

University of Nevada, Reno

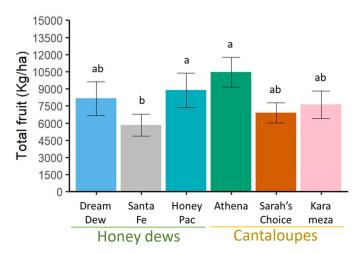
Melon Performance, Yield and Fruit Quality in High-Desert Climates

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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 100 90 35 Plant survival (%) 80 Flowering day 70 60 50 30 20 plastic paper plastic paper

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

Mulch type





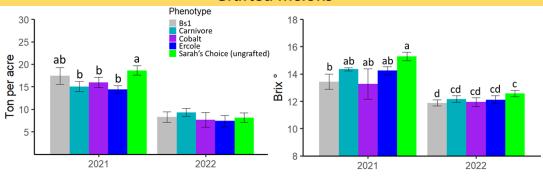




Mulch Type

- 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.

Acknowledgements

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