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Kaiser Wilhelm is a high yielding variety with long, off-white tubers. I think it has the best combination of tuber size, yield, and flavor of the heirloom dahlias that we have tested. The tubers are firm and juicy and quite sweet when raw. The flower is a large orange and yellow ball. We also have a single flowered mutant which I use for seed production. I assume that the single flowered form is a somatic mutant and so the seeds will not transmit that trait in excess of the usual ball form, but I'm not entirely sure of that. Large plants grow to about four feet.

This is a very old variety, dating to 1881. It seems that older varieties are a little more likely to make good edibles, possibly because they haven't been selected as long and intensively for flower traits.

Although we sometimes offer tubers of these varieties, my main focus is producing seed for breeding. Like all dahlia seeds, the true seeds of this variety will not be true to type. I have grown out quite a few and got a range of types, predominantly single flowered and ball types. Many of them have tubers with good edible qualities.

Price: \$7.50

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Stolz von Berlin is a high yielding variety with small to medium, tapering, tan tubers. The tubers are sweet in the fall, but sweeter in the spring, as is commonly the case. The flower is a pink ball. Medium size plants grow to about three to four feet.

This is a very old variety, dating to 1884. It seems that older varieties are a little more likely to make good edibles, possibly because they haven't been selected as long and intensively for flower traits.

Although we sometimes offer tubers of these varieties, my main focus is producing seed for breeding. Like all dahlia seeds, the true seeds of this variety will not be true to type. I have grown out quite a few and got a range of types, predominantly single flowered and ball types ranging in color from white to red, with a few yellows mixed in. Many had good edible qualities.

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White Aster is a high yielding variety with small, round to oval, tan tubers. The tubers are almost as sweet in the fall as in the spring. The flower is a white ball. Medium size plants grow to about three to four feet.

This is a very old variety, possibly the oldest extant European variety, dating to 1879. It seems that older varieties are a little more likely to make good edibles, possibly because they haven't been selected as long and intensively for flower traits.

Although we sometimes offer tubers of these varieties, my main focus is producing seed for breeding. Like all dahlia seeds, the true seeds of this variety will not be true to type. I have grown out quite a few and got a range of types, mostly singles and doubles in white, yellow, and pink. Many had good edible qualities.

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Yellow Gem appears to be infected with a dahlia virus, most likely Dahlia Mosaic Virus. It has tested negative for every other common dahlia virus and DMV is the only one that I cannot test for. The effect of this virus is pretty minimal, other than causing some yellowing of the leaves, and it is extremely common in dahlias. The plants still flower well and produce plenty of tubers. So, it is your call. If you grow a lot of dahlias and you want to keep them disease free, you should probably not buy this (on the other hand, if you grow a lot of dahlias, you probably already have some that are infected). If you are just growing a few dahlias for food, it might not matter to you. I will keep trying to clean up this variety, but DMV is capable of integrating into the host genome, so cleanup may not be possible.

Yellow Gem is a high yielding variety with round to oval, off-white tubers. The tubers are firm and juicy, with a very smooth texture after cooking. Flavor is neutral in fall with just a hint of sweetness and floral aftertaste. By spring, the tubers are very sweet. Small, yellow "pom pom" type flowers. Grows to about 3 feet. An older variety, dating to 1914. Tolerates overwintering in wet soil better than most varieties, which helps to sweeten it.

We had a hard time tracking down a source for this variety. It appears that many ornamental growers have dropped it in favor of more showy varieties. Perhaps we can help it to gain some popularity and live on as an edible.

Although we sometimes offer tubers of these varieties, my main focus is producing seed for breeding. Like all dahlia seeds, the true seeds of this variety will not be true to type. I have grown out quite a few and got a range of types, predominantly single flowered and ball types. Many of them have tubers with good edible qualities.

Price: \$7.50 - \$11.00

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Florida betony (*Stachys floridana*), is very similar to Chinese artichoke, but with a bit sharper flavor. As one of the few root crops native to North America, it should be better known and appreciated. Many millions of dollars are spent every year in Florida and Georgia, trying to poison this plant out of existence instead of eating it. Tubers reach a maximum of about 12 inches in length, although more typically about 6 to 8 inches. May tolerate more heat than Chinese artichoke, although it has no more drought tolerance. Keep it well watered for the best yield. Plant or pot immediately on receipt; they don't keep very well out of the ground.

