

Trial Report: Rutabaga 2022

Goal: The goal of this trial was to compare **open-pollinated rutabaga varieties** in **organic conditions** on **participant farms** in Alberta and BC.

Background: This is the third year of CANOVI rutabaga trials. In 2020 and 2021, trials were nationwide rather than focused on one region. The 2022 trial compared the **top six best performing varieties** of the **ten varieties trialed** in 2021.

Varieties: Participants planted 6 varieties: four purple-topped and two green-topped

Participants: 13



Variety	Type	Days to maturity	Catalogue description link
<i>Helenor</i>	Purple top	90	Helenor (Johnny's Selected Seeds)
<i>Joan</i>	Purple top	N/A	Joan (Wild Garden Seeds)
<i>Laurentian</i>	Purple top	N/A	Laurentian (Johnny's Selected Seeds)
<i>Nadmorska</i>	Green top	85-100	Nadmorska (Siskiyou Seeds)
<i>Gilfeather</i>	Green top	85	Gilfeather (Siskiyou Seeds)
<i>York</i>	Purple top	115-120	York (Vesey's)

Planting: Participants planted **12 linear feet per variety** at **approximately 4-6 plants per foot**, using single or multiple rows per bed. Seeds were **sown in June-July** for harvest in September-October. Participants used their usual organic methods for soil fertility and weed management.

Evaluation: Participants evaluated varieties using the desktop or mobile [SeedLinked](#) app. Germination, early vigour, uniformity, yield, marketability, appearance, disease resistance (focusing on Brassica clubroot), insect resistance (focusing on cabbage maggot), and flavour were rated on a scale of **1 (low) to 5 (high)**. **A rubric was provided** that defined the rating scale for each trait.

Results and analysis: **Interactive plots** were available on the SeedLinked website immediately after trial closure. In addition, CANOVI researchers performed **statistical analysis** and presented results in a **webinar** and in this **trial report**.

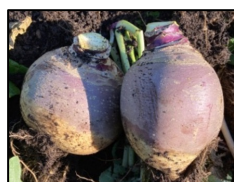
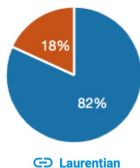
Please view the **2022 CANOVI Rutabaga Trial Protocol** for full instructions and the evaluation rubric.



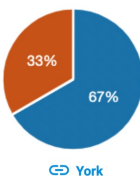
Varieties by Overall Preference



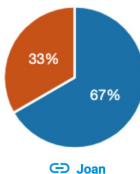
Laurentian



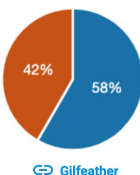
York



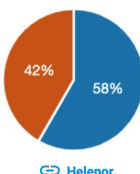
Joan



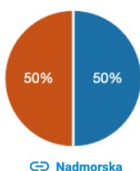
Gilfeather



Helenor



Nadmorska



Results by Variety

- Laurentian was rated highly for **germination***** and **vigour ****, and was **above average** for all traits.
- York was rated highly for **germination*****, **appearance**, **uniformity**, and **vigour** but lower for insect resistance.
- Joan scored lower for **germination*****, **vigour ****, and **yield**, but it was rated favourably for **flavour** and **marketability**.
- Gilfeather was rated highly for **germination***** and **insect resistance** but was around average for other traits.
- Helenor was rated highly for **germination***** and **uniformity** but slightly lower for **flavour** and **yield**.
- Nadmorska scored lower for **germination*****, **marketability**, and **yield** but highly for **vigour ****.
- Variety ranking and trait ratings varied substantially among 2020, 2021, and 2022 CANOVI trials, emphasizing the importance of trialing varieties for multiple years before relying on them for production.

Blue = Would grow again

Red = Would not grow again

Varieties are ordered by percent of participants who would grow the variety again

This research is part of [Organic Science Cluster 3](#), led by the [Organic Federation of Canada](#) in collaboration with the [Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada at Dalhousie University](#), supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's [Canadian Agricultural Partnership- AgriScience Program](#), [The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security](#), and the [Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at the UBC Farm](#).

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