



Yield Comparison in Four Varieties of Cantaloupe

Cooperator: Will Lewis of Pecan Hill Farm

Author: Chadd Caperton CEA AG/NR

Jasper County

Summary Yield comparisons were done on 4 varieties of cantaloupe. Magnum 45, Tekos, Sugar Queen, and Minerva were sampled. Of the 4 varieties Tekos had the greatest average yield with 6 units per plant.

Objective The objective of this trial was to use a controlled setting with cantaloupe varieties Magnum 45, Tekos, Sugar Queen, and Minerva (in that all varieties received the same nutrient additive, water, and environmental conditions), to evaluate the yield of each of the four cantaloupe varieties grown on an irrigated field on that particular soil type (sandy soil type with a ph of 5.93).

Materials and Methods Magnum 45, Tekos, Sugar Queen and Minerva varieties were planted on rows 6 ft apart with plant spacing at 3 ft intervals. Each row was covered and hilled with black plastic under which T-Tape was used for controlled irrigation. Each transplant was planted with 3 tbsps of 16-6-12 (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) and also received 3 tbsps of "Quick Lime". During the trial period the crop received an estimated 4 inches of additional rainfall. Using the T-Tape, the crop was irrigated 3 separate times for 8 hours each time. The T-tape is rated for .45 gal/min/100ft of tape. The rows were 200ft long. This resulted in a total of 60 gal/hour for 8 hours for each of the three irrigation intervals.

The yield was recorded at harvest from each of the 4 varieties by the land owner and employees from 3 rows 30 ft long. An average yield per hill/plant was used for comparison.

Results and Discussion Out of the 4 varieties, Tekos had the highest yield /plant with an average of 6 units per plant followed by Magnum 45 and Sugar Queen both with an average of 4/plant and last was Minerva at 3 units/plant. However in regards to total yielded weight Minerva would likely had more yield than Sugar Queen or Magnum 45 due to the larger diameter of the cantaloupe. No data was recorded to support the observation. (Special note: the Master Gardeners and other participants in the Cantaloupe field day indicated Sugar Queen was the sweetest best tasting and textured variety followed by Tekos. Results were based on opinion only.

Conclusions The objective of the project was met. One variety, Tekos, clearly produced the most units per plant. To improve future trials it would be beneficial also to record total weight of the produce harvested to provide additional information on yield.

Acknowledgements Special thanks to Will Lewis and Pecan Hill Farm for the use of the land and cantaloupe crops for the trials. Also a special thanks to the Jasper County Master Gardeners and public who attended the field day.



Trade names of commercial products used in this report is included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.