

2022 Parsnip Evaluations

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Parsnips (*Pastinaca sativa*) are a root vegetable in the Apiaceae family commonly grown in the Northeast as a winter storage crop. In 2022, ten parsnip cultivars were evaluated for yield potential and horticultural characteristics at the University of Maine's Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, ME.

Field culture of parsnips is very similar to that of carrots. Prior to seeding, 500 lb/acre of 10-10-10 fertilizer was incorporated into the field, and plots were arranged according to a randomized complete block design with four replications. Parsnips were direct-seeded into flat ground on June 10 using a two-row Jang push seeder fitted with LJ-10 rollers and a 14/9 sprocket gearing. Rows were 12" apart and beds were 42" on center, and no supplemental irrigation was provided. Plots were flame weeded five days after seeding and hand weeded thereafter, as needed, to mitigate crop-weed competition. About one month after seeding, plots were thinned to approximately 12-15 plants per foot.



Figure 1. Parsnips on August 28, 79 days after seeding, at the University of Maine's Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, ME.

The central 4' of each plot was harvested on November 11, about five months after seeding. Roots were topped, washed, and sorted into unmarketable (< 0.5" diameter at shoulder), small (0.5 - 1" diameter), and standard (> 1" diameter) sizes, and weighed. Quantitative and qualitative data for the ten parsnip cultivars evaluated in 2022 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Parsnip cultivar description and plot yield of four feet long, double-row plots grown in 2022 at the University of Maine’s Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, ME.

Albion		
	Marketable Roots, #: 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blocky at shoulder - Many stubby roots - Stringy - On the small side - Tended to fork - Strong stand
	Marketable Weight, kg: 4.4	
	Average Root Weight, g: 70	
Gladiator		
	Marketable Roots, #: 74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blocky at shoulder, almost conical - Generally uniform - Typical parsnip shape and look - Strong stand
	Marketable Weight, kg: 4.1	
	Average Root Weight, g: 55	
Harris Model		
	Marketable Roots, #: 32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad shoulder - Conical shape, gnarly - Good color - Poor stand - Largest root size but fewest number of marketable roots in planting
	Marketable Weight, kg: 4.1	
	Average Root Weight, g: 130	

Javelin		
	Marketable Roots, #: 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blocky at shoulder - Fair number of stubby roots - Small, but fairly uniform shape - Very good color
	Marketable Weight, kg: 3.5	
	Average Root Weight, g: 54	
Panorama		
	Marketable Roots, #: 74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally attractive and uniform - Attractive conical shape - Carried diameter to tip well - Some very long tails (> 14")
	Marketable Weight, kg: 3.6	
	Average Root Weight, g: 48	
Pearl		
	Marketable Roots, #: 74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blocky at shoulder - Very small roots - Very uniform - Good germination and seedling vigor
	Marketable Weight, kg: 3.5	
	Average Root Weight, g: 48	

TZ 5152		
	Marketable Roots, #: 71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attractive shape and color - Occasionally gnarly - Typical parsnip shape - Good uniformity - Strong stand
	Marketable Weight, kg: 4.9	
	Average Root Weight, g: 69	
TZ 7508		
	Marketable Roots, #: 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very blocky at shoulder - Carried diameter to tip well - Conical shape - Fairly large roots - Good germination and seedling vigor
	Marketable Weight, kg: 5.0	
	Average Root Weight, g: 81	
Viking		
	Marketable Roots, #: 62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very nice color and shape; attractive - Large roots with full root tips - Generally uniform
	Marketable Weight, kg: 5.7	
	Average Root Weight, g: 91	

Warrior		
	Marketable Roots, #: 55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small roots did not bulk up well - Fair number stubby roots - Intermediate number of marketable roots - Tended to fork
	Marketable Weight, kg: 4.5	
	Average Root Weight, g: 82	

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