

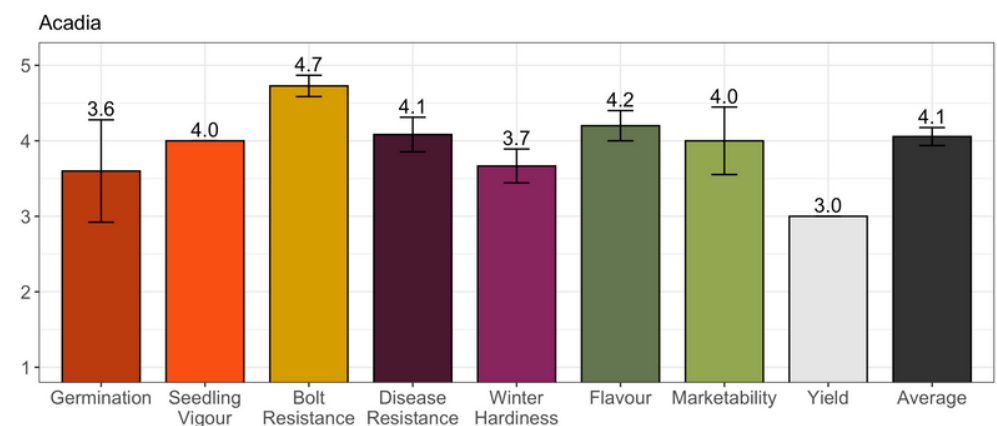
# Vancouver Island Winter Vegetable Variety Trial

## Spinach Results Summary

**Project Overview:** The Vancouver Island Winter Vegetable Variety Trial (VIVT) evaluated seven varieties of spinach on eight vegetable farms in five regions: Victoria, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Alberni Valley, and Comox Valley. The objectives of this project were to build capacity for on-farm and grower participatory variety trials on Vancouver Island and evaluate winter-harvest varieties for growing season extension.

**Methods:** Trial plots were planted, managed, and evaluated by farmers with assistance from the Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes Lab at the University of British Columbia. Spinach was planted in early September and harvested in late November 2022. Spinach was direct seeded three rows per bed with an in-row spacing of 2.5-7.5 cm. Irrigation, fertilization, and other management decisions were determined by growers on a farm-by-farm basis. All traits were evaluated on a 1-5 scale by farmer participants; 1-poor to 5-excellent.

### ACADIA



Summary of average ratings, error bars indicate standard error.

- **Highest rated overall**
- Ranked highest in bolt resistance, winter hardiness, germination and flavour
- **80%** of growers would grow again
- Hybrid variety bred to be slow growing for baby leaf production in the shoulder and winter seasons
- **Leaves:** small, nicely shaped, thick, vibrant, deep green, glossy and smaller than the other varieties
- **Pest damage:** minimal with some small holes
- **Cold hardiness:** tolerated light frosts well and survived hard frosts with some yellowing but many leaves still harvestable
- **Average yield:** 0.320 kg/bed m



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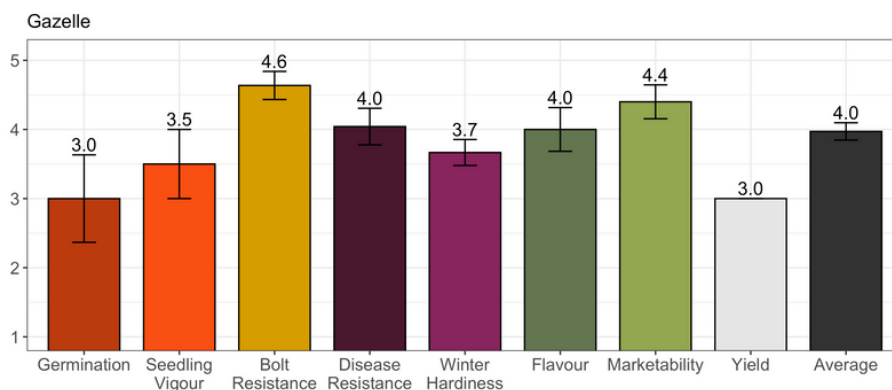


Funding for this project has been provided the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional funding has been provided by Cowichan Valley Regional District. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. Opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and not necessarily those of the governments of Canada and British Columbia, Cowichan Valley Regional District, and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. The governments of Canada, British Columbia, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, and its directors, agents, employees, or contractors will not be liable for any claims, damages, or losses of any kind whatsoever arising out of the use of, or reliance upon, this information.

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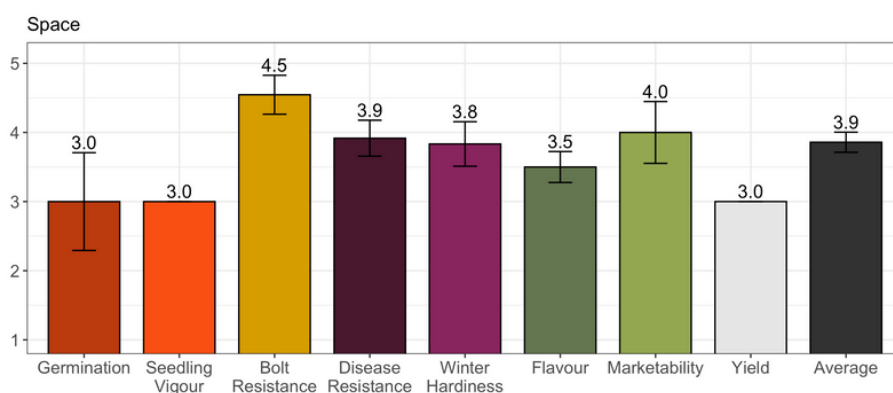
### GAZELLE



Summary of average ratings, error bars indicate standard error.

- **Second highest rated overall;** ranked highest in marketability
- **100%** of growers would grow again
- Comparable to Space in appearance and performance
- Bred to be resistant to downy mildews and for baby leaf production in the fall and winter seasons
- **Leaves:** oval-shaped, small to average, mostly smooth with some texture and vibrantly green
- **Pest damage:** had more saleable leaves with minimal pest damage than most other varieties
- **Cold hardiness:** tolerated light frosts well and survived hard frosts with some discolouration but many leaves still harvestable
- **Average yield:** 0.348 kg/bed m

### SPACE



Summary of average ratings, error bars indicate standard error.

- **Third highest rated overall**
- **80%** of growers would grow again
- Bred to be resistant to downy mildews and for all-season growing
- **Leaves:** average to large, mostly smooth with some texture and vibrantly green
- **Pest damage:** had more saleable leaves with minimal pest damage than most other varieties
- Less cold hardy but higher yield than Gazelle
- **Cold hardiness:** survived hard frosts with some discolouration but many leaves still harvestable
- **Average yield:** 0.383 kg/bed m



Scan to view full trial results video!