

# Muskmelon Cultivar Trial 2002

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The muskmelon trial investigated the performance characteristics of ten cultivars in 2002. Transplants were placed in the field on May 30, a mid to late planting date for the region. Growing conditions were favorable, generally warm and sunny, resulting in high yields of large fruit. *Superstar* and *Eclipse* produced the best early yields. Total marketable yield of *Superstar* was below trial average because of fruit cracking around the stem end. *Eclipse*, the standard cultivar for our region, performed well producing uniformly sized high quality fruit. *Odyssey* looked promising for local sales with fruit that were big, juicy and flavorful. However, because of softness at maturity it may not be the best choice for long distance shipping. Both *PX 12695* and *PX 208096* produced attractive round sutured fruit. Of the two, *PX 208096* bore the largest fruit, but did exhibit cracking at blossom and stem ends after rainfall occurred. *Aphrodite* (RML 8793), *Minerva* and *ACX 3908* were the latest maturing cultivars and all three produced large to giant fruit with very firm, dry, flesh texture.

## Materials and Methods

**Planting:** Planted 1 seed per cell, 72 cell-pack, May 6, 2002. Transplanted on May 30.  
**Plot Design:** RCB, 3 reps. Plot = 1 row of 6 hills 28" apart, rows 7' apart (2,670 hills/acre).  
**Culture:** Plants grown on black plastic mulch with drip irrigation. Fertilizer applied preplant incorporated under plastic mulch and through trickle tubes during growing season. Rates determined by soil and plant tests.  
**Pesticides:** Curbit, Poast herbicide; Capture, Furadan, Sevin XLR insecticide; Bravo 720, Quadris fungicide.

Table 1. Muskmelon cultivar marketable yield and fruit characteristics.

Cultivar	Seed Source	Yield CWT/A	Fruit No./Acre	Avg Frt Wt - lbs	% Soluble Solids*	% Early*	% Mid	% Late
Odyssey	SS	646.7	7,686	8.5	11.3	15	71	15
Minerva	RG	620.9	6,222	10.0	11.4	6	24	71
Starfire	HM	613.4	9,333	6.5	9.6	2	89	9
Eclipse	SM	559.6	6,771	8.3	10.5	30	70	0
PX 208096	SM	541.1	6,588	8.2	9.6	0	83	17
Athena	RG	490.4	7,503	6.5	11.7	12	71	17
Aphrodite	RG	457.5	4,941	9.2	12.0	7	56	37
Superstar	HM	456.0	5,307	8.6	9.2	45	55	0
PX 12695	SM	429.5	6,280	6.8	10.5	12	69	19
ACX 3908	AC	301.4	3,660	8.2	12.1	0	55	45
<i>Trial Avg</i>		<i>511.7</i>	<i>6,405</i>	<i>8.1</i>				
<i>LSD 5%</i>		<i>190.8</i>	<i>2,726</i>	<i>.7</i>				

\*Soluble Solids readings are an average of 10 fruit sampled.

\*\*% of fruit harvested, Early = July 25-31, Mid = Aug 1-9, Late = Aug 10-20.