

**EVALUATION OF CANTALOUPE CULTIVARS
FOR SOUTHERN OHIO, 2008**

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METHODS:

Seeds were planted May 8th in the greenhouse. Seedlings were transplanted to the field on June 18th 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 4 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:

Four varieties were tested including Aphrodite, Athena, Pixie and RML 0409. Early season cucumber beetle and bacterial wilt disease pressure was heavy even with following recommended cultural practices. Pixie seemed more susceptible to bacterial wilt disease and was not included in the data analysis. Average total fruit per acre was statistically different among varieties with RML 0409 producing 11,111 fruit per acre. Aphrodite (5,278 fruit per acre) and Athena (6,667 fruit per acre) were not statistically different from each other.

Table 1: Total fruit per acre.

Cultivar	Fruit per acre
RML 0409	11111
Athena	6667
Aphrodite	5278

***LSD 2988**

Table 2: Total pounds per acre.

Cultivar	Pounds per acre
RML 0409	54521
Athena	32757
Aphrodite	30431

***LSD 13292**