

# Vvi:

## Ready, Set, Go, Report!



Ready



1.

Set



2.

Go!



3.

Report



4.

The short movie gave you an idea of what Vvi is all about. This slide show will tell you more about how it works. By the end, your group will be ready to get started on your own vegetable variety investigation!



Here is an overview of what we will cover:

# Overview

1. READY: Get oriented activities
2. SET: Gear up for your interviews
3. GO!: Interview your gardener
4. REPORT: Submit the data you collected online



This slide show, and the entire Vvi toolkit is  
available at

[vvi.cce.cornell.edu](http://vvi.cce.cornell.edu)

# 1.

**READY:** Get oriented activities – all about biodiversity, vegetable varieties, and why it matters

# Ready



What you learn may surprise you. For example, have you ever seen a purple potato?

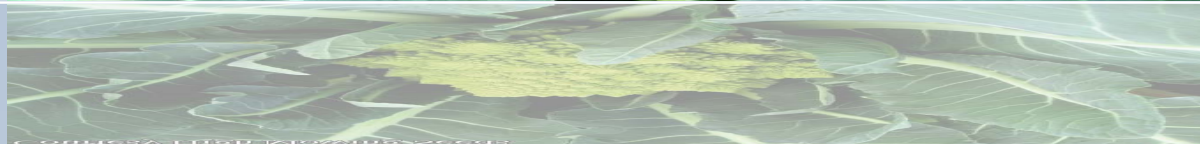


# White carrots?

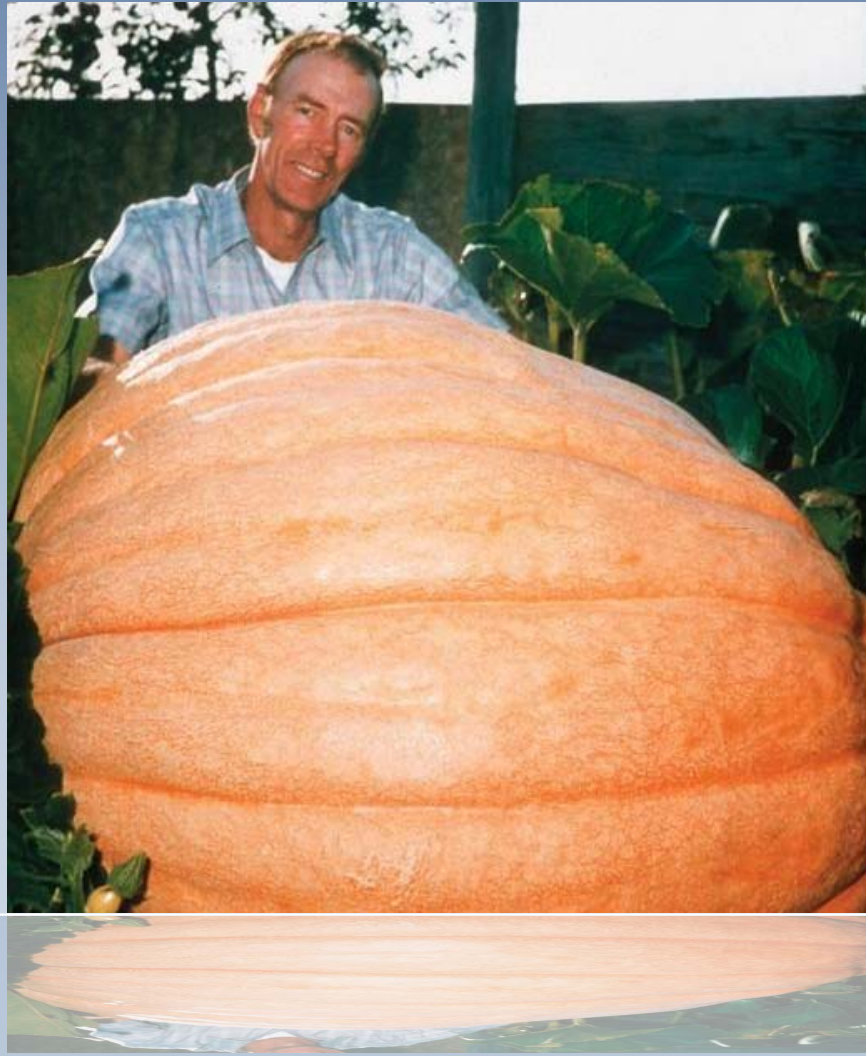


# Spiky green cauliflower?

Courtesy High Mowing Seeds



If you thought vegetable varieties were boring,  
think again!



