SEEDLESS WATERMELON VARIETY TRIAL RESULTS 2008

Emmalea Ernest

University of Delaware
Elbert N. & Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center
16483 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, DE 19947
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2008 University of Delaware Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial
Emmalea Ernest
University of Delaware
Elbert N. & Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center
16483 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 856-7303  emmalea@udel.edu

Introduction
The 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial included 31 varieties from eight participating companies. The purpose of this trial is to evaluate seedless watermelon varieties for yield, quality and maturity.

Materials and Methods
Location
Fields 38A & 38B at the University of Delaware Research and Education Center Farm, Georgetown, DE.

Cultural Practices
Field was fertilized according to soil test results. On May 19, 2008, the beds were shaped and black plastic mulch and trickle irrigation were laid on 8’ centers.

There were 31 entries in the trial this year. Plants were seeded in the greenhouse on April 8, 2008 and transplanted to the field on May 21, 2008. Field plots were one row (8 ft) wide and 30 ft. long. Plots were arranged in a randomized complete block design with three replications. In-row spacing was 3’ or 10 plants per plot except for the five mini watermelon varieties, which were planted with a 20” in-row spacing (18 per plot). Every third plot was planted in the pollenizer variety, ‘Jamboree’.

An application of Gramoxone Extra 2 pt/A + Sandea 0.75 oz/A + Sinbar 4 oz/A + Dual II Magnum 1.5 pt/A + Crop Oil Concentrate 0.16 qt/A was made with a hooded sprayer on June 16, 2008, just before the plants ran off of the plastic. Applications for disease and insect control were as follows: Bravo at 3 pt/A on 6-27, 7-5, 7-11, 7-18, 8-1, 8-9, 8-15, 8-22 and 8-30; Previcur Flex at 1.2 pt/A on 8-1; Pristine at 18 oz/A on 8-9; Nova at 5 oz/A on 8-22; and Lannate at 3 pt/A on 6-27.

Harvest
Melons were harvested four times: on July 21st, on July 27th, on August 11th, and on September 3rd. The weight of each watermelon harvested was recorded individually. Five melons from each plot were cut and evaluated for presence of hollow heart and soluble solids levels. Soluble solids were measured using a hand-held refractometer and hollow heart cracks were measured at their widest point with a metric ruler.
Results
Yields of each variety in lbs/A, as well as yield in lbs/A for each of the four harvests, are reported in Table 1. Overall yields of each variety in melons/A, and yield in melons/A for each of the three harvests are reported in Table 2. Table 3 lists the standard-sized varieties according to average melon weight and gives the percentage of melons in each of five weight classes: <8 lbs, 8-14 lbs, 14-18 lbs, 18-22 lbs, and > 22 lbs. Table 4 lists the mini watermelons according to average melon weight and gives the percentage of melons in each of five weight classes: < 3 lbs, 3-5 lbs, 5-7 lbs, 7-9 lbs and >9 lbs.

Table 5 reports the cumulative percent of total harvest for the four harvests and gives a clearer picture of the maturity of each variety. The mini watermelon varieties were generally earlier than the other varieties.

Table 6 lists the varieties according to their soluble solid measurements. Soluble solids averages are based on a 15-melon sample (5 melons per replication). There were significant differences in soluble solids among the varieties.

Table 7 lists the varieties according to the percent of melons with hollow heart. This table also gives the average width of the hollow heart in centimeters. Hollow heart averages are based on a 15-melon sample (5 melons per replication). Hollow heart incidence was very low in the trial this year and there were no significant differences in either the incidence or size of hollow heart among the varieties.

Photographs of the varieties included in the trial are in Appendix A.

