

## Promising Fruit

Along with heirloom vegetables, the farm is investigating several small fruits. A blueberry known as *Ozarkblue* that was released from the University of Arkansas a few years ago is one variety being tried. It has shown great potential for areas south of I-40 and east of I-35. We are also looking at a variety called *Summit*. Muscadine grapes and two table grapes, *Alwood* and *Edelweiss* are part of the small fruit trial. Two blackberry varieties, *Chickasaw* (thorned) and *Arapaho* (thornless) are also being grown at the farm.

# Try a "New" Old Variety

The Kerr Center Horticulture Farm will host an evening walk on Thursday, July 11, 2002, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and continuing until dark. Visitors will see the farm's large garden of heirloom vegetables (grown organically) and trial plantings of blackberry, blueberry, table grapes and muscadine grapes. Presentations will be informal and will include plenty of time for grower questions. The event is free.

Heirloom vegetables are open pollinated varieties that were generally bred prior to the 1950's. Some were developed by individuals in their home gardens. Quite a few varieties that have been grown for over 100 years are still available, thanks to the work of organizations

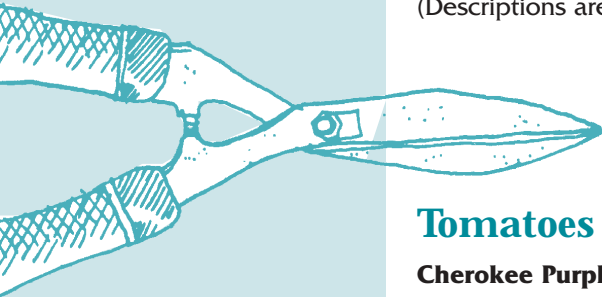
such as the Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa ([www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org))

The Kerr Center has been growing heirloom varieties of tomatoes, peppers, okra, winter and summer squash, watermelon, cantaloupe, and beans for a few years. The goal is to see which varieties do well in Oklahoma. Because heirlooms often look different than standard varieties, and sometimes have superior taste, market farmers have found them to be popular with their customers. An added bonus: many have interesting names and histories.

Come and join us for an enjoyable and educational evening as we explore heirloom vegetables and small fruits.

## In the Garden...

(Descriptions are from Seed Savers Exchange Catalog)



To get there: Go about six miles south of Poteau on highway 271 (1/2 mile past Kerr Center sign). Look for field day signs.

### Tomatoes

#### **Cherokee Purple**

Unique dusky-rose color, very sweet

#### **Brandywine** (*Sudduth's Strain*)

Incredibly rich, delightfully intense tomato flavor

#### **Beam's Yellow Pear**

Ideal for salads

#### **Dr. Wyche's Yellow**

Meaty, rich tasting orange tomato

#### **Speckled Roman**

Gorgeous, few seeds, jagged orange and yellow striped flesh

#### **German Pink**

Meaty flesh, few seeds

#### **Stupice**

Early maturing, Czechoslovakian variety

#### **Gold Medal**

A gourmet's joy, yellow with streaks of red, low acid

### Peppers

#### **Black Hungarian** (hot)

Ornamental plants, mildly hot

#### **Jimmy Nardello's** (sweet)

Brought to US in 1887 from Southern Italy

#### **Buran** (sweet)

Extremely sweet Polish heirloom

#### **Quadrato Asti Giallo**

(sweet)

Large, spicy-sweet, turning from green to yellow



### Cantaloupe

#### **Planter's Jumbo**

Vigorous, '50s variety, adapted to drought or flood

#### **Amarillo Oro**

Bright yellow fruit with white flesh, from Mediterranean coast

#### **Jenny Lind**

Unusual shape, known in the Philadelphia markets before 1840.

#### **Emerald Gem**

Most popular melon of the Gilded Age, "luscious beyond description"

## Squash

### Amish Pie

From Amish farmer in the Maryland mountains

### Anna Swartz Hubbard

Extremely hard shell, good storage

### Sibley

Originally a Native American variety, reaches sweetness peak in storage

### Black Zucchini

Very popular in specialty markets in the '30s

## Watermelon

### Blacktail Mountain

Extra early, developed in Idaho

### Georgia Rattlesnake

First shipped north in 1867 and reportedly "whetted the Northern appetite for watermelon"

### Melitopolski

From the Volga River region of Russia, famous for melons

### Moon & Stars

Beautiful melon, green skin spotted with yellow "moons" and "stars"

## Beans

### Hidatsa Shield Figure

Raised by the Hidatsa tribe in the valleys of North Dakota

### Great Northern

Original seed from Son-of-a-Star, a Hidatsa

### Purple Podded Pole (snap)

Discovered in an Ozarks' garden in the '30s.

### Ideal Market (snap)

Earlier than Kentucky Wonder pole, introduced in 1914.

## Okra

### Clemson Spineless

All American Selection Winner in 1939

### Red Burgundy

Burgundy fruits, stems and leaf ribs

### Silver Queen

Long, whitish-green pods

# The Way It Was

Dennis G. Peters of Deer Creek, Oklahoma, recently donated a 1930's corn binder to the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm.

In the early 1930's David and Erhard Krehbiel purchased the binder at the Eberle Hardware in Deer Creek. Peters is related to the Krehbiels by marriage.

The corn binder could be pulled through the cornfield by tractor or draft team. It automatically cut and tied bundles of corn stalks. The stalks were then hauled to the barn to be chopped into silage or dried and stored for winter feed for livestock.

Overstreet Farm development manager Jim Combs has been accepting donations and loans of farm equipment used from 1890 to 1940 for a new exhibit at the historical farm. He particularly wants to acquire hay balers and grain

production equipment (John Deere, if possible).

The new exhibit will be unique in that it will help tell the story of farm life in southeast Oklahoma in the early years of the 20th century.

Due to time constraints, only easily restorable or already restored equipment will be accepted. A limited amount of funds are available to purchase equipment.

Since the Kerr Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, donations of either equipment or funds for restoring equipment or developing the educational display are tax deductible. (Donors will be given a receipt to use for tax purposes). Those who donate or loan items will be acknowledged on the display itself.

Call 918.966.3282 or [okhfarm@crosstel.net](mailto:okhfarm@crosstel.net) for details



1930's Corn Binder L- Jim Combs; R- Dennis Peters