

1998 Pumpkin Cultivar Evaluations

Columbus and Hillsboro

Bob Precheur, Thom Harker, Mac Riedel, Dwane Taylor, John Wilson, Becky Lyon, Gretchen Sutton, Bobbi Meldon, Karen Magmusen, Celeste Welty, Brad Bergefurd.
Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Sci., Pl. Pathology, Entomology and Enterprise Center, OSU Columbus.

Summary of Results

In Columbus, the cultivars were divided into 2 experiments or size categories. In each experiment, half of the 4 replications were sprayed with a standard chemical disease control program and all plots received standard insecticide applications during the season. Because of the late arrival of powdery mildew, there was no significant difference in yield between sprayed and unsprayed plots. There was a significant increase in powdery mildew on handles at harvest in small pumpkins in unsprayed plots compared to fungicide applied plots. The best large and medium sized varieties in terms of tons per acre were: Gold Rush, Gold Strike, HMX 6687, Mother Lode, REX 38040, and REX 38041. The small varieties with an average fruit size of 2-8 lbs easily produce 4-8 tons of fruit/acre (see the tables). Varieties with good powdery mildew tolerance were: HMX 6687 HMX 6688, HMX 6689, HMX 5682, Wee-Be-Little, RWS 62860, and .REX 38040

At Hillsboro, 20 cultivars from different size categories were evaluated. The best medium and large varieties in terms of tons per acre were: HMX 6688, Howden, Magic Lantern, Gold Strike and REX 38041. Varieties Gold Strike, Gold Rush, HMX 6688, and Howden had some of the largest average fruit sizes. In the small size category, there are many new and interesting types with sizes ranging from 4-5 pounds down to about 3/4 of a pound per fruit. Wee-Be-Little was the smallest at 0.4 lbs per fruit and producing about 1 ton per acre.

Table 1, 1998 Pumpkin Cultivar Evaluation, Hillsboro, OH

		Marketable Orange Fruit		Average Fruit Size	Powdery Mildew	
Variety	Source	No./A	Tons/A	lbs	Foliage Rating * 2 Sep	On Handle At Harvest**
1. Mystic	HM	2387	6.9	7.6	1.5	0.75
2. Lil Goblin	HM	6546	5.7	1.3	3.0	1.25
3. Lil Ironsides	HM	4705	4.1	1.7	3.75	1.5
4. HMX 5682	HM	5796	2.7	0.8	3.5	1.75
5. HMX 6688	HM	2318	12.4	13.9	1.0	1.0
6. REX 38040	Rupp	2318	11.1	9.1	2.0	1.0

7. Wee - B - Little	NV		5182	1.2		0.4		1.0	1.0
8. Howden	HM		1977	13.8		13.1		2.25	1.25
9. Howden Biggie	HM		3205	10.7		11.7		1.25	1.0
10. Merlin	HM		1851	5.1		11.6		0.5	0.5
11. Magic Lantern	HM		2182	12.5		10.6		0.75	0.75
12. HMX 6687	HM		2114	10.7		10.1		0.5	0.5
13. HMX 6689	HM		1742	3.7		8.8		0.75	0.5
14. RWS 6260	NV		6546	5.4		1.7		1.25	1.25
15. Pro Gold 500	AC		1909	12.1		12.2		1.75	1.0
16. Pro Gold 510	AC		1432	9.4		11.5			