

Bentley Vang  
559-824-0709  
3911 E. Donner  
Fresno, CA 93726



A drive down the farm road to Bentley Vang's packing shed near Fresno is a lesson in exotic specialty crops. On his eight acres he grows at least 150 cultivars of dozens of crops. The unique needs of each variety are met with a range of ingenious and technical cultural practices, from plastic row house, sophisticated trellises, to an adaptable irrigation system.

While the focus is on Asian vegetables he grows crops from all over the world. For instance he has two varieties of Japanese, Chinese, several kinds of Thai eggplant, and one from India – but no Italian! Bentley is particularly proud of his jicama and sugarcane crops. He speaks with authority built on 20 years of farming experience about how to grow them properly.

Vang, like most Hmong immigrants of his generation is a veteran of the secret war in Laos where he served for eight years as a military nurse. He arrived in the US in 1977 with his wife and two children and began farming in Fresno a few years later.

They have raised 14 children on the farm who have gone on to college and careers but return home as they are able to help their busy father and mother.

The large number of crops Bentley grows does not mean that their quantity is insufficient for commercial sales. He sells a truckload a week at the Berkeley Farmers market but the bulk is sold year round through a local packing house. Bentley would welcome contacts from buyers of his packed and pre-cooled product.

