

**TEST-GROWING OF SEVERAL PATENTED FENNEL
(*FOENICULUM VULGARE*) VARIETIES IN THE SOUTHERN GREAT
PLAIN**

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The name *Foeniculum vulgare* must be accredited to Philip Miller, who first validly published it in the eighth edition of his “Gardeners Dictionary” in 1768. The fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.) is a herbaceous, perennial herb with yellow flowers and feathery leaves. It belongs to *Foeniculum* genus, Apiaceae family. The fennel plant originated in the southern Mediterranean region and through naturalization and cultivation it grows wild throughout the Northern, Eastern, and Western hemispheres, specifically in Asia, North America, and Europe. It is cultivated in fields and also grows wild. The herb was well-known to the ancient Egyptians, Romans, Indians, and Chinese. In Hungary, it is a less cultivated plant. The fennel herb has been used in traditional medicine for a wide range of ailments related to digestive, endocrine, reproductive, and respiratory systems. The bulb, foliage, and fruits of the fennel plant are used in many of the culinary traditions of the world. Fennel fruits are sometimes confused with those of anise. The leaves are delicately flavored and similar in shape to those of dill. The bulb is a crisp vegetable. Our aim was to gather the fragmented information available in the literature regarding morphology of *Foeniculum vulgare*. On the other hand, we wanted studying of productivity of several fennel varieties in conditions of the Southern Great Plains.