

Chuck's Garlic Notes 2017-18 Crop Year

Planted October 21, 2017

Fertilized with 12-12-12 October 22, 2017

Fertilized with 8-10-8 On March 24, 2018 - was growing well - 2 leaf stage at that time
March and April cool to cold. May went hot. Dry. Irrigating weekly if no rain. Heat forced an early harvest.

Plant Evaluation May 21, 2018

Ajo Rojo (Creole) - Very Good

Armenian (Porcelain) - Very Good

Asian Tempest (Asiatic) - Very Good

Carpathian Mountain (Rocamboles) - Very Good

Chesnok Red (Standard Purple Stripe) - Excellent, nice plants

China Stripe (Turban) - Fair - plants are small, appearing low vigor

Inchelium Red (Artichoke) - Very Good. Was showing good resilience given heat and drought.

Metechi (Marbled Purple Stripe) - Very Good

Paulsen (unknown) - Good

Silver White (Silverskin) - Good

General Comments and Reflections

March and April were cool and very dry. May turned off very hot with 25 days over 80 degrees and less than half of normal rainfall. Had to water weekly. June 1st and one variety out of the ground already. Bulb production will be hurt by the heat and dry. Was not able to find straw to mulch with. This may have helped some. Need to also get western ragweed sprayed down and under control in the off season. Because of the weather stress not all the cultivars that would normally have scapes or noticeable scapes had scapes. Some scapes emerged after harvest while bundles were hanging to dry. In general the bulb wrappers did not seem as tight as in 2017, (on Inchelium Red) obviously a function of the heat and drought. I'm thinking I need to plant them all again next year just to have a fair comparison. Inchelium Red continues to impress me. Several other cultivars are really nice! I should have started watering in March. With so little moisture through the winter it was drier than I realized and then I spent way too much time trying to catch up. I need to locate a couple of bales of straw now to have ready to spread in late fall or early spring. Need to work on building up the organic matter in the soil and probably push the fertilizer even a little bit more. I think twice is still enough; shortly after planting and then again as spring growth starts. Count the cloves that are being planted to see if I'm losing any to rots, or critters as well as to better understand how many double cloves I may be having.

Variety Details

China Stripe (Turban) - harvest May 30 - plants were falling over and had about 5 green leaves left - Small bulbs. Biggest bulb 1.5". Seemed to be hit hardest by the weather. Some scapes. Processed on June 16. 4 ounces planted, 14 bulbs, 10.2 ounces processed (2.6:1).

Inchelium Red (Artichoke) - harvested June 10. Some good sized bulbs, some small. Largest bulbs about 2.25" - smaller than 2017. Held on well in the heat. Mulch would have really helped. Processed one bundle on June 29th. Close to ready but necks seemed to be just a smidgen damp yet. Will wait a week on the rest. Planted about 2 pounds. Had bought 4 pounds but gave some to the people that attended my garlic class in September 2017. 1st round of processing on July 4. 77 bulbs 72.2 ounces. Some were done over the previous few days. About a half dozen bulbs still had damp necks or evidence of mildew (gray coloration) in the necks. These were separated out for early use. Second round processed July 6. 82 bulbs, 68.9 ounces. Smaller bulbs in this batch. Wound up with 159 bulbs, 141.1 ounces. 4.41 yield which given the year isn't bad. A couple of bulbs in the second batch were pulled for early use because of damp necks. Yielded 5.5 last year so really pleased given the weather we had!

Paulsen (Asiatic??) - harvested June 10 - (Brought over from the Philippines by Pam Paulsen's mother.) Smallish bulbs - largest 1.5". Some scapes. Need to check when dry to see if hardneck or softneck. Appears that this is a hardneck variety. Keep back one or two bulbs to plant out in fall of 2018 for 2019. Focus on keeping back larger cloves to plant. 14 bulbs - a couple may have been doubles. One had grub or wireworm damage requiring me to toss a couple of cloves but included them in the weight before splitting out that bulb for use. Cloves have a brown wrapper and a long tip on the clove. I only had one bulb to plant and it yielded 5.5 ounces. Definitely a hardneck - maybe a week hardneck. Some scapes emerged after digging while they were hung and drying.

