The Great Pumpkin & Watermelon Weigh-off

Marif and

Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson Counties

"Sweet Caroline"

Dustin Trychar Morgantown, WV

Dustin Trychta

NELOW 1549.5

rowing Giants project - 2022

NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Phone: (919) 733-2655								Webs	ite: ww	w.ncaç	gr.gov/agr	R	. F	FY22-SL03029								
Predictive Soil Report Mehlich-3								-3 Extra	Client: Tommy Batts 6537 Good News Church Rd Wilson, NC 27893 Extraction Sampled County : Wilson								: Wilson ACCT 1806 (Wilson	Goldsb Goldsb n, NC 2	CES / HOUSE oldsboro St SW NC 27893			
Links to Helpful Information								Farm:			Client ID:	52909	1			Adviso	or ID:	402521				
Sample ID: PumpK Recommendations: Lime						ime _					Nutri	0004			_	More						
			Cro	р		(tons	s/acre)	N P2O		05	K2O	D Mg S		Mn	Zn	Cu B		Information				
Lime Hi	story:		1-3	Squash/P	umpkin		0.6 0.0	90-120) ()	150	0	20	0	0	0	0		Note: 6	6		
Test Res	sults [ur	nits - W/	V in g/cm	³ ; CEC ar	nd Na in m	neq/100 ci	m ³ ; NO3-l	N in mg/o	im ³]:				Soil Class	: Mine	ral							
HM%	W/V	CEC	BS%	Ac	рН	P-I	K-I	Ca%	Mg%	S-I	Mn-l	Mn-Al1	Mn-Al2	Zn-l	Zn-Al	Cu-l	Na	ESP	SS-I	NO3-N		
0.46	1.21	4.1	67	1.4	5.5	205	31	53	11	19	81	59		365	365	102	0.0					
			_																			
Sample	ID: WA	TER	Rec	ommend	ations:	L	ime	- for Particle				Nutri	ents (lb/aci	e)	and a			_	Мо	e		
			Cro	р		(tons	s/acre)	N	P2	05	K2O	Mg	S	Mn	Zn	Cu	В		Informat	ion		
Lime His	story:		1-0	Cantaloup	e/Melons		0.6 0.0	60-80	C)	150	0	20	0	0	0	1.0		Note: 6	2		
Test Res	sults [ur	nits - W/	V in g/cm	³ ; CEC ar	nd Na in m	neq/100 ci	m ³ ; NO3-l	N in mg/o	dm ³]:			Į	Soil Class	: Mine	ral							
HM%	W/V	CEC	BS%	Ac	рН	P-I	K-I	Ca%	Mg%	S-I	Mn-l	Mn-Al1	Mn-Al2	Zn-l	Zn-Al	Cu-l	Na	ESP	SS-I	NO3-N		
0.46	1.21	4.0	65	1.4	5.5	194	31	50	11	14	83	60		371	371	93	0.0					



Lime & Fertilizer Calculations

Draw your Pumpkin/Watermelon Patch*:

*Include measurements

How many acres? _____ (Length) x _____ (width) = _____ ft²/ 43,560 = _____ Acres/patch

Lime Calculations

Amount needed from soil report: ______ tons/Acre

_____tons/Acre x ______Acres/patch = _____tons/patch

_____tons/patch x 2,000 lb/ton = ____lb/patch

Fertilizer Calculations:

Fertilizer Composition: _____ ÷ 100 = _____ (decimal form)

Amount of _____Nutrient needed: ______units of __/Acre

_____ units of __/Acre x _____Acres/patch = _____units of __/patch

_____units of __/patch ÷ _____ Fert Comp (decimal) = _____ lb Fert/patch

Lime & Fertilizer Calculations

Draw your Pumpkin/Watermelon Patch*:



