

## Media Relations

May 1, 2016

### **New Cantaloupe, Pumpkin, and Acorn Squash Seeds Developed at UNH Now Available**

DURHAM, N.H. – Gardeners preparing to plant their fruits and vegetables will have a number of new cantaloupes, pumpkins, and acorn squash to choose from that were developed at the [NH Agricultural Experiment Station \(NHAES\)](#) at the University of New Hampshire by a researcher who represents the longest continuous squash and pumpkin breeding program in North America.

The most recent work of Brent Loy, emeritus professor of plant genetics, has resulted in the commercial release of nine new cucurbit varieties that are well suited to state and regional growing conditions, have improved yields, and exhibit disease and pest resistance. Loy and his team also have been focused on reducing farm inputs of pesticides and labor for weed control by incorporating better disease resistance into new varieties and developing varieties with a more compact and upright growth habit for better weed control through cultivation.

“Traditional breeding projects at UNH have been highly successful in developing new varieties of melon, ornamental pumpkin, winter squash, summer squash, and gourds which enhance the capacity of farmers to provide a diversity of produce at local markets such as roadside stands, farmers markets, and related retail markets,” Loy said.

Loy’s experiment station-funded work has resulted in more than 70 new varieties of squash, pumpkins, gourds, and melons sold in seed catalogs throughout the world, many of the varieties being joint developments with seed companies located in the Northeast.

“Development of new varieties has been a key underpinning for production of abundant and nutritious vegetables in North America. With increasing land prices and increased costs associated with inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, and labor, improved variety performance in terms of yield, quality and ease of culture is paramount to successful farming,” he said. “Moreover, income generated by regional seed companies in producing and marketing locally adapted varieties helps maintain their profitability.”

Two new cantaloupe varieties are available to home gardeners. First Kiss cantaloupe is an early cantaloupe with medium size available from [High Mowing Seeds](#). Shockwave, a long shelf-life cantaloupe with higher sugar content than most varieties is available from [Holmes Seed Co.](#) and [Harris Seeds](#).

Pumpkin lovers have several relatively new types of pumpkin to consider for planting. Naked Bear is a hull-less seeded pumpkin with small fruit, high seed yields, good tip fill, semi-bush growth habit,

tolerance to bacterial leaf spot disease, and intermediate resistance to powdery mildew disease. Designed for snack seed production, it is available from [Holmes Seed Co.](#) and [Harris Seeds](#). In addition to Moonshine, the first white pumpkin released from UNH breeding, two new white pumpkins are Blanco and Snowball, and both are noted for retaining white rind coloration well. Blanco, a four to five-pound pumpkin, was developed in a cooperative effort with [Seneca Vegetable Research](#). It is available from [Harris Seeds](#), [Jordan Seeds](#), and [Stokes Seeds](#). Snowball, a small, round pumpkin, was developed in a collaborative effort with [Hybrid Seeds](#) of New Zealand and is available from [Johnny's Selected Seeds](#). A new yellow pumpkin variety, Sunlight, is in the pie pumpkin class, and is especially attractive when marketed next to white pumpkins. Available from [Johnny's Selected Seeds](#), it also has tolerance to powdery mildew disease.

Three varieties of acorn squash with higher starch content and improved eating quality as compared to most standard varieties also have been released. Honey Bear is a small acorn variety with very compact or bush growth, available from [Johnny's Selected Seeds](#). Sugar Bear, a slightly larger acorn variety is available from [High Mowing Organic Seeds](#), as is Sugar Dumpling, a small, striped acorn type squash. All three varieties have powdery mildew resistance.

This breeding research is based upon work supported by the NH Agricultural Experiment Station, through joint funding of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 233554, and the state of New Hampshire.

Founded in 1887, the [NH Agricultural Experiment Station](#) at the [UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture](#) is UNH's original research center and an elemental component of New Hampshire's land-grant university heritage and mission.

The [University of New Hampshire](#), founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 13,000 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate students.

## PHOTOS

<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/shockwave.jpg>

Shockwave, a long shelf-life cantaloupe with higher sugar content than most varieties is available from Holmes Seed Co. and Harris Seeds. Credit: Holmes Seed Co.

<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/snowball.jpg>

Snowball, a small, round pumpkin, was developed in a collaborative effort with Hybrid Seeds of New Zealand and is available from Johnny's Selected Seeds. Credit: Johnny's Selected Seeds

<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/sunlight.jpg>

A new yellow pumpkin variety, Sunlight, is in the pie pumpkin class, and is especially attractive when marketed next to white pumpkins. Available from Johnny's Selected Seeds, it also has tolerance to powdery mildew disease. Credit: Johnny's Selected Seeds

<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/sites/colsa.unh.edu.nhaes/files/media/images/honeybear.jpg>

Honey Bear is a small acorn variety with very compact or bush growth, available from Johnny's Selected Seeds. Credit: Johnny's Selected Seeds

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