Pumpkin Cultivar Performance Observation Trial
Grown in Southern Ohio — 2013

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Objectives
The objectives of this trial were to screen new pumpkin variety releases (2012-2013) for their production performance under southern Ohio growing conditions and to evaluate yield potential and fruit quality characteristics for the southern Ohio area.

Materials and Methods
This trial evaluated four pumpkin cultivars for their production suitability, performance, and quality attributes under southern Ohio growing conditions. Cultivar selections were new releases along with industry standard varieties. Input was received from seed companies, growers, and industry personnel regarding variety selection and standard comparison.

Seeds were direct seeded to the field on June 12. Rows were spaced 10 feet apart with seeds planted 3 feet apart in the row. The observation trial was located in southern Ohio at the Ohio State University South Centers field research trials in Piketon, Ohio (lat. 39.07°N, long. 83.01°W, elevation 578 ft.). Prior to planting, 100 pounds of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O per acre were applied. A standard commercial fungicide and insecticide program was implemented, following recommendations from the Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers (Purdue Extension publication ID-56). Weeds were controlled with cultivation and hand hoeing.

Results and Discussion
Overall plant and fruit quality were good in the 2013 season. Drip irrigation was applied as needed throughout the growing season. Overall fruit yield and quality were good for this trial. Fruit were harvested on September 24.

This season’s pumpkin screening contained jack-o-lantern, large-size, and pie-type pumpkins. Marketable pounds per acre ranged from a high of 17,920 (Monster Smash) to a low of 6,044 (Jack Sprat) pounds per acre. Average fruit weight ranged from a high of 22.89 (Monster Smash) to a low of 2.31 pounds (Jack Sprat).

We wish to thank the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program for their past support and seed companies for their in-kind contributions to conduct this field research.
Table 1: Yield responses for fresh market pumpkin cultivars grown in southern Ohio (Piketon), 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>Marketable Fruit per Acre</th>
<th>Marketable Pounds per Acre</th>
<th>Average Fruit Weight (lbs.)</th>
<th>Seed Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid Gold</td>
<td>956.52</td>
<td>8,296</td>
<td>8.67</td>
<td>Rupp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freddie</td>
<td>782.60</td>
<td>7,320</td>
<td>9.35</td>
<td>Seedway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monster Smash</td>
<td>782.608</td>
<td>17,920</td>
<td>22.89</td>
<td>Rupp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Sprat</td>
<td>2,608.69</td>
<td>6,044</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>Seedway, Sakata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>