



Zucchini Variety Trial – University of New Hampshire – 2010 and 2011

Seeded: 5/17/10 and 5/25/11; Transplanted: 6/4/10 and 6/10/11.

Grown in Durham, NH in a randomized complete block design, 4 replicates, 6 plants per plot. Plants were spaced 18" apart in rows 7' between centers on raised beds covered with Biotelo biodegradable black plastic mulch. One application of carbaryl was made to control striped cucumber beetle.

In 2010 and 2011, eleven green and five yellow zucchini varieties were evaluated in a replicated field trial. Fruits were harvested every Mon, Wed and Fri from 7/2-8/20 in 2010, and from 7/11-8/19 in 2011. Season-long results from both years are shown below:

Cultivar ^a	Color	Rank Order Yield (no. fruit) ^b		Rank Order Yield (weight)		Rank Order Avg. fruit size	
		2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
<i>Green Zucchini</i>							
Cashflow (JSS)	Medium green	3	2	1	1	5	8
Dunja (HM)	Dark green	-	13	-	11	-	5
Midnight Lightning (HM)	Dark green	8	8	9	10	8	9
Partenon (JSS)	Medium green	-	12	-	9	-	4
Payroll (SW)	Medium green	4	4	4	4	4	6
Plato (JSS)	Dark green	5	3	7	5	6	10
Reward (H)	Medium green	1	6	2	8	7	7
Spineless Beauty (H)	Medium green	9	11	5	6	2	2
Spineless Perfection (R)	Dark green	-	10	-	7	-	3
Tigress (H)	Medium green	5	5	3	2	3	1
Zucchini Elite (H)	Medium green	10	-	6	-	1	-
<i>GoldenYellow Zucchini</i>							
Golden Delight (R)	Bright yellow	-	9	-	13	-	12
Golden Glory (R)	Bright yellow	-	7	-	12	-	11
Golden Rod (H)	Bright yellow	-	1	-	3	-	13
Meteor (JSS)	Bright yellow	2	-	8	-	9	-
Sebring (JSS)	Bright yellow	7	-	10	-	10	-

^a Seeds provided by or purchased from Harris Seeds (H), High Mowing Seeds (HM), Johnny's Selected Seeds (JSS), Rupp (R) or Seedway Seeds (SW).

^b Ranks range from 1 = greatest to 10 or 13 = least.

Of the green zucchinis, Reward, Cashflow, Payroll, Tigress and Plato were among the four top yielding varieties in at least one year. Across both years, Cashflow and Payroll consistently had the highest yields (both in terms of number of fruit and weight). Zucchini Elite, Spineless Beauty, Spineless Perfection, Dunja, Partenon and Midnight Lightning were among the lowest yielding varieties; several of these (Zucchini Elite, Spineless Beauty, Spineless Perfection, as well as Tigress) had the largest fruits, which may have reduced fruit set.



In general, the yellow zucchini varieties produced smaller fruits and had lower yields. However, two yellow varieties outperformed most green varieties. In 2010, Meteor had the second highest yields in the trial; and in 2011, Golden Rod had the highest yields (over 25 fruit per plant).

Partenon was the only parthenocarpic zucchini in the trial. This variety can set fruit without pollination, and may be particularly suited to high tunnel or greenhouse culture. Fruits of this variety often had large unopened flowers attached to their blossom end (see photos).

Zucchini varieties generally have fewer spines and more open growth habits than yellow summer squash. Spineless Beauty, Spineless Perfection, Dunja, and Plato were notably spine-free in our study.

On August 9, 2011 each plot was evaluated for powdery mildew (PM) severity on a 0-5 scale (0 = no visible sporulation, 5 – all leaves and petioles show heavy sporulation). Only two varieties showed consistent tolerance; Dunja (all plots had a rating of 1), and Golden Glory (all plots were rated 2). All other varieties had average ratings of 2.5 or greater.

For more info, please contact Becky Sideman at becky.sideman@unh.edu.

Golden Delight

Golden Glory

Golden Rod



Sebring

Meteor

Cashflow





Dunja

Midnight Lightning

Plato



Partenon

Payroll

Reward



Spineless Beauty

Spineless Perfection

Tigress



Overall Trial

Partenon fruits with flower buds

Zucchini Elite

