2005 Winter Squash Variety Trial Results
Marshfield Agricultural Research Station and West Madison Research Station
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Introduction
UW-Extension fresh market produce research with the cooperation of the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station and West Madison Research Station initiated a winter squash variety trial in 2005. Results are intended to provide fresh produce growers with information to help guide variety selection decisions. Five varieties of acorn, butternut, and buttercup squash were examined for emergence, yield, plant health, and flavor characteristics.

At Marshfield, squash were started in peat pots in a greenhouse approximately a month prior to planting in the field. Plants were then transplanted in the research plots on May 25th once 2 true leaves developed. Three replications of each variety were planted in a row with plants 5 feet apart. Irrigation was performed with a drip-line system. Squash were harvested on September 21st.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Squash per Plant</th>
<th>Average Squash Size (pounds)</th>
<th>Total Squash Weight (pounds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acorn</td>
<td>Table Star</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33.6*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Table Treat</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Table Ace</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tay Belle</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>2.7*</td>
<td>38.2*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RAX 3102</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>24.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>28.7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butternut</td>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>5.7*</td>
<td>47.2*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugle</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>34.9</td>
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<td>Metro</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19.6</td>
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<td>JWS 6823</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waltham</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.1*</td>
<td>59.1*</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Buttercup</td>
<td>Bonbon</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>3.3*</td>
<td>31.2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orange Cutie</td>
<td>19.7*</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>50.6*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunspot</td>
<td>17*</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>38.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Super Delight</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>3.3*</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supreme Delight</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>3.3*</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>34.2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Superior Performing Varieties (0.10 significance)
### Butternut Squash

**Atlas**
- New in 2005
- Semi-bush hybrid
- Produced very large squash: up to 9 to 11 pounds
- Good texture
- 13 inches long X 5 inch base
- Available from Seedway and Siegers

**Bugle**
- Open pollinated variety
- Semi-bush growth
- High number of squash produced
- Variable shaped squash, some split
- Had significant powdery mildew
- 8 inches long X 4 inch base
- Available from Seedway and Rupp

**Metro PMR**
- New hybrid
- Very good germination and plant vigor
- Promoted as good powdery mildew tolerant but plants were heavily infected
- Barbell shaped squash
- 7 inches long X 4 inches wide
- Very good taste and texture
- Available from Johnny's

**JWS 6823 PMR**
- New hybrid
- Compact vine
- Low germination
- Blocky squash
- 6 to 7 inches long X 5 inches wide
- Available from Johnny's

**Waltham**
- Industry standard butternut variety
- Open pollinated
- Standard vine
- Very good germination and plant vigor
- Large fruit, 12 inches long X 5 inches wide
- Uniform size and shape
- Available from Rispens, Johnny's and Seedway

### Buttercup Squash

**Bonbon**
- New in 2005
- All American Selection
- Semi-bush hybrid
- Sweet, deep flavored flesh
- Dark green squash with a light blue base
- 5 inches tall X 6 inches wide, blocky shape
- Significant powdery mildew
- Available from Stokes and Johnny's

**Orange Cutie**
- New in 2005
- Semi-bush type
- 5 or 6 harvestable squash borne on a 20 ft vine
- Attractive orange squash
- 4 inches tall X 7 inches wide, flattened shape
- Strong squash flavor
- Available from Siegers and Stokes

**Sun Spot**
- New in 2005
- Small vine
- Replaces Gold Nugget
- Deep orange to red color
- 4 inches tall X 6 inches wide, round shape
- Powdery mildew weakened stalks
- Very good flavor
- Available from Rupp

**Super Delight**
- Industry standard
- Dark green squash
- 5.5 inches tall X 6.5 inches wide
- Consistent size
- Some cracking on squash
- Available from Rupp, Johnny's, and Seedway

**Supreme Delight**
- Vigorous hybrid
- Dark green squash
- 4 inches tall X 6 inches wide
- Erratic size and quality
- Good powdery mildew tolerance
- Very good flavor
- Available from Rupp

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