Now let's take a peek at some of the activities you will do with Vvi.

Ever heard of *biodiversity*?

Your group will make up your own definition of this big word and discover some of the roles it plays in the environment and in our daily lives.



**Activity:**  
Defining  
Biodiversity

Browse and clip from magazines to create a work of art that reflects your new understanding of BIODIVERSITY.

# Activity: Biodiversity Collage



Do you like to argue? Are you considering a career in law? If you answered yes to either, you will love debating your case in “Fact or Fiction.”



**Activity:**  
Fact or Fiction

Have you heard of the Irish Potato Famine?

This is just one of the tragic events in history that resulted from lack of variety in food crops. Find out some more mind-boggling facts about vegetable varieties.



**Activity:**  
**Why Biodiversity?**  
(in Fact or Fiction)

When's the last time you voted?

Even if you're too young to vote in the next election, now's your chance to voice your choice for what's going to be growing in your school garden plot.



**Activity:**  
Veggie Voting

Ever thought about where that chair you're sitting on came from? How about your clothes? What about the rubber on the soles of your shoes?

Investigate your immediate surroundings and find out which of these items come from plants!



**Activity:**  
Plants in our  
daily lives

Sort through a pile of fresh produce and see if you can identify each item. If you recognize the crop (like tomato), do you know what type it is (like cherry tomato)? If so, you're good! But, do you know the variety??



**Activity:**  
Produce Sorting

Do you have imagination? Like to play with words?  
Like to write?

Browse a selection of funky vegetable variety pictures. Pick one to name and write a catalog description for it, with the aim of capturing your customers' attention!



**Activity:**  
Catalog Writers

You know your milk comes from a cow. But do you know where your entire meal comes from? Map it out and discover what's involved in

getting your favorite meal to your plate.



**Activity:**  
A Favorite Meal



**2. SET:** Gear up for your interviews – learn how to interview, record quality data, and operate the recording equipment.



Set



Have you ever been interviewed? Maybe for a job, or for acceptance into a special school or program? Were you nervous?

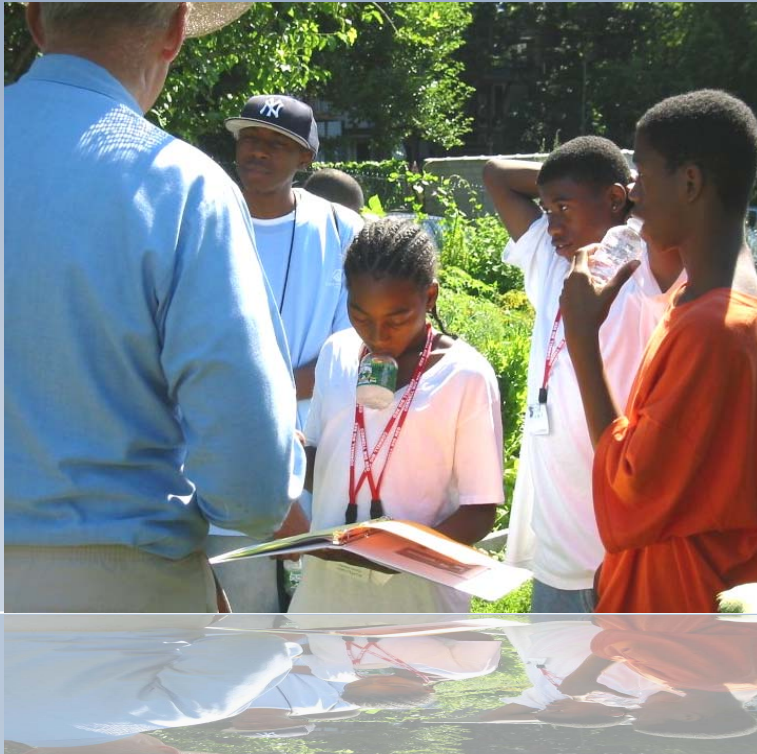
Well, now YOU'LL be the one asking the questions!

First, you will learn the ins and outs of positive interviewing skills.



For example, do you know

- what 'good eye contact' means?
- what to do if your interviewee doesn't know how to answer a question?
- how to get a person back on topic?



