

Effects of Cultivar and Rootstock on Organic Eggplant Yield

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Abstract

The study was designed to elucidate the effects of rootstock and the color of tunnel netting on crop performance so as to provide organic growers with useful information in choosing the best cultivars for their fields.

The field trial was carried out on ten and four eggplant cultivars in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Three types of plants, two grafted and one non-grafted per cultivar, were compared in 2007. An experiment in 2007 to evaluate the effect of tunnel net color on yield was carried out testing one variety and two plant types, grafted and not. Both experiments were run on a smallholding that converted to organic vegetable farming more than ten years ago. The highest-yielding cultivars in 2006 were TASCA, AURORA, BIRGA, and DALIA, which also had better fruit size and quality. The yield trend in 2007 variety trials indicates low cropping for Top Bell and high cropping for DALIA, BIRGA, and TASCA. The comparative stock trial shows that Beaufort hybrid tomato achieves higher yield. The white net shows a better effect on marketable fruit number and yield; plants under white netting had more vigorous growth, but it was not associated with higher yield.

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