

WINTER SQUASH EVALUATION IN NORTHERN NEVADA

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ABSTRACT

Recently, the local community has gained immense knowledge of eating local and seasonal commodities through educational activities provided by food hubs and Extension outreach efforts, which have boosted the market demand for locally grown produce. This increased demand and thus consumption has sparked the stakeholder's need and interest in specialty crop production in northern Nevada. Based on identified needs, a winter squash variety trial was conducted at one of the stakeholders' fields in Fallon in 2020 to test squash varieties for production potential. The objective of this research and the educational project was to evaluate the new variety of winter squash, 898 with concentrated sweetness, flavor, beta-carotene, and mature in 110 days, and compare the outcome with already existing two varieties (Honey nut and Waltham). Based on the results of this trial, the 898 variety yielded the highest with the production of 33 tons/ac of winter squash; however, the honey nut variety yielded the lowest of 24 tons/ac. The Waltham variety produced the largest squashes yielding 30 tons/ac.