Acknowledgements
The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of James Adkins, and our student summer worker, Chelsea Aydelotte for their assistance throughout the trial, and especially during harvest. I also thank Brian Hearn and the REC Farm Crew.
Table 1. 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial: Varieties by Yield in Lbs/A

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<th>Variety</th>
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* does not account for 1/3 of area planted to pollenizer **mini watermelon varieties
Table 2. 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial: Varieties by Yield in Melons/A

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\[
\text{LSD}_{0.05} \leq 0.0001
\]
\[
\text{p-value} \leq 1904.6
\]

* does not account for 1/3 of area planted to pollenizer **mini watermelon varieties
Table 3. 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial: Varieties by Average Melon Weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Mean Weight (lbs)</th>
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<td>0.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>83.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorbet (HSR 3750)</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>64.4</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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</table>
Table 4. 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial: Mini Varieties by Average Melon Weight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Mean Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>&lt; 3.00 lbs</th>
<th>3.01-5.0 lbs</th>
<th>5.01-7.00 lbs</th>
<th>7.01-9.00 lbs</th>
<th>&gt;9.00 lbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petite Crisp</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petite Envy</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>32.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pixie (3072)</td>
<td>7.6</td>
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<td>39.7</td>
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<td>Vanessa</td>
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<td>0.6</td>
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<td>42.9</td>
<td>24.1</td>
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<td>Little Deuce Coupe</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
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<td>Harvest 2</td>
<td>Harvest 3</td>
<td>Harvest 4</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
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<tr>
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<td>59</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>53</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melody</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>50</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bevo</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nun 6032</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperstown</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS 5244</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PX 8032-8134</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisp N Sweet</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>Crunchy Red</td>
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*mini watermelon varieties*
Table 6. 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial: Varieties by Soluble Solid Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>% Soluble Solids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>11.9 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pixie (3072)*</td>
<td>11.8 ab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Deuce Coupe*</td>
<td>11.8 abc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS 5244</td>
<td>11.5 abcd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>11.4 abcde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite Crisp*</td>
<td>11.3 bcdef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 2225</td>
<td>11.3 bcdefg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-X Triple Threat</td>
<td>11.3 bcdefg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crunchy Red</td>
<td>11.3 bcdefg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite Envy*</td>
<td>11.3 bcdefg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS 9570</td>
<td>11.3 bcdefg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 1704</td>
<td>11.3 bcdefg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody</td>
<td>11.2 cdefg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 2290</td>
<td>11.2 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nun 6032</td>
<td>11.2 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMX 4915</td>
<td>11.2 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millionaire</td>
<td>11.2 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorbet (HSR 3750)</td>
<td>11.1 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisp N Sweet</td>
<td>11.1 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa*</td>
<td>11.1 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-x 212</td>
<td>11.1 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS 7167</td>
<td>11.0 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-X 313</td>
<td>11.0 defg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PX 8032-8133</td>
<td>11.0 defg</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS 7187</td>
<td>10.9 efg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperstown</td>
<td>10.8 fg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bevo</td>
<td>10.8 fg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PX 8033-5335</td>
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<td>ACX 7125</td>
<td>10.8 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 2447</td>
<td>10.1 h</td>
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p-value <0.0001

LSD0.05 0.55

*mini watermelon varieties
Table 7. 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial: Percent of Melons with Hollow Heart and Size of Hollow Heart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>% Melons with Hollow Heart</th>
<th>Average Size of Hollow Heart (cm)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>SS 5244</td>
<td>13.333 a</td>
<td>0.08667 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.08667 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorbet (HSR 3750)</td>
<td>6.667 a</td>
<td>0.03333 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 1704</td>
<td>6.667 a</td>
<td>0.02667 a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petite Envy*</td>
<td>6.667 a</td>
<td>0.01333 a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crunchy Red</td>
<td>6.667 a</td>
<td>0.01333 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bevo</td>
<td>6.667 a</td>
<td>0.01333 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa*</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-X Triple Threat</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-x 212</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 2447</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 2290</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 2225</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS 9570</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
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<tr>
<td>SS 7187</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS 7167</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PX 8033-5335</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PX 8032-8134</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PX 8032-8133</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pixie (3072)*</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite Crisp*</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nun 6032</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millionaire</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Deuce Coupe*</td>
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<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMX 4915</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisp N Sweet</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperstown</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACX 7125</td>
<td>0 a</td>
<td>0 a</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>p-value</th>
<th>LSD&lt;sub&gt;0.05&lt;/sub&gt;</th>
<th>NS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*mini watermelon varieties
APPENDIX A:

