

# PERFORMANCE OF NINE SLICING CUCUMBERS IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

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## OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate adaptability of nine slicing cucumber varieties to southwest Michigan conditions.

SUMMARY: ‘Speedway’, 170 Blend, NUN 2001 and 190 Blend had similar total yields. 190 Blend had the highest yield of number one fruit at 466, 1-1/9 bushels/acre. However, ‘Speedway’, 170 Blend, NUN 2001, NUN 2000 and 187 Blend had similar Number One Fruit yield.

## METHODS:

**Fertilizer:** Prior to planting 33-0-0, 0-0-60, Cal-fortified (calcium plus micronutrients), sulfur and Solubor were broadcast and incorporated at 125, 250, 100, 25 and 10 pounds/acre respectively. After planting 4-0-8-2(Ca) was applied through the drip irrigation at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen/acre/day beginning 13 June and continuing through 26 July 2005.

**Fumigation/weed control:** Beds were fumigated with 350 pounds/acre 67/33% Methyl Bromide/Chloropicrin at shaping and plastic laying. Between-row weeds were controlled by cultivating and hoeing.

**Planting:** Seed was planted directly into beds on 1 June and reseeded 10 June if needed. Beds were 6” high and spaced 5.5’ on center with an in row spacing of 1.5’. Plants were thinned to two/hill (10560 plants/acre). The trial was planted and analyzed as a completely randomized design with four replications and eight plants/replication. Two guard plants bordered each plot.

**Plant Care:** Plots were irrigated as needed and disease and insect pests were controlled using recommended cultural practices.

**Harvest and data collection:** Harvest was conducted seven times between 7 July and 3 August. Fruit was graded into Number One, Number Two and Culls.

## RESULTS:

All entries showed symptoms from an undetermined virus during the harvest period. Virus infection and hot weather affecting pollination reduced total yield and increased cull fruit. Total yield of the nine entries ranged from 1045 (‘Speedway’) to 660 (NUN 2500) 1-1/9 bushels/acre (Table 1). ‘Speedway’ was the highest total yielding entry at 1045, but three other entries (170 Blend, NUN 2001 and 190 Blend) had statistically similar yields. Blend 190 had the highest yield of number one fruit (466) but was not statistically different from five other entries. ‘Speedway’, 170 Blend and 190 Blend were among the leaders in all categories evaluated including yield of cull fruit.

Table 1. Yield in 1-1/9 bushels/acre of nine slicing cucumber varieties grown at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center, Benton Harbor, Michigan 2005.

Variety	Seed Source	Total Yield	Yield No. 1	% Total	Yield No. 2	% Total	Yield Cull	% Total
Speedway	PS	1045	421	40	260	25	364	35
170 Blend	AC	935	444	48	191	21	300	31
NUN 2001	NU	924	435	47	173	19	316	34
190 Blend	AC	916	466	51	188	21	262	29
NUN 2000	NU	844	375	45	168	20	301	35
187 Blend	AC	839	370	44	196	23	273	33
NUN 2002	NU	777	362	46	138	17	277	36
NUN 2501	NU	757	292	39	186	25	279	36
NUN 2500	NU	660	257	39	190	29	213	32
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