**Activity:**  
Interview  
Skill-Building

Get together with a partner and take turns interviewing each other on a favorite topic whether it's music, sports, pets, or how you spend your free time.



Then, observe your group leader demonstrate an interview. Your leader will not do everything right. Can you spot the interview blips that need fixing?

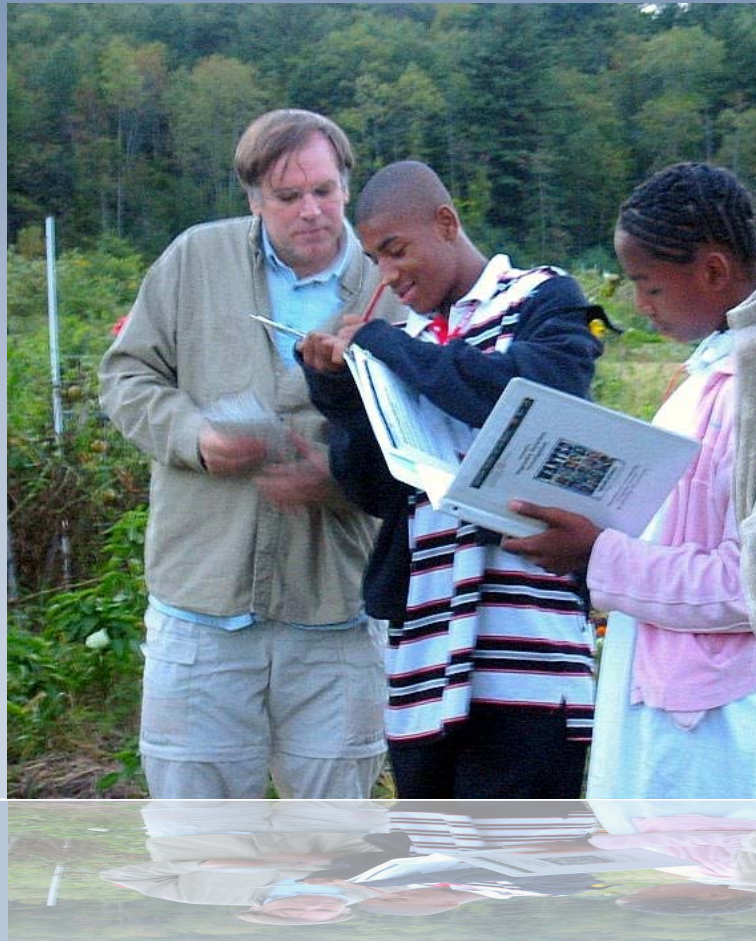


Take everything you've learned and try a final practice interview with a partner.

What's changed since the first interview? Are you more relaxed? Confident? Do you know how to start, run, and end the interview?



Now that you've mastered the best interview practices, there are just a few other things to do to prepare for your gardener interviews.



**1. Pair up.** It is helpful to have a partner to interview with. One person can ask the questions while the other writes down the gardener's answers. Or your partner can videotape or photograph the interview.



2. Look through your investigator binders. You will find a suggested introduction to the gardener, forms for recording gardener responses and other helpful information for your interviews.



3. Get familiar with recording equipment.  
It's a great idea to take pictures, video, or audio recording to document your interview.



4. Ask any questions you have. Now is a good time to get clarification about anything that is confusing. If in doubt, ASK!



# 3. GO!: Interview your gardener.



GO!



# Finding gardeners to interview.

Your group leader may need your help finding gardeners to interview. Think about any local community gardens you know of, friends and relatives that garden, or other people in your community.



And remember, gardeners are everywhere. Your local community garden is a good place to start, but don't overlook the person behind your neighborhood coffee shop counter!



Now relax! Interviewing is the easy part. You've done all the hard work already.



Just remember:

1. Get into your interviewing teams.
2. Have interviewing notebook & pencil in hand.
3. Relax, smile, and say hello to your gardener.



4. Introduce yourself and begin interviewing.
5. Record gardener's answers on data form.
6. Don't forget to ask your own questions, too!



# Tips:

1. Make sure the variety your gardener is rating is in fact a variety (your rating form instructs you on how to do this).
2. Double check spelling.
3. If you run into any
4. problems, ask for help.

**Interview Form: Rate this Variety**  
READ THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO YOUR GARDENER. THE CAPS ARE FOR YOUR USE; DO NOT READ THESE TO THE GARDENER.

