

SLICING CUCUMBER TRIAL

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OBJECTIVE:

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

SUMMARY:

Number one fruit yield was similar between seven of the eight slicing cucumber varieties tested. Total yield was similar between five of the eight, ranging from 1494 bushels/acre (b/a) for SRQ 2389 to 1213 b/a for HMX 8416. Number one fruit yield ranged from 942 b/a for 'Speedway' to 781 b/a for 'Greensleeves'.

METHODS:

Fertilizer: Prior to planting, 0-0-60, 21-0-0, and Solubor were added at a rate of 200, 150, and 5 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. Application of 4-0-8-2 began on 14 June, 2002 and continued through last harvest on 12 August.

Fumigation/Herbicide: Beds were fumigated at shaping and plastic laying with 20 gallons/acre Telone C-35. Prior to planting, Curbit 3E at 2 pints/acre was applied between the plastic.

Planting: Direct seeding was done 30 May, 2002 in raised, plastic mulched beds, 6" high and 24" wide. Beds were spaced on 5.5' centers and in row spacing was 18". Seeds were planted two per hill (10,560 plants/acre). The trial was planted and analyzed as a completely randomized design with four replications, sixteen plants/replication. Each plot was bordered by four guard plants.

Harvest: Harvest was conducted 7 times; 22 July through 12 August, 2002.

RESULTS:

'Speedway' had the highest yield of number one fruit at 942 b/a (Table 1). 'Olympian', SRQ2983, SRQ2387, HMX8416, SRQ2389, and 'Dasher II' all had statistically similar number one yield with 927, 892, 862, 859, 844 and 824 b/a, respectively. SRQ2389 had higher yield of cull fruit for all entries except SRQ2387.

'Dasher II' is a standard cultivar for southwestern Michigan. This trial again found it among the leaders in number one fruit. However, there are other cultivars slicing cucumber growers could consider planting. 'Speedway' is somewhat earlier and has a longer fruit and some of the newer selections have better fruit color.

Table 1. Yield in 1 1/9 bushels/acre of eight slicing cucumber varieties grown at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center in 2002. The trial was planted on raised, plastic mulched beds with drip irrigation. Spacing was 18" in the row with two plants per hill (10560 plants/acre).

Entry	S	TY	No1	%T	No2	%T	Cu	%T
SRQ2389	SS	1494	844	57	285	19	365	24
SRQ2387	SS	1443	892	62	260	18	291	20
Speedway	PS	1402	942	67	270	19	190	13
Olympian	JS	1399	927	66	228	16	244	17
SRQ2983	SS	1322	859	65	220	17	243	18
Greensleeves	HM	1265	781	62	247	19	237	19
Dasher II	PS	1237	824	67	201	16	212	17
HMX8416	HM	1213	862	70	192	17	160	13
LSD _{0.05} =		192	141	10	124	ns	117	8

S=Seed Source (SS=Sun Seeds; PS=Peto Seeds; JS=Johnny's Seeds; HM=Harris Moran); TY=Total Yield in 1 1/9 bushels/acre; No1=Yield number one fruit; %T=per cent TY; No2=Yield number 2 fruit; Cu=Yield cull fruit.