'Sugar Loaf' and 'Honey Boat' Winter Squashes

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'Sugar Loaf' and 'Honey Boat', which were jointly released by the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and the Washington Agricultural Research Center, are winter squashes (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) developed from a rind color mutant of the old cultivar Delicata. These new cultivars have the same striped fruit characteristics as 'Delicata', but differ in having a tan instead of cream background color. Each has a distinctive size and shape, compared to the array of sizes and shapes found in commercial stocks of 'Delicata'. 'Sugar Loaf' and 'Honey Boat' are small squashes suitable for baking in halves for individual servings. They are smaller, but higher in soluble solids content (SSC) and total dry matter, than currently popular cultivars of the 'Table Queen' type. We recommend them for home garden and commercial uses.

Origin

The development of 'Sugar Loaf' and

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'Honey Boat' began in 1978 with the discovery of a tan variant in a row of *C. pepo* L. cv. Delicata squash grown on an Oregon State Univ. research farm. Although the source row of squashes was grown from open-pollinated seed produced near 'Butternut' (*C. moschata*) squash and a few miscellaneous *C. pepo* cultivars, there was never any indication that the tan variant was not a mutant of the normally cream-colored 'Delicata'. The

shape and size of the original tan fruit were within the range of the 'Delicata' fruits in the row. After 2 years of reselecting tan fruit from open-pollinated progenies, self-pollinated lines were established by 1981, and a pedigree selection program continued through 1988 to eliminate the normal color and establish the distinctive shapes and qualities of the lines chosen for introduction. 'Sugar Loaf' and 'Honey Boat' are the result of six and seven generations of selfed, single-plant selections.

Description

Plants of 'Sugar Loaf' and 'Honey Boat' are vining and typically reach 3.0 to 3.7 m across. Leaves are moderately and variably mottled.

'Sugar Loaf' fruits (Fig. 1) have dark green stripes with a light tan background. They are distinctly ribbed, oblong, ≈ 130 mm long $\times$ 90 mm in diameter, and typically weigh ≈ 600

Fig. 1. Typical fruits of 'Sugar Loaf' squash.

Fig. 2. Typical fruits of 'Honey Boat' squash.

g. The respective dimensions of 'Table Queen' are typically 140×130 mm and 1200 g. Flesh is yellow-orange and ≈ 20 mm thick, with a cavity usually ≈ 50 mm in diameter. Flesh texture is fine, similar to 'Delicata' and 'Table Queen'. Flesh flavor is mild and very sweet. All sensory evaluations were based on our judgment. The average SSC of 94 fruit was $15.1\% \pm 0.2\%$ after common storage in an unheated building until 31 Dec. 1988, compared to $12.0\% \pm 0.2\%$ for 32

fruit of 'Ebony' (Hollar & Co., Rocky Ford, Colo.) and $12.2\% \pm 0.4\%$ for 38 fruit of 'Delicata' (Stokes Seeds, Buffalo, N.Y.). Total dry matter content was $21\% \pm 0.2\%$ for 'Sugar Loaf', $18\% \pm 0.8\%$ for 'Ebony', and $17\% \pm 0.4\%$ for 'Delicata'. Seed count is 19,600/kg.

'Honey Boat' fruits (Fig. 2) have dark green stripes with a rich tan background. They are smooth, slightly ribbed, cylindrical, ≈ 180 mm long $\times$ 80 mm in diameter, and weigh

≈ 640 g. Flesh is yellow-orange and, in the more slender fruits, ≈ 25 mm thick, with a cavity ≈ 40 mm in diameter. Flesh texture and flavor is similar to that of 'Sugar Loaf' except it is less sweet. Average SSC of 34 fruit in the 1988 trial was $13.8\% \pm 0.4\%$ and total dry matter content was $20\% \pm 0.4\%$. Seed count is 14,800/kg.

'Sugar Loaf' and 'Honey Boat' fruit retain culinary quality and color well in storage compared to 'Table Queen'-type cultivars. Storage losses from decay in a 1988 trial, in which the fruit were kept for 2 months in common storage in the range of 2 to 10C, were 58% for 'Sugar Loaf', 26% for 'Honey Boat', 53% for 'Ebony', and 13% for 'Delicata'. We expect that 'Sugar Loaf' fruit, because of the high sugar content that develops in storage, will require more care in storage practices and conditions than some other *C. pepo* cultivars.

Fruit shape in both 'Sugar Loaf' and 'Honey Boat' is less uniform than in 'Table Queen'-type cultivars, but more uniform in each compared to observed stocks of 'Delicata'.

Availability

Seed produced in isolation plots is available from J.R.B. and D.K. for trial purposes. Seed stocks derived from selected, self-pollinated fruits are available to seed companies and squash breeders.