Let's begin rating.

Please tell me one vegetable variety you have grown and eaten.  
ENTER VARIETY NAME →

What crop is this?  
ENTER VEGETABLE CROP NAME →

CHECK SPELLING WITH GARDENER

**STOP.** IF THE CROP IS BEAN, CABBAGE, LETTUCE, MELON, PEA, PEPPER, OR TOMATO, CHECK THE MISTAKEN IDENTITIES PAGE BEFORE CONTINUING.

On a scale of one to five, with five being the best:

1. How would you rate this variety, overall? 1 2 3 4 5  
☆☆☆☆☆
2. How would you rate this variety on taste? ☆☆☆☆☆
3. How would you rate this variety on yield? ☆☆☆☆☆
4. How would you rate this variety on ease and reliability? ☆☆☆☆☆
5. What additional thoughts would you like to share about this variety?

4. There may be time for your gardener to rate multiple varieties. Or you may switch and interview a different gardener.
5. When you are done with the interview, fill out a gardener card (in your binder) to give to your gardener.
6. Thank your gardener!

**Vegetable Varieties Investigation**  
 A citizen science program from the Cornell University Department of Horticulture

**Thank you for participating in the Vegetable Varieties Investigation pilot.**  
 Visit *Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners* online to see the ratings and reviews you provided today; and to browse ratings offered by other gardeners. Using your account information below, you can access and edit your ratings and account information. Please allow up to two weeks from the interview date for your ratings to appear. This is a new system; we appreciate your feedback!

**Vegetable Varieties Investigations** <http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu/vvi>

**GARDENER ACCOUNT INFO**

Screen Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: **garden**

\*To set up a free email account, visit [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com) or [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and follow instructions.

**LOCAL CONTACT**

Team Leader:  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please direct comments to:**  
 Lon Bushway  
 Cornell University  
 Department of Horticulture  
 ljb7@cornell.edu  
 607.255.9998

