



COURTESY PHOTO Copper River tomatoes are delicious and can be grown from seed according to Sheila and Joe Hillberry of Rap-id City.

## Homegrown: The Season's **Standout Plants**

Thanks to the following Master Gardeners, garden club members, and other experienced gardeners from around South Dakota. They shared names of their best plants they grew in their location. Search the Internet for plant photos and information.

• Copper River Tomato: Sheila (Joe) Hillberry says the large green tomato has red stripes inside, is delicious and is grown from seed (Scheepers Seeds) Rapid City. Pennington County Master Gardeners

• Baby Bubba Okra: Sheila (Joe) Hillberry says it was planted late but still bore okra. Rapid City. Pennington County Master Gardeners.

• Shrub Rose 'Sven': Joanne Bennis says it has small but profuse double blooms all season. (Northern Lights Series) Brandon. Minnehaha County Master Gardeners.

 Black Mountain Watermelon: Barb Kuhlman says they ripened in a short season with a cool summer and hail. Spearfish. Northern Hills Master Gardeners.

· Hardy Perennial Hibiscus 'Midnight': Rebecca Olmstend says dark maroon dinner plate size flowers grow several blooms at a time on 3- to 4-foot plant. Spearfish. Northern Hills Master Gardeners.

• Elegant Heirloom Lily: Sue Wheter says these perennials had 27 blooms per stem this season. Spearfisĥ. Northern Hills Master Gardeners.

 Trithonia or Mexican Sunflower. Glenda Heckewlaible says bright orange flow-ers are pollinator friendly.

the year before but they were not ripe by frost. They came up all over the garden this year and ripened. She canned 18 jars of tomatillo salsa and is sure they will reseed for next year. See Internet for recipes. Seneca (between Faulkton and Gettysburg).

 Red Russian Kale: Tom Thorson and Rob Simon have tried several varieties of kale and like this one because it is tender, pretty and productive. They eat it raw in salads and cooked as a side dish or chopped into soup or stew. Hill City. Rapid City Master

Gardeners. • Self-Blanching Cauliflow-er (Naughtigall's Nursery in Rapid Valley): Tom Thorson and Rob Simon say it grew huge and flavorful upright plants for a small space. Heads developed late but then quickly. Hill City. Rapid City Master Gardeners.

 Patterson Yellow Onions: Tom Thorson and Rob Simon say these onions have grown well for three years in a row and store all winter in a drawer. Hill City. Rapid City Master Gardeners.

• Ligularia dentate 'Othello': Tom Thorson and Rob Simon say this perennial provided seed for a friend and grew in a wide variety of light situations. It's a solution for composition problems. Hill City. Rapid City Master Gardeners.

• Thalictrum ("Elin," "Black Stockings," "Ichan-gense" and others): Tom Thorson and Rob Śimon say these perennials are pest resistant, have beautiful foliage and flatter plants around them. Elin grows at least 8 feet tall. Black Stockings is

#### **Plant Exchange**

# **Gardeners Play Forward**

Share tips from your outdoor or indoor plant experience, give us a tour of your plant site, or let us know what you enjoy most about these plants and people who grow them. Contact news@ yankton.net Attn: Brenda Johnson or write P&D, 319 Walnut St, Yankton, SD 57078, Attn: Brenda Johnson. See "Plant Exchange blog on Facebook or www.brendakjohnsonplantexchange.wordpress.com

**BY BRENDA K JOHNSON** 

P&D Correspondent

Harvest is only one of the treasured moments at the sixth season of Yankton's community gardens. A few of the gardeners will share about gardening together, about the chance to garden

again, and about how far picking beans can play forward. If you missed last week's gardener interviews, go to the web-site at www.yankton.net to Archives and enter "Plant Exchange" for Nov. 6. Hats off to the Healthy Yankton member volunteers who administer the community gardens in partnership with the City of Yankton and the agencies that support their efforts: Sr. Julie Peak: Sacred Heart Monastery Sugar Thorson Mount Marty College

Susan Thorson: Mount Marty College Angie O'Connor: Avera Sacred Heart Cindy Nelson: Missouri Valley Master Gardeners Laura Larson: Community Member Brittany Orr: City of Yankton Lois Halbur: Community Member

## **Julie And Daniel Garden Together**

"Gardening is actually en-tertainment — it's a little work - sometimes you get on each others' nerves because it's so hot," Daniel Kortan said. "It's worth it for what you

get out of it," Julie Schweigert said. The past three years she and Daniel have selected the same two plots in about the center of the community gardens.

