

Comparison of Two Sweet Corn Types For Field Quality Holding

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The standard sweet corn cultivar 'Jubilee' was compared for field quality holding with 'Incredible', a cultivar with the sugary enhancer (*se*) gene. The standard sweet corn maturity peaks quickly; the corn remains in a desirable market stage on the plant for only a few days. The new types like 'Incredible' are purported to maintain quality ears over a longer time. A series of plantings of these two cultivars were made at the Maricopa Agricultural Center to see how each cultivar held up on the plant under Arizona conditions during June harvests.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The two cultivars were planted at 5 different times between February 18 and April 8, 1987 in blocks of 6 rows 55' long for each cultivar. Samples were taken periodically during June to determine market quality.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the quality determinations of each planting over 3 or 4 samplings. Heat units (50°-86°F) are given for each period. Ears of Incredible remained in marketable quality on the plant for about 6 to 8 days; ears of Jubilee lasted only about 3 to 4 days.

Table 1. Quality in sweet corn plantings of Jubilee and Incredible over a period of harvest times in June, 1987 in Central Arizona.^{a)}

Cultivar and Planting (date)	Time of harvest sampling						Days Holding Quality	
	6/3	6/5	6/8	6/11	6/15	6/19		6/23
(Heat units accumulated) ^{b)}								
I (2/18)	(1766)	(1832)	(1924)	(2009)				
Jubilee	--	0	0+	+				3-4
Incredible	--	--	0	0				6
II (3/7)		(1724)	(1816)	(1901)	(2027)			
Jubilee		--	0	0	+			4
Incredible		--	0	0	0			8
III (3/19)				(1773)	(1899)	(2012)		
Jubilee				--	0+	+		3
Incredible				--	0	0+		5
IV (3/30)				(1695)	(1821)	(1934)	(2049)	
Jubilee				--	0	0+	+	5
Incredible				--	0	0	0	9
V (4/8)					(1699)	(1812)	(1927)	
Jubilee					-	0	+	4
Incredible					-	0	0	7

a) - Quality rating: - immature, 0 desirable market quality, + over mature
b) - Heat units (50°-86° F) from planting to sample date.