
DELAWARE SEEDLESS WATERMELON VARIETY TRIALS 2016-2017

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ABSTRACT

The 2016 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial included 35 varieties from ten participating companies. The purpose of this trial was to evaluate seedless watermelon varieties for yield, quality and maturity. Also included were two grafted treatments. The trial was conducted in a grower's field next to the University of Delaware, Carvel Research Center. The highest yielding varieties in the trial in terms of Marketable Yield were: Maxima, Talca, Premont, 7187, Crunchy Red, Grafted Fascination low population, Road Trip, SV7112WA, Wolverine, and Cut Above. The highest yielding varieties in the trial in terms of fruit/A were: Maxima, Talca, Premont, 7187, Crunchy Red, Grafted Fascination low population, Road Trip, SV7112WA, Wolverine, Cut Above, Unbridled, 7197, Wayfarer, Grafted Fascination, Traveler, ORS 6151, Razorback, and Neptune. Grafted Fascination (using interspecific Cucurbita rootstock) planted at 78% of population of ungrafted Fascination yielded 22% higher. Fruits were heavier and there were significantly more fruits in the second and third harvests compared to ungrafted Fascination. Yields of grafted Fascination planted at the same population as ungrafted Fascination were not statistically different from ungrafted plots. Fruit weight and size distribution information will also be presented along with fruit quality information. Results from 2017 variety trials will also be presented.