I strongly recommend growing this plant in pots. Also, grow only one clone if you don't want the plants to set seed. Florida betony has a well deserved reputation for growing out of control. I have not found this to be the case here. In the west, it needs watering in the summer and does poorly without it, so spread is limited. In a more favorable climate, it may become a problem plant. Best to keep it contained. Beside that, tubers are often set rather deeply, so pots are much easier to harvest.

Florida betony is classified as a noxious weed in some areas of the South. Please check your local noxious weed regulations before ordering.

We grow several different accessions of Florida betony in order to maximize diversity for breeding. They are not significantly different and if you just want to grow the plant as a food crop, it probably doesn't matter which one you choose. Clones A and C were collected in Florida and clone B in North Carolina.

Packet details:

5 tubers or segments of tubers about 2-3 inches in length.

Price: \$6.50 - \$7.50

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Mashua information and growing instructions

Blanca is an heirloom variety, reportedly from Colombia. It is also sold under the names Pilifera (which is technically the name of a botanical variety) and Sidney. This is the most widespread mashua variety in the United States.

Culinary Traits

Blanca is both slightly sweet and slightly cabbagey. The cooked flesh is moderately firm and remains white.

Agronomic Traits

Early to emerge in the spring. Plants are tall on trellis, reaching ten feet or more. This variety has a high yield, with plants on trellis producing 10 pounds or more. Tubers form early but don't bulk up rapidly, so it needs a mild fall to reach its maximum. This is a fall flowering variety.

What you will receive

Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

Price: \$8.50 - \$32.50

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Mashua information and growing instructions

This is an OSSI open source variety. Click for more information about open source seeds.

Copalis is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2015. We selected this from several dozen open pollinated seedlings of the variety Blanca as the one with the mildest flavor. It isn't the most exciting looking variety, but if you want to make mashua a regular part of your diet, it's a good choice.

Culinary Traits

Copalis is a great beginner mashua, as it has a very mild flavor. It is slightly sweet with almost no cabbagey flavor and the flesh remains moderately firm at typical cooking duration (1 hour at 350 degrees F). I find this one is even palatable raw in salads as long as you don't overdo it. The tubers are white with pink eyes and do not darken when cooked.

Agronomic Traits

Early to emerge in the spring. Plants are very tall on trellis, similar to its parent, Blanca. High yielding. Tubers form early but don't bulk up rapidly, so it needs a mild fall to reach its maximum. This is a fall flowering variety and about middle of the pack in timing.

What you will receive

Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

Price: \$8.50 - \$32.50

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Mashua information and growing instructions

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Hoh is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2016. This is our best producer, with earlier tuber production than most other varieties.

Culinary Traits

Hoh is a mild variety, slightly sweet with just a hint of cabbagey aftertaste. The cooked texture is soft. The color remains white when cooked.

Agronomic Traits

Hoh plants are large, climbing up to 10 feet on trellis. The tubers sprout and emerge early in the spring. Hoh begins forming tubers almost a month earlier than most heirloom varieties and can produce a small but usable yield as early as August. It still needs a full growing season in order to produce a normal yield of full size tubers. Average tuber size is in the five to six inch range, but this variety produces tubers as much as 16 inches long. The tubers are also quite bulky. Hoh resists cracking in wet soil better than most of the large-tubered varieties. This is a fall flowering variety.

What you will receive

Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Mashua information and growing instructions

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Satsop is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2016. It is notable for large tuber size and mild flavor.

Culinary Traits

Satsop is slightly sweet with no cabbagey flavor. The cooked texture is moderately firm.

Agronomic Traits

Satsop plants are intermediate in size, reaching seven to eight feet on trellis. The yields are good, reaching up to eight pounds. Most tubers fall into the three to eight inch range. This variety is vulnerable to cracking in wet soil.

