

2005 Winter Squash Variety Trial Results

Marshfield Agricultural Research Station and West Madison Research Station

Mike Bertram, Karen Delahaut, Nick Schneider, and Judy Reith-Rozelle

Introduction

UW-Extension fresh market produce research with the cooperation of the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station and West Madison Research Station initiated a winter squash variety trial in 2005. Results are intended to provide fresh produce growers with information to help guide variety selection decisions. Five varieties of acorn, butternut, and buttercup squash were examined for emergence, yield, plant health, and flavor characteristics.

At Marshfield, squash were started in peat pots in a greenhouse approximately a month prior to planting in the field. Plants were then transplanted in the research plots on May 25th once 2 true leaves developed. Three replications of each variety were planted in a row with plants 5 feet apart. Irrigation was performed with a drip-line system. Squash were harvested on September 21st.

Results

| Type | Variety | Squash per Plant | Average Squash Size (pounds) | Total Squash Weight (pounds) |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Acorn | Table Star | 17 | 2 | 33.6* |
| | Table Treat | 7.3 | 2.1 | 15 |
| | Table Ace | 16 | 2 | 32.5* |
| | Tay Belle | 14.3 | 2.7* | 38.2* |
| | RAX 3102 | 13 | 1.9 | 24.4 |
| | Average | 13.5 | 2.1 | 28.7 |
| Butternut | Atlas | 8.3 | 5.7* | 47.2* |
| | Bugle | 12.3 | 2.9 | 34.9 |
| | Metro | 6.7 | 3 | 19.6 |
| | JWS 6823 | 7.7 | 2.9 | 22.3 |
| | Waltham | 13 | 5.1* | 59.1* |
| | Average | 9.6 | 3.9 | 36.6 |
| Buttercup | Bonbon | 9.3 | 3.3* | 31.2 |
| | Orange Cutie | 19.7* | 2.6 | 50.6* |
| | Sunspot | 17* | 2.3 | 38.9 |
| | Super Delight | 5.7 | 3.3* | 18.3 |
| | Supreme Delight | 9.7 | 3.3* | 32.1 |
| | Average | 12.3 | 3.0 | 34.2 |

* Superior Performing Varieties (0.10 significance)

Results continued..

Total squash per plant, average squash weight, and total squash weight are compared through analysis of variance and least significant differences. All varieties had powdery mildew infections with slight differences in severity.

Description of Trial Entries Acorn Squash

Table Star

- New in 2005
- Hybrid bush variety
- High sugar content with excellent flavor and texture
- Moderate powdery mildew tolerance
- Dark green color squash
- 6 in. long X 5 in. wide, broad shape
- Available from Seedway and Rupp

Table Treat

- Released in 2004
- Hybrid bush variety
- High sugar content with average flavor
- Moderate powdery mildew tolerance
- Squash borne near the base of the plant
- Black colored squash
- 6.5 in. long X 4.5 in. wide, tapering shape
- Available from Rupp

Table Ace

- Industry standard
- Compact bush variety
- Less flavorful
- Dark green colored squash
- 6 in. long X 5 in. wide, rounded shape
- Available from Rispens, Johnny's and Seedway

Tay Belle

- Standard vine habit
- Very good flavor and texture
- Low powdery mildew tolerance
- Black colored squash
- 7 in. long X 6 in. wide, tapering shape
- Available from Rispens, Seigers and Seedway

RAX 3102

- Low germination
- Less favorable flavor
- Low powdery mildew tolerance
- Black colored squash
- 4.5 in. long X 4.5 in. wide, small round shape
- Available from Rupp

Butternut Squash

Atlas

- New in 2005
- Semi-bush hybrid
- Produced very large squash: up to 9 to 11 pounds
- Good texture
- 13 inches long X 5 inch base
- Available from Seedway and Siegers

Bugle

- Open pollinated variety
- Semi-bush growth
- High number of squash produced
- Variable shaped squash, some split
- Had significant powdery mildew
- 8 inches long X 4 inch base
- Available from Seedway and Rupp

Metro PMR

- New hybrid
- Very good germination and plant vigor
- Promoted as good powdery mildew tolerant but plants were heavily infected
- Barbell shaped squash
- 7 inches long X 4 inches wide
- Very good taste and texture
- Available from Johnny's

JWS 6823 PMR

- New hybrid
- Compact vine
- Low germination
- Blocky squash
- 6 to 7 inches long X 5 inches wide
- Available from Johnny's

Waltham

- Industry standard butternut variety
- Open pollinated
- Standard vine
- Very good germination and plant vigor
- Large fruit, 12 inches long X 5 inches wide
- Uniform size and shape
- Available from Rispens, Johnny's and Seedway

Buttercup Squash

Bonbon

- New in 2005
- All American Selection
- Semi-bush hybrid
- Sweet, deep flavored flesh
- Dark green squash with a light blue base
- 5 inches tall X 6 inches wide, blocky shape
- Significant powdery mildew
- Available from Stokes and Johnny's

Orange Cutie

- New in 2005
- Semi-bush type
- 5 or 6 harvestable squash borne on a 20 ft vine
- Attractive orange squash
- 4 inches tall X 7 inches wide, flattened shape
- Strong squash flavor
- Available from Siegers and Stokes

Sun Spot

- New in 2005
- Small vine
- Replaces Gold Nugget
- Deep orange to red color
- 4 inches tall X 6 inches wide, round shape
- Powdery mildew weakened stalks
- Very good flavor
- Available from Rupp

Super Delight

- Industry standard
- Dark green squash
- 5.5 inches tall X 6.5 inches wide
- Consistent size
- Some cracking on squash
- Available from Rupp, Johnny's, and Seedway

Supreme Delight

- Vigorous hybrid
- Dark green squash
- 4 inches tall X 6 inches wide
- Erratic size and quality
- Good powdery mildew tolerance
- Very good flavor
- Available from Rupp

Information provided by: Clark County UW Extension Office, 517 Court Street, Room 104, Neillsville WI 54456. (715)-743-5121

"The University of Wisconsin Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental, arrest or conviction record or veteran status."

The logo for UW Extension features the letters "UW" in a small, blue, sans-serif font above the word "Extension" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. A thick blue horizontal line runs beneath the word "Extension".
Learning for life