

PUBLICATIONS

1985



Horticultural Research, 1985--Overton

Research Center

TECHNICAL
REPORT

NO.
85-1

SOUTHERN COOPERATIVE WATERMELON TRIALS - 1984

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INTRODUCTION

Seven lines were submitted for testing in the 1984 SCWT replicated trial and 15 lines for testing in the observational trial. Charleston Gray, Jubilee, and Sugar Baby were included as check cultivars for both trials. Sugar Baby was supplied as the check cultivar for the five small fruited entries.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The plot area was disked and then bedded on 13.3 ft. centers. Fertilizer was applied pre-plant beneath the row at the rate of 900 lbs 12-12-12 per acre. The plots were 20 ft. long with 5 hills per plot for the large seeded melons, and 10 hills per plot for the small seeded. Sonolon was used for weed control at the rate of 1.25 pints per acre.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Replicated:

In the replicated test all varieties showed very good yields in relation to the check varieties (Table 1). Entries 224 and 244 yielded slightly higher than the check Charleston Gray and slightly lower than Jubilee, but were not significantly different. There was no significant difference in the number of melons produced. Comparing the small fruited entry with the check variety Sugar Baby, it was found that entry 239 yielded slightly higher, but produced less melons per acre.

It was recommended that lines 224, 225, 239, 242, and 244 be repeated in the 1985 trials and 227, and 241 be dropped. The best entries in the trial were lines 224, 239, and 244.

Observational:

Of the 11 large seeded entries in the observational trial, line 253 was recommended to be advanced to the replicated trial, while lines 249, 255, and 257 were to be repeated (Table 2). It was

recommended that the remaining lines be dropped due to low yield, unacceptable taste, or rind unsuitable for shipping.

The small seeded line 258 was recommended to be advanced to the replicated trial. This line produced higher yields and number of fruit than the check variety Sugar Baby. It was recommended that the remainder of the small seeded lines be discontinued.

Table 1. Comparison of yields and number of replicated large type cultivar/breeding line watermelons.

Cultivar/ breeding line	Marketable yield/ac (lbs)	No. melons per acre
Charleston Gray	31900	2069
Jubilee	41940	2178
224	34880	5226
225	29200	1633
227	24500	1742
241	22970	1905
242	23590	1415
244	36360	2123
L.S.D. .05	17642	1068

Table 2. Comparison of yields and number of replicated icebox type cultivar/breeding line watermelons.

Cultivar/ breeding line	Marketable yield/ac (lbs)	No. melons per acre
Sugar Baby	34630	5226
239	44082	5009
L.S.D. .05	N.S.	N.S.

Table 3. Comparison of yields and number of observational large type cultivar/breeding line watermelons.

Cultivar/ breeding line	Marketable yield/ac (lbs)	No. melons per acre
Charleston Gray	28240	1850
Jubilee	45370	2395
249	13470	980
250	23910	1524
251	30620	3049
253	33390	2940
254	8896	653
255	19480	1426
256	15690	1633
257	17444	1197
L.S.D. .05	25998	1486

Table 4. Comparison of yields and number of observational icebox type cultivar/breeding line watermelons.

Cultivar/ breeding line	Marketable yield/ac (lbs)	No. melons per acre
Sugar Baby	28480	4791
252	22050	4573
258	33340	6642
259	34840	10340
260	25680	5444
L.S.D. .05	N.S.	N.S.