*Include measurements

How many acres? ______ (Length) x ______ (width) = ______ $ft^2/43,560 = ______$

NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Phone: (919) 733-2655							Webs	ite: www	w.ncag	gr.gov/agr	onomi/				R	eport No.	F	Y22-SL0	30290	
Predictive Soil Report Mehlich-3								-3 Extra	ction		Client: To 65 W Si	ommy Bat 537 Good /ilson, NC ampled Co	ts News Chu 27893 ounty : Wils	rch Rd		Advisor	: Wilson ACCT 1806 C Wilson	CES / Goldsb , NC 2	/ HOUSE oro St S\ 7893	N
Sampled: 03/28/2022 Received: 04/01/2022 Completed: 04/08/2022 Farm:								Client ID: 529091 Advisor ID: 402521												
Sample ID: PumpK Recommendations: Lime							Nutrients (lb/acre)									More				
Lime His	story:		2 -	ว quash/Pเ	ımpkin	(ton	s/acre) 0.6 0.0	N 90-120	P20	05	K2O 150	Mg 0	s 20	Mn 0	Zn 0	Cu 0	B 0		Informat Note: 6	ion
Test Res	sults [un	its - W/\	/ in g/cm ³	; CEC an	d Na in	meq/100 c	m ³ ; NO3-	N in mg/o	:[³]				Soil Class	: Mine	ral					
HM%	W/V	CEC	BS%	Ac	рН	P-I	K-I	Ca%	Mg%	S-I	Mn-l	Mn-Al1	Mn-Al2	Zn-l	Zn-Al	Cu-l	Na	ESP	SS-I	NO3-N
0.46	1.21	4.1	67	1.4	5.5	205	31	53	11	19	81	59		365	365	102	0.0			
Sample	ID: WA	TER	Reco	ommenda	ations:	_	imo	10000	Nutrients (lb/acre)								an 23 (m. 1	_	Мог	e
Lime History:		Crop 1 - Cantaloupe/Melons 2 -		(ton	s/acre) 0.6 0.0	Sec. 1 N 60-80		05	K2O 150	Mg 0	S 20	S Mn 20 0		Cu 0	В 1.0		Informat	ion		
Test Res	sults [un	its - W/\	/ in g/cm ³	; CEC an	d Na in	meq/100 c	m ³ ; NO3-	N in mg/o	dm ³]:				Soil Class	: Mine	ral					
HM%	W/V	CEC	BS%	Ac	рН	P-I	K-I	Ca%	Mg%	S-I	Mn-l	Mn-Al1	Mn-Al2	Zn-l	Zn-Al	Cu-l	Na	ESP	SS-I	NO3-N
0.46	1.21	4.0	65	1.4	5.5	194	31	50	11	14	83	60		371	371	93	0.0			

Lime Calculations

Amount needed from soil report: ______ tons/Acre

 $^{0.6}$ tons/Acre x $^{0.04}$ Acres/patch = $^{0.025}$ tons/patch

<u>0.025</u> tons/patch x 2,000 lb/ton = <u>49.6</u> lb/patch

Lime Notes

It would be very beneficial to add lime and then mix into soil with disc/tiller.

This gets the lime into the soil profile where it can start to work.



Macronutrients - Primary



- The primary nutrients are
 - Nitrogen
 - Phosphorus
 - Potassium
- These are the nutrients referred in a fertilizer analysis.
 - Example: An 8 8 24 fertilizer is 8% Nitrogen, 8% Phosphorus, and 24% Potassium

NCDA&CS Agronomic Division Phone: (919) 733-2655								Webs	ite: ww	w.ncag	gr.gov/ag	ronomi/	R	. F	FY22-SL030290					
Predictive Soil Report Mehlich-3 Links to Helpful Information								-3 Extra	ction	(Client:	Tommy Bat 5537 Good Wilson, NC Sampled Co 52909	ts News Chu 27893 ounty : Wils 1	rch Rd		Adviso Adviso	: Wilson ACCT 1806 (Wilson	CES Goldsb , NC 2 40252	/ HOUSE oro St S\ ?7893 1	N
Sampled:	: 03/28/2	:022 F	Received:	04/01/20	22 Com	oleted: 04/	08/2022	Farm:												
Sample ID: PumpK Recommendations: Lime						ime					Nutri	122			More					
Lime History: 2 -			(ton:	s/acre) 0.6 0.0	N 90-12	P 2	205	K2O 150	Mg	S 20	S Mn 20 0		Cu 0	B 0		Information Note: 6				
Test Res	sults [un	its - W/	V in g/cm ³	; CEC ar	nd Na in m	neq/100 c	m ³ ; NO3-l	N in mg/	dm ³]:				Soil Class	: Mine	ral					
HM%	W/V	CEC	BS%	Ac	рН	P-I	K-I	Ca%	Mg%	S-I	Mn-l	Mn-Al1	Mn-Al2	Zn-l	Zn-Al	Cu-l	Na	ESP	SS-I	NO3-N
0.46	1.21	4.1	67	1.4	5.5	205	31	53	11	19	81	59		365	365	102	0.0			
Sample	ID: WA	TER	Reco	ommend	ations:	L	ime					Nutri	ents (lb/aci	e)				_	Мо	e
Lime History: Crop 1 - Cantaloupe/Melon 2 -			e/Melons	(ton:	(tons/acre) 0.6 0.0		N P2O5 60-80		K2O 150	Mg S 20		Mn Zn 0 0		Cu 0	В 1.0		Information Note: 6			
Test Res	sults [un	its - W/	V in g/cm ³	; CEC ar	nd Na in m	neq/100 c	m ³ ; NO3-l	N in mg/	dm ³]:				Soil Class	: Mine	ral					
HM%	W/V	CEC	BS%	Ac	рН	P-I	K-I	Ca%	Mg%	S-I	Mn-l	Mn-Al1	Mn-Al2	Zn-l	Zn-Al	Cu-l	Na	ESP	SS-I	NO3-N
0.46	1.21	4.0	65	1.4	5.5	194	31	50	11	14	83	60		371	371	93	0.0			

Fertilizer Calculations:

 Fertilizer Composition:
 $\frac{8}{2}$ $\frac{8}{24}$ \div 100 = $\frac{0.08}{-}$ $\frac{0.24}{-}$ (decimal form)

 Amount of
 K
 Nutrient needed:
 $\frac{150}{-}$ units of K
 $\frac{6}{-}$ units of K
 $\frac{150}{-}$ units of K
 $\frac{1$

What this means:

You are spreading 0.014 lb/square foot.

