

Evaluation of Summer Squash Cultivars for Southern Ohio, 2007

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This trial evaluated 10 summer squash cultivars for their suitability in southern Ohio.

Methods

Seeds were planted May 21, 2007, on raised beds (double rows 12 inches apart, 18 inches in row) covered with black plastic mulch with trickle irrigation under the plastic. Plots rows were 5 feet apart. The experimental design was a randomized complete block with three replications. The field is located in southern Ohio at the Ohio State University South Centers research and demonstration plots. One hundred units of N were applied prior to laying the plastic mulch. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program following OSU Bulletin #672, *The Vegetable Production Guide*, was followed, on a 7- to 10-day schedule.

Results

There was a highly significant effect of variety on the number of small fruit produced per acre. 'Fortune' produced more than all other varieties, an average of 68,095 small fruit per acre. 'RSQ 6004,' 'HMX 7729,' and 'RSQ 6006' produced significantly fewer small fruit per acre (an average of 26,191, 28,810, and 30,238 respectively). There was a significant effect of variety on weight of small fruit per acre. 'Fortune' produced an average of 21,954 pounds per acre, which was greater than the other varieties. 'HMX 7729' and 'RSQ 6004' produced the fewest pounds of small fruit (9,100-9,600 pounds). The other varieties, 'Leopard,' 'HMX 5703,' 'RSQ 4145,' 'Payroll,' 'RSQ 6006,' and 'RSQ 2054,' were not statistically different from each other and produced between 10,000 and 15,000 pounds per acre.

There was no effect of variety on the number, or pounds (18,500-24,000 pounds), of medium fruit produced per acre. There was no effect of variety on the number of large fruit produced per acre, and only a slightly significant effect of treatment on weight of large fruit produced. 'Leopard' and 'Payroll' produced more total pounds of large fruit than 'HMX 5703,' 'HMX 7729,' 'RSQ 4145,' 'Fortune,' 'RSQ 6006,' and 'RSQ 6004.'

There was a slightly significant effect of variety on total number of fruit produced per acre. 'Fortune' produced a mean of 141,667 fruit per acre. There was no significant difference between the other varieties (mean total fruit number ranged from 80,000-107,143; LSD=27,213). There was no significant effect of variety on total pounds per acre produced. Total pounds ranged from a mean of 53,144 to 70,907 pounds.

The average weight of fruit was statistically different. 'RSQ 4145' and 'Fortune' averaged 0.51 and 0.49 pound per fruit respectively. The other varieties ranged in weight from 0.62 to 0.69 pound per fruit, and were not statistically different from each other (LSD= 0.6 pound).