

The Garlic News
Connecting
The Canadian Garlic Network
Issue 30 Winter 2011-12

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Back issues to complete your set are available.

Advertising inquiries welcome.

ABOUT THE GARLIC NEWS

The *Garlic News* is a non-profit membership newsletter produced in print copy. Started in 2004, it carries on from where its predecessors, the *Garlic Newsletter* and *The Voice of Garlic* left off. It is distributed by mail to members.

The *Garlic News* uses a newspaper column layout and larger print size for easier reading. The wider margins and 8 ½ x 11-size paper are enable growers to save copies in a standard 3-hole binder. Back issues are available both in single copy and 1-year sets.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The purpose of the *Garlic News* is to enable farmers and gardeners to grow better garlic and enjoy it more. Articles and contributions are welcome and will be published subject to space and suitability. Letters and articles may be edited for length and content. The Editor reserves the right to refuse advertising, subscriptions or material submitted for publication where, in his sole discretion, such inclusion would detract from the worth of the publication. Articles should be no longer than 400 words. B&W pictures preferred. Contents copyright © 2011-12 Paul Pospisil. No part of this publication may be reproduced or duplicated without the written permission.

Deadline for Spring 2012 Issue is March 5.

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Enclosures: 2012 calendar

: Membership/Subscription Form, Garlic News, 2011-12, 8th year



Changes in the taxonomy of garlic

The mystery of garlic continues to fascinate scientists and researchers. The more they learn, the more they define the new facts. Thus, the taxonomy, or identification of garlic types is changing from year to year.

From a simple start of just "hardneck" and "softneck" garlic cultivars, the early '90s saw the classification change to five main Varieties: Porcelain, Purple Stripe, Rocamboles, Artichoke and Silverskin, with a variable number of "sub-Varieties". These were identified in Ron Engeland's book, *Growing Great Garlic*, and served garlic growers well for over a decade. However, new research in the '90s and the start of the 21st century used more sophisticated laboratory techniques and challenged the earlier classification of garlic. Now, it is recognized that there are many more Horticultural Groupings or Varietal Groups.

Ted Jordan Meredith has sorted through the research and documented that no less than 11 distinct groupings exist - Artichoke; Asiatic; Creole; Glazed Purple Stripe; Marbled Purple Stripe; Middle Eastern; Porcelain; Purple Stripe; Rocamboles; Silverskin; and Turban. These are well identified in "the Complete Book of Garlic", published in 2008. This classification will continue as the growers' "bible" until overtaken by more recent research.

The new 11- Group classification is already showing up in seed garlic lists and will affect other areas of the garlic growers' world as well.

I am in the process of revising the Garlic Judging Standard to take into account the grouping of garlic cultivars into the 11 currently recognized Horticultural Groups as well as updating garlic planning charts. Editor