Pumpkin Cultivar Performance Trial Grown in Southern Ohio 2012

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OBJECTIVES:

To screen new pumpkin variety releases (2011-2012) 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 15 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 6th. 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. 100 pounds of N, P2O5 and K2O per acre were applied prior to planting. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program followed recommendations from the Ohio Vegetable Production Guide, OSU Bulletin #672. Weeds were controlled with cultivation and hand hoeing.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION:

Despite 2012 being a very dry growing season, overall plant and fruit quality was good. Drip irrigation was applied as needed throughout the growing season. Overall heat units were accelerated mid season with higher than normal temperatures resulting in blossom drop and inadequate pollination, this resulted in a reduction in fruit numbers. Overall fruit yield and quality were good for this trial. Fruit were harvested on October 5.

This year's pumpkin screening contained several types of pumpkins, including several types of jack o' lantern and pie type pumpkins. Marketable pounds per acre ranged from a high of 73780 to a low of 6660 pounds per acre. The top five jack o' lantern types included Corvette, Solid Gold, Camaro, Cougar and Spartan. Average fruit weight ranged from a high of 15.22 pounds (Solid Gold) to a low of .62 pounds (Crunchkin).

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: Fruit yields and average fruit weight responses for pumpkin cultivars

Cultivar	*Marketable Fruit per Acre*	*Marketable lbs. per Acre*	*Average Fruit Weight (lbs.)*	*Seed Source*
Solid Gold	4800	73056	15.22	RU
Mustang	2400	31824	13.26	HL
Camaro	4800	43032	8.96	HL
Corvette	5200	73780	14.18	HL
Cougar	4000	49664	12.41	HL
Gladiator	3200	29960	9.36	SW
Apollo	2800	21136	7.54	SW
Little Giant	6800	17544	2.58	SW
Crunchkin	15600	9804	.62	SW
Mischief	2400	6660	2.77	SW
Diablo	2800	36304	12.96	SW
Earlypack	3600	37584	10.44	SW
Callenger	2800	29380	10.49	SW
Captain Jack	2000	27680	13.84	SW
Spartan	3200	38996	12.18	SW