What you will receive

Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in plastic bag with damp peat.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because mashua is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Oca information and growing instructions

New Zealand Heirloom Red is an heirloom variety from New Zealand, as you may have deduced. It probably has another name, but that has been lost. This variety is also commonly sold under the names 'OAEC Pink' and 'Rosy Gems'.

Culinary Traits

New Zealand Heirloom Red is non-sweet and slightly tart. The flesh is dry and very reminiscent of potato. It retains some of its pink color through cooking.

Agronomic Traits

New Zealand Heirloom Red plants are relatively compact, with a large number of stems. They typically sprawl less than other varieties. Tubers are produced on stolons of intermediate length and are typically uniform. Tuberization photoperiod is about 12 hours, the same as most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.5 pounds. Maximum tuber size is 5.3 inches and average tuber size is 1.6 inches. Average tuber count is 19. There are about twice as many small tubers as large with this variety.

New Zealand Heirloom Red is a poor flowerer with a mid-styled flower, flowering here from late May through July.

What you will receive

Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

Price: \$6.50 - \$15.00

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Oca information and growing instructions

Pascou is reportedly a Peruvian variety. It is also sold under the names 'Frank's Bicolor', 'Monster', and 'OE Durazno'.

Culinary Traits

Pascou is slightly sweet and just barely tart, a combination that is a little bit squash-like. The cooked flesh is moderately firm and retains its yellow color.

Agronomic Traits

Pascou plants are large and sprawling at maturity. Tubers are produced on long stolons and are typically uniform. Tuberation photoperiod is about 12 hours, like most heirloom varieties. Average yield is just about one pound. Maximum tuber length is 4.2 inches, although the tubers are quite bulky. Average tuber length is 2.4 inches. Average tuber count is 26. This variety produces slightly more large tubers than small tubers.

Pascou is a poor flowerer with a mid-styled flower, flowering here from late June through September.

What you will receive

Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Oca information and growing instructions
This is an OSSI open source variety. Click for more information about open source seeds.
Phytosanitary information

Redshift is a Cultivariable original variety, introduced in 2013. It is notable for heavy yield and excellent flowering.

Culinary Traits

Redshift has no tartness or sweetness and tastes very much like potato. The cooked texture is soft. It loses much of its color when cooked, becoming pink or even white.

Agronomic Traits

Redshift plants are among the largest of any variety that we grow, first becoming very tall and then sprawling. The tubers cluster under the base of the plant and may become crowded, producing irregular shapes. Tuberation photoperiod is about 12.5 hours, a week earlier than most heirloom varieties. Average yield is 1.8 pounds. Maximum tuber length is 5.2 inches and average tuber length is 1.6 inches. Average tuber count is 36. This variety produces about twice as many small tubers as large.

Redshift is an exceptional flowerer with a mid-styled flower, flowering here from June through October. It is consistently among the top three producers of true seed here, along with Siwash and Wishkah.

What you will receive

Tubers

You will receive the stated number of tubers, packaged in a wax envelope. We grade tubers by passing them through a grate. Small tubers are those that won't fall through a 1/3" grate, but that will fall through a 1 inch grate. Medium/large tubers are those that will not fall through a 1 inch grate.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because oca is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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Yacon information and growing instructions
This is an OSSI open source variety. Click for more information about open source seeds.
Yacon ships in spring, usually separate from the rest of your order.

Bogachiel is the third new yacon variety from our yacon breeding project. It was a cross between unreleased first and second generation varieties.

This is probably the best variety that we have produced yet, combining together several desirable traits. It is high yielding, with an average of 16.4 pounds of storage roots here. Individual roots weighing in the vicinity of 2 pounds are common. I'm honestly not sure if huge roots are a plus or a minus, but people seem to get excited about them. The roots have yellow flesh and are sweet at harvest. Skin color is tan with red at harvest and darkens to fully red with a week or two of exposure to light. This variety flowers early and abundantly and many flowers here had full seed set, so it should be relatively easy to use in breeding.

