

HAVE YOU EATEN THIS PLANT BEFORE?



PHOTO BY MPF, "APIUM GRAVEOLEN (WILD CELERY), ELSWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND" (2023), VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0. CHANGES MADE: CROPPED AND BACKGROUND REMOVED.

 *swipe to find out*

YOU VERY LIKELY HAVE!



 *swipe to learn more*

CELERY

MADE BY NATURE - GUIDED BY US

THE WILD CELERY ANCESTOR HAD THIN, TOUGH, FIBROUS STALKS WITH A STRONG, BITTER, PUNGENT FLAVOUR. NOTHING LIKE THE MILD, CRUNCHY CELERY WE KNOW TODAY.

THIS WAS THE REALITY OF WILD CELERY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.

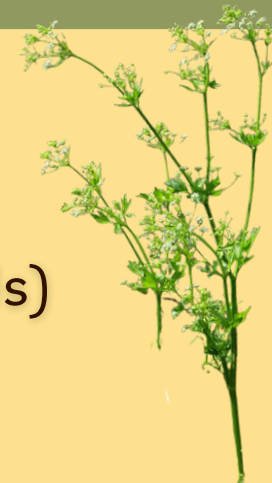


THROUGH DOMESTICATION & GENERATIONS OF CAREFUL SELECTION, HUMANS DEVELOPED MODERN CELERY:

THICK, CRISP, MILD, JUICY STALKS WITH FAR LESS BITTERNESS
READY FOR US TO ENJOY.

OLD TRAITS

- Thin, fibrous, hollow stalks
- Very bitter, strong, pungent aroma (high volatile oils)
 - Mostly leafy herb, not a fleshy vegetable
 - Grows in marshy, saline habitats
- Used historically as a medicinal or aromatic herb, rather than as a food crop




NEW TRAITS

- Thick, crisp, fleshy stalks with more water content
 - Milder flavour, much less bitterness
 - More uniform colour and stalk structure
- Shoots selected for tenderness, lower volatile oils
- Grown for consistent size and crunchy texture



WHY WE CAN'T STOP HERE!



MODERN BREEDING IS STILL NEEDED TO DEVELOP CELERY THAT ADDRESSES TOMORROW'S NEEDS BECAUSE:

- Heat & drought cause sponginess, stringiness, bitterness, and weak stalks.
- Celery diseases (blights, root rot, nematodes) are increasing in impact and spread.
- Stalk uniformity still needs improvement for smooth, straight harvests.
- Flavour & aroma vary; milder, more consistent celery is still needed.
- Consumers want diversity, tender sticks, aromatic leaves, low-string types.
- Shelf life is limited by wilting, hollowness, and loss of crunch.

BECAUSE THE CELERY WE ENJOY TODAY WEREN'T BUILT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GROWING CONDITIONS. BREEDING GIVES US CELERY THAT DOESN'T TURN BITTER, HOLLOW, OR STRINGY IN HOT, DRY YEARS, BUT STAYS FIRM, GREEN, AND HARVEST-READY.