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U.C. SR-91 Bush, U.C. Top Mark Bush, and U.C. Perlita Bush are andromonoecious, short-internode, salmon-orange flesh, muskmelons, Cucumis melo. They have value as a germplasm source for selection as well as for the development of commercial hybrids and/or types for mechanical harvest.

**Origin**

Crosses were made between several vine cultivars and 'Big River Bush' obtained from R. T. Correa, Texas A&M Univ. to introduce the recessive, short-internode characteristic into a western shipping type of muskmelon. A modified backcross system of breeding was used. The vine phenotypes from each backcross were selfed in the greenhouse (winter), the resulting segregating generation was grown as a summer crop in the field, and bush segregates crossed with the recurrent parent (Fig. 1). Selection for bush plants with improved horticultural characters and disease resistance was made in the segregating generation.

Breeder's stock of U.C. SR-91 Bush is a mass increase of the 4th generation from the 6th backcross to SR-91. U.C. Top Mark Bush has the following parentage: 'Top Mark' crossed with a bush plant from the 3rd backcross to SR-91. Breeder stock of U.C. Top Mark Bush is a mass increase of the 4th generation from the second backcross to Top Mark.

U.C. Perlita Bush has an early pedigree similar to the Top Mark Bush, but with 'Perlita' as the recurrent parent. Breeders stock of U.C. Perlita Bush is a mass increase of the 4th generation from the second backcross to Perlita.

Each of the breeders stock seed lots is a bulk seed sample from selected open-pollinated fruits grown in isolation plots at the San Joaquin West Side Field Station.

**Description**

U.C. SR-91 Bush is a vigorous dark-green plant with short internodes. Plant diam is about 90 cm, and there are 2 to 3 fruits per plant. The fruits are broadly oval, with moderate vein tracts; diam 11.5 to 14.0 cm; weight 900 to 1200 g; the skin is well netted, and yellow-green at harvest maturity. The flesh is thick, salmon-orange, moderately firm, and sweet with good flavor. The cavity is inclined to be wet. U.C. SR-91 Bush is resistant to verticillium wilt, crown blight, and sulfur.

U.C. Top Mark Bush plants are vigorous, with dark-green foliage which gives good cover to the crown set. Plant diam is about 90 cm, with each producing 2 to 3 fruit. The fruits are broadly oval, with tight overall netting, relatively indistinct vein tracts; diam 10 to 12 cm; and weight 800 to 1,000 g.

The flesh is salmon-colored, thick, firm, and sweet. The seed cavity is small and relatively dry. U.C. Perlita is resistant to powdery mildew (race 1), fusarium wilt, verticillium wilt, crown blight, and sulfur.

**Availability**

Small samples of seed will be available to interested experiment station and seed company personnel upon request.

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Fig. 1. Pedigrees of SR-91 Bush, Top Mark Bush, and Perlita Bush.