What you will receive:

Rhizome

You will receive the stated number of rhizome pieces, packed in damp peat. You should keep packets refrigerated and check them periodically to make sure that the exposed cuts are not molding. If mold develops, cut back to clean flesh and plant or pot as soon as possible. Rhizome does not store well, so it is always better to plant it than to store it if you can.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because yacon is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

Price: \$7.50 – \$45.00

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Kalaloch is the second new yacon variety from our yacon breeding project. It was an open pollinated seedling of the variety Cajamarca. I'm guessing that the cross was probably Cajamarca x Bekya based on the traits that it shares with both varieties, but we'll probably never know for certain.

There is a lot to like in this variety, but I selected it for release based on the fact that it is an early flowerer and carries the genetics of Cajamarca, which is a difficult variety to work with. It is about a month earlier to flower and form tubers than the next earliest variety, Bekya. The roots are medium sized, white/tan, and sweet, smaller but otherwise similar to Cajamarca. It sets seed with a compatible pollinator. It is medium to tall with green stems. It isn't a particularly high yielding variety, but I think it will be a good variety for climates with shorter growing seasons. It will probably do better in containers than larger varieties. The smaller root balls are also a lot easier to harvest than those of heavy yielding varieties and smaller roots are a more practical size for fresh eating than two-pound monsters.

What you will receive:

Rhizome

You will receive the stated number of rhizome pieces, packed in damp peat. You should keep packets refrigerated and check them periodically to make sure that the exposed cuts are not molding. If mold develops, cut back to clean flesh and plant or pot as soon as possible. Rhizome does not store well, so it is always better to plant it than to store it if you can.

Seeds

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Yacon ships in spring, usually separate from the rest of your order.

I think that this will be the last year that we offer this variety. It is a perfectly nice variety, but it is not as good overall as my more recent selections and also not as easy to use in breeding.

Quinault is the first new variety introduced from our breeding program, grown from open pollinated seed of the variety 'Rojo'. Mature tubers come out of the ground a light/red purple, sometimes partly tan, but become the darkest red of any variety that we grow after a couple weeks of exposure. Plants are of medium height, usually reaching between five and six feet here by the end of the growing season. The one purpose that this variety is not suitable for is as an ornamental. It is a slovenly looking plant with sprawling stems and droopy leaves. That doesn't affect food production, of course, but it is a better plant for the back yard than the front.

Quinault doesn't really measure up to the heirloom varieties. The yield is generally lower and the flavor is fine, but nothing special. The main reason that I released this variety is simply that there had never been a seed grown variety produced in North America and very few anywhere in the world. Quinault will be of more interest to people who are interested in doing yacon breeding than as a general purpose variety. It is early to flower, at about 155 days. It has greatly improved seed set and pollen production compared to the heirloom varieties. Unfortunately, germination rate of the seeds that it produces is lower than most of our later seed-grown varieties (although still superior to the heirloom varieties).

What you will receive:

Rhizome

You will receive the stated number of rhizome pieces, packed in damp peat. You should keep packets refrigerated and check them periodically to make sure that the exposed cuts are not molding. If mold develops, cut back to clean flesh and plant or pot as soon as possible. Rhizome does not store well, so it is always better to plant it than to store it if you can.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because yacon is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

Price: \$8.50 - \$45.00

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Sol Duc is a 2019 introduction from our yacon breeding project. It was a cross between the varieties Morado and Quinault.

Sol Duc has a moderate yield, with an average of eleven pounds of storage roots. It has red skin and develops skin color relatively early, so that the tubers are all red at harvest. In most varieties, color develops late and many of the tubers are still white at harvest and require a week or more of exposure to color up. Sol Duc will continue to grow darker with exposure, becoming nearly black in some cases. The flavor is among the sweetest at harvest and continues to intensify in storage. Sol Duc flowers abundantly and sets seed easily, but is not early to flower, beginning in October.

What you will receive:

Rhizome

You will receive the stated number of rhizome pieces, packed in damp peat. You should keep packets refrigerated and check them periodically to make sure that the exposed cuts are not molding. If mold develops, cut back to clean flesh and plant or pot as soon as possible. Rhizome does not store well, so it is always better to plant it than to store it if you can.

Seeds

Seeds are open pollinated. Because yacon is a polyploid hybrid, the seeds will not grow true to type. They are suitable for use in breeding or conservation efforts and could be used to select varieties similar to the parent type.

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