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WATERMELONS AND CANTALOUPE.

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WATERMELONS AND CANTALOUPEs.

J. S. NEWMAN AND JAS. CLAYTON.

Productiveness of Seed from different parts of the Melon.

This has been a question of interest to melon growers for a half century, and a few individuals reject the seed grown near the ends of the melon.

In order to test the matter by experiment, a melon, of the variety known as the sugar-loaf, was divided by cross sections into three parts, having each one-third of the longer axis of the melon. The seed were carefully picked from the three parts designated as the stem end, the middle and the blossom end. These were planted separately, under as nearly identical conditions as practicable, April 17th, 1891. The results are given below. While they are not conclusive they are *suggestive*. Seed have been saved from the ends and middle of melons from each plat for more elaborate inquiry.

SHOWING PRODUCTION FROM SEED TAKEN FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WATERMELON.

PLANTED APRIL 17TH, 1891.	Seed from Stem end.	Seed from Middle.	Seed from Blossom End.
First ripe melons.....	August 11	August 4.	August 7.
Proportion of melons ripe then in No..	1-2	6-7	5-6
Proportion of melons ripe by weight...	56 per ct.	88 per ct.	82 per ct.
Average weight of melons.....	23.2 lbs.	27.9 lbs.	24.4 lbs.
Total weight per acre.....	10.415 lbs.	14.076 lbs.	10.569 lbs.
Average weight per plant.....	23.2 lbs.	32.2 lbs.	24.4 lbs.

Only the merchantable melons were gathered for the test. The largest weighed 36.6 lbs. and came from the seed of the middle section. The smallest, 18 lbs., from the blossom end. The seed from the ends each produced 435 merchantable melons per acre, while those from the middle produced 507 per acre—in number, 72 more than either end—and in weight more than two tons in excess of the ends. The variation in the time of maturity is even more marked than that in production, the middles maturing six-seventh of the melons seven days earlier than the stem end ripened half. The time of ripening ranged from one hundred and nine to one hundred and sixteen days from date of planting. By reference to the table of results of comparison of varieties, it will be seen that the number of days required for maturing this variety ranges from one hundred and to one hundred and nineteen days. The longest period required by the earlier planted—seventeen days earlier—exceeded that required by the stem end only three days. It seems, therefore, that late planted melons require less time for maturing than those planted in early spring.

The seed for this experiment were saved from the melon when in good condition for eating. The seed towards the centre mature earlier than those at either end. Possibly the difference in results would be less marked if the melon was allowed to remain upon the vine until all of the seed were fully ripe. Further inquiry on this line is desirable.

COMPARISON OF VARIETIES.

The following tabulated statement of the characteristics of some popular varieties needs little comment. The season was unfavorable and hence none of the specimens attained to normal size.

Seed of a number of varieties left over in 1888 failed to vegetate.

These seed were purchased in 1888 from three of the most reliable Seedsmen, and it is presumed were grown in 1887. Melon seed are usually supposed to retain vitality for ten years—under the above supposition these were only four years old.

It is worthy of notice that there was only an extreme variation of six days in the time of ripening of the varieties.

As a combination variety for home use and market the Jones melon ranks first. It is not so good for shipping as the Kolb Gem, but superior in quality. It answers well to "top off" a car of Kolb Gems, or for local markets. The sugar-loaf gives great satisfaction for home consumption.

COMPARISON OF VARIETIES OF WATER MELONS AND OF SEED OF DIFFERENT AGES.

Plot No.	Names of Varieties.	Seedsman.	Time of ripening.	Average weight.	Length in inches.	Diameter in inches.	Color of Rind.	Color of Flesh.	Color of Seed.
1	Cuba.....	Experiment Station.....	July 21.	18	14½	7	dark green stripe	red	white with brown tips.
2	Cuban Queen.....	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3	Early Mountain Sprout	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4	Extra Early.....	Landreth, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5	Johnson's Christmas.	Alabama Dep't Agr'l, 1888	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6	Jones Melon.....	Philip Jones.....	July 21	30	12½	10½	dark green stripe	dark red..	whi'e with brown tips.
7	Jones Melon.....	Mark W. Johnson Seed Co.	July 23	30.6	14	10	dark green stripe	dark red..	white with brown tips.
8	Jordan's Gray Monarch	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9	Kolb Gem.....	Experiment Station.....	July 24	25	12½	9¼	white gr'n stripe	light red..	black.....
10	Mammoth Iron Clad..	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
11	Mountain Sweet.....	H. A. Dreer, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12	New Gragg.....	Livingston.....	July 23	16 8	10½	9	rattle snake	salmon & red	white with brown tips.
13	Pride of Georgia.....	Mark W. Johnson Seed Co.	July 21	16.1	10½	8½	dark green strip	red.....	white with brown tips
14	Seminole.....	Philip Jones.....	July 21	22	16	7¾	light gray	dark red..	brown
15	Sugar Loaf.....	Philip Jones.....	July 23	16 6	19	7	light gray.....	light red..	white with brown tips.
16	Sugar Loaf.....	Experiment Station.....	July 27	24 5	23	8	light gray ...	dark red..	brown
17	Sugar Loaf.....	I. I. Moses.....	July 27	20	21	7½	light gray	pale red..	black.....
18	Texas Melon.....	W. A. Henderson.....	July 21	20	15	11½	dark green strip	salmon ...	white with brown tips.
19	Texas Melon.....	I. I. Moses.....	July 23	23	16	13	dark green strip	red	white

COMPARISON OF VARIETIES OF WATER MELONS AND OF SEED OF DIFFERENT AGES—CONTINUED.

