

# OKRA



## INFORMATION FORM

Please fill out the following questions about each okra variety you grow. When applicable, all measurements should be metric. Weight can be in lbs. as it's easily converted to grams or kilos.

**CATALOG No/CROP NAME:**

Date planted: .....

Date transplanted into garden  
(if applicable): .....

No. seeds planted:

No. germinated seeds (date):   
.....

Date of 1<sup>st</sup> germination: .....

Did the crop receive full sun, partial sun, or full shade?  
.....

Date of 1<sup>st</sup> flower: .....

Date of 50% flowering: .....

*continued*

## PHOTOGRAPHING OKRA

Getting good photographs of plants in the field can be difficult. Mostly what we're looking for with okra is some sense of the **overall plant**. At right are several examples to help you best document each variety you grow. If you're growing more than one okra variety, be sure to label each photograph with the catalog name and number. If you're only growing one variety, it's still a good idea, but less critical. A ruler helps give scale to your photograph and is an important feature for NS/S. If possible, be sure to include **something for scale** in each photograph—a yard/meter stick, shovel, person, etc. for whole plants; a ruler, business card, etc. for close-ups.

Okra is fairly easy to photo-document: its flowers are large and showy, as are its fruit.

Some varieties have **red or red-tinged branches**, pods, etc. Be sure to note or photograph these traits.

In photographs of the fruit (top photo), be sure to line up all the fruit so they “start” from the same place.

## SAMPLE PHOTOS



# INFORMATION FORM

QUESTION KEY NEXT PAGE >>

OKRA



Date 1<sup>st</sup> fruit produced: .....

Date of 1<sup>st</sup> harvest: .....

Date of last harvest: .....

What color were the flowers (include spots or other markings)?

.....

Total weight (or number) of fruit produced throughout the season (approx.):

How many fruit were produced per plant (approx.)?

Where on the plant were the pods produced (along the main stem only, on branches, both, etc.)?

.....

How tall was the plant at maturity?

What color(s) were the stems? leaves? pods?

.....

Did you cook/bake/can the okra? How did it taste?

Were the plants subject to any unusual or particularly harsh weather (hail, hard rain, early frost, etc.)? When? How did they fare?

Were there any problems with disease, fungus, insects, or other pests? How did plants respond? Did you use anything to treat the problem? How well did it work?

Please provide an overall description of how you grew this crop, including a brief description of how you watered (hose, drip, rain only, etc.) and about how often (i.e., did it experience some drought, weekly soakings), whether it needed trellising, was it intercropped and with what, did it need extra shade, did the grasshoppers seem to like it particularly, etc.

## QUESTION KEY

# OKRA



**Date planted:** the date you sowed the seeds, either directly into the ground or in a seedling tray.

**Date transplanted into garden:** the date you transplanted the seedlings into the garden.

**Date of 1<sup>st</sup> germination:** the date you noticed the first seedling emerge (either from the ground or in a seedling tray; if a seedling tray, be sure to let us know how/where you started the plants).

**Total number of germinated seeds (date):** when you decide that no more plants are likely to germinate; be sure to count how many seeds you plant!

**Date of 50% flowering:** the date when 50% of the number of plants are in flower, even if they only have one flower each!

**Date 1<sup>st</sup> fruit produced:** the date you see the first fruit form.

**Date of 1<sup>st</sup>/last harvest:** this may depend on how you harvest the tomatoes/tomatillos; if you wait to harvest mature fruit all at once at the end of the season, simply record that date; if you harvest periodically, just record the dates of your first and last harvests. If you harvested green, immature fruit to cook, be sure to indicate that separately from harvesting mature fruit.

**What color were the flowers (include spots or other markings)?** Okra belongs to the hibiscus family and its flowers are very pretty. The petals are often pale yellow with 5 magenta spots deep in the throat. Some also have magenta colored anthers (see the photo).

**Total weight (or number) of fruit produced throughout the season:** if you harvest periodically, just give us an assessment of whether you considered it prolific (more okra than you know what to do with), fine, or poor (not enough okra to satisfy your needs).

**How many fruit were produced per plant (approx.)?** Looking across the plants, average the number of pods produced per plant. Like corn, did it produce only one-two pods per plant or 4-5 or more.

**Where on the plant were the pods produced (along the main stem only, on branches, both, etc.)?** Most okra produce their pods on the main stem. Let us know if your variety is different.

**How tall was the plant at maturity?** Try to measure from the ground to the average highest point in the plot; a metric ruler (cm) is best, but use whatever you have.

**What color(s) were the stems, leaves, fruit?** Some okras have anthocyanins in them that results in reddish-purplish stems, veins, etc. Please note the color at maturity (harvest). **A photo works great for this!**