



Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education

The Pepper Project

The Pepper Team has two main breeding projects focusing on jalapeño and bell peppers. The goals for jalapeño peppers are breeding for fruit size and shapes that are preferred for making jalapeño popper dishes. The project goal for bell pepper is breeding for sunscald tolerance, with comparable yield, fruit color and pungency as varieties that are used in California organic farms.

In jalapeño field trials, two lines generated large fruit, with yield comparable to local varieties. For both lines, there is still some variation within the line for fruit size and shape, but it is within a small range.

In bell pepper field trials one line has decreased sunscald due to the lateness of flowering and fruiting. This may be a good late season variety to complement the market, and may benefit organic markets or home gardens. This could also be a good variety for low temperature areas in California.



Get Involved

The SCOPE project is currently seeking collaborations with growers and seed producers for on-farm trials. We are also looking to expand to new crops that are integral to the California organic seed industry. To become part of the SCOPE network of on-farm trials, or propose a collaboration for a new crop, contact: asaichaie@ucdavis.edu.

For more information on the projects, visit: plantbreeding.ucdavis.edu