
CANEBRAKE

Agricultural Experiment Station,

UNIONTOWN, ALA.

BULLETIN NO. 2

OCTOBER, 1888.

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Report of Assistant Director.

EXPERIMENT WITH CANTALOUPE.

For the purpose of inquiring what varieties are best adapted to canebrake soils, sixteen varieties of cantaloupes were planted under identical circumstances March 24th, 1888, as follows: Beds were thrown up with a turn plow four feet apart, drills opened and the seed dropped every eighteen inches. When the vines commenced to run, they were thinned to one plant in the hill. A good stand was secured with all the varieties except the Prescott, Golden Jenny and Netted Pineapple. Not a seed of the Prescott vegetated. The Netted Pineapple produced only one vine, which bore one melon only. The Golden Jenny bore six melons on the same number of vines. All of the other varieties, except the Montreal and Montreal Market (which are identical in every respect), were prolific. These did not average one melon to the vine. The Pineapple from Landreth possessed the highest flavor. Pineapple from Thorburn was very large, and resembled Bay View very closely. Bay View was first in size and productiveness, and medium in flavor—would be classed as good. The late melons were destroyed by the borer. The only known preventive is early planting. The borer may be cut from the melon before he reaches the cavity without injury to the melon for table use, but this renders it unfit for market.

The following notes were made upon the varieties, as a partial guide to farmers in selecting varieties to be planted upon lands similar to those of this station. No one who cultivates an acre of land should fail to plant the cantaloupe. By fertilizing the soil very highly and planting thickly in the drill, as here directed, a very small area will afford an abundant supply for family use.

EXPERIMENT WITH CANTALOUPE.

VARIETIES.	Seedsman	1st Ripe.	Average Weight.	Weight of largest melon.	Size.
			lb	lb	
1. Acme	Landreth.	July 7th.	4.25	5½	Medium.
2. Bay View	"	" 9th.	7.25	9¾	Large.
3. "	Dreer.	" 3d.	9.75	13¾	Large.
4. Cassaba or Persian	"	" 7th.	7.50	9½	Large.
5. California Yellow Flesh	Landreth.	" 7th.	4.25	6	Medium.
6. Extra Early	"	" 6th.	2.75	4¾	Small.
7. Golden Jenny	Dreer.	" 9th.	1.75	3	Small.
8. Hackensack	Landreth.	" 6th.	8.00	10	Large.
9. Improved Orange	Thorburn	" 6th.	4.50	6¾	Medium.
10. Montreal	Landreth.	" 9th.	8.75	10½	Large.
11. Montreal Market	Dreer.	" 4th.	7.00	9½	Large.
12. Nettle Pineapple	"	" 4th.	2.50	2½	Small.
13. Prescott or Hardy Ridge	"	Failure.	Failure.	Failure.	Failure.
14. Pineapple	Landreth.	July 7th.	2.50	5	Small.
15. Pineapple	Thorburn	" 2d.	7.00	16	Large.
16. Ward's Nectar	"	" 5th.	2.75	5	Small.

TOMATOES.

One dozen plants each of twenty-four varieties of tomatoes were planted under identical circumstances.

A perfect stand of all of the varieties, except the Improved Large Yellow, was secured. Only eight seed of this variety vegetated, producing weak and inferior plants.

The Early Advance proved most prolific, the fruit small, round and very smooth.

Golden Trophy, Golden Queen and Prize Belle were also very prolific and of good size.

The Red Trophy and Selected Trophy produced the largest fruit, but were not prolific.

The following observations were made upon the varieties planted:

NOTES ON TOMATOES.

VARIETIES.	Prolificness.	When ripe	July 10th, First Picking.	July 21st, Second Picking.	Average Weight.
			lb oz	lb oz	oz
1. Beauty	Not prolific.	July 3d.	1-13	6-4½	5.39
2. Bronze Foliage Trophy	"	" 7th.	1-6½	5-1	6.90
3. Bermuda	"	" 5th.	1-8	5-2½	4.84
4. Conqueror	Prolific.	" 7th.	4-15	5-8	2.78
5. Essex Hybrid	"	" 3d.	2-12	3-5½	2.77
6. Early Jersey	"	" 6th.	2-3½	6-4	3.32
7. Early Advance	"	" 3d.	5-6½	8-5	2.57
8. Fege Improved	"	" 9th.	2-1	5-15	6.73
9. Golden Trophy	"	" 4th.	5-14½	9-12	5.44
10. Golden Queen	"	" 3d.	2-3	8-12½	4.08
11. Improved Large Yellow	Not prolific.	" 11th.	0-15	0-15	2.50
12. Improved Queen	Prolific.	" 3d.	4-2	6-12½	4.52
13. Ivory Ball	Not prolific.	" 9th.	0-1	1-14½	1.43
14. Liv. Beauty	"	" 5th.	3-12	3-3½	5.86
15. Liv. Favorite	"	" 10th.	1-14	2-15	6.41
16. Liv. Ea. Acme	"	" 4th.	0-11	1-13	3.63
17. Mikado	"	" 4th.	1-9	1-14	7.85
18. New Jersey	Prolific.	" 3d.	3-00	6-3½	5.46
19. Peach	"	" 9th.	0-14½	4-½	2.39
20. Paragon	Not prolific.	" 3d.	0-13	4-15½	5.78
21. Prize Belle	Prolific.	" 5th.	4-5	10-2½	5.32
22. Potato Leaf	"	" 3d.	2-11½	7-1	3.91
23. Red Trophy	Not prolific.	" 7th.	2-1	1-6	9.16
24. Selected Trophy	"	" 4th.	1-9½	3-14½	10.40

