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RGV Small Acreage

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TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION

Texas A&M Vegetable Varieties: Where are they now and where can you buy them?

A&M has a long history of taking something good and making it even better. During the 1970's and 80's A&M released several varieties of peppers, melons and onions that are still fan favorites. Improving upon flavor, developing resistance, and enhancing nutrient content are just some of the reasons people still search out these varieties today. So, to answer some of our most common questions; below you will find a brief summary on some of A&M's favorite varieties, who is credited with creating them and where you can find them.

Texas 1015Y Onion: In 1986, researchers at Texas A&M University introduced the Texas 1015Y (yellow) SuperSweet, a large, tearless onion, developed specifically for growing conditions in South Texas. The popularity of the Texas 1015 (a reference to its planting date, October 15) prompted international interest in adapting it to other locales with short days during its growing cycle. Texas onions are first on the market in the spring, and their mild flavor are preferred to storage onions. While seed of this variety can no longer be purchased, anyone can purchase transplants from Dixondale Farms (www.dixondalefarms.com). These plants are available from November through April. Dr. Leonard Pike is credited with developing this variety.

TAM Mild Jalapeno 1: In 1981, the jalapeno world was turned upside down with the release of TAM Mild Jalapeno an open pollinated variety which contains about 1/3 the pungency (capsaicin level) of most jalapeno varieties such as Jalapeno M variety. The plant grows compact allowing for a

concentrated set with greater tolerance for setting fruit at higher temperatures than other varieties. It offers multiple virus resistance and has demonstrated a high degree of tolerance to Phytophthora root rot. The firm thick-walled pepper is desirable for fresh, pickling and picante sauce. They are ideal for nacho or pizza rings and longitudinal slices. The seed can be purchased from several seed companies, but Twilley Seeds (www.twilleyseed.com) continues to have good supplies of this old favorite. Dr. Ben Villalon (Dr. Pepper) is credited with developing this variety.

TAM Hidalgo Serrano: In 1984, the Hidalgo Serrano an open pollinated variety was made available for commercial field plantings and home garden use from Arco Seed Company. While Arco Seed Company is no longer active, several seed companies including FedCo Seeds (www.fedcoseeds.com) continue to have good supplies of this old favorite. The plant grows more compact and is much earlier than other serrano varieties (90 days to harvest). The fruit has a blunt end and possesses the typical and distinctive pepper flavor and aroma associated with hot serrano peppers but with lower pungency. It offers multiple virus resistance traits and has demonstrated levels of tolerance to leafminer and pepper weevil. Dr. Ben Villalon (Dr. Pepper) is credited with developing this variety.

TAMDEW Honeydew Melon: In 1971, Texas A&M researchers released a classic *honeydew* variety (Cucumis melo) with smooth, golden-yellow fruits that grow large that can reach 5 pounds under

ideal conditions. The pale green colored flesh is sweet and juicy and ready for harvest in 100 days from transplants. It is an open pollinated variety that has tolerance to downy mildew and powdery mildew. The seed can be purchased from several seed companies, but [Willhite Seeds](#) (www.willhiteseed.com) continues to have good supplies. Mr. R.T. Correa is credited with developing this variety.

TAM Uvalde Cantaloupe: In 1977, Texas A&M researchers released this variety which is high in sugars and β -carotene but considered too small to meet current retail standards. It is an open pollinated variety that has excellent resistance to powdery mildew. The seed can be purchased from several seed companies, but [Willhite Seeds](#) (www.willhiteseed.com) continues to have good supplies of this old favorite. Mr. R.T. Correa is credited with developing this variety.



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