Photographs of Varieties in the 2008 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial
Red-Fleshed Melons with Unconventional Rinds*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield (lbs/A)</th>
<th>Mean Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>Soluble Solids (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tri-X Triple Threat</strong></td>
<td>79924 (13)</td>
<td>11.5 (24)</td>
<td>11.3 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syngenta</strong></td>
<td>77981 (15)</td>
<td>12.5 (23)</td>
<td>11.3 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SS 9570</strong></td>
<td>72453 (20)</td>
<td>13.5 (17)</td>
<td>10.9 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abbott &amp; Cobb</strong></td>
<td>72543 (20)</td>
<td>13.5 (17)</td>
<td>10.9 (25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
Red-Fleshed Melons with Unconventional Rinds continued*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Mean Weight</th>
<th>Soluble Solids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PX 8032-8133</strong></td>
<td>68859 lbs/A (23)</td>
<td>13.5 lbs (17)</td>
<td>11.0% (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PX 8033-5335</strong></td>
<td>59401 lbs/A (28)</td>
<td>11.4 lbs (25)</td>
<td>10.8% (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ruby</strong></td>
<td>58820 lbs/A (29)</td>
<td>12.6 lbs (22)</td>
<td>11.9% (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Mean Weight</th>
<th>Soluble Solids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sorbet (HSR 3750)</td>
<td>49927 lbs/A  (31)</td>
<td>9.2 lbs   (27)</td>
<td>11.1% (18)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.*
### Red-Fleshed Melons*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield: lbs/A</th>
<th>Mean Weight: lbs</th>
<th>Soluble Solids: %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SS 7187</strong></td>
<td>106588</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abbott &amp; Cobb</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nun 6032</strong></td>
<td>102895</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nunhems</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crunchy Red</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harris Moran</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
Red-Fleshed Melons continued*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tri-X 313</th>
<th>Yield: 89265 lbs/A (5)</th>
<th>Mean Weight: 15.7 lbs (4)</th>
<th>Soluble Solids: 11.0% (22)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syngenta</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bevo</td>
<td>Yield: 88992 lbs/A (6)</td>
<td>Mean Weight: 15.0 lbs (9)</td>
<td>Soluble Solids: 10.8% (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siegers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC 2225</td>
<td>Yield: 86228 lbs/A (8)</td>
<td>Mean Weight: 16.6 lbs (2)</td>
<td>Soluble Solids: 11.3% (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamrock Seed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
### Millionaire

- **Yield**: 84976 lbs/A (9)
- **Mean Weight**: 15.0 lbs (9)
- **Soluble Solids**: 11.2% (13)

### Harris Moran

- **Yield**: 83828 lbs/A (10)
- **Mean Weight**: 15.9 lbs (3)
- **Soluble Solids**: 11.2% (13)

### SSC 2290

- **Yield**: 83450 lbs/A (11)
- **Mean Weight**: 14.5 lbs (13)
- **Soluble Solids**: 11.1% (18)

### Shamrock Seed

- **Crisp N Sweet**

### Siegers

*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.*
Red-Fleshed Melons continued*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>Mean Weight</th>
<th>Soluble Solids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACX 7125</td>
<td>82305 lbs/A (12)</td>
<td>15.5 lbs (6)</td>
<td>10.8% (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-X 212</td>
<td>79901 lbs/A (14)</td>
<td>14.1 lbs (16)</td>
<td>11.1% (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>77381 lbs/A (16)</td>
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*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
Red-Fleshed Melons continued*

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*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.*
Red-Fleshed Melons continued*

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*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
Red-Fleshed Melons continued*

SS 7167

Yield: 62672 lbs/A (25)
Mean Weight: 15.2 lbs (8)
Soluble Solids: 11.0% (22)

Abbott & Cobb

*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
## Mini Melons*

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*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.
**Mini Melons continued**

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*Numbers in parenthesis are the rank of the variety for this characteristic out of the 31 varieties.*
APPENDIX B:
Weather Summary for the 2008 Watermelon Variety Trial
May 21st (transplanting) – September 3rd (final harvest)
### Appendix B: Weather Summary for the 2008 Watermelon Variety Trial
May 21st (transplanting) – September 3rd (final harvest)

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