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# **LETTUCE Descriptor Form**

1. (Form created by *Seeds of Diversity Canada* for *The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security.)*

Please observe several lettuce plants in the same row. Use a separate form for each variety.

*If you cannot answer any of these questions, just leave them blank*

For questions asking for averages, please take 10 measurements from different plants. See chart on last page

**Variety name** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **[ ] Variety name is unknown**

**Observer** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Location** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Population size** How many seeds did you plant in total? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Germination rate** What percent of the seeds germinated? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Final Population** How many plants did you harvest seeds from at the end of the season? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dates**

Date when you sowed the seeds? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when 50% of the plants germinated? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when the lettuce was ready to harvest? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date when the lettuce began to bolt? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(elongated, became bitter, no longer fit to eat)

Date when the first flowers opened? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(if you allowed the lettuce to go to flower)

Date when the first dry seeds were ready to harvest? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(if you allowed the lettuce to go to seed)

**Rogueing for Seed Production**

Rogueing should be done periodically throughout the season especially:

* At the seedling stage for lack of vigour
* As plants grow for off-type foliage
* At flowering for off-type flowers
* At fruiting for off-type fruits
* At harvest for ability to mature fruit/dry down

For lettuce, characteristics to look for when rogueing include:

* Leaf colour and variation (rogue at 4-6 true leaf stage)
* Leaf shape (rogue at 8-12 true leaf stage. Look at degree of lobing, savoying/blistering and overall shape)
* Leaf texture (rogue near maturity for leaf thickness and crispness)
* Flavour (rogue at maturity for harvest size, sweetness, lack of bitterness and distinctive flavours)
* Plant stature (rogue just before transplanting or at 8-12 leaf stage for upright or prostrate)
* Head type (rogue at harvest for degree of heading and tightness of head)
* Disease resistance (rogue throughout season and remove diseased plants)
* Resistance to premature bolting (remove early bolters)

**Early/Mid-Season**

Roughly how many plants were removed after rogueing for seedling vigour? (Typically remove about 10% of weakest seedlings and any seedlings showing signs of disease after germination)

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (# plants removed) or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ % of plants removed



What is the colour of the cotyledons at the fully developed seedling stage?

Light Green Green Dark Green Other

What is the shape of the cotyledons at the fully developed seedling stage?

 Elliptic Ovate Obovate Orbicular Opatulate Other

      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the shape of a young leaf blade base when 10-12 fully developed true leaves are present?

 Short attenuate Medium attenuate Long attenuate

   

**Late Season/ Harvest**

What type of lettuce would you call this?

 butterhead romaine curled crisphead leafy mixed stem

What colour are the leaves, generally?

 blue green dark green green grey mix pale green red yellow green

Is there any red or purple colour in the leaves?

 none spotting tinge at leaf tips mix of spotting and leaf tips

What is the shape of the outer leaf surface profile?

 Concave Flat Convex

   

What is the average height of the lettuce? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

(measured from the ground to the top of the head or uppermost leaves)

What is the average diameter of this lettuce? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

(if a head type, measure only the part of the plant that you would eat;

don't measure inedible spreading leaves)

What is the average length of the outermost (lowest) leaves? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

What is the width of the outermost (lowest) leaves? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

Does the lettuce have a solid or loose head?

 loose head or leafy solid head

Are the leaves crisp?

 limp crisp

Are the leaves folded tightly or loosely?

 loosely tightly

What shape are the leaves?

 Mix

What is the degree of the depth of incisions from the blade margin to the main vein?

Pinnatilobed Pinnatifid Pinnatipart Pinnatisect

   

**Flowers**

*Please answer these question if you allowed your lettuce to bolt and produce flowers.*

What colour are the flowers?

 yellow blue purple mix

What is the average diameter of the flowers when fully open? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mm

**Seeds**

*Please answer these questions if you allowed your lettuce to mature and produce ripe seeds.*

What is the average height of the plant when seeds are ready to harvest? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What colour are the seeds?

 black/grey black brown black/white mix grey white mix

What is the total weight of seeds harvested from this variety? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Disease**

Are there any signs of disease on the plants or fruit? (if so please take a picture and include a brief description)

 Yes (picture) No

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Based on your knowledge and growing experience please rate this variety on the following characteristics on a scale from 1-5 (1 being very poor, 5 being excellent)**

**Productivity (how much/often did plants produce fruits): 1 2 3 4 5**

**Uniformity of fruit ripening (across entire plot): 1 2 3 4 5**

**Flavour: 1 2 3 4 5**

**Disease resistance: 1 2 3 4 5**

**Uniformity of fruit size: 1 2 3 4 5**

**Uniformity of fruit shape: 1 2 3 4 5**

**Suitability for your location/climate: 1 2 3 4 5**

**General customer appeal (i.e colouring/size) 1 2 3 4 5**

**Efficiency of picking 1 2 3 4 5**

**Ease of transport (i.e. bruising etc.) 1 2 3 4 5**

**Would you want to grow this variety again?** Yes No

**Please list any pros/cons related to growing this variety.**

Pros Cons

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Lettuce Height** | **Lettuce Diameter** | **Leaf Length**  | **Leaf Width** | **Flower Diameter** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **6** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **7** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **8** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **9** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10** |  |  |  |  |  |

**Please write any notes or special observations that you would like to mention. Thank you for your help!**