with other gardeners as well as researchers. Through tapping the enthusiasm and expertise of gardens, we’ll gain new insight into the performance of vegetable varieties under a wide range of conditions and practices, and ultimately provide more insight into which varieties perform best. At the same time, gardeners can get advice from a larger community of gardeners to help decide which varieties to try in their own garden.

In 2006 our web site had nearly 100,000 user sessions for 60,000 unique users. Since our public launch in January 2005 about 1,300 gardeners have joined our ranks as registered users and they have collectively posted nearly 2,300 reviews of some of the 4,500 vegetable varieties described on the site.

Given our home base, it is not surprising that nearly one-third of the variety reviews posted are from New York State gardeners (Table 1). However, gardeners in 46 states and 3 Canadian provinces have submitted reviews and we have registered users from all 50 states, D.C. and 6 Canadian provinces. California ranks second in the number of registered users and Georgia ranks second in the number variety reviews posted. We hope a word of mouth campaign through current registered users and Cooperative Extension can build our depth across North America in 2007.

Our efforts to spread the word in New York have netted us vegetable variety reviews from gardeners in 36 of our 62 NYS counties and there are registered gardeners from 59 counties (Table 2).

As we seek to recruit thousands, even millions of vegetable gardeners, we believe our greatest knowledge sharing success will come if we have a diverse audience of participants; diverse in gender, age and ethnicity. So far we have a balance of male and female contributors with a majority of contributors that are over 45 years old and Caucasian (Table 2).

Let us know if you are interested in partnering to tap the talent and enthusiasm of your vegetable gardening audience.

**Table 1.** Reviews and registered users since January 2005 by state or province

State/ Province	Number of vegetable variety reviews posted	% of all variety reviews posted	Number of register users	% of all registered users
NY	640	28%	395	31%
GA	342	15%	14	1%
PA	107	5%	52	4%
NE	71	3%	4	0.3%
VA	71	3%	31	2%
IL	70	3%	27	2%
CA	68	3%	107	8%
MI	65	3%	41	3%
NC	64	3%	18	1%
IN	55	2%	13	1%
WA	53	2%	29	2%

Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners [vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu](http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu)

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2006 Update

State/ Province	Number of vegetable variety reviews posted	% of all variety reviews posted	Number of register users	% of all registered users
VT	51	2%	10	1%
CT	49	2%	18	1%
WI	40	2%	20	2%
OR	37	2%	15	1%
TX	36	2%	53	4%
KY	35	2%	13	1%
SC	35	2%	7	0.5%
MD	32	1%	26	2%
MA	31	1%	44	3%
ME	28	1%	20	2%
MO	28	1%	17	1%
IA	23	1%	13	1%
FL	22	1%	26	2%
RI	22	1%	16	1%
MN	21	1%	20	2%
NJ	21	1%	27	2%
LA	19	1%	12	1%
TN	19	1%	17	1%
WV	18	1%	7	0.5%
OH	17	1%	27	2%
OK	16	1%	12	1%
AL	14	1%	14	1%
ON (CA)	13	1%	10	1%
AZ	12	0.5%	8	1%
NH	10	0.4%	8	1%
DE	9	0.4%	4	0.3%
MT	6	0.3%	6	0.5%
AK	4	0.2%	7	0.5%
NM	4	0.2%	8	1%
CO	3	0.1%	12	1%
MS	3	0.1%	5	0.4%
SD	3	0.1%	2	0.2%
BC (CA)	2	0.1%	6	0.5%
ID	2	0.1%	5	0.4%
NV	2	0.1%	6	0.5%
AB (CA)	1	0.0%	3	0.2%
AR	1	0.0%	8	1%
KS	1	0.0%	7	0.5%
DC	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
HI	0	0.0%	4	0.3%
MB (CA)	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
NB (CA)	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
ND	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
PE (CA)	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
UT	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
WY	0	0.0%	6	0.5%