"People beside us are always friendly," Daniel said. "You get to know who your neighbors are, just like at home. That gentleman there will actually pull weeds that we missed. Last year I exchanged sweet corn with him and he gave me zucchini. I don't like it but my mom does. It works out for you.

"Last year I had half a dozen pumpkins ready to carve and someone took them. This year I didn't plant any," he said. Now privacy signs are clearly posted and many returning gardeners have plots.

"We saw flowers on one of the plots, so we'll do that next year. It gives you different ideas. (Flowers) draw bees so you want them," Julie said. They also contribute ideas to other gardeners.

"When we plant tomatoes, we stick them in buckets. I cut the bottoms off. My sister manages the Frying Pan Restaurant. They're pickle buckets," he said.

"It protects them in the beginning from wind," she said. They water the plants in the bucket so the moisture stays near the roots. Later they cage tomatoes to keep them off the ground.

"We started doing this and now you see more buckets around," he said.

In mid July the tomato plants are deep green and

fertilizer. "Something we do is try some tomatoes are ripe. something new every year.



Daniel shares a tip for overhead watering that's a lot easier than hand watering. "I got a steel fence post

from Menards and a piece of old wood board and cut it into thirds, put screws in, put a flat board (little platform) on top and cable-tied the sprinkler

on top. It takes the wind. It

doesn't water two plots at once; I'll put in another," he said. "I told myself I'd never garden," Daniel said. They grew

up on farms. "It was so much work. Now that I'm older, it's relaxing more than anything.' "Gardening is something

fun we do together," Julie said.



Daniel Kortan shows a sample overhead watering device he made. He cable-tied the

Help For

Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls Master Gardeners.

• Red Monarda (Bee Balm): Liz Gorham says the hardy plant stands above other plants and has great color. Brookings. Brookings Area Master Gardeners.

• Indian Summer Rudbekia: Marla Huse chooses this great perennial. Sully County. Prairie Potters Mas-ter Gardeners.

• Yellow Itoh Cross Peony: Christine Larson chooses this great perennial. Aberdeen. Prairie Potters Master Gardeners.

• Elephant Ear: Glenda Oakley chooses this large leaf foliage from a bulb. Huron. Huron Area Master Gardeners.

• Prairie Sun Rudbekia: Tammy Glover says it has great vigor and summer-long bloom. Rapid City. Pennington County Master Gardeners

• Silver Lace Fern "Evergemiensis": Jean Koupal likes the variegated, delicate silvery green leaves with compact growth. She plants it outside in spring and brings it indoors in winter. It's a topic of conversation with her gardening friends. Yankton. Missouri Valley Master Gardeners.

 Lantana: Lea Gustad says lantana is colorful and drought tolerant and blooms all summer in full sun and summer heat. Her favorite planter this year had lantana "fillers," a large striped canna "Thriller" and grasses and wave petunias as "spillers." Wakonda. Pasque Garden Club.

• Phylomis tuberosa: Theresa Nordin says it is a non-invasive, about 5 feet tall, and pink flowers bloom about 6 weeks. Summerset. Pennington County Master Gardeners.

• Celeriac (Apium graveolens var. rapaceum): Theresa Nordin says celeriac is root celery. Mild flavored, she uses it in soup, salad and stir fry. She starts it in January or February because it needs 100-plus days to grow but is worth it. Summerset. Pennington County Master Gardeners.

• Tomatillos: Vicki Gardner says she planted them

dense with a lot of flowers. Ichangese is an unusual ground cover that knits with other plants. Hill City. Rapid City Master Gardeners.

• Cerinthe major: Tom Thorson and Rob Simon say this annual has blue green foliage and true blue flowers that draw you in. They do well in heat and a lot of light. Hill City. Rapid City Master Gardeners.

• Mother Of Pearl Poppies: Tom Thorson and Rob Simon say these grow in some shade as well as sun. They keep blooming once they start. Colors are surprising and exquisite, from pearl gray to black cherry and pale orange sherbet or pure white with variety of pollen color. Hill City. Řapid City Master Gardeners.

• Okra: Connie Jensen says she sautés okra and adds it to canned dill pickles. She grills okra by adding salt, pepper, onions and olive oil and wraps it in aluminum foil. She enjoys okra blooms, with okra a member of the hibiscus family. Gayville. Pasque Garden Club.

• Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunias: Bill Torkelson says the Proven Winners bubblegum petunias have great ground coverage. This gardener had irises blooming in October. Sioux Falls. Minnehaha Master Gardeners.

• Purple Robe Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia): Mary Frankforter says this tree is an absolute knockout. It's fast growing (more than 2 feet) hardy, and drought tolerant with few pests in 4 years. Beautiful and fragrant wisteria-like clusters of purple flowers bloom in late spring. Yankton. Missouri Valley Master Gardeners.

 Coleus: Lois Quatier says her container coleus collection came from a friend, Evelyn Schindler, who gave them as cuttings 2 years ago. They grew to 4 feet and she overwinters small cuttings for next year. Yankton. Town and Country Garden Club.

### How To Garden With Back Problems

sprinkler to the platform.

Today's a good harvest day

for them: green beans, lettuce

cabbage, potatoes and onions.

the plot (before they are mass tilled in the spring)," she said.

"At the end of the year, before they till, I put clip-pings on," he said. "It's added

"He puts grass clippings on

and peppers. They also grow

Soil is fertile.

Aves Sejnoha signed up for one of the two raised bed gardens, about 2 feet x 8 feet at the community garden site. The beds were installed on a cement pad for all ability access through Healthy Yankton and purchased by a corporate Hy-Vee Food Store grant. This was the first full

season for raised beds. "I have back problems," Seinoha said. "It prevents me from bending down. That's why I now have an upright garden. It's so convenient. My daughter came down and helped me tie up the

tomatoes. "So far (in mid July), I've gotten a couple of tomatoes and cucumbers," she said.

"It's working good," she said. She noticed that the V-shaped base of the bed doesn't allow as much soil as in a flat-bottomed bed. This became apparent when her daughter staked the tomatoes.

She has two tomato plants, three peppers, peas that are almost finished bearing now and cucumber vines. "I come every other day

to water whether it needs it or not," she said. Weather has been hot. "Today I'm using a watering can instead of a hose." The hose has disappeared.

"My daughter said I should water every day, but I work at Avera Majestic Bluffs three days a week.

"I just had the first ripened tomato at home. My word, I'm enjoying it. It's the first time I've done gardening on my own. My husband always did it, but he passed 3 ½ years ago. My daughter

had a little garden in the back yard. I decided this year I would do it myself.

"Because these are raised beds I can pull weeds or do what I have to do," she said. "I'm going to try this again next year. I'll put tomatoes in the middle where it's deepest." She noticed her neighbor's raised bed had tomatoes down the center and had cucumbers hanging off the bed to conserve space. "Let the tomatoes get ripe. I'll eat them," she said. "I enjoy tomatoes. I can eat only so many. I'll need some to

pass on to others.' Someone had brought a bit of yard art and positioned it at the base of her raised

bed. "It's worked perfect for me. I've had few weeds; they don't get big," Sejnoha said.

### **Getting Involved With Community Garden**

• Yankton's community gardens' plots were all filled this season. According to Angie O'Connor, Healthy Yankton member, 219 plots were rented and planted. Each plot is 12 feet x 18 feet, and has water available for the tilled site. Two raised gardens, 2 feet x 8 feet, were also available thanks to Hy-Vee Food Stores grant and Healthy Yankton funds. Additional volunteers help Healthy Yankton with the gardens. Registration for 2016 Yankton community

gardens will be about January for returning gardeners and March for new gardeners. See 'Healthy Yankton" Facebook page. Notice will be submitted to Yankton Press & Dakotan and will be posted at the gardens on West City Limits Rd. Questions? Call (605) 668-8590.

"Healthy Yankton would like to thank all of the individuals that garden with us as it brings our group great joy to see your success and creativity each season!" O'Connor said.

## Salsa

Jean and Mike Binder are doing their part at the garden plot for Barb and Glen Mechtenberg. Jean and Barb are sisters. Mechtenbergs are on a bike trip in Southeast Minnesota to raise money for Habitat For Humanity. Their ride is 500 miles. Binders get tomatoes for salsa.

Mechtenbergs did all the planning and what's in the garden," Mike said.

"They've been gone for a week and asked us to water and pick beans," Jean said. "We've had a lot of delicious beans. Lettuce, too. Barb makes pickled green beans. I'm sure there's a picking left. Next will be the tomatoes. We're definitely enjoying the fruits of her labor."

"We get most of her tomatoes because it takes a lot to make salsa," he said.

"We used to grow tomatoes at our house but the soil isn't so productive. Look around here. People put a lot of work into the community gardens. It's a very nice thing the city does," Jean said.

"Everyone takes good care of his or her gardens." Most produce is picked and most weeds are removed. "They've got a lot invested. We'll go home and eat these green

