



Thumbelina carrots



Cabbage Babies Triplet Hybrid



Pine Tree Radish



Little Sweetie Hybrid Muskmelon



Cheddar Hybrid Cauliflower.



Red Noodle Beans



Jung's Rainbow Carrots



Henry's Rainbow Carrots

Eye-Catching New Fruits, Vegetables

By Dee Goerge,
Contributing Editor

Looking for unusual fruits and vegetables to attract customers to your roadside stand or farmers market stall? Or maybe you're just looking for something new to impress your family and friends? Check out some of these latest new offerings by garden seed companies.

Miniatures

Thumbelina carrots have been around awhile, but the miniature 1 1/2-in. dia. round carrots now have plenty of company with other miniature salad fixings.

Johnny's Select Seeds (ph 877 564-6697; www.johnnyseeds.com) offers Elegant Claremont Mini-Romaine lettuce that's ready at 9 in. tall in just 46 days. Johnny's also has a couple of bright red lettuce varieties, Garrison and Red Rosie, that are ready in as little as 28 days. Samantha, a small, pointed-head savoy cabbage has excellent wrapper leaves.

Jung Seeds (ph 800 247-5864; www.jungseed.com) offers Cabbage Babies Triplet Hybrid, with 1-lb. softball-size green, red and savoy varieties ready in 60 to 70 days. Enjoy it along with Baby Star Romaine Lettuce. Supplement the salad with Little Sweetie Hybrid Muskmelon, softball size fruits that are perfect for a single serving.

Pinetree Garden Seeds (ph 207 926-3400; www.superseeds.com) offers a Watermelon Radish that will add sweet flavor and color to salads with its white skin, greenish shoulders and bright red interior. Small Miracle Broccoli saves garden space with compact plants just 1 ft. tall and 1 1/2 ft. wide. Dome-shaped 6-in. heads are tight with many flowers.

Territorial Seed Co. (ph 800 626-0866; www.territorialseed.com) brings back Mexican Sour Gherkin Cucumbers, a heritage seed

with 1 to 2-in. fruits that look like mini watermelons with green mottled and striped skins. They can be eaten raw or pickled. Rocky Cucumbers, a new variety, is seedless, rich green in color and best harvested at 2-3 in. long for a one-bite treat.

Oversize & Colorful

Balance those mini veggies with some "wow" varieties.

Territorial Seed Co. offers Red Noodle Beans, 18-in., garnet stringless beans. They'll go nicely with Pinetree's bowling ball size Kossack Kohlrabi. Eat the leaves like collard greens and store the sweet vegetable up to a month.

Territorial adds color to the garden with its Touchstone Gold Beet, with bright orange skin and a golden interior.

The beets may color coordinate with Gurneys Seeds' (ph 513 354-1491; www.gurneys.com) Cheddar Hybrid Cauliflower. The cheesy-looking "curds" have 25 times as much beta-carotene as white cauliflower and a great flavor.

Most seed companies offer rainbow carrots. Henry Field's (ph 513 354-1494; www.henryfields.com) carrots range in colors from white to purple that hold their color when cooked.

For end-of-the-season color, Jung offers spooky pumpkins. Batwing Mix Pumpkins are bicolor in dark green and orange when harvested early for decorative ornamental pumpkins. At 20 lbs., One Too Many Pumpkins have a strange appearance with white shells painted with red midribs and stippled veins. With a little imagination, they look like bloodshot eyeballs.

Fitted Covers For Antique Tractors

As far as he knows, Charles Lindstrom has the only business in the U.S. that makes custom fit storage covers for antique tractors. Covers4Tractors, based in St. Joseph, Mo., offers high quality soft covers for a wide selection of vintage tractor models.

Made from a space-age material called Matrix, the covers are lightweight, breathable and rot-resistant. According to Lindstrom, they're water repellent but not water proof, and protect tractors from scratches, dust, the sun's ultraviolet rays, birds and mildew.

The one-piece covers extend down over the wheels, and have a sewn-in "sock" to cover the muffler and exhaust pipe. There's a drawstring around the bottom to snug it down tight.

The covers are available only in grey and are intended for indoor storage. They're also ideal for protecting the units as they sit overnight at shows.

Lindstrom produces covers for a variety of makes and models, including Deere, Farmall, Ford, Allis Chalmers, Massy Ferguson, Minneapolis Moline, International, Case, Oliver and Massy Harris. Other makes/models are available upon request.

"People have a lot of affection for their antique tractors, and really don't want to see them get scratched or dirty," Lindstrom explains. "I know because I used to specialize in Deere H tractors myself. That's how I got started making covers. I used to deal in Deere



Custom fit covers are available for a wide selection of antique tractors. They're water repellent but not waterproof.

H's - I restored them and sold new, used and reproduction parts. After I started having these covers made for the tractors in my own collection, people would see them at tractor shows and started wanting to buy them."

The covers are priced between \$155 and \$185, plus \$12 S&H, and are shipped UPS. There's a discount for orders of three or more covers, and prices may be higher for HI-Crop and some wide front models.

Lindstrom has shipped his covers to buyers in most states and several foreign countries. Covers4Tractors also sells storage bags for the tractor covers for \$25 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Covers4Tractors, Charles B. Lindstrom, 20006 Hwy. 59, St. Joseph, Mo 64505 (816 232-5868; lindstromcb@yahoo.com; www.covers4tractors.com).



Ordinary manure spreaders can be used to spread big square bales out onto fields or in livestock pens.

They Spread Straw With Manure Spreader

By Heather Smith Thomas

One of the best ways we've found to minimize sickness and problems during calving season is to keep the calving and bedding areas clean and dry. We use lots of straw for bedding in the early spring. If cows and young calves can lie on clean straw instead of in mud and manure, there's much less chance of dirty udders (and scour-causing bacteria ingested when the calves nurse) and also the young calves can stay warmer and drier, with less stress.

Big square bales can sometimes be difficult to spread around a pen and we couldn't justify a new machine to do it. So we started using a manure spreader. The spreader can be set at whatever speed you wish as you

unload the straw around the field or pen, spreading it smoothly and consistently, either thickly or thinly. This is much easier than trying to flake it off by hand and one person can do the job. We used to put the big bales on a flat-bed feed truck, but it always took one person to drive the truck and one or two more to flake it off. With the manure spreader, the straw is churned up and spread out much more effectively and much, much faster.

One person can spread three or four bales in several pens and fields in the time it used to take three people to spread just one bale.

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