

EVALUATION OF SPECIALTY MELON CULTIVARS FOR SOUTHERN OHIO, 2007

*Brad R. Bergefurd, Dr. Shawn Wright

*Thanks to Thom Harker, Lynn Miller, Wayne Lewis, Al Welch
for management of this trial

The Ohio State University South Centers
1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, Ohio 45661-9749
Phone: (740) 289-2071

*The authors wish to thank the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and
Development Program for providing funding support of this project.

This cultivar trial evaluated 5 cultivars for their suitability in southern Ohio.

METHODS:

Seeds were planted April 23rd in the greenhouse. Seedlings were transplanted to the field on June 7th using a waterwheel transplanter onto raised beds covered with black plastic mulch with trickle irrigation. Plots rows were 6 foot apart. Experimental design was randomized complete block with 3 replications. 100 units of N, P and K were applied before forming beds and laying plastic mulch. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program was followed, following OSU Bulletin #672.

RESULTS:

There was a slight difference in number of fruit per acre between varieties 'Wrangler' and 'Diva' and 'Goddess'. 'Wrangler' produced an average of 16825 fruit per acre, 'Diva' produced an average of 8333 fruit per acre, and 'Goddess' produced the fewest fruit per acre, 1522.

There was NO EFFECT of variety on pounds per acre of melon production

Variety	Mean weight (lbs)	s.e.m.
Diva	9.0	0.0
Strike	5.9	0.6
Goddess	5.7	0.3
Sensation	5.0	0.3
Wrangler	4.0	0.2