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

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.

Grafted melons

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

Acknowledgements

To Rick Lattin and farm personnel for their consistent support on field research in Fallon, NV. This material is based upon work supported by USDA-NIFA through the WSARE program under project number SW20-918, the NV DRIVE fellowship at the University of Nevada, Reno, and the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service through a Nevada Department of Agriculture subgrant SCB2010-07.

**Plastic vs paper mulch**

**Grafted melons**