Plot No.	Names of varieties.	Seedsman.	Form.	Cavity.	Texture.	Quality.	
1	Cuba	Experiment Station.....	long.....	none...	firm.....	best.....	
2	Cuban Queen	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Failed to vegetate.
3	Early Mountain Sprout.....	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Failed to vegetate.
4	Extra Early	Landreth, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Failed to vegetate.
5	Johnson's Christmas.....	Alabama Dep't Agr'l, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Failed to vegetate.
6	Jones Melon	Philip Jones.....	roundish.....	none...	firm.....	best.....	
7	Jones Melon	Mark W. Johnson Seed Co.....	roundish.....	none...	firm.....	best.....	
8	Jordan's Gray Monarch.....	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Failed to vegetate.
9	Kolb Gem	Experiment Station.....	roundish.....	none...	very firm.....	good.....	
10	Mammoth Iron Clad.....	Thorburn, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Failed to vegetate.
11	Mountain Sweet.....	H. A. Dreer, 1888.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Failed to vegetate.
12	New Gragg.....	Livingston.....	roundish.....	none...	coarse and firm.....	very good.....	
13	Pride of Georgia.....	Mark W. Johnson Seed Co.....	roundish.....	none...	coarse.....	good.....	
14	Seminole	Philip Jones.....	long.....	none...	very firm.....	very good.....	
15	Sugar Loaf.....	Philip Jones.....	long.....	none...	coarse.....	good.....	
16	Sugar Loaf	Experiment Station.....	long.....	none...	very firm.....	best.....	
17	Sugar Loaf	I. I. Moses.....	long.....	medium.....	coarse.....	good.....	
18	Texas Melon.....	W. A. Henderson.....	roundish.....	none...	coarse.....	very good.....	
16	Texas Melon	I. I. Moses.....	roundish.....	none...	coarse.....	very good.....	

CANTALoupES.

More than ordinary attention has been given this delicious fruit with the hope of inducing its more general cultivation in the State.

In order to still further encourage it seed were distributed to every section of the State last winter.

Unlike the watermelon, the cantaloupe is most productive upon highly fertilized soil. While the watermelon grows to perfection only upon soils containing a large percentage of sand, the cantaloupe will produce well upon any character of soil which is fertile and in good mechanical condition.

Unlike the watermelon also it will thrive and produce best when planted thickly. Instead of planting in hills six feet apart, plant in rows *four feet* apart and *two feet* in the drill. Cultivate shallow in advance of the growth of the vines which should be disturbed as little as practicable.

The secret of success rests in :

- (a) Thorough preparation and fertilization of the soil.
- (b) Planting as *early as the season will allow*. To secure an early stand it is well to replant between the hills ten days after the first seed are planted. If the first come the replanted may be chopped out. If the first are killed the replants replace them promptly.
- (c) Cultivate early, frequently and shallow. Deep cultivation so mutilates the roots as to prevent fruitfulness. Watermelons bear upon the *main stem* of the vine. Cantaloupes bear upon the *laterals*.

The best quality usually accompanies thorough netting and green flesh. Thorough netting enables the melon to withstand the effects of the sun and escape "sun scald" to which all smooth surfaced varieties are subject in this climate. Varieties having yellow flesh are often sweet but invariably deficient in flavor. High flavor usually accompanies more or less coarseness of texture.

Cantaloupes should not be allowed to ripen fully upon the vines.

For shipment they should be plucked, with stem attached, just long enough before ripening to reach their destination becoming mellow, but not green enough to cause wilting.

For home use pluck when the stem readily separates from the melon under gentle pressure, and store in a cool place to mellow.

If plucked at the proper stage of ripeness the desirable state of mellowness will be reached in twenty-four hours.

Both watermelons and cantaloupes for home consumption should be plucked early in the morning, while freshened by the dew and the cool atmosphere of the night. The tabulated statement which follows gives in condensed form observations made upon twenty-five varieties during the past summer. The classification adopted by the American Pomological Society, the highest authority on such matters, has been retained instead of the usual grading from one to ten as giving, in connection with other observations, a clearer idea of the comparative merits of the varieties.

The observations are made upon a large number of fully developed, typical melons of each variety from day to day during the season of ripening. From these daily records the summary is tabulated.

“Good,” “very good” and “best” in the last column is easily understood and taken in connection with the information conveyed in other columns should furnish sufficient guide for selection even to the novice.

COMPARISON OF VARIETIES OF CANTALOUPEs.

