**METHODS**

**Design**

Jessica selected 5 varieties each of white and blush sweet peas (Lathyrus odoratus). For each colour, she chose two varieties each from two Ontario seed houses, Unicorn Blooms and Stems, and a check variety from a large seed house in New York (Table 1).

As the Mother Site, Jessica grew each variety in triplicate (n=3) and randomly assigned the replicates in one bed per colour.

As Satellite Sites, Jessica randomly assigned Jen, Joanne, Janis and Sas each to two varieties of one colour, one variety per seed house, and the check for that colour. Satellite sites grew three replicates of the test varieties and one replicate of the check. (See Protocol for more details.)

**RESULTS**

**Stem length and Size of clusters**

- From Jessica’s three replicates, there was no detectable difference in stem length or size of individual clusters among any of the blush or white varieties (P>0.1 for all).
- In the second week of bloom, High Society had larger flower clusters than Yvette Anne (blush varieties), with no other differences among varieties detected.

**TAKE HOME MESSAGE**

Although there isn’t a complete dataset, what emerged for the growers was the importance of growing regionally adapted sweet peas that have a longer bloom period, or resistance to heat waves.

Heat resistance is particularly important when you consider that most of the seed is developed in the UK and New Zealand, which have long, cool springs.

For Jessica specifically, the process of data collection on bloom period and vase life. In doing so, she gained insight into the importance of these factors – especially in hot southern Ontario - for future variety trials of Sweet Peas.

**Variety** | **Germ. rate (%)** | **Bloom period (days)** | **Vase life (days)** | **Colour**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Piggy Sue | 94 | 14 | 3.5, 4.5 | lovely, strong scent, cooler tone
High Society | 100 | 14 | 4.4, 5.5 | nice blush, slight peach
Molly Billstone | 72 | 7 | 4.3, 5 | good colour, more salmon
Yvette Ann | 66 | 7 | NA, 5, 5 | solid pale pink
Spring Sunshine | 82 | 14 | 4, 4.5 | best
Wild Swan | 100 | 7 | 6 |
Lunar Sea | 75 | 14 | 6 | nice cool cream, touch of green
Jilly | 82 | 7 | 6 | best
White Supreme | 88 | 7 | 6 |
Spring Sunshine | 92 | 14 | 6 | pure white

*Vase length for Blush varieties was measured twice. Numbers represent length of first test out of cooler; length of second test out of cooler, and length of second test in the cooler.

**Multi-Farm Trial**

It was a late year to get flowers in the ground. Because of this, only Jessica, Janis and Jen were able to plant all of the varieties and replicates.