

twice weekly for a 4-week period. Yield was taken and quality attributes were also noted. 'Rayada' fruit are plump, oval, deep lavender-purple and white streaked eggplant that are suitable for baby or mature harvest. The fruit of 'Rayada' are glossy when small and become duller when large and the calyxes are spined. 'Rayada' plants have large leaves and good fruit cover for sunscald protection and plants are tall and erect. 'Rosita' has glossy bright deep lavender fruit that fade as fruit get larger. The fruit of 'Rosita' have a traditional teardrop-shaped fruit with calyxes that are spiny. The leaves of 'Rosita' are large and provide good fruit cover and the plants are tall and erect. 'Calliope' has glossy, small variegated fruits that are oval, white and purple streaked Indian-style eggplant. 'Calliope' is suitable for baby (2 inches) or mature (3–4 inches) harvest and have calyxes that are spineless. The leaves of 'Calliope' are smaller than other varieties, but are numerous and provide good fruit cover. The plant structure of 'Calliope' is more spreading and not erect as other varieties. 'Santana' has glossy black-purple fruit with bright green calyx with few spines. 'Santana' plants are tall and upright. 'Santana' is a standard variety for New Jersey. 'Rayada' and 'Rosita' have a longer days-to-harvest period than 'Calliope' and 'Santana', and yields of 'Rayada' and 'Rosita' were much lower than 'Calliope' and 'Santana'. 'Rayada' and 'Rosita' have similar characteristics of other ethnic eggplants and may be a fit for specialty markets.

Fresh Market Tomato Cultivar Evaluations for New Jersey

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New Jersey fresh market tomato growers rely on high quality, early maturing tomato cultivars for vine ripe production and marketing. Unfortunately, several currently recommended early tomato varieties are being removed from the market by seed companies. A field trial was initiated at the Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown, NJ to evaluate the performance of seven early tomato cultivars and one breeding selection. Tomatoes were grown utilizing a stake and weave system and recommended commercial practices. Tomato fruit was harvested vine-ripe from the plots, sorted, counted, and weighed. Fruit samples were completely ripened at room temperature and ripe fruit samples were evaluated for quality attributes and made available for flavor evaluations at public tasting events. Early yields were highest for NJ 23, 'Primo Red', 'Applause', and 'Royal Mountie'. Only 'Primo Red' had internal and external fruit characteristics similar to 'Applause', a currently recommended cultivar. 'Royal Mountie' and 'Primo Red' compared favorably to 'Applause' in consumer flavor evaluations.

†Media Affect Seedling Growth of *Laurocerasus hypotricha* (Rehd.) T.T. Yu & L.T. Lu

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Container growing media are hard to find in China and the potential for marketing growing media for nursery crops is tremendous. Traditionally, container plants were produced using local soil (loess) in Hunan and its bulk density (at dry), pH, and water holding capacity were 1.31 g·cm⁻³, 6.28, and 35%. To evaluate the effect of media on plant growth, *Laurocerasus hypotricha* seedlings had been grown with loess (control) and loess with amendment of peatmoss, cotton shells, and compost manure at 1:1 ratio (by volume). Although amended loess had supplied with fertilizer, seedling growth showed height differences at 70 days and diameter differences at 110 days after transplanting. Both height and diameter under compost manure and cotton shells amended media grew faster than that of peatmoss + loess and straight loess. At the end of the first growing season (2009), the seedling heights were 22.64 (peatmoss), 26.97 (compost manure), 26.58 (cotton shells), and 22.12 cm (loess) and the seedling diameters at the medium level were 0.41 (peatmoss), 0.52 (compost manure), 0.50 (cotton shells), and 0.39 cm (loess). No significant different was found among the amended media. At the beginning of the second growing season, amended media showed 7% (peatmoss) and 4% (compost manure and cotton shells) increase of water holding capacity and 1.0 (peatmoss), 0.5 (compost manure), and 0.6 (cotton shells) pH reduction.

†Breeding Ornamental Hazelnuts (*Corylus*)

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Ornamental hazelnuts (*Corylus* sp.) have been used in the landscape in Europe for centuries, exemplified by the popular cultivar Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*C. avellana* 'Contorta'), planted since the mid-19th century. Others include those with purple leaves, like 'Rote Zellernuss', 'Fusca-rubra', and 'Purple Fortin'. Ornamental hazelnuts are less common in North America, partly because almost all cultivars lack resistance to the destructive fungal disease eastern filbert blight (EFB), caused by *Anisogramma anomala*. *Anisogramma anomala* is native to the eastern US and causes cankers that girdle stems, reducing value until death occurs, which is typically 3 to 5 years from infection. A hazelnut genetic improvement program has been ongoing at Rutgers University since 1996. One of our breeding objectives is the development of new, highly attractive, EFB-resistant cultivars of ornamental hazelnuts. In the US, Harry Lauder's Walking Stick is widely propagated and sold in its