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New Lettuce Available To Home Gardeners

This year, for the first time, there is plenty of seed available of a new lettuce, so now it was released for seed production just two years ago. Named Ithaca, for the home of Cornell University, this lettuce was developed by Prof. Peter L. Minetti and Prof. Emeritus George J. Raleigh, both of the Department of Vegetable Crops, New York State College of Agriculture, a part of the university.

Ithaca is intended to be used for commercial lettuce production and it already has proven outstanding in field performances in New Jersey, so that demand for seed is particularly high from that state.

But it also is excellent for the home gardener who wants early lettuce that will transplant perfectly in cold, less than perfect spring weather. Ithaca was bred for spring planting on well-drained mineral soils. It matures early; has a firm, bright green, attractive head with shiny green leaves.

Heads in a planting mature at the same time, a characteristic vital for harvesting for commercial use but neither necessary or particularly desirable in the home garden.



FOR COMMERCIAL use or for the home garden the new lettuce, Ithaca, is tops when planted in earliest spring.

The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Window sill tomatoes: On our sun porch right now we have tomatoes the size of an oxheart cherry, ready to eat. These tomatoes can be grown in a pot regardless of how much space you have in your home or apartment.

Try growing Small Fry, a bright red fruited tomato, one inch in diameter. This hybrid bears enormous numbers of round, red fruit, with a mild flavor. Vines grow about three feet high, so must be staked if you grow them indoors.

Small Fry is resistant to both verticillium and fusarium wilts. Patio is another small fruited tomato for indoor culture. Also you might want to try Sugar Lump, a good cherry tomato.

HAVING trouble deciding what variety to grow in your garden this summer? Don't select one variety. Grow two or three different kinds because usually there's no one variety that has everything.

Once you get a couple varieties which do well in your garden stick with them. Don't hesitate to try new ones such as Jet Star, a heavy mid-season producer. Another good mid-season hybrid is Superon. Glamour is a dependable crack-free tomato ideal for gardeners who've been troubled with fruit with cracks. Cardinal is also crack resistant.

WATCH THE lawn mower: Pretty soon you'll be getting the lawnmower out. Keep in mind that lawnmowers have ruined many trees. Mower wheels scrape off bark and expose the tree to infestation and disease, not to mention rot. This weakens the tree and may cause fungi infection to set in. A small circular area of gravel, ground cover, or mulch (or fence) will avoid lawnmower damage.

PIGNUT hickory: Pignut is a common name for a confused group of hickories known as Carya glabra and C. ovalis. Some types are stringy, others have nuts that are sweet.

If the nuts of your trees are sweet you can use them for food, as they are not toxic as many think. Most of the pignut hickories we've tasted are quite sweet. Tree trunks are rough and not shaggy as in the shagbark hickory.

Other hickory nut trees include the pecan (nuts do not mature in north due to short, cool seasons); the mockernut (C. alba) and the bitternut (not the bitternut, good for timber and ornament, though nuts are not edible).

Most hickory trees are hard to transplant because of their long tap roots, and the shagbark needs particular care in transplanting.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC:
A reader writes: "We try to grow our own tomatoes from seed under lights, but do not have much success. What's wrong?"

Answer: Sounds like the starting mixture you use. Send me a self addressed stamped envelope for my bulletin, "Growing Plants Under Lights."

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AT HOME, AT EASE describes Fick's Reed's environmental casual room display for DEBUT '72. Two separate but integrated areas are combined into one. The setting consists of fourteen pieces of genuine Philippine rattan furniture. At right, a continental game table and four castor chairs create a mini activity corner. All pieces, including the etagere and accessory wall shelf, are finished in yellow lacquer. Table top is white plastic laminate; chairs have matching seats in vinyl.

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