Ajo Rojo (Creole) - harvested June 10 - plants were aggressive growers - a few scapes. Up to 1.75". Some side bulblets produced - haven't seen that before. Processed on June 28. 4 ounces planted, 27 bulbs 16.7 ounces processed. (4.2:1) Fair variation in size.

Armenian (Porcelain) - harvested June 13 - nice scapes, good sized bulbs up to 1.75" Processed July 7. 1 bulb had a little grub damage. Nice satiny look to bulb after processing. Bulb wrapper slips easily. Like most of the hardnecks, an amazing root system - roots were rather coarse (see comments under Silver White). 4 ounces planted, 11 bulbs, 10.4 ounces.

Silver White (Silverskin) - harvest June 13 - every time I've planted this cultivar we have heat/drought. Lots of small bulbs. Seemed to have a lot of double bulbs when I dug them. 1.5" Processed July 7. Quite a few bulbs but much smaller than Inchelium Red. I'm sure this is an impact of the heat and drought. (Silverskins and Artichokes having more cloves per bulb generally have more bulbs produced per weight planted.) There was 1 scape which was not unexpected given the weather. Root system appeared to be every bit as long as the hardnecks, but the individual roots were noticeably finer. Quite a few doubles, noted when dug and processed. 4 ounces planted, 32 bulbs, 16 ounces.

Asian Tempest (Asiatic) - harvest June 13 - very uniform bulbs - perhaps the most uniform of any. Broad leaves - no scapes. Processed July 7. Size of bulbs very similar to Armenian. Most of the plants had lower stem bulbils which seems to have caused necks to be very slow in drying down. Root system as per Armenian. Processed bulbs not quite as attractive as others. 4 ounces planted, 12 bulbs, 12.9 ounces

Metechi (Marbled Purple Stripe) - harvested June 13 - Uniform vigorous plant. Great root system. Uniform bulbs 1.5" Short scapes with long beaks. Processed July 6. 4 ounces planted, 15 bulbs, 15.9 ounces, yield of 4 to 1. Not bad for a hardneck this year. Bulbs were generally a nice size but showed more bulb size variation than some of the other hardnecks.

Carpathian Mountain (Rocamboles) - harvested June 13 - Vigorous root system. Nice uniform bulbs up to 2". Short scape, short beak. Processed July 5. Even once dried the amazing root system was evident. 4 ounces planted, 10 bulbs (1 double, doubles are common in many Rocamboles, Carpathian Mountain reportedly has fewer than others), 11.7 ounces processed. Uniformly nice sized bulbs.

Chesnok Red (Standard Purple Stripe) - harvested June 13 - Vigorous root system. I loved this cultivar all season long. Aggressive strong grower. Bulbs 1.5 to 2". Processed July 5. Loose bulb wrappers allowed dust to settle behind some layers. Root system was outstanding. Had a few (2) splits in bulb wrappers so probably should have dug them a week or so sooner. Very attractive when cleaned - nice looking bulbs, quite uniform in size. Faint brown streaking on bulb wrappers. 4 ounces planted, 12 bulbs. 15.7 ounces processed.

Chuck's Garlic Notes - 2018

Cultivar	Ounces planted	Bulbs harvested	Processed weight in ounces	Yield: Ounces processed per ounce planted
Ajo Rojo (Creole)	4	27	16.7	4.2
Armenian (Porcelain)	4	11	10.4	2.6
Asian Tempest (Asiatic)	4	12	12.9	3.2
Carpathian Mountain (Rocamboles)	4	10	11.7	2.9
Chesnok Red (Standard Purple Stripe)	4	12	15.7	3.9
China Stripe (Turban)	4	14	10.2	2.6
Inchelium Red (Artichoke)	32	159	141.1	4.4
Metechi (Marbled Purple Stripe)	4	15	15.9	4.0
Paulsen (Asiatic?)	1.25	14	5.5	4.4
Silver White (Silverskin)	4	32	16	4.0
		306	256.1 ounces 16.0 pounds	