

## EVALUATION OF SEEDLESS WATERMELON FOR SOUTHERN OHIO, 2004

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This cultivar trial evaluated 10 cultivars for their suitability in southern Ohio.

### **METHODS:**

Seeds were planted April 26, 2004 in the greenhouse. Transplants were transplanted to the field on June 7<sup>th</sup> using a waterwheel transplanter. Onto raised beds covered with black plastic mulch with trickle irrigation under the plastic. Plots Rows were 5 foot apart. Experimental design was randomized complete block with 3 replications. 120 units of N, P and K was applied before forming beds and laying plastic mulch. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program was followed, on a 7-10 day schedule.

### **RESULTS:**

Plant health and fruit remained good through the season with average fruit set and yield across cultivars. Total marketable yield ranged from 86479-40981 pounds per acre. Liberty, MSX 6054 and 7187 were the top three performers. Total marketable fruit ranged from 10325-4840 fruit per acre. Freedom (13.7 lbs) had the largest average fruit weight with Seedway 402 (7.2 lbs) having the smallest average fruit size.

<u>CULTVAR</u>	<u>MARKETALBE FRUIT/A</u>	<u>MARKETABE LBS/A</u>	<u>AVERAGE FRUIT WT</u>
Liberty	10325	86479	7.9
MSX 6054	8712	84866	9.7
7187	8712	84866	9.5
Independence	7744	68409	9.1
MSX 6070	9035	66150	7.6
Trillion	7421	65827	8.4
Freedom	4194	57437	13.7
Seedway 402	7099	51306	7.2
Seedway 401	4517	48402	10.5
Revolution	4840	40981	8.2