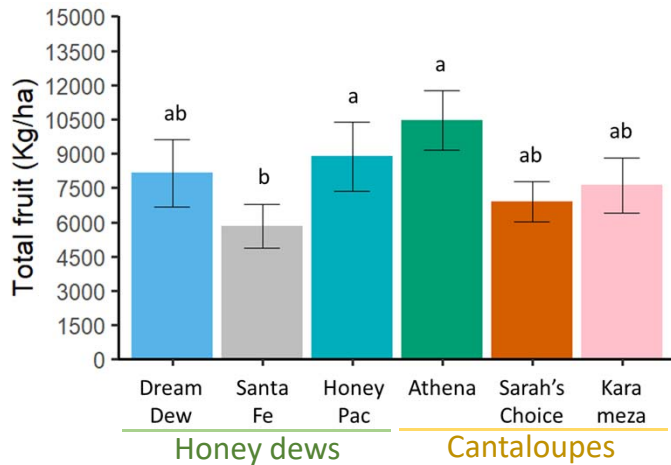


What do we do?

- Evaluation of melon varieties that can perform well in our area.
- Studies on melon grafting to improve production.
- Melon responses to:
 - Drought and irrigation management
 - Mulch type

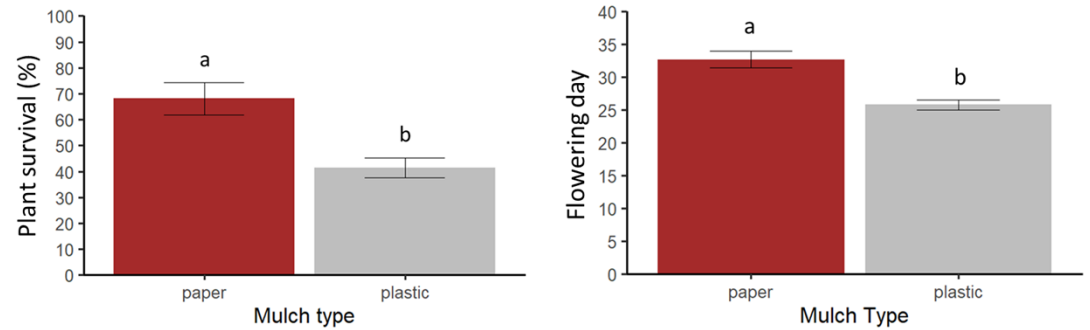
Variety trials with the Desert Farming Initiative



- Most varieties had similar yields (two year trials).
- Athena and Honey Pac are the highest yielding.



Plastic vs paper mulch



- Paper mulch increased survival of plants.
- Plastic mulch resulted in earlier flowering and fruit set.
- Yield was higher under paper mulch.

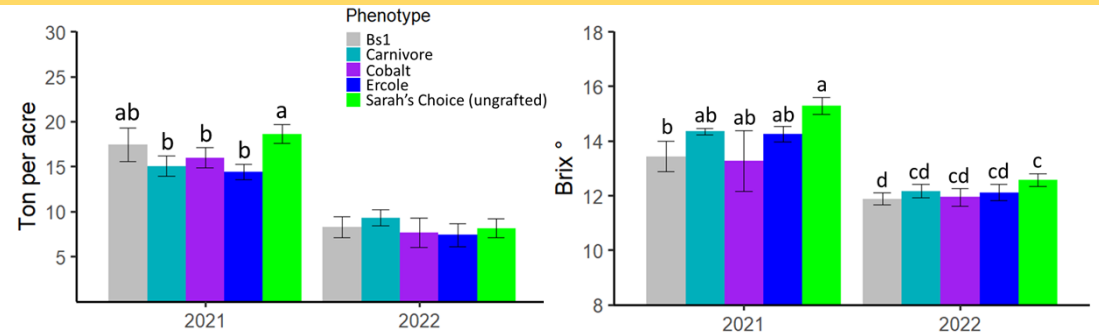


Photos by Wendy Hanson



- Squash bugs do not affect melon production.
- Melon grafting onto squash-hybrid rootstock.

Grafted melons



- Grafting did not improve yields of Sarah's Choice cultivar (left figure: Fallon location).
- Ungrafted plants had more consistently sweeter melons.

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