



**Chris Faull, Syngenta Seeds, Vegetable Business Unit  
Boise, ID**

**Chris Faull has been with the Vegetable Business Unit of Syngenta Seeds for 17 years,** and expects to remain there for years to come. Her mission, working within this company



known for its technological crop solutions and global reach, is to provide dependable, tasty vegetable seed varieties, mostly hybrids, to wholesale distributors, which will then get them into the hands of home gardeners. Syngenta's roots in the vegetable seed breeding business go back to the Victorian age when Rogers Brothers Seed Company, known for its innovative work with garden beans and sweet corn, was founded. After a series of mergers, Syngenta was formed in 2000. The company continues to offer many of the well-known vegetable varieties developed by Rogers and other of its component companies, including 'Silver Queen' sweet corn, 'Jade' green bean, and 'Supersweet 100' cherry tomato. "Home gardeners like to grow what they've had success with," notes Chris.

**"The Good Growth Plan" adopted by Syngenta in 2014** addresses the breadth of the company's goals while maintaining a focus on the details. Commitments include achieving progress in crop efficiency, soil conservation, and the preservation of biodiversity, as well as providing support for small farmers. The overall goal of feeding the globe in a sustainable manner extends to the Vegetable Unit, and its focus on developing vegetable seed that is suitable for professional growers as well as home gardeners. When asked about some gardeners' preferences for open pollinated vegetable varieties over hybrids she responded thoughtfully. "It's important for us to know what gardeners are thinking. It's also good to remember that hybrids go back to Gregor Mendel's experiments with peas in the 1800s, and to realize that we are all hybrids."

**"My grandparents had a ranch outside of Boise,"** recalls Chris. My father was a child during the Depression, and talked of the advantages of living on the ranch. They had the resources to feed themselves and others." The ranch was sold decades ago, but Chris remembers it fondly. "It had an enormous garden, so I grew up on fresh vegetables and appreciated Brussels sprouts and beets at a young age." After graduating from Boise State University she spent time in Denver and Dallas and then returned to southern Idaho, and the "sagebrush desert" where she grew up. "The hot, dry summers are good for producing seed," notes Chris. "With only 11.5 inches of rainfall a year, irrigation is a must," she adds.

Although her current growing space is limited, Chris has a few raised containers on the southwest side of her house where she grows leafy vegetables, and a box of wildflowers for the pollinators.

**Jeannine Bogard, Syngenta Flowers’ Business Lead for Home and Garden Vegetables,**

evaluates the up-and-coming varieties to determine which are most suited to home growing. She’s responsible for marketing and sales of this segment of the business, which involves, among other things, visiting the in-ground and patio trials featuring tomato, pepper, squash, melons, and more in Gilroy, California. “Organizing and evaluating the Home Garden Vegetable Trial Garden is a small part of what I do,” says Jeannine, “but it’s the most fun I get all summer!” One of the breeding program’s most recent successes was 2016 AAS Winner ‘Prizm’ kale, a dwarf variety suitable for containers.

“Jeannine and I feel passionate about what we do,” reflects Chris. “It takes all of us to make the larger organization work. Meeting the needs of the home gardener and connecting with folks in the home garden seed business is very satisfying.”

