

2015 Gourd Trial – Common Wealth Seed Growers

Conducted by Sapphyre Miria and Edmund Frost at Twin Oaks Seed Farm

29 varieties were direct seeded on May 12th, and thinned to three plants per variety on June 8th. Tomato cages were used to provide partial trellis. Row spacing was 12 feet, and varieties were spaced 15 feet apart in-row. Plants were rated for Downy Mildew on foliage on August 29th, on a 1-9 scale, 1 being unaffected and 9 being completely dead. Downy Mildew resistance mostly corresponded to %usable fruits. The varieties with the best DMR included Bule, African Drum, Extra Long Handled Dipper, Mayo Warty Bule, Mayo Bule Warty, Bule Smooth Offtype, and Tarahaumara Dipper.

We intended to record another DM foliage rating in late September but did not. However, we noted before frost in mid October that the above varieties plus Dinosaur/Maranka were the only ones still at least somewhat healthy. During the month of September, Miniature Bottle Gourd, Giant African Water Bottle and Chickasaw Bogue Gourd vines died back, removing them from consideration as DMR varieties.

Gourds are a very long season crop. Healthy foliage throughout their lifespan is essential to producing usable and good quality gourds. Varieties susceptible to Downy Mildew can lose 1-2 months of growing time, resulting in unusable fruits.

Entry #	Name	Source	Total Fruits 12/13/15	Usable Fruits 12/13/15	%Usable Fruits	Downy Mildew 8/29/15; 1 best, 9 worst
1	Mini Dipper Cofan Copak	Suzanne Ashworth	200	40	20	6
2	Dinosaur/Maranka	Ashworth	59	37	63	6
3	Nigerian Drum	Ashworth	12	0	0	6.5
4	Mayo Giant Bule	Ashworth	16	0	0	5.5
5	Nigerian Saybo	Ashworth	29	3	10	8.5
6	Birdhouse Gourd	Judy Hierstein	39	0	0	9
7	Bushel Basket	Bakers Creek lot 0010	28	8	29	7
8	Zucca	CWSG lot ZUCC14BTOS	8	0	0	6.5
9	Thai Bottle	Douglas Darnowski	28	2	7	7.5
10	MayoWarty Bule	Native Seeds/SEARCH lot 8698	36	30	83	4
11	Chinese Cricket Cage	Ashworth	87	8	9	9
12	Bradshaw's Birdhouse Gourd	CWSG lot bbg14blw	25	6	24	7
13	African Drum	Ashworth	12	8	67	4
14	Japanese Siphon O'Hyoton	Ashworth	10	0	0	7
15	Tarahumara Short-Handle Dipper	Native Seeds/SEARCH lot 10564	23	5	22	3
16	Hopi Peyote Ceremonial	Sapphyre Miria	208	108	52	7.5
17	Bule	CWSG lot BULE14SENF	21	21	100	3

18	Bali Sugar Trough	Baker Creek lot111vg	29	0	0	7
19	Giant African Water Bottle	Ashworth	8	1	13	4
20	Chickasaw Bogue Gourd	CWSG lot CBG14CENF	33	0	0	5
21	Mayo Bilobal	Ashworth	8	0	0	8.5
22	Tobacco Box	Ashworth	8	0	0	7.5
23	Extra Long Handled Dipper	Ashworth	76	57	75	4
24	Indonesian Water Bottle	Ashworth	20	14	70	7
25	Mayo Bule Warty	Ashworth	19	14	74	3.5
26	Miniature Bottle Gourd	Twin Oaks Seed Farm lot 14stos	350	112	32	4
27	Miniature Bottle Offtype Large	Twin Oaks Seed Farm 2014	290	181	62	6.5
28	Cuccuzzi	Living Energy Farm 2013	41	0	0	8
29	Bule Smooth Offtype	Twin Oaks Seed Farm 2014	37	37	100	4.5



This image shows Tarhaumara Short Handled Dipper (entry15) behind Birdhouse Gourd (entry 6) on August 29th, illustrating the range of Downy Mildew susceptibility in the trial. Several other varieties with less extreme DM susceptibility can also be seen. Sapphyre Miria is taking notes.