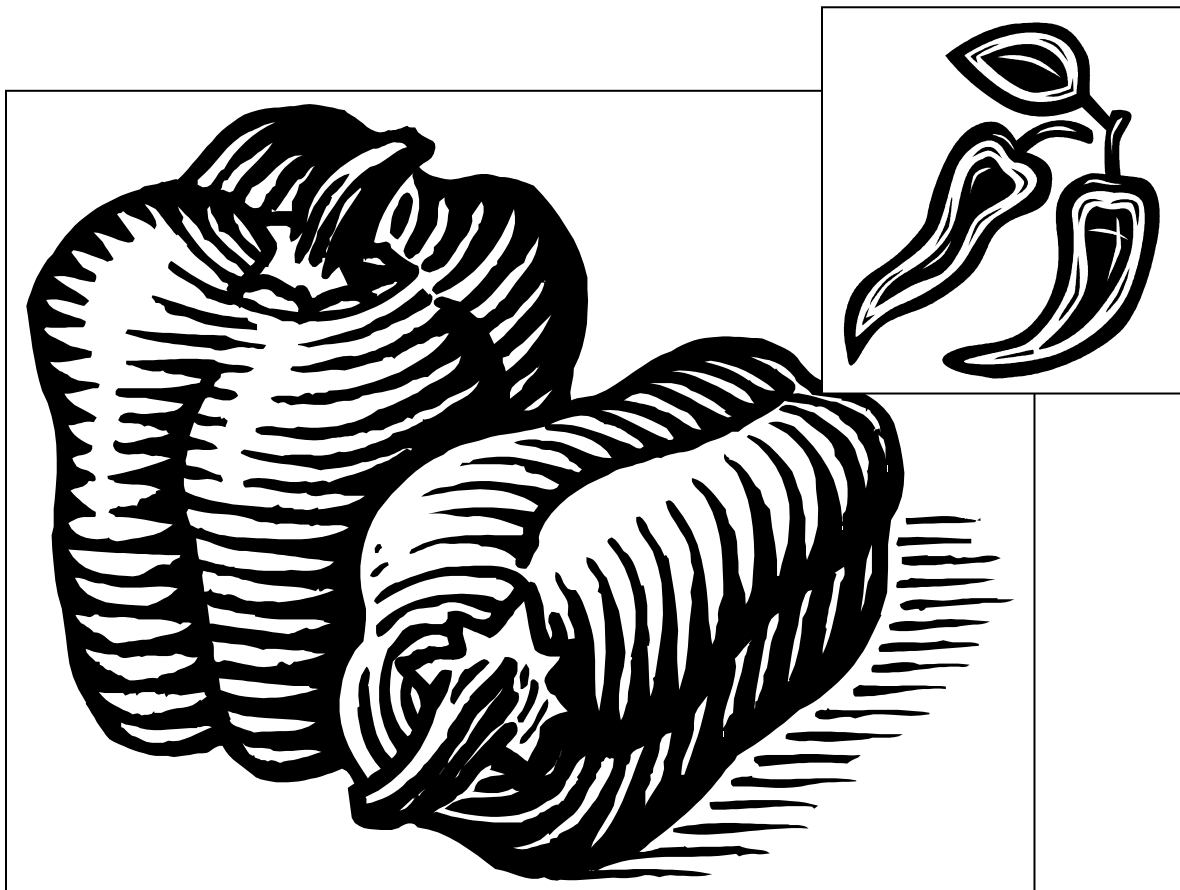


Bell and Specialty Pepper Variety Trials

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2006

Bell and Specialty Pepper Variety Trials

Conducted by:

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The bell pepper variety and specialty pepper trials were transplanted on May 8th. The field variety was Baron. The soil type at the trial site was a Stockton adobe clay and the trial field was drip irrigated throughout the season. The resulting crop stand was excellent with vigorous plant growth. An extended and very cool, wet spring caused late planting of early crops, and a subsequent heat wave in early May and again in July caused some loss of fruit set and a delay in fruit maturity. The trial contained fifteen replicated varieties on a randomized complete block and fifteen non-replicated, observational varieties. Hand harvest of the trial was on August 15, 2006, which may have been too early for some of the specialty peppers to put on the maximum amount of colored fruit, as their maturity dates varied widely. In addition to marketable red and green yield figures for bell peppers and colored and immature yield figures for specialty peppers, data on crop maturity, fruit size and wall thickness were taken. In the trial, highest yield of red plus green marketable fruit was achieved by Syngenta's RPP 9661, followed by Double Up, Baron and RPP 9650. Unfortunately, Syngenta has decided not to pursue release of 9650 and 9661. Best quality fruit, including blocky shape, and good fruit color and size (Extra-large to Large) was led by RPP 9650. RPP 9661 and Sakata's SPP 1103 also showed well in both size categories. Those peppers that prolifically produced large fruits, but were lagging in Extra-large fruit production were Baron, Wizard, Excel, Affinity, Harris Moran's HMX 5634 and Seminis' PX9930413. Fruit size for most of the lines evaluated was predominately Extra-large and Large. There was a fair amount of fruit sunburn and some blossom end rot, but very little cat-faced fruit. There was virtually no worm damage in the trial, but stink bug damage was present. Very little of the fruit from any of the cultivars had Pepper Spot (STIP). Graphs follow.

