

EVALUATION OF SUMMER SQUASH CULTIVARS FOR SOUTHERN OHIO –I. Greene County 2003

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This cultivar trial evaluated 17 cultivars for their suitability in southern Ohio.

METHODS:

Seeds were planted June 24, 2003 on raised beds (double rows 12" apart, 18" in row) covered with black plastic mulch with trickle irrigation under the plastic. Rows were 5 foot apart. Experimental design was randomized complete block with 3 replications. The field is located in southwestern Ohio, Greene County 83° 44' West, 39° 39' North. 50 units of N was applied through drip irrigation over the growing season. Roundup (glyphosate) applied between the rows with a shielded sprayer was used to control weeds. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program was followed, on a 7-10 day schedule. Harvest began on July 29 and final harvest was August 25, 2003.

RESULTS:

Plant health and fruit remained good through the season with average fruit set and yield across cultivars. Total marketable yield ranged from 555-2042 ½ -bushel cartons/acre. Spineless Beauty, NUN 0032 and Payroll were the top performers this year over the full season (Table 1).

DISCUSSION

This was one of the coolest and wettest seasons in recent history. Many of these cultivars show promise and it will be interesting to see how they perform under more typical weather conditions.

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Table 1 Total Season Harvest.

<u>Source & Cultivar</u>	Small	Medium	Large	Total	Marketable
	<u>(1/2 bu. Cartons per acre)</u>				<u>Fruit/acre</u>
HA					
Barket	169	195	190	555	16667
RI					
Agriset 843	315	398	571	1285	35455
RU					
Independence II	194	430	554	1178	31212
SS					
NUN 0008	295	476	357	1130	34545
NUN 0009	178	445	528	1153	32727
NUN 0032	261	814	819	1896	50303
Monitor	215	486	548	1250	34242
Robuster	308	526	724	1559	42424
Sensor	239	557	286	1083	33636
Soitos	215	442	631	1288	35758
SY					
Cashflow	311	497	278	1088	36061
Dividend	300	698	489	1488	43333
Fortune	285	405	366	1057	33030
Payroll	241	717	621	1581	45152
PreciousII	240	554	450	1244	41515
Revenue	212	230	258	702	21818
Spineless Beauty	492	592	958	2042	52121
LSD	175	306	370	669	18245