**Table 2.** Reviews and registered users since January 2005 by New York State County.

County	Number of reviews posted	% of NYS reviews posted	Number of register users	% of NYS registered users
Ontario	129	20.2%	20	5.1%
Tompkins	60	9.4%	48	12.2%
Ulster	57	8.9%	12	3.0%
Oneida	48	7.5%	13	3.3%
Franklin	39	6.1%	5	1.3%
Jefferson	34	5.3%	7	1.8%
Monroe	31	4.8%	27	6.8%
Erie	28	4.4%	14	3.5%
Chemung	26	4.1%	5	1.3%
Westchester	23	3.6%	9	2.3%
Washington	19	3.0%	8	2.0%
Seneca	18	2.8%	5	1.3%
Onondaga	16	2.5%	15	3.8%
St. Lawrence	13	2.0%	8	2.0%
Nassau	12	1.9%	8	2.0%
Cortland	9	1.4%	4	1.0%
Broome	8	1.3%	6	1.5%
Albany	7	1.1%	8	2.0%
Tioga	7	1.1%	8	2.0%
Essex	6	0.9%	7	1.8%
Greene	6	0.9%	2	0.5%
Allegany	5	0.8%	3	0.8%
Suffolk	5	0.8%	17	4.3%
Chenango	4	0.6%	5	1.3%
Wyoming	4	0.6%	2	0.5%
Cattaraugus	3	0.5%	5	1.3%
Genesee	3	0.5%	3	0.8%
Herkimer	3	0.5%	5	1.3%
Putnam	3	0.5%	4	1.0%
Clinton	2	0.3%	11	2.8%
Columbia	2	0.3%	6	1.5%
Hamilton	2	0.3%	2	0.5%
Orange	2	0.3%	5	1.3%
Saratoga	2	0.3%	7	1.8%
Schoharie	2	0.3%	1	0.3%
Sullivan	2	0.3%	7	1.8%
Bronx	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Cayuga	0	0.0%	4	1.0%
Chautauqua	0	0.0%	3	0.8%
Delaware	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Dutchess	0	0.0%	6	1.5%
Fulton/ Montgomery	0	0.0%	5	1.3%
Kings	0	0.0%	3	0.8%
Lewis	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Livingston	0	0.0%	4	1.0%

County	Number of reviews posted	% of NYS reviews posted	Number of register users	% of NYS registered users
Madison	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
New York	0	0.0%	4	1.0%
Niagara	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Orleans	0	0.0%	4	1.0%
Oswego	0	0.0%	5	1.3%
Otsego	0	0.0%	5	1.3%
Queens	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Rensselaer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Richmond	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Rockland	0	0.0%	3	0.8%
Schenectady	0	0.0%	5	1.3%
Schuyler	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Steuben	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Warren	0	0.0%	4	1.0%
Wayne	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Yates	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
not reported	0	0.0%	6	1.5%

**Table 3.** Some demographic variables of participants in Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners

		In New York State			
		Number of register users	% of all registered users	Number of register users	% of all registered
<b>Gender</b>					
	males	534	42%	149	38%
	females	520	40%	147	37%
	not reported	236	18 %	99	25%
<b>Age range</b>					
	under 18	5	< 1%	2	< 1%
	18 to 30	74	6 %	28	7%
	31 to 45	277	22%	71	18%
	46 to 65	564	44%	165	42%
	over 65	134	10%	30	8%
	not reported	236	18%	99	25%
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
	Caucasian	873	68%	253	64%
	Other	22	2%	6	2%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	17	1%	3	1%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	16	1%	3	1%
	African American	15	1%	2	0.5%
	Latino/Hispanic	13	1 %	3	1%
	Multiracial	10	1%	2	0.5%
	South Asian	5	0.4%	1	0.3%
	Middle Eastern	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
	Prefer not to answer	75	3%	22	6%
	not reported	242	19%	100	25%