

**Cantaloupe Variety Trial  
Safford Agricultural Center 1985**

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Summary

Cantaloupes for fresh market were studied as an alternative crop for the farmers in the Safford valley. Three varieties were tested with the top variety yielding over 1000 cwt per acre. The quality of the fruit was good, but work needs to be done to determine if there is a slot in the market for fruit from this area.

Methods and Materials

A very fine seed bed was prepared in a Pima sandy clay loam. Boligrow (an aluminum sulfate compound from Boliden Corp., Sweden) was applied at 1000 lbs/ac over the furrow as a soil amendment, 100 lbs/ac of urea was applied for fertilizer. Seed was planted on 8 May 1985 in the center of three 40 inch beds with a Planet Jr. hand planter. The plants were watered up and irrigated lightly 13 additional times. The fruit was harvested by hand once in July, twice a week in August and weekly in September. Yield for all fruit from 10 feet of row (2 reps) were used in calculating acre yields.

Results

**Table 1. Cumulative Total Yields of Cantaloupe Varieties by Month**

VARIETY	-----YIELDS CWT/AC -----			TOTAL
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	
Hales Best	27	873	110	1010
Hales Best Jumbo	11	812	91	914
455J	10	761	57	828