Figure 1. Bell pepper yield

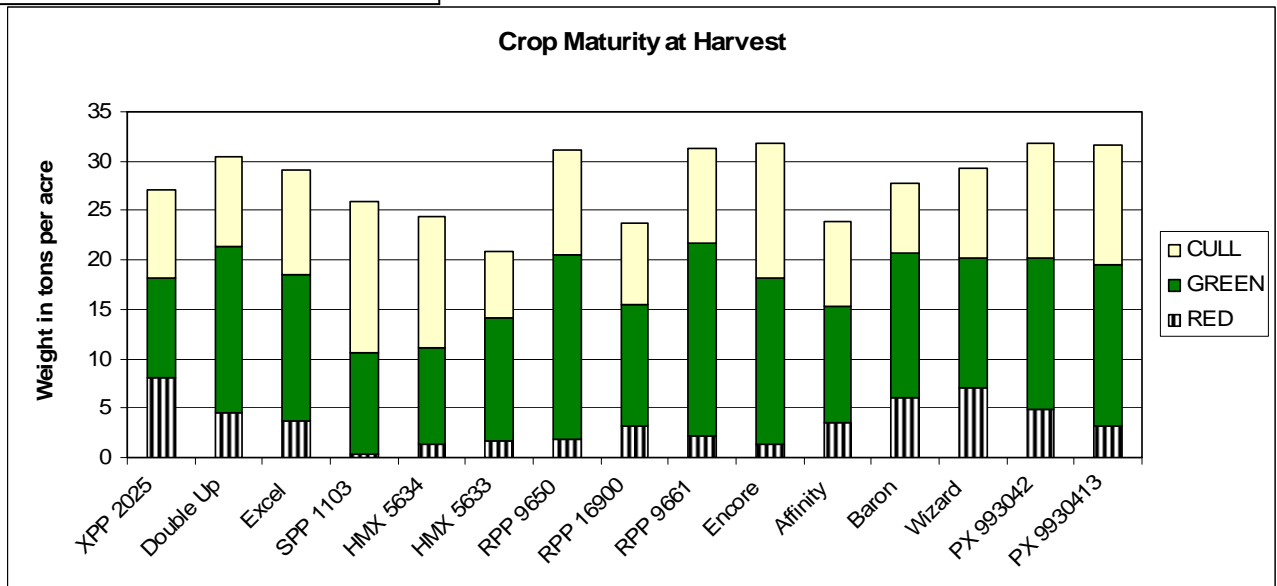
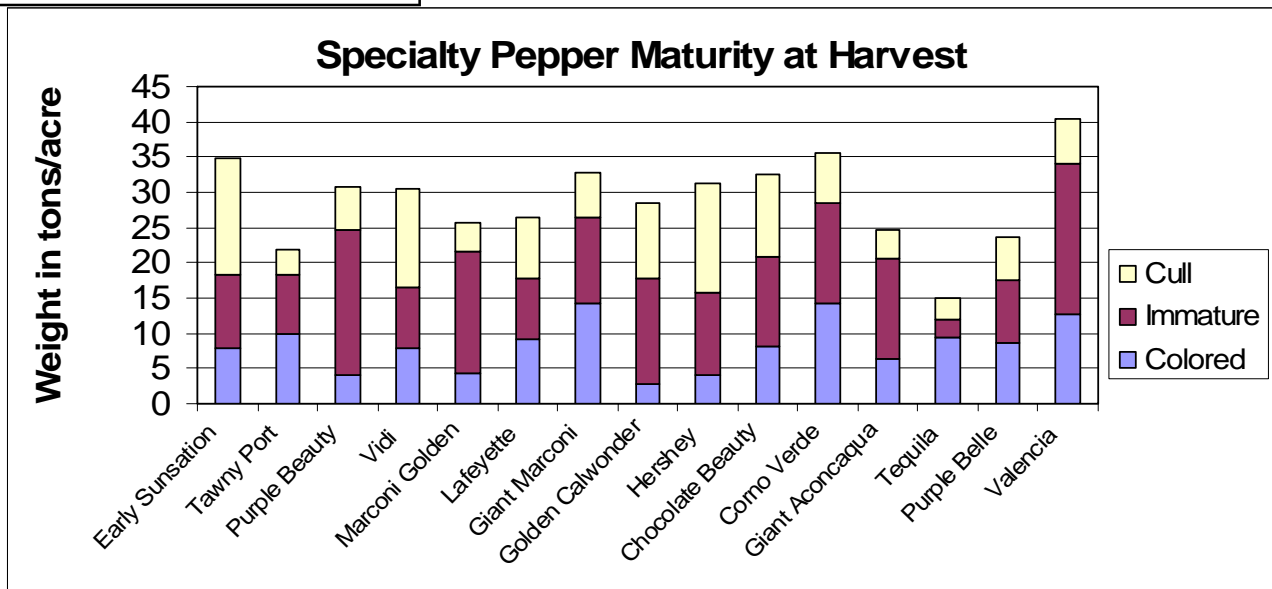


Figure 2. Specialty pepper yield



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