

TITLE OF PROJECT: Processing cucumber multipick trials - 2006

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METHODS: A cultivar trial was established on a Brookston clay loam sand spot phase soil on the Ridgetown College research farm. Nitrogen fertilizer was applied at a rate of 100 kg/ha. Potash and phosphorous applications were based on the results of soil tests.

The multipick trial had a row spacing of 1.5 m and plants were spaced 15 cm in the rows for a final population of 17 777 plants/acre (44 444 plants/ha). The rows were 8.0 m in length, and 6.0 m were harvest per row over 3 replicates. The trial was seeded on 16 June and harvest began on 28 July. Downy mildew was noted and alternate weekly sprays of Cabrio, Bravo, and Bravo plus Dithane began on 14 July. Regardless of the fungicide spray program, the disease destroyed the plots and picking ceased on 17 August. A total of 3 harvests were made.

Weeds were controlled with Command applied preplant; weed escapes were controlled by hand hoeing. Two hives of honeybees were placed adjacent to the plots when the first flowers were present to aid in pollination.

The trial was irrigated with Netafim Streamline drip tubing. Irrigation scheduling was based on tensiometer values (turned on if soil water tension falls below -30 cb) and accumulated rainfall; a target of 1" per week was used.

DATA COLLECTION: Harvested cucumbers were graded according to commercial Ontario standards. Samples were not provided for brining in 2006 due to low yields because of downy mildew. Yield and \$/ac data includes grades 1-4; yields do not include nubs and crooks. Early yields are based on the first 2 harvests. Yield data is sorted by descending \$/ac.

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS: The trials were established as a randomized complete block design with three replications. A single plot consisted of 1 row, 8.0 m in length and 1.5 m wide.

Table 1. Processing Cucumber Advanced Multipick Trial. Ridgetown College, 2006.

Cultivar	Source	Yield			
		T/acre		\$/acre	
		Early	Total	Early	Total
Pony O		1.04 b	2.48 a	341 bc	581 a
Eclipse		1.53 a	1.94 bc	493 a	574 a
Fancipak T		0.77 bc	2.34 ab	289 cd	512 a
Wainwright (Nun 5512)		1.04 b	1.49 c	414 ab	497 a
Vlasset T		0.81 bc	0.95 d	325 bc	375 b
Jackson C		0.59 c	1.49 c	211 d	367 b