**GARDENER CARD**

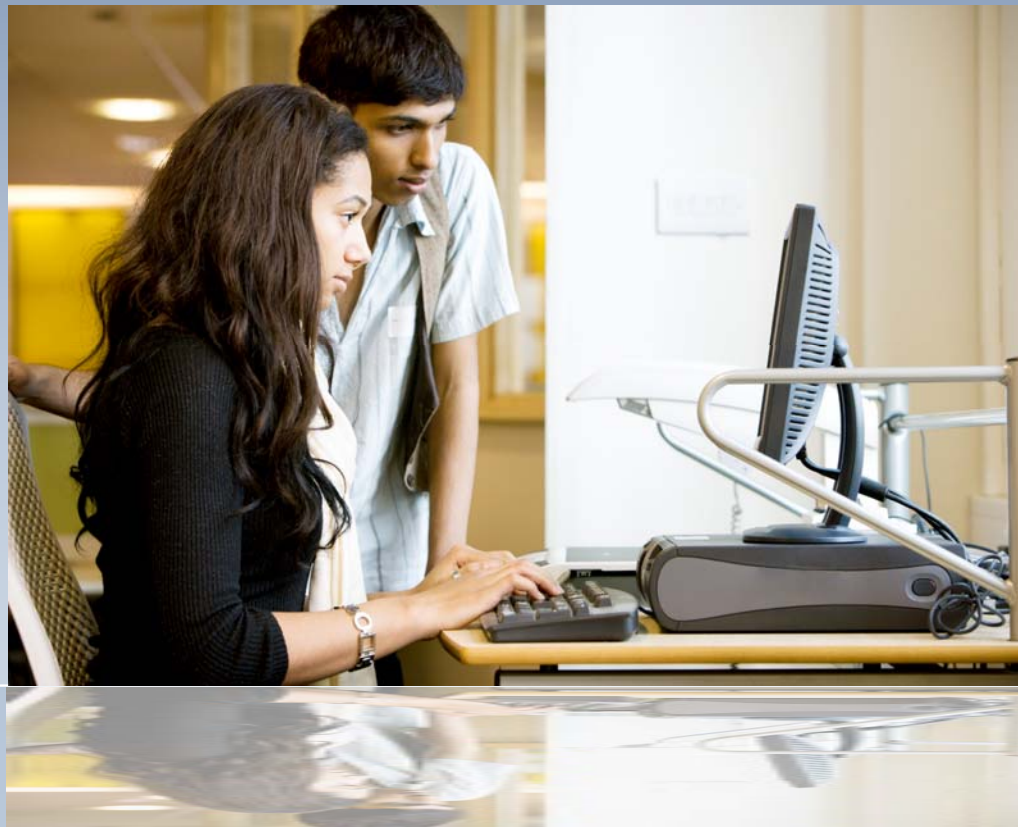


# Report!

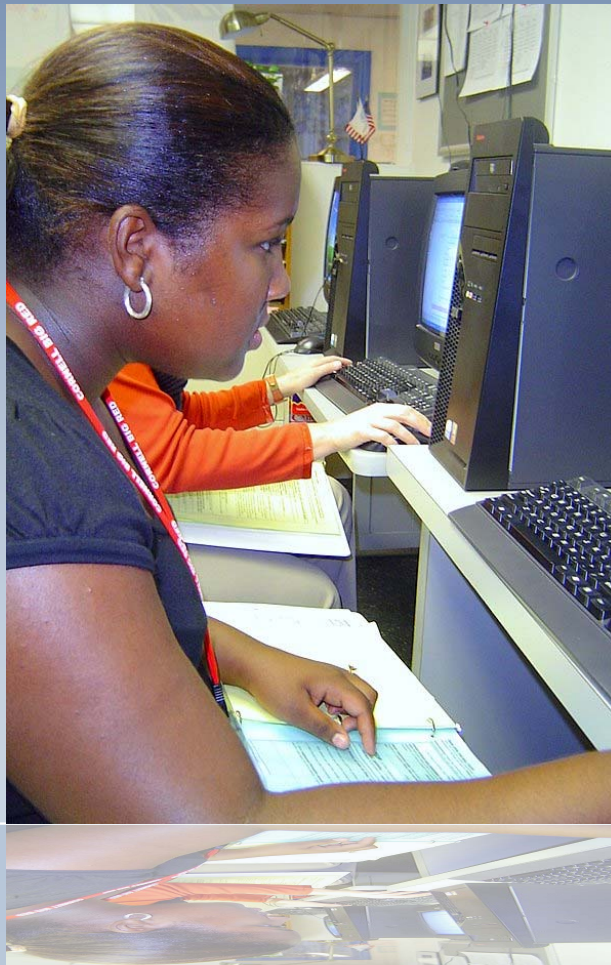
**4. REPORT!:** Submit the data you collected online.



Once you have completed your interviews and have your gardener data in hand, you're almost there! All that's left is sharing your data online so it becomes part of the permanent collection of Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners.



Reporting is important work. When you submit quality data, you are representing the gardeners you interviewed and helping to promote biodiversity.



Just follow the directions for submitting data at:  
[vvi.cce.cornell.edu](http://vvi.cce.cornell.edu). It's that simple.



A citizen science program from the Cornell University  
Department of Horticulture



### Login/Register to submit data

- Home
- ▶ Toolkit
- ▶ Learn more about Vvi
- ▶ Register/Login



New to Vvi? Educators and youth [register here](#).



Returning to add data? [Login here](#).

© 2007 Cornell University Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners

And remember,

1. REDUCE
2. REUSE
3. RECYCLE
4. REPORT VEGETABLE VARIETIES...



...for a healthier planet  
AND  
healthier people.

Good luck in your  
Investigations!



Special thanks to:

Vvi Pilot Groups

Edison Gonzalez, youth and educators of the Albany Boys and Girls Club,  
Delaware Ave

Diane Picard, educators and youth of Growing Green, Mass Ave Project

Tom Archibald and "Food, Glorious Food," a program of Dryden Youth  
Services in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins  
County

Sue Stradling and "The Leafy Greens" JMG program at Stillwater

Elaine Lemley and Genesee County Junior Master Gardener 4-H Club Chapter

Gardeners

Sharon DiLorenzo & Capital District Community Gardeners

Renee Schloupt and the Broome County Master Gardener Volunteers

Ithaca Community Gardeners & Project Growing Hope

Vvi is a project of Cornell University's Garden-Based  
Learning Institute.

Slide show by Erin Martea

This slide show, and the entire Vvi toolkit is available at

[vvi.cce.cornell.edu](http://vvi.cce.cornell.edu)



Cornell University  
Department of Horticulture

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