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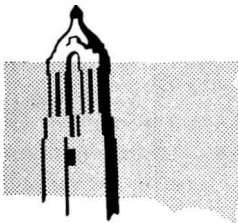
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CIRCULAR 156

MARCH 1963

Peter Piper Pepper — a new hybrid



HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE, BROOKINGS

Peter Piper Pepper — a new hybrid

By PAUL PRASHAR, Assistant Professor of Horticulture

Peter Piper is an F₁ hybrid pepper developed by the Horticulture Department of the State College Experiment Station. The fruit is ready for harvest approximately 2 weeks earlier than the other standard varieties being grown in South Dakota. Earliness is one of the greatest merits of this pepper.

The new variety is a cross between two lines which were selected out of commercial varieties (Morgold and Improved Squash), for their ability to set fruit under low temperature. These lines were further tested and segregated for the desired characteristics under controlled conditions.

Peter Piper has short, blocky fruits about $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep and $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter. They have a smooth surface with a thick wall. The fruit is nearly all meat with a good red color and a delightful flavor. Average pepper weight is 3.3 ounces. The plants are medium

in size with a fair amount of foliage, and the fruits are set close to the branches in an upright position.

Field tests in the eastern, mid-western and western parts of the United States have supported the adaptation of Peter Piper in a wide range of climates. Peter Piper does not only set fruit at low temperatures in early spring in northern states, but also sets well during hot and dry conditions where many varieties fail. Tested in New York, Massachusetts, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, and California, this new pepper has produced a good crop under weather conditions unfavorable to pepper production.

In all tests in the midwest, Peter Piper excelled other varieties in early yields. The average yield of Peter Piper for the past three growing seasons in Brookings was from two to six times more fruits per plant than other commercial varieties.

Peter Piper should be a favorite with the home gardener where earliness and heavy setting under a wide range of climatic conditions is

important and large size is not a major factor.

A limited amount of seed is available in 1963.

Average Weight per Fruit and Yield per Plant of Peter Piper as Compared with Other Varieties at Brookings

Variety	Av. wt. per fruit (ozs.)	Total no. fruits per plant up to	
		8/11	9/22
Peter Piper	3.3	3.7	11.6
World Beater	3.8	3.1	6.1
Resistant Giant	3.8	1.1	3.8
Rio Wonder	4.7	0.6	3.3
Yolo Wonder Beater.....	4.1	0.6	2.6
California Wonder	3.1	0.1	1.7
Keystone Resistant Giant.....	4.8	1.2	1.7



Typical fruit of the Peter Piper hybrid pepper.

Flesh thickness averages 6.3 millimeters.