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Average vine length and seed size of 93 cm and 7 mm, respectively, are similar to First and Best. Latah is well adapted to field production in the Palouse region of northern Idaho and eastern Washington. According to Kraft, Latah is resistant to *Fusarium wilt* (*Fusarium oxysporum* Schlecht. f. sp. (*Linf.*) Snyder & Hansen) race 1, the fungus pathogen frequently isolated from peas in the Palouse region of Idaho and Washington. Blooming begins at the 13th node and maturity occurs about 86 days after planting. Commercial yields of Latah and the standard cultivar are about the same. Latah is released to fill the need in northwestern states for a yellow pea with uniform seed size, shape, and color.

About 25,000 kg of commercial seed are available for planting in 1976. Requests for foundation seed should be sent to Washington State Crop Improvement Association, P. O. Box 617, Yakima, WA 98901. Certified seed production is limited to one generation each of foundation, registered, and certified seed.

**REGISTRATION OF MURRAY MITCHAM PEPPERMINT**

(Reg. No. 2)

W. A. Todd, R. J. Green, Jr., and C. E. Horner

'Murray Mitcham' peppermint (*Mentha piperita* L.), a *Verticillium* wilt-resistant clone, was developed by the A. M. Todd Company, Kalamazoo, Mich. with the cooperation of Purdue, Oreg., and Washington Agric. Exp. Stn., and the Agric. Research Service, USDA. It was released in February 1976 to state agencies responsible for plant certification in Indiana, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. This cultivar was obtained by mutation breeding from vegetatively propagated 'Mitcham' peppermint and was identified as Selection 3202 in the breeding program, whereas the cultivar 'Todd's Mitcham' (Reg. No. 1) was Selection 58.

Detailed accounts of the mutation breeding methods and screening procedures used in obtaining both the *Verticillium* wilt-resistant Todd's Mitcham and Murray Mitcham have been published.6

Todd's Mitcham and Murray Mitcham are morphologically alike in having a darker green herbage color, slightly smaller leaves, a more erect and less branched plant habit (especially in spaced plants on organic soil) than Mitcham. They are further alike in flowering 5 to 10 days earlier than Mitcham and in their ability to produce an oil yield of 56 to 62 kg/ha on the organic soil of Indiana under *Verticillium* wilt conditions, an important economic difference between the first-year plants of Murray Mitcham branches on the base of the plant than do those of Todd's Mitcham, producing more herbage and higher first-year yields. In regions utilizing sprinkler irrigation or no irrigation or subsequent year's solid stand (meadow crop) show no consistent differences in quality. Latah, Todd's Mitcham, and Murray Mitcham where the Mitcham strain is undamaged by *Verticillium* disease.

Organoleptic tests and gas chromatographic analyses indicated that the oil of Murray Mitcham is qualitatively different from that of Mitcham. The oil has been evaluated by several major U.S. peppermint oil users. Murray Mitcham has been classified as *Mentha piperita* L. (Reg. No. 2) by the Expert Panel which has ruled that the value of this peppermint oil already generally recognized as safe (GRAS).

A limited amount of planting stock for grower increase can be obtained from the Oregon State Seed and Plant Certification Board, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, OR 97331; or the Agric. Research and Extension Center, Prosser, WA 99350; AgTic. Exp. Stn., Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, IN 47907; and professor of plant pathology and USDA, ARS-\hspace{0.1em}Technical Research Leader, Hops, Mint, and Field Crops, Oregon State Univ., East Lansing, MI 48823.

1 Registered by the Crop Science Society of America on 8 Aug. 1976.


