RESEARCH NOTES

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SOME VARIETIES OF MELONS TO THE CUCURBIT VIRUSES PRESENT IN PUERTO RICO

Melons have never been grown in Puerto Rico on commercial scale either for local consumption or for the export market. The possibility remains of growing this valuable and delicious fruit for the winter market in the States where it would certainly command good selling prices.

Before this could be done, however, a variety of melons must be found well adapted to our growing conditions, of good shipping qualities, and at the same time resistant to the prevalent diseases of this crop in the Island. Riollano[1] at the Isabela Substation has reported the Smith Perfect variety as good for export as well as for the local market. More recently Robbins[2] at the Vega Alta hydroponic farm successfully grew several melon varieties: Georgia, X-100 and Fajardo, the two most promising being Georgia and especially X-100.

Since Adsuar and Cruz Miret[3] found that cucurbits in Puerto Rico are commonly affected by two distinct viruses, A and B, it was considered of interest to test the above-mentioned melon varieties in order to determine their resistance to these two viruses. Seeds of the varieties Smith Perfect, Georgia, Fajardo, and X-100 were kindly supplied by Robbins and Riollano. The plants were inoculated when about 15 days old, using the methods previously described.[3] The two viruses were inoculated separately on each variety.

The results of the inoculations demonstrated that the melon varieties tested were susceptible to the two viruses attacking cucurbits in Puerto Rico.

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