

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

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SUMMER SQUASH AND ZUCCHINI SQUASH INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT FIELD GUIDE

Year Prior to Planting Squash

PROCEDURE	HOW TO SAMPLE	USE OF THIS INFORMATION	ADDITIONAL NOTES
Analysis of Soil Texture, Organic Matter, and pH	Using a county soil map, identify the different soils in the field. Take a sample from each area where soil types differ. Submit to lab for mechanical of texture and for analysis of Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), organic matter (OM), and pH.	With this information an integrated weed management program can be designed using cultural and/or chemical controls for each soil type in a field. Soil type and pH differences within a field affect rate of application, carryover and other interactions.	Mechanical analysis generally only needs to be done once unless there is significant erosion or changes in cropping patterns. CEC and pH should be analyzed annually. Organic matter analysis should be done every 5 - 10 years.

Pre-Harvest of Current Crop

Scout once prior to harvest to determine weed potential for next year's squash crop.

Weeds	Sampling	Threshold	Notes
Horsenettle Groundcherry Yellow Nutsedge Canada Thistle Common Milkweed Hemp Dogbane Bindweed spp. Johnsongrass Bermudagrass (277, 1326)*	Scout field in a zigzag pattern. Sample 10 random locations 1 square yard in size or 10 ft. of row, whichever pattern best suits existing conditions. Map the location of these weeds.	presence	Select control measures to eradicate these perennials for the next cropping season. See "Postharvest Perennial Weed Control" for treatment options. (292)
Summer Annuals, Black Nightshade, Hairy Nightshade, Common Cocklebur, Jimsonweed (277, 1326)	Scout as outlined above for the presence of existing weeds. Potential weed problems are best identified by a non treated weedy check. Identify the weeds and count # of each species. Note whether specific weeds are scattered throughout the field or predominate in one area of the field.	Number of weeds/10 ft. of row or 1 sq. yd. < 1 weed = very light 1-4 weed = light 4-10 weeds = medium 10-100 weeds = heavy > 100 weeds = very heavy	Untreated check provides most reliable information for planning the weed control strategy for the coming season.

Production Year

Pre-planting Decisions

1. Use the information obtained from the previous year's scouting to select recommended control strategies for those weeds.
2. Use weed maps of perennial weeds to determine if fall cleanup program eradicated these weeds.
3. Match preplant incorporated and preemergence herbicide rates to soil type and percent organic matter in each field. (292)
4. Consider using the stale seedbed technique to reduce weeds emerging from top inch of soil during production of the crop.

Emergence to Four Leaf Stage (Three weeks after planting)

Weeds	Sampling	Frequency	Threshold	
Zero Tolerance Weeds (ZTW) = Nightshades, Horsenettle, Yellow Nutsedge, Morning Glory, Jimsonweed, Common Cocklebur, Canada Thistle, Common Milkweed, Hemp Dogbane, Bindweed spp., Johnsongrass, Bermudagrass, Quackgrass	In a zigzag pattern, scout 1 sq. yd. in 5 random locations and 10 ft. of row in another 5 random locations. Identify and count # of each weed species. Map location of zero tolerance weeds. Determine whether weeds are predominantly within the row or between rows.	Once, approximately 3 weeks after planting.	# weeds/10 ft. row or 1 sq. yd. ZTW: Presence Summer annuals: < 0.25 weed 0.25 - 1 weed > 1 weed	Action Control required. None Control may be required. Control required
Summer Annuals			Whether weeds are within the row or between the row determines if cultivation will be an effective control.	
All Weeds	Same as above.	1 week after control measures are implemented from the 3 week scouting.	This information is used to evaluate how well controls worked.	

Five to Six Weeks after Planting

Weeds	Sampling	Frequency	Threshold	
Zero Tolerance Weeds Summer Annuals	In a zigzag pattern, scout 1 sq. yd. in 5 random locations and 10 ft. of row in 5 random locations. Identify and count # of each weed species. Map location of zero tolerance weeds. Determine whether weeds are predominantly within the row or between rows.	Once, approximately 5 -6 weeks after planting.	# weeds/10 ft. row or 1 sq. yd. Zero Tolerance Weeds: Presence Summer annuals: < 0.25 weed 0.25 - 1 weed > 1 weed	Action Control required. None Control may be required. Control required

Pre-Harvest

Weeds	Sampling	Frequency	Threshold	Notes
Perennial or Zero Tolerance Weeds (see list above) Annuals	Scout one square yard in 5 random locations and 10 ft. of row in another 5 random locations in the field. Map location of perennial weeds.	Once, prior to harvest.	presence	Use this scouting information to determine if there are weeds present that will interfere with harvest. Use the information about perennial weeds to plan a cleanup program after squash harvest.

*Bolted numbers in parenthesis indicate sources of additional information found in the Mid-Atlantic IPM database by this special reference number.

Scouting procedures, thresholds, and crop management recommendations have been compiled from a number of sources and may not be valid for all areas within the Mid-Atlantic Region. They are meant to be used as guidelines. As such, they should be validated on small acreages before relying on them. No guarantee of their validity, success, or failure to perform in the field is implied or expressed. Consult your local Cooperative Extension Agent for additional information or assistance.