



1997 Commercial Vegetable Variety Trials - Pumpkins

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Seventeen commercially available pumpkin varieties were compared in a test at the Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station (elev. 1900 feet) in Blairsville, Georgia. Pumpkins were field-seeded on June 16, 1997 into a Transylvania clay loam soil. Plots consisted of single rows that contained an appropriate number of hills for each variety's plant habit. Vining types were planted with six hills per plot, semi-bush types with eight hills and bush types with 10 hills. Plots were 16 feet in length with eight feet between rows. The planting was arranged in a Randomized Complete Block Design with four replications.

Normal cultural practices were used for bare ground pumpkin culture in Georgia. Base fertilizer consisted of 300 pounds/A of 10-10-10 incorporated prior to planting followed by two sidedress applications of 10-10-10 (300 pounds/A each). Ethafluralin (0.75 lb a.i./A) was applied pre-emergence for weed control. Fungicide and insecticide applications were made according to Extension recommendations.

Pumpkins were harvested at maturity on October 8 and October 15, 1997. Data were collected on yield, fruit number and weight, rind color, texture and thickness, fruit shape and flesh color.

Variety Descriptions

Aspen - 90 days. Good handle, 15-20# has good shipping and storage qualities.

Atlantic Giant - 120 days. Variety grown for competitively large pumpkins. (50# and up).

Autumn Gold - 90 days. Fruit (7-10#) good for carving, cooking, fresh market.

Frosty - 95 days. Uniform 15-20# fruit used for shipping; cook or carve; stores well.

Big Autumn - 90 days. Heavy dark green stems on 12-18# fruit. Fresh market.

Big Max - 120 days. Fresh market fruit (50-200#) good for cooking, display.

Funny Face - 100 days. Ships and stores well, fruit (10-15#) good for carving or cooking.

Howden - 110 days. Old variety generally large fruited (20-30#). Stores well.

Connecticut Field - 115 days. Older variety used as Jack-o-lantern pumpkin (15-25#).

Jack-Be-Little - 95 days. Miniature (<1#) can store 6-8 months. Susceptible to mosaic virus.

Lumina - 100 days. White *maxima* type varies in shape (10-20#). Orange flesh.

Munchkin - 100 days. Miniature (<1#) fruit used for ornamental displays, carving.

Prizewinner - 120 days. Small handle on large (50-100#) fruit. Large seed.

Spirit - 98 days. 10-12# fruit good for cooking, carving; good shipping and storage.

Spooktacular - 95 days. Strong handle on 3-5# fruit. Very uniform.

Sweetie Pie - 95 days. Ornamental miniature (<1#) fruit can store up to eight months.

Wizard - 115 days. Precocious yellow matures from yellow to orange, 10-12# fruit.

Summary

Results are given in Table 1. Medium-large types yielding over 35,000# should be acceptable. Among minatures "Jack-Be-Litte" had superior performance. Yields in table are likely ~50% greater than should be expected due to plot to acre conversion.

Table 1. Yield, number, marketability and horticultural characteristics of 17 varieties of pumpkins grown at Blairsville, GA in 1997.

Variety	Sponsor	Vine Type	No. Fruit per Acre	Yield ² (lb/Acre)	Fruit Wt. (lbs.)	Percent Marketable	Rind ³ Color	Fruit Shape ⁴	Rind Texture ⁵	Rind Thickness (inches)	Flesh Color ⁶
Aspen (H)	Midwest	Semi-bush	2261	41739	19.38	78.8	1.90	2.73	2.95	1.68	4.00
Atlantic Giant*	Willhite	Vine	2093	64577	28.98	98.0	1.90	3.10	2.63	1.95	4.00
Atlantic Giant II* ¹	Willhite	Vine	681	32181	47.30	100	2.00	2.68	2.18	2.43	4.00
Autumn Gold (H)	Twilley	Vine	4288	38600	8.83	100	1.75	3.00	3.00	1.30	3.5
Big Autumn (H)	Midwest	Semi-bush	5280	74090	14.38	94.8	2.00	3.30	3.00	1.88	4.00
Big Max*	Twilley	Vine	1872	34340	18.38	93.8	1.73	2.33	2.15	1.53	4.25
Conn. Field*	Midwest	Vine	1616	33290	21.73	93.3	2.38	2.10	2.48	1.85	3.75
Frosty (H)	Twilley	Bush	4729	61261	12.90	88.5	1.65	3.03	3.00	1.25	3.25
Funny Face (H)	Twilley	Semi-bush	3172	42948	14.30	77.3	2.35	2.58	3.00	1.45	4.25
Howden	Midwest	Vine	1498	31547	20.70	84.0	1.00	3.60	3.00	1.93	4.25
Jack-Be-Little	Twilley	Vine	14286	6368	0.45	100	2.50	1.15	2.65	0.55	4.00
Lumina	Stokes	Vine	1543	10915	6.98	90.8	5.00	1.65	2.68	1.35	4.75
Munchkin	Willhite	Vine	9401	2488	0.25	100	2.10	1.00	2.75	0.68	4.00
Prizewinner (H)*	Stokes	Vine	1991	86795	43.90	95.3	2.00	2.48	2.88	2.58	4.00
Spirit (H)	Twilley	Semi-bush	3055	44509	18.23	84.0	2.15	2.80	3.00	1.93	3.75
Spooktacular (H)	Midwest	Vine	4237	23009	7.85	94.0	1.58	1.73	3.20	1.40	3.75
Sweetie Pie	Stokes	Vine	11196	3837	0.35	98.5	2.25	1.00	2.50	0.65	3.75
Wizard (H)	Willhite	Semi-bush	2868	51494	18.53	83.3	1.50	2.93	3.00	1.60	4.25
Mean of Test			4228	37999	16.69	91.9	2.09	2.40	2.78	1.55	3.97
L.S.D. (0.05)			3080	33099	8.31	14.20	0.74	0.78	0.47	0.56	0.78
C.V. (%)			51.34	61.36	35.09	10.89	24.91	22.89	11.95	25.23	13.60

Planting Date: June 16, 1997. Harvest Dates: October 8, 1997, *October 15, 1997. Randomized Complete Block Design, 4 replications, one-row plot, 16 ft. long x 8 ft. wide. Hills/plot: Vine-6, Semi-bush-8, Bush-10.¹Thinned to two plants per plot - one fruit per plant. ²Marketable Yield. ³Based on scale: 1=deep orange; 2=medium orange; 3=light orange; 4=yellow; 5=white. ⁴Based on scale: 1=flat; 2=round; 3=oval; 4=oblong. ⁵Based on scale: 1=coarse; 2=medium; 3=smooth. ⁶Based on same scale as rind color.