Plot No.	Names of Varieties. Planted March 30th.	Seedsman.	Time ripe.	Average wt. in lbs.	Form.	Netting.	Length in inches.	Diameter in inches.	Cavity.
1	Acme.	Landreth	July 4.	3.2	oblong.	perfect.	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	medium.
2	Atlantic City	Landreth	June 29.	3.6	oblong.	medium	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	medium.
3	Banquet	Livingston.	July 10.	3	roundish	perfect	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	small
4	Delmonico	J. A. Everett	June 29.	4.2	oblong.	imperfect.	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	small
5	Extra Early Cape May	Landreth	June 29.	4.4	flat	imperfect.	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	medium.
6	Extra Early Hackensack	Landreth	July 1.	6	roundish	perfect	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	large
7	Extra Early June.	Landreth	July 3.	5.1	flat	perfect	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	medium.
8	Golden Jenney (same as Jenney Lind)	Landreth	July 3.	1.5	flat.	imperfect.	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	medium.
9	Grower's Pride.	J. A. Everett.	July 1.	6.1	flat.	none.	6	8	large.
10	Improved Montreal Market	J. A. Everett.	June 29.	5.3	roundish	imperfect.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	large.
11	Improved Pine Apple	Newman	July 4.	2.1	oblong and pointed	perfect.	7	5	medium.
12	Livingston's Market Nutmeg	Livingston.	July 7.	3.7	roundish	imperfect.	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	medium.
13	Malta Winter Red Flesh	N. B. & G. Co.	July 21	6.4	roundish	none	8	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	large
14	Netted Gem	Landreth	July 1	1.3	roundish	perfect.	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	4	medium.
15	Netted Nutmeg.	Landreth	June 28.	2.1	roundish	perfect	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	small.
16	New Giant.	Livingston	July 7.	5.6	roundish	none.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	large.
17	Nixon	Philip S. Jones	July 4	5.5	oblong	perfect	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	large
18	Nutmeg	Bolgiano & Son.	July 2.	4	roundish	perfect	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	medium.
19	Osage	J. A. Everett.	July 4.	2.6	roundish	none.	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	large
20	Persian	Bouk & Hupert	July 6.	3.3	round	none.	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	medium.
21	Shumway's Giant.	Bouk & Hupert.	July 10	7	roundish	none.	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	large.
22	Shumway's Giant.	J. A. Everett.	July 10	9	flat	none.	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	large.
23	Washington Market.	Buist.	July 10	5.6	roundish	imperfect.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	large
24	Wilson Winter Pine Apple	Hallock	July 21.	6.4	roundish	none.	8	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	large
25	Tours Sugar	Hallock	July 16	1.3	round	perfect.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	small.

COMPARISON OF VARIETIES OF CANTALOUPE—CONTINUED.

Plot No.	NAMES OF VARIETIES.	Seedsman.	Color of Flesh.	Texture.	Thickness of rind.	Thickness of flesh.	Corrugations.	Flavor.
1	Acme	Land eth.	light green	medium	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	medium	very good.
2	Atlantic City	Land eth.	green with red tint	coarse and soft.	$\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{8}$	medium	best
3	Banquet	Livingston	yellow.	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{3}{8}$	shallow.	none
4	Delmonico	J. A. Everett	yellow.	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	shallow.	none
5	Extra Early Cape May	Landreth	light green.	coarse and soft	$\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	deep	very good.
6	Extra Early Hackensack	Landreth	green.	coarse and soft.	$\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	deep	good.
7	Extra Early June.	Landreth	green	coarse and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	deep	very good.
8	Golden Jenney (same as Jenney Lind)	Landreth	green	coarse and soft	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	shallow.	best.
9	Grower's Pride	J. A. Everett.	yellow.	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	medium	good
10	Improved Montreal Market	J. A. Everett.	light green	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	deep	good.
11	Improved Pine Apple	Newman	deep green	coarse and firm.	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	medium	best
12	Livingston's Market Nutmeg	Livingston.	whiteish green	fine and soft	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	shallow.	very good.
13	Malta Winter Red Flesh	N. B. & G. Co.	yellow	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	deep	none
14	Netted Gem	Landreth	deep green.	fine and soft	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	shallow.	best
15	Netted Nutmeg.	Landreth.	green.	coarse and soft	$\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	shallow.	best
16	New Giant	Livingston	yellow.	medium	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	deep	none
17	Nixon	Philip S. Jones	green with red tint	coarse and soft	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	medium	very good.
18	Nutmeg	Bolgiano & Son	light green	coarse and soft.	$\frac{1}{8}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	shallow.	very good.
19	Osage,	J. A. Everett	yellow	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	medium	none
20	Persian	Bouk & Hupert	yellow	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{8}$	1	shallow.	none.
21	Shumway's Giant	Bouk & Hupert	yellow.	medium	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	deep	good
22	Shumway's Giant	J. A. Everett	yellow	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	shallow.	good
23	Washington Market	Huish.	light green	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	deep	very good.
24	Wilson Winter Pine Apple	Hallok	yellow.	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{8}$	deep	none.
25	Tours Sugar	Hallok	yellow.	fine and firm	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	none	none

