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Recommended Watermelon Varieties for Georgia Growers

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Watermelon is a major commercial vegetable crop in Georgia, and selecting the right variety is crucial for achieving high yields, excellent fruit quality, and disease resistance. Georgia's warm climate supports excellent watermelon production; however, disease pressure, environmental variability, and market expectations make variety selection a critical decision for growers.

The recommendations in this resource are based on our 2022, 2023, and 2025 research trials and associated research publications, which evaluated performance of seedless large, mini, and specialty watermelon types. These results provide growers with current, research-based guidance for selecting adapted and reliable varieties for commercial production in the near future.

Large Triploid (Seedless)

Table 1. Characteristics of Large Triploid (Seedless) Watermelon Varieties Recommended for Georgia.

Variety	Days to maturity†	% yield at first harvest	Avg. weight (lb)	Size distribution of total marketable yield (%)*				Brix (%)	Shape	Rind color	Flesh (red)	Disease resistance†