KEEPING QUALITIES OF IRISH POTATOES.

The nineteen varieties of Irish Potatoes of the Spring crop, the production of which was reported in Bulletin No. 1, were placed on the 3d of July in an open dry room, in which they remained until the 6th of August, when the following notes were made upon their condition, as to soundness:

Albino	None rotted.
Beauty of Hebron	None rotted.
Beauty of Beauties	Slightly rotted.
Clarke's No. 1	" "
Chas. Downing	" "
Dictator	None "
Empire State	Slightly rotted
Early Sunrise	" "
Garfield	" "
Great Eastern	None "
Mayflower	Slightly "
Morning Star	Badly "
New Giant	None "
Pearl of Savoy	Slightly "
The Thorburn	" "
Thorburn's Late Rose	" "
Sunlit Star	Badly "
Rose's Wild Rose	Very badly rotted.
White Star	" "

At the same time some of each variety were placed under the house and covered with straw, some upon the dry earth, and others in a box, and so arranged as not to touch each other; others

in the gin-house, in a dark dry room. These were examined at several different times, but no difference in their condition was perceptible. The different circumstances under which they were placed seemed to produce no effect upon the keeping qualities of the varieties. Those affected with scab rotted no worse than those that were exempt from it.

Rose's Wild Rose rotted worse than any other variety, caused apparently by a second growth which the tubers made.

The following varieties of Egg Plants were transplanted April 25th, and up to date, Sept. 21st, are full of fruit and continue to bloom:

	Ready for Table.	Size.	Prolificness.
Black Pekin.....	July 22....	Small.....	Not prolific.
Ex. Ea. Paris (Imported).....	" 17....	Large.....	Prolific.
New York Improved Long Purple.....	" 15....	Large.....	"

The Paris Imported and New York Long Purple were the most hardy and better suited for all purposes.

The Black Pekin was very prolific for the first two weeks, but did not continue in bearing like the Paris and New York Purple.

FRUIT TREES.

CULTIVATION VS. CLOVER SOD.

Inquiry as to the propriety of cultivating young orchards, or surrounding them with clover sod, is very often made.

The following observations made upon young apple and peach trees will throw some light upon the subject. All of the trees were transplanted at the same time, from the same invoice, in the Spring of 1886.

Corresponding differences are observed upon pears:

APPLES CULTIVATED.		Diameter of trunk in inches.	Height in feet.
1.	Hames.....	2	10
2.	Taunton.....	1 7/8	8 1/2
3.	Kentucky Red Streak.....	2	8
4.	Shannon Pippin.....	1 7/8	8
5.	Family.....	2 1/8	9
6.	Yopp's Favorite.....	1 3/4	9
APPLES ON CLOVER SOD.			ft. in.
1.	Kansas Queen.....	3/4	3-8
2.	Mrs. Bryan.....	7/8	4
3.	Washington Strawberry.....	3/8	3-8
4.	Cannon Pearman.....	1	5
5.	Mangum.....	1 1/8	4-6
6.	Carter's Blue.....	1	4-8
7.	Winesap.....	3/4	4-4

On apples cultivated, the growth of this year would average 24 to 48 inches, and on the clover sod there was not a single growth over 15 inches.

PEACHES ON CULTIVATED LAND.

VARIETIES.		Diameter of trunk in inches.	Height in feet.
Early Rivers.....	1 1/4	6	
Demming Sept.....	2 1/4	9	
Stonewall Jackson.....	2	6	
Ea. Tillotson.....	1 7/8	8	
Chinese Cling.....	2 1/2	9	
Elberta.....	2 1/2	7	
PEACH ON CLOVER SOD.			
Beatrice.....	7/8	4	

The growth of this year on the cultivated trees would average from 24 to 40 inches, while on the clover sod the growth did not average over 10 inches.

NOTE.—A variety of experiments were made with Wheat and Oats, but vitiated by inability to have them threshed until seriously injured by continued rain.