FIELD DAY REPORT - 1992

Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Texas Agricultural Extension Service

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CANTALOUPE VARIETY EVALUATIONS - 1991

M. L. Baker, D. R. Earhart, and F. J. Dainello

Background. Cantaloupe represents 9 percent of retail fresh fruit volume at mid-summer. Texas is third in providing supplies of cantaloupe to the United States. Peak months are June, July, and August.

Resistance to disease and productivity are important aspects among the varieties. Some state promotion boards have established a 10% soluble solids minimum for cantaloupe sales. Only a vine-ripe mature melon will provide the sweetness, texture, flavor, and juiciness that characterize cantaloupe. It does not increase in sugar content after picking, although it will soften and change types of sugars. A variety should produce fruit 5 inches or larger in diameter, well-netted or webbed with a smoothly rounded, depressed scar at the tip end. A melon should be judged on its appearance, aroma, juiciness, taste, and softness. Attention should be given to color enhancement of orange flesh, since many are halved and overwrapped for the foodservice industry.

Due to growers' mid-summer marketing interest in cantaloupe for local sales, newer varieties were evaluated in a cooperative effort between the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Overton in the summer of 1991.

Research Findings. Data were obtained from three harvests on August 2, 5 and 8, 1991. Well-netted or webbed cantaloupe with a smooth rounded, depressed scar at the tip end were harvested. The results are presented in the table below.

Caravelle had the highest soluble solids with 11.5% and marketable yields of 11,253 lbs/acre. Sunre-7052 had the highest marketable yields of 12,396 lbs/acre and 10.5% soluble solids. Sunex-7030 had 11.4% soluble solids and produced 12,233 marketable lbs/acre and was rated number 2 overall in quality and production.

Application. Consumers purchasing cantaloupe at local fresh markets are demanding higher quality produce with high sugar content. Melons should have firm flesh that will not soften or deteriorate rapidly after purchase. All of the varieties rated more than 8.4% soluble solids and greater than 7,000 marketable lbs/acre had firm flesh and excellent orange color.

Producers should look at this study to determine the opportunity for sales of mid-summer harvested cantaloupe varieties with the mentioned good qualities which lend themselves to retailers interested in local farmer market.

YIELD SUMMARY - SEEDED CANTALOUPE VARIETY TRIAL - OVERTON, TEXAS-1991

2 6 12396 15255 19 6. 0 6 12233 15255 19 6. 0 6 12233 15518 8 77 0 6 12233 15687 32 54 1 11425 13231 25 46 2 11253 12687 32 54 5 9792 11371 19 77 5 9734 12115 16 61 6 7968 10427 17 77 7 4 8993 10209 23 67 6 7368 9574 29 66 7 7378 8 65 8 6126 7278 8 65 9 6 6126 7278 8 65 9 5 5245 6398 0 75 9 6 6126 7569	VARIETY	SOURCE	MKTBL. VIELD	TOTAL' VIELD		% OF MKT.	o.¥KT.	AVG.	WKT.MEL	AVG.MKT.MELONS WT. (LBS)		NO.MKT.MELONS	MELONS	SOLUBLE
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	SUNRE 7044	ی	4129	6706	0		18	0.0	1.7	1.2	•	1361	, 192	-:/
NS NS 24 37 14 1E	LSD (P = .05)		NS	NS	\$	NS	24	3.7	-	u				0.

' LRG+MED+SML+CULL
' SEED SOURCE: 1) ABBOT & COBB
2) ASGROW
3) FERRY-MORSE
4) NORTHRUP KING
5) PETOSEED
6) SUNSEEDS

DATE SEEDED: MAY 31, 1991
SEEDED THROUGH WHITE ON BLACK PLASTIC MULCH
DRIP IRRIGATED
800 LBS. 6-24-24 BANDED
RANDOMIZED COMPLETE BLOCK WITH 3 REPS
12" IN ROW SPACING; 96" BETWEEN ROWS
20 PLANTS/REP/ENTRY

HARVEST DATES: AUGUST 2, 5 & 8

COOPERATORS: TAEX & TAES
Merty Baker
Ron Eerhert
Frenk Deinelto