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Pumpkin Cultivar Performance Trial Grown in Southern Ohio — 2015

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Objectives

The purpose of this trial was to screen new pumpkin variety releases (2014-2015) for their production performance under southern Ohio growing conditions and to evaluate yield potential and fruit quality characteristics for the southern Ohio area.

Materials and Methods

This trial evaluated 24 pumpkin cultivars for their production suitability, performance, and quality attributes under southern Ohio growing conditions. Cultivar selections were new releases along with industry standard varieties. Input was received from seed companies, growers, and industry personnel regarding variety selection and standard comparison.

Seeds were direct seeded to the field on June 2. Rows were spaced 10 feet apart with seeds planted 3 feet apart in the row. The trial was located in southern Ohio at the Ohio State University South Centers field research trials in Piketon, Ohio (lat. 39.07° N, long. 83.01° W, elevation 578 ft.). Before planting, 100 pounds of N, P₂O₅, and K₂O per acre were applied. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program was implemented, following recommendations from the *Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers* (Purdue Extension publication ID-56). Weeds were controlled with cultivation and hand hoeing.

Results and Discussion

Overall plant and fruit quality were good in the 2015 season. Drip irrigation was applied as needed throughout the growing season. Overall fruit yield and quality were good for this trial. Fruit were harvested on October 14.

This season's pumpkin screening contained jack-o-lantern, large-size, pie-type, and specialty-type pumpkins. Marketable pounds per acre ranged from a high of 37,730 (Bellatrix) to a low of 11,211 (Jack Sprat) pounds per acre. Average fruit weight ranged from a high of 16.86 pounds (Bellatrix) to a low of 2.79 pounds (Jack Sprat).

We wish to thank the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program for their past support and seed companies for their in-kind contributions to conduct this field research.

Table 1. Yields from pumpkin cultivar performance trial.

Cultivar	Marketable lbs. per Acre	Marketable Fruit per Acre	Pounds per Plant	Average Fruit Weight (lbs.)	Average Fruit Diameter (inches)	Seed Source
Bellatrix	37,730 A	2,178.0B	25.98 A	16.86 A	11.20 A	EZ
Diablo	36,901 A	2,395.8B	25.41 A	14.88 ABC	11.22 A	SK
Cracker Jack	28,768 AB	2,250.6B	19.81 AB	12.20 BC	10.45 ABC	SK
Kratos	27,393 AB	1,887.6B	18.86 AB	14.31 ABC	10.83 AB	HM
Ares	25,158 AB	1,597.2B	17.32 AB	15.72 AB	9.75 C	SW
Warty Goblin	20,190 AB	1,742.4B	13.90 AB	11.23 C	9.97 BC	HM
Zeus	17,998 B	1,524.6B	12.39 B	11.80 C	10.43 ABC	HM
Fall Splendor Plus	15,891 B	4,356.0A	10.94 B	3.42 D	6.14 D	SW
Jack Sprat	11,211 B	4,138.2A	7.72 B	2.79 D	5.89 B	SK
LSD	17,768	1,595.7	12.23	3.79	0.94	NA

*Values with the same letter are not significantly different.