

Pumpkin Cultivar Performance Observation Trial Grown in Southern Ohio 2013

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OBJECTIVES:

To screen new pumpkin variety releases (2012-2013) for their production performance under Southern Ohio growing conditions and to evaluate yield potential and fruit quality characteristics for the southern Ohio area.

MATERIALS and METHODS:

This trial evaluated four pumpkin cultivars for their production suitability, performance and quality attributes under southern Ohio growing conditions. Cultivar selections were new releases along with industry standard varieties. Input was received from seed companies, growers, and industry personnel regarding variety selection and standard comparison. Seeds were direct seeded to the field on June 12th. Rows were spaced 10 foot apart with seeds planted 3 foot apart in the row. The observation trial was located in southern Ohio, at the Ohio State University South Centers field research trials in Piketon, Ohio (lat. 39.07° N, long. 83.01° W, elevation 578 ft.). 100 pounds of N, P2O5 and K2O per acre were applied prior to planting. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program was implemented, following recommendations from the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (ID-56). Weeds were controlled with cultivation and hand hoeing.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION:

Overall plant and fruit quality was good in the 2013 season. Drip irrigation was applied as needed throughout the growing season. Overall fruit yield and quality was good for this trial. Fruit were harvested on September 24th.

This seasons pumpkin screening contained jack o lantern, large sized and pie type pumpkins. Marketable pounds per acre ranged from a high of 17,920 (Monster Smash) to a low of 6044 (Jack Sprat) pounds per acre. Average fruit weight ranged from a high of 22.89 pounds (Monster Smash) to a low of .231 pound (Jack Sprat).

We wish to thank the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program for their past support and seed companies for their in kind contributions to conduct this field research.

Table 1: Yield responses for fresh market pumpkin cultivars grown in southern Ohio (Piketon), 2013

Cultivar	Marketable Fruit per Acre	Marketable Pounds per Acre	Average Fruit Weight (lbs.)	Seed Source
Solid Gold	956.52	8296	8.67	RU
Freddie	782.60	7320	9.35	SW
Monster Smash	782.608	17920	22.89	RU
Jack Sprat	2608.69	6044	2.31	SW/ SK/SAK