If you double this, you will put out a total amount of 100 units N-100 units P- 300 units K/Acre

Fertilizer Placement

- Broadcast (spread over entire area)
 - Easiest
 - "feeding" weeds



- Sidedress (put right by the plant)
 - Plant gets all the food
 - Can cause fertilizer burn (salt injury)







Pests and their Management

Weeds

Start Clean

- Mechanical
 - Till area where plants will go
- Chemical
 - Roundup
 - Be careful with residual herbicides as some can injure plants

Stay Clean

- Mechanical
 - Hand weeding
- Chemical
 - selective herbicides for grasses
 - not many options for broadleaf weeds



Insect management

- Shortly after planting, you will want to get a pesticide application down
- Pumpkins are very prone
 - cucumber beetles
 - Squash bugs
 - Squash vine borer

Cucumber Beetle

- Adults do most of the damage
- Striped and Spotted
- Damage appears tan and splotchy
- Can be vectors of a few mosaic viruses, which can impede pumpkin/melon growth
- Control Options
 - Pyrethroid (3)- Brigade, Baythroid, etc.
 - Neo-Nic (4A)-Admire



Squash Bug

- Same family as stink bugs
- Brown, wings fold to make an X on the back
- Lays cluster of brown eggs on underside of leaves
- Eat using a straw, does not chew
- Can vector diseases
- Control Options
 - Pyrethroid (3)- Brigade, Baythroid, etc.
 - Neo-Nic (4A)-Admire





Squash Vine Borer

- Caterpillar and moth
- Usually see these more in home gardens as opposed to commercial plantings
- Control Options
 - manually remove adults
 - pyrethroid (Group 3 insecticides;Brigade, Baythroid,etc); spinosad
 - apply these at dusk, when no bees are out



Mosaic Virus and Bacterial Wilt



https://www.almanac.com/sites/default/files/styles/landscape/public/images/mosaic-virus-on-squash.JPG?itok=7360I0pL

https://extension.umn.edu/sites/extension.umn.edu/files/Pumpking_field_bactierial_wilt.jpg

Treatment recommendations

- Follow all label instructions!
- Contact vs systemic
- For best results, a weekly application may be necessary to keep insects under control.
 - After 1st bloom, make insecticide applications at dusk
- It is important to rotate key ingredient pesticides to prevent pest resistance.
- Be advised, Spinosad only works on squash vine borer









Giant pumpkin timeline

- A rough timeline for growing a giant pumpkin is as follow
- Day 0-50
 - Germination to full vegetative stage
- Day 50-150
 - Pollination to harvest
 - The pumpkin itself can grow 100 days after pollination

Seed starting

- Plan to start seeds late April for early May planting
- Carefully file the edges of the seed and soak overnight in water
- Add 10% hydrogen peroxide



Germination

- After soaking, plant seed in a sterile potting mix
- Container size should be 4" or so at least
- Keep soil moist
- Best to germinate at 85-90 degrees
- Seeds will germinate in 3-5 days
- Plant will quickly fill the container





Transplanting

- Transplant pumpkin at this seedling stage
- Add any desired amendments to the planting hole
- Plant seedling up to the cotyledons
- Secure plant in the event of wind or sudden frost warnings



Transplanting 10–14-day old plant



Vegetative stage

- Continue to monitor growth and plant appearance
- Regular watering
- Fertilizer weekly



More on watering

- Best to water daily when sunny and dry
- Important to water thoroughly and evenly across the plant
- Avoid overhead watering in the late afternoon to prevent disease issues
- Overhead sprinklers can help cool plant in the south
- Avoid excess water near the stump



Tissue sample

- Tissue testing can provide insight on your plant's current nutrient status
- Many growers check routinely to ensure levels are adequate
- This can be especially helpful if you suspect a nutrient deficiency or toxicity
- NCDA does leaf tissue testing

