
Observations of Several Calabaza (Tropical Pumpkin) Cultivars in North Florida 99-04Robert C. Hochmuth¹, Lei Lani Leon²**Material and Methods**

A small observational Calabaza (tropical pumpkin) *Cucurbita muschata* (Duchesne) trial was conducted at the Suwannee Valley Research and Education Center near Live Oak, Florida in the Spring of 1999. The trial was conducted in Lakeland fine sand. Soil was fertilized with 400 lbs/A of 13-4-13 (N-P₂O₅-K₂O) including minor elements. Remaining N and K₂O was supplied via fertigation during the season resulting in a seasonal rate of 160 lbs/A of N and K₂O. Full-bed black polyethylene mulch culture and drip irrigation was used. Final beds were 24 inches wide and 6 inches high. Three week old transplants were established in unreplicated field plots on April 20, 1999. Four vining cultivars (Table 1) were planted at a 54 inch spacing on a 7.5 ft row spacing and four semi-bush cultivars were planted at 36 inch spacing on a 5.0 ft row spacing. Plots were harvested on July 7, 1999 and weights of each fruit recorded.

Observations

High yield among the vining types was found in 'La Segunda' (Table 1). Intermediate yield was found in 'Seminole' and 'La Primera'. Poor yield was found in 'Soler', a much later producing cultivar. Two semi-bush breeding lines 'G38-2-28 x La Primera' and 'G38-2-47 x Seminole' produced high yields of about 30,000 lbs/A.

Two lower yielding semi-bush breeding lines, 'C42 x La Segunda' and 'C42 x Seminole', produced about 15,500 lbs/A. The entry 'C42 x Seminole' produced cull fruit (4470 lbs/A) due to significant fruit cracks.

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Table 1. Yield, plant habit and average fruit weight of several calabaza cultivars and breeding lines.

Entry	Plant Habit	Marketable Yield		Cull Yield²		Avg Fruit Wt (lbs)
		No. Frt/A	lbs/A	No. Frt/A	lbs/A	
La Segunda	Vining	2,400	30,780	0	0	12.8
Seminole	Vining	2,630	16,260	0	0	6.2
La Primera	Vining	2,400	19,790	0	0	8.2
Soler	Vining	540	6,470	0	0	12.0
G38-2-28 x La Primera	Semi-bush	4,760	30,492	0	0	6.4
C42 x La Segunda	Semi-bush	3,940	15,620	0	0	4.0
G38-2-47 x Seminole	Semi-bush	6,040	30,140	0	0	5.0
C42 x Seminole	Semi-bush	4,760	15,450	700	4,470	3.6

²Culls were due to fruit cracks.