

Gaston Grower Spotlight- September/October 2021



Growing Our Knowledge

The [Somethin' Pumpkin](#) event has become a community activity that our office looks forward to year after year. Pumpkins are a crop grown throughout our state. Pumpkin is better suited for some of our state's cooler summer environments, not necessarily Gaston County. However, with increased community interest in pumpkins as a crop, and growing interest of farm owners in agritourism, it is a crop worth being examined in order to help our farmers learn more. Cooperative Extension of Gaston County set out this past June (22nd) to get seeds in the ground and begin to form a better baseline for what pumpkin production in Gaston County may look like. The idea behind this study was to use few inputs in order to access the challenges that growers may face, and to obtain an understanding of what cultivars may be better suited for our area. Pictures and results from our September harvest are posted below, a more detailed report can be found [here](#).

Mini Pumpkins



Novelty Pumpkins



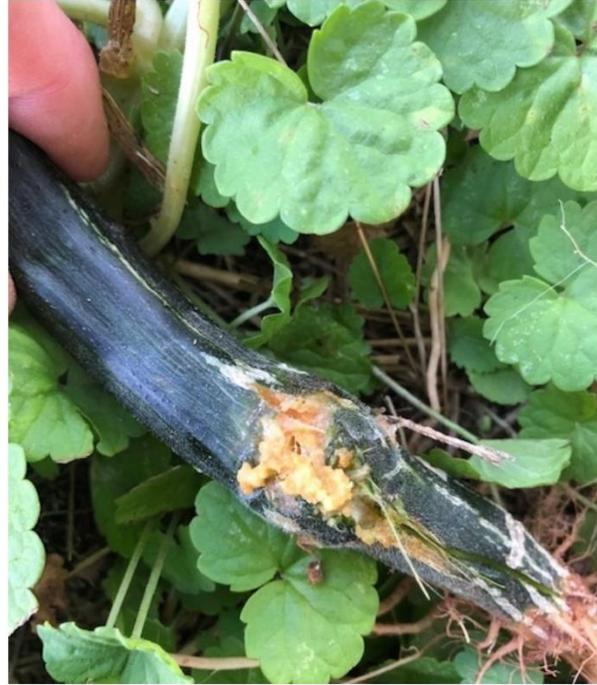
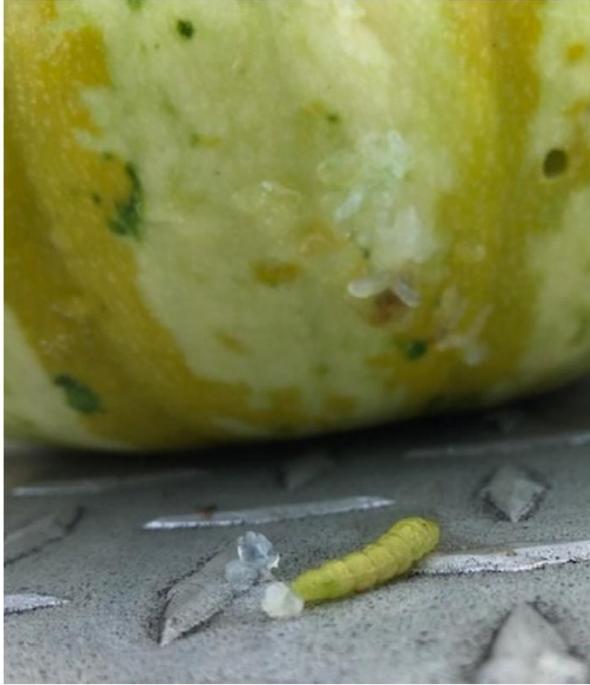
Small Pumpkins



Medium Pumpkins



Challenges



Marketable Fruit totals were hindered by pickle worm (top left) pressure within the trial (no insecticides were used). Squash vine borer damaged 70% of the plants within the trial, impacting yield and fruit weight. Weed pressure may have also impacted yields, mulched row middles (bottom) helped slow weed development but as pest pressure impacted vine health weeds began to flourish again.

Variety	Plants Germinated	Marketable Fruit Total	Average Weight/Fruit	Marketable Fruit/ Acre	Tons/Acre
Gold Dust	(28/40) 70%	139	0.4lbs	7,569	1.51
Crunchkin	(29/40) 72.5%	76	0.5lbs	4,138	1.03
Orangita	(32/40) 80%	128	0.8lbs.	6,970	2.79
Kandy Korn Plus	(30/40) 75%	73	0.9lbs	3,975	1.79
Jack Sprat*	(13/20) 65%	19	2.4lbs	1,035	1.24
Casperita	(35/40) 87.5%	178	0.7lbs	9,692	3.39
Moonbeam	(15/20) 75%	22	6.8lbs	1,198	4.07
Blaze	(34/40) 85%	133	2.1lbs.	7,242	7.6
Flat Stacker	(18/20) 90%	28	15.6lbs.	1,525	11.9
Black Cat	(36/40) 90%	168	1.3lbs	9,148	5.95
Pick-a-Pie	(15/20) 75%	60	2.7lbs	3,267	4.41
Kakai*	(10/20) 50%	7	4.9lbs	381	0.93
Neon	(15/20) 75%	23	8.0lbs	1,252	5
Bisbee Gold	(15/20) 75%	50	3.8lbs	2,723	5.17
Cinnamon Girl PMR	(18/20) 90%	57	2.4lbs	3,104	3.76
Jack of All Trades*	(9/20) 45%	15	11.1lbs	817	4.53
Orange Sunrise*	(7/20) 35%	5	11.1lbs	272	1.51
Magic Wand*	(7/20) 35%	6	8.7lbs	327	1.42
Kratos*	(8/20) 40%	9	12.4lbs	490	3.04
Gold Standard	(18/20) 90%	37	7.9lbs	2,015	7.96



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Gaston County Center, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy, Citizens Resource Center, Dallas, NC 28034