NCDA&CS Agronomic Divi	sion	Phone: (9	19) 733-26	55 V	Vebsite: v	www.ncag	r.gov/agron	/imo				Rep	ort No. FY2
Predic Pla	nt Tis	ssue	Rep	ort		Client:	Brandon Hut 2721 Founde Raleigh, NC Sampled Co	er ers Dr., Kilge 27607 unty : Wake	ore Hall	Advi	sor:		
Einks to	Helpful Inform	nation		Sampled Received Completed	: 12/03/20 : 12/12/20 : 12/16/20	19 19 19	PALS #: 499	969			PALS	Ø:	
Sample Information		N	utrient M	easuremen	ts are give	en in units	of parts per	million (ppm	or mg/L) u	nless other	wise specifie	ed.	
ID: BR	N (%) 3.82	P (%) 0.61	K (%) 4.69	Ca (%) 1.86	Mg (%)	S (%) 0.38	Fe 165	Mn 63.6	Zn 30.6	Cu 7.70	B 70.3	Mo	NO>-N
crop: Tomaib, G.H.					Interpr	etation	ndexes						
Growth Stage: E Week: 0	N 55-S	P 71-S	к 80-Н	Ca 60-S	Mg 79-H	S 56-S	Fe 61-S	Mn 55-S	Zn 55-S	Cu 52-S	B 71-S	Mo	
Plant Part: M		0	ther Resu	lts	T	N	utrient Rat	tios	F				
Plant Position: 0	Na (%)	CI (%)	C (%)	DW (g)	AI I	N:S	N:K	Fe:Mn	0				
Plant Appearance: Healthy- Purple Color	0.19		2		59.1	10.0 : 1	0.81 : 1	2.60 : 1	E L				
Agronomist's Commer	nts: Nitroge	an and pota	ssium are l	aw in the FR I	lomato but	otherwise	nutritional s	latus is good	t at this tim	e. Jessica	K. Long 12/1	6/2019 8:	42
Sample Information		N	utrient M	easuremen	ts are give	en in units	of parts per	million (ppm	or mg/L) u	nless other	wise specifie	id.	
ID: FR	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)	Ca (%)	Mg (%)	S (%)	Fe	Mn	Zn	Cu	в	Mo	NO ₅ -N
Crop: Tomato, G.H.	3.24	0.43	3.04	1.49	0.76	0.30	93.3	50.3	23.8	5.22	65.7		
Growth Stage: E	22,000,000,000,000				Interpr	etation I	ndexes						
Week: 0	N	P	K	Ca	Mg	S	Fe	Min	Zn	Cu	в	Mo	

Rapid growth begins

- Stake plant as the vining begins to prevent being blown around in the wind.
- Allow vine to make contact with the soil to encourage rooting at the node.



Vine burying

- Manage weeds around the vine
- Soil or compost around for rooting in of the vine
- Avoid excessive compaction near the plant root base
- Continue monitoring plant health





Vine training

- Typical giant pumpkin pattern is trained in a "Christmas tree" shape
- This plant is ready for pollination once the main vine reaches 10-12' long
- Once established plant will grow 12" of vine growth per day!
- Important to build a big plant as it will support the growth of the giant pumpkin the rest of the season







Prepare for Pollination

- Begin to train your vine to make room for a giant pumpkin fruit
- Many growers use an "S" curve to allow sufficient room for growth
- If not managed properly, giant pumpkin can break disconnect itself from the vine





Pollination

Pollination basics

- Most flowers on a pumpkin plant will be male flowers especially early in the season
- Once visible female flower shows it will be about 10 days until pollination day





Pollination basics

- Bees will pollinate the plant for you, however most growers try to control the pollination
- If growing one plant, plant should self pollinate by bees if no other pumpkins are nearby
- If controlling pollination cover flower bud, the night before







Missouri botanical garden

- Pumpkin flowers are usually open only in the morning 8 AM-12 PM.
- Pollination time window is short
- It is best to shade newly pollinated flower from here onward
- Target pollination for around July 1-August



Selection

- Avoid keeping any pollination that looks weird
- There will be a couple opportunities to pollinate a "keeper"
- It is good to pollinate a couple "backup" fruit
- Best to pollinate fruit on the main vine



Monitor early growth

- Growth is slow until day 10 after pollination
- Day 10 shown here
- Fruit growth will rapidly increase at this stage
- If you have a backup fruit or two now is the time to monitor daily growth and select the "best one"



- Fertilize and water in moderation to avoid excessive growth of the fruit leading to splits
- Sometimes sudden heavy rainfalls are inevitable and can lead to splits
- Monitor weather and water accordingly



Setting up fruit

- It is best to do early as possible before fruit swells before day 10
- Protect fruit from moisture and contact with soil and pathogens
- Provides a smooth surface for expansion
- Foam board, wood sheets, mill fabric is usually standard
- Sand added on top
- Avoid moving vine during morning hours
- Rotation is not an option once heavy





Setting up fruit

- In addition to bottom protection
- Fruit should be shaded by a cover
- Old bed sheets work well
- Avoid dark colors that absorb heat
- This will also provide some animal protection

