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# RESEARCH REPORT 237

FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION EAST LANSING

## FARM SCIENCE

### GOLDEN SPARTAN—*A Yellow Pascal Celery*



UNIFORM PLANTS OF GOLDEN SPARTAN

# GOLDEN SPARTAN—A Yellow Pascal Celery

By S. Honma and R. J. Van Klompenberg<sup>1</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

Approximately 2,400 acres of celery were grown in Michigan in 1973. Although a large portion of this acreage is in green celery, there is a limited production of yellow or golden or self-blanching types, such as Golden Plume, Golden Self-Blanching, or Cornell 19.

The lack of good slow bolting golden or yellow varieties of celery has limited production of high quality, early yellow celery in Michigan. Production of early celery is expensive, costing approximately \$200 per acre to cover with parchment paper to protect the plants from the wind and frost.

Early production also involves high risk to the grower because of the danger of losses from premature seeding or bolting which often occurs from exposure to low spring temperatures. In spring 1973, many paper covered fields showed up to 75% of plants with seed-stalk resulting in marketing stalks that did not attain the normal size. No existing early golden varieties have satisfactory quality combined with slow-bolting habit. GOLDEN SPARTAN was developed in an effort to meet this requirement.

## PEDIGREE

GOLDEN SPARTAN was developed by crossing a slow bolting yellow variety, Early Fortune, with the high quality green variety—Emerson Pascal. The initial cross made in 1957 yielded many promising yellow and green progenies. These were observed in each generation for slow bolting by subjecting the lines to controlled temperatures. In the F<sub>7</sub> generation, one yellow selection was bulked and released.

## DESCRIPTION

Plants of GOLDEN SPARTAN are erect, compact, uniform in size and height, and are slightly taller than Cornell 19. The plants resemble Spartan 162 in leaf type and display the yellow-green color of self-blanching varieties. The maturity of this variety approximates that of the Golden Plume or Golden Self-Blanching varieties. The stalks or petioles are 8 to 9 in. long,

rounded, thick, fleshy, and slightly ribbed and flared at the base. The petioles are tender, crisp, mild and high quality with few fibers as compared to Golden Plume. The plants are tolerant to magnesium yellowing and to *Fusarium* yellows.

## PERFORMANCE

The bolting response of GOLDEN SPARTAN has been tested for 3 years in comparative variety trials at the Michigan State University Muck Experimental Farm. To induce premature flowering, this variety and two others—Golden Self-Blanching and Golden Plume—were subjected to a temperature of 42° F for 6 weeks prior to transplanting. This variety was equal to the two varieties in its ability to tolerate cold induction.

For the last 3 years, limited commercial trials as an early crop were conducted in the Hudsonville, Michigan area. GOLDEN SPARTAN proved nonbolting when grown with or without paper covers. Marketing trials conducted by the grower for 3 years show there was overall acceptability by the buyer.



Stalks of Golden Spartan showing length and heart development.

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