

Discus Bush Buttercup and Dakota Gray Turban

New Winter Squashes for North Dakota Gardens

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The Department of Horticulture and Forestry announces the release of two new squashes for home gardens and commercial production in the Upper Great Plains. They are the sixth and seventh squash varieties released by the department. The squash breeding program has been active since the early 1920s.

'Discus Bush Buttercup' is an early maturing buttercup type squash. The vine is a bush with very short internodes. The internode length increases towards the end of the growing season. Most of the fruit are set very near the main stem of the plant. The fruit of Discus Bush Buttercup are a flattened buttercup weighing 2 to 3 pounds. The fruit color is dark green with a light green navel. The ground spot is a bright orange when the fruit is mature. The fruit flesh is orange. A major attribute of this variety is its small seed cavity and very thick flesh. Each fruit contains only a few seeds, which may make seed production costly. The fruit store modestly well at room temperature and for 2 to three months at 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The cooked fruit are of good quality. The texture is of desirable moistness and the flavor is rich and squashy.

Discus Bush Buttercup was developed from a cross between Bush Buttercup and ND9165 and has been tested as ND77-3.

'Dakota Gray Turban' is an early maturing buttercup type squash. Its vine is a semi-bush. Each plant produces a few short branches 5 to 6 feet long. Most of the fruit are set near the main stem of the plant. The fruit of Dakota Gray Turban are a flattened buttercup shape and weigh 3 to 4 pounds. The color of the fruit is a greenish-gray with a light green navel. The ground spot is orange when the fruit is mature. The flesh is a bright orange. The fruit of this variety has very thick flesh, a small seed cavity and store very well. The cooked fruit are of high quality. The texture is smooth and of desirable moistness. The flavor is mild, sweet and pleasantly squashy.

Dakota Gray Turban was developed from a cross between the varieties 'Emerald' and 'Sweet Meat.' It has been tested as ND729-3.

Seed of these varieties is available from the Department of Horticulture and Forestry, NDSU. Breeders seed will be provided to seed companies.



'Discus Bush Buttercup'



'Dakota Gray Turban'

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Comparison of performance of squash varieties and selections, 1987.

Variety or Selection	Fruit number ¹	Fruit weight ¹ (lbs.)	Fruit size (lbs.)	Yield/ acre ²	Percent flesh ³	Dry Wt. (%)
Gold Nugget	13.5	19.0	1.4	5.7	94.8	13
Buttercup	10.3	36.4	3.5	10.9	90.8	21
Emerald	6.3	24.7	4.0	7.4	91.0	19
Green Hokkaido F ₁	8.8	30.6	3.5	9.2	90.3	25
Honey Delight F ₁	14.5	55.1	3.8	16.5	94.4	23
Dakota Gray Turban	7.8	32.6	4.2	9.8	92.8	15
ND729-2	6.3	23.2	3.8	7.0	91.3	13
ND729-1	6.8	28.4	4.2	8.5	93.7	16
Discus Bush Buttercup	11.8	33.1	2.9	9.9	96.0	14
Sweet Mama F ₁	7.0	38.1	5.5	11.4	91.5	17
Bush Buttercup	7.8	18.3	2.4	5.5	92.3	13

¹Average per hill of four plants.

²Tons at 600 hills per acre.

³Recovery after seeds removed.