

Organic Seed Alliance Variety Trial Planning Worksheet

Envisioning the Trial

Trial Crop:

Trial Goals:

Desired Variety Traits: *Listed in order of importance*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Trial Varieties:

Check Variety: *Identify a standard check variety to include in the trial. This could be the one you currently use, or a common industry standard, well-know variety, or one that you know has key desired traits for comparison.*

Planning the Trial

Ideal Planting Date: *Determine a goal for timing of establishing the trial that will result in the growing conditions desired for trial the trial evaluation. For example, if the trial goal is to identify a bolt-tolerant lettuce for July production then an appropriate planting date might be late-May.*

Plot Size: *How many plants or row ft of plants will each plot include? See Population and plot size in OSA On-farm Variety Trial Guide for recommendations of minimum population size.*

Number of Replications: *At least 3 are recommended*

Production Methods: *Production methods should reflect how the crop would be managed in regular production, include information such as direct seeded or transplanted, row spacing, weed management, fertilization, harvest methods, etc.*

Field Assessment: Describe or diagram the field conditions and influences including such factors as soil types, wind direction, sun exposure, weed pressure, etc.

Trial Layout: Diagram the layout of the trial identifying where blocks will go in the Field Assessment diagram, include measurements to ensure the number of varieties and identified plot size will fit in each block. Blocks should be arranged to minimize variability of conditions within the blocks.

Trial Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria: Identify the traits to be measured or assessed in the trial. It is recommended to start with a top 5 list of traits. These should reflect the desired traits identified in Envisioning the Trial.

Trait	Evaluation Timing
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

Evaluation Timing: Identify the estimated times appropriate for trial evaluation. This may include multiple dates depending on evaluation criteria. For example, 3 weeks after planting you might evaluate seedling vigor if it is a key trait. Trials nearly always include an evaluation at the harvest timing as this is necessary to properly evaluate the resulting crop. In right column above, list timing for each trait

Evaluation Procedures: See Guide for data collection procedures & evaluation sheet insert.