Melon
CROP GUIDE
Market leaders in the East

Accolade
Accolade is an eastern shipper variety that features improved fruit quality and a comprehensive disease resistance package for early to main season plantings.

- Tight seed cavity with firm, orange flesh
- Medium netted exterior
- Enhanced vine strength
- Bred for resistance to cotton aphid
- Improved internal fruit quality for extended shelf life
- Strong and vigorous plant to stand up to field stress and resist fruit cracking

Astound
Astound is an eastern shipper variety that features improved flesh firmness, a tighter seed cavity and an enhanced disease resistance package for main to late season plantings.

- Firm, orange flesh with a small, tight cavity
- High quality, netted appearance
- Enhanced vine strength
- Bred for resistance to cotton aphid
- Improved internal fruit quality and flesh firmness for extended shelf life
- Strong and vigorous plant to stand up to field stress and resist fruit cracking
Athena

The melon of choice for the eastern U.S., Athena is an innovative hybrid cantaloupe that delivers the sweet flavor and texture consumers demand. Athena melons stay firm even when harvested at full slip.

- Industry standard
- Proven performance in all major eastern melon production areas
- The name “Athena” is recognized by the broker through to the consumer
- High-quality and flavor that has set the market standard
- Average fruit weight 5 to 6 pounds
- Approximately 75 days to maturity

Aphrodite

Aphrodite delivers an improved fruit netting in a larger-sized melon, while offering early maturity that secures an early jump on the market.

- Early-maturing Athena type
- Larger fruit size
- Improved fruit net
- Has done well in Midwest plantings
- Average fruit weight 6 to 7 pounds
- Approximately 72 days to maturity
Bringing new innovation to the West

Sweet Sunrise
Sweet Sunrise is a long shelf life variety that produces fruit of desirable size and consistent quality with excellent flavor. Its enhanced disease resistance package and vigorous plant make Sweet Sunrise an ideal variety for early planting slots.

- Small, closed cavity
- Orange flesh with firm texture
- Very dense netting
- Vigorous plant
- Enhanced disease resistance package
- Bred for resistance to cotton aphid
- Extended shelf life to meet market needs
- Excels in earlier planting slots

Sweet Spring
Sweet Spring is a long shelf life Harper type variety that produces round fruit with dense netting, a tight seed cavity and dark orange flesh. This variety features a significantly enhanced disease resistance package and offers improved fruit quality.

- Dark orange, firm flesh with unique flavor profile
- Small, closed cavity and strong, dense netting
- Enhanced disease resistance package
- Improved fruit quality for high consumer appeal
- Extended shelf life that meets market needs
- Reduced waste due to less shrinkage in storage
Heidi (MS7350)
Heidi is a long shelf life (Harper) variety with good field holding ability and strong plant vigor. It has a tight seed cavity and excellent firm flesh. A widely adapted variety to different growing areas featuring uniform fruit shape and sizes with good coverage of netting on the fruit.

- Excellent crown setting producing much higher and concentrated yield potential
- Widely adapted to different growing areas
- Strong plant with a comprehensive disease and insect resistance package

Sweet Break (MS8055)
A main season long shelf life (Harper) variety with very attractive dark orange flesh color and tight cavity. With good field holding ability and a comprehensive disease package, this variety is adapted to multiple growing regions including the Central Valley and Southwest Desert areas.

- Strong plant vigor
- Uniform size and shape make it ideal for bins and cartons
- Adapted to multiple growing regions
- Good field holding ability and longer shelf life makes variety ideal for transport and retailers
Bringing new innovation to the West

Novira
Novira is a Harper type melon variety producing round to oval fruits of nice quality and dense netting on the exterior. This variety is well suited to fall planting slots in the Desert Southwest region.

- Dark orange, firm flesh
- Strong plant vigor
- Excellent eating quality
- Good disease resistance package
- Extended shelf life
- Intermediate resistance to cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus (CYSDV)

Sweet Shield
Sweet Shield is a Harper type melon variety producing good quality fruits for the fall market. Fruits have striking dark orange flesh and dense netting.

- Dark orange flesh with a tight seed cavity
- Dense netting on fruit
- Strong disease resistance package
- Concentrated fruit harvest
- Ideal for early fall production in Desert Southwest region
- Intermediate resistance to cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus (CYSDV)
Gold Crown
A western shipper variety poised to perform well in the San Joaquin Valley, Gold Crown is an early- to main-season variety for the March to April sowing window. Its consistent fruit shape and large fruit size make this a desirable variety for growers and packers, while its firmer flesh, sweet taste and longer shelf life are sure to attract consumers.

• Firm, dark orange flesh
• Good sugar development with shipper taste
• Slightly oval fruit with very dense netting
• Excellent disease resistance package
• Maintains superb fruit quality and freshness for long shelf life
• Early- to main-season variety allows for early market opportunities

Gold Express
High-performing hybrid that stands up to variable growing conditions and delivers abundant fruit with excellent eating qualities.

• An ideal western shipper that produces medium to large fruit
• Excellent flavor and internal quality, featuring a tight seed cavity and firm, dark-orange flesh
• Superior appearance enhanced by a dense net covering the exterior
• Designed for prolonged harvest conditions
• Performs well in late spring and fall plantings in the Desert Southwest
• Provides growers in the San Joaquin Valley a main-season variety with improved fruit size
Bringing new innovation to the West

Valley Express (ME0244)
Valley Express is an extended shelf life melon suitable for main season production in California and Arizona. It has firm flesh for improved shelf life and a tight seed cavity. With improved concentrated harvest and post-harvest shelf life as well as good eating quality.

- Tight seed cavity with firm, orange flesh
- Extended shelf life
- Enhanced vine strength
- Great disease resistance package
- Bred for resistance to cotton aphid
- Improved internal fruit quality for extended shelf life

Damaris (ME8892)
Damaris is an extended shelf life variety widely adapted to different growing areas for season-long supply. It has good field holding and post-harvest shelf life with less shrink.

- Increased flesh firmness provides good field holding ability and postharvest shelf life with less shrink
- Widely adapted to different growing areas for season-long supply
- Ideal for both carton and bin packing
- Uniform fruit shape and sizes with good coverage of netting on the fruit
Garth

Garth is an extended shelf life melon variety that produces round to oval fruits with tight netting on the exterior. Fruits have excellent eating quality and attractive dark orange flesh.

- Round to oval fruits with dense netting
- Tight seed cavity and dark orange flesh
- Good flesh firmness for extended shelf life
- High marketable fruit yield potential
- Suitable for early planting slots in Desert Southwest region

Desert Express

Desert Express is an extended shelf life variety that produces round to oval fruits with a tight seed cavity and dense netting on the exterior. This variety is well suited for early planting slots in the Desert Southwest region.

- Dark orange flesh with excellent eating quality
- Good flesh firmness for extended shelf life
- Good marketable fruit yield potential
- Ideal for production in the Desert Southwest region
### Technical data: melon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Approx. days to maturity</th>
<th>Average fruit length x width (in)</th>
<th>Interior appearance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MELON: EASTERN SHIPPER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphrodite</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>7 x 6.5</td>
<td>Thick flesh similar to Athena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accolade</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7.5 x 6.7</td>
<td>Small tight cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astound</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7.5 x 6.7</td>
<td>Small tight cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athena</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>6.5 x 6</td>
<td>Thick flesh; very firm for an eastern type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MELON: WESTERN SHIPPER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primo</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>7.5 x 7</td>
<td>Thick, medium-dark orange flesh; medium cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Express</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>6.1 x 5.9</td>
<td>Dark orange; tight cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Crown</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>6.2 x 6</td>
<td>Nice orange color, closed cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MELON: HARPER TYPE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Spring</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW</strong> Heidi (MS7350)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>7.6 x 6.9</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW</strong> Sweet Break</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(MS8055)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novira</td>
<td>100-110</td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td>Dark orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Shield</td>
<td>100-110</td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td>Small, closed cavity with dark orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Sunrise</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MELON: EXTENDED SHELF LIFE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW</strong> Valley Express</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>6.7 x 6</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with dark orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW</strong> Damaris</td>
<td>78-80</td>
<td>7.5 x 6.7</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ME8892)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garth</td>
<td>100-110</td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td>Tight seed cavity with dark orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Express</td>
<td>100-110</td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td>Tight seed cavity with dark orange flesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Disease abbreviation key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbrev.</th>
<th>Disease Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ag</td>
<td>Cotton aphid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYSDV</td>
<td>Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fom</td>
<td>Fusarium wilt caused by specific races of Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. melonis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gc</td>
<td>Powdery mildew caused by Golovinomyces cichoracearum (e.g., Erysiphe cichoracearum)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNSV</td>
<td>Melon necrotic spot caused by melon necrotic spot virus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Px</td>
<td>Powdery mildew caused by Podosphaera xanthii (ex Sphaerotheca fuliginea)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sulfur burn caused by the application of some sulfur-based pesticides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>High resistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR</td>
<td>Intermediate resistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Tolerance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety Approx. days</td>
<td>Variety Approx. days</td>
<td>Variety Approx. days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to maturity</td>
<td>Average fruit</td>
<td>Interior appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>length x width (in)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELON: EASTERN SHIPPER</td>
<td>Aphrodite 72</td>
<td>Thick flesh similar to Athena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 x 6.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small tight cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELON: WESTERN SHIPPER</td>
<td>Primo 77</td>
<td>Thick, medium-dark orange flesh; medium cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.5 x 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dark orange; tight cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nice orange color, closed cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELON: HARPER TYPE</td>
<td>Sweet Spring 90</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 x 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small, closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELON: EXTENDED SHELF LIFE</td>
<td>Valley Express 74</td>
<td>Small closed cavity with dark orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.7 x 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small closed cavity with orange flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pathogen races are indicated to the right of the abbreviation in parentheses [example: Sf (1, 2) = powdery mildew caused by races 1 and 2US of Sphaerotheca fuliginea]. In cases where specific races or strains are not noted, the variety is resistant to some, but not necessarily all known races or strains of the pathogen. For complete disease resistance information, please visit [www.syngentaus.com/vegetables](http://www.syngentaus.com/vegetables).

### Exterior appearance Disease resistance

| Medium-coarse netting, slight suture that is netted | HR: Pox 0, 1, 2 / Pox: 1 |
| Oval, netted                                      | T: S                      |
| Oval, netted                                      | HR: Pox 0, 2 / Pox: 1 / Pox: 2US / Fom: 0, 1, 2 |
| Oval, netted                                      | IR: Ag / Pox: 3.5        |
| Coarse netting; minor, netted indentations        | T: S                      |
| HR: Fom: 0-2 / Pox: 1, 2US                        |
| T: S                                              |

### Disease resistance

| Heavy netting; sutureless; slight indentations    | HR: Pox: 1, 2US            |
| Ropy, dense netting; sutureless                  | T: S                      |
| Well netted, slightly oval fruit shape            | HR: Pox 0, 2 / Pox: 1 / Pox: 2US |
| Well netted                                      | IR: Ag / Pox: 3.5        |
| Well netted                                      | T: S                      |
| HR: Pox 1 / Pox: 2US / Fom: 0, 1, 2, MNSV        |
| IR: Ag / Pox: 3.5                                |
| T: S                                              |

### Disease resistance

| Round to oval fruit shape and dense netting       | HR: Pox 1 / Fom: 0, 1, 2 / MNSV |
| Round to oval fruit shape and dense netting       | IR: CYSDV / Pox: 3.5 / Ag     |
| Well netted                                      | T: S                      |
| HR: Pox 1 / Fom: 0, 1, 2, MNSV                   |
| IR: CYSDV / Pox: 3.5 / Ag                       |
| T: S                                              |

### Disease resistance

| Well netted                                      | HR: Pox 1 / Pox: 2US / Fom: 0, 1, 2 |
| Well netted                                      | IR: Ag / Pox: 3.5                |
| T: S                                              |

### Disease resistance

| Round to oval fruit shape and dense netting       | HR: Pox 1 / Pox: 2US / Fom: 0, 2 |
| Well netted                                      | IR: Ag / Pox: 3.5                |
| T: S                                              |                                     |
For more information on Syngenta vegetable offerings, visit www.SyngentaUS.com/vegetables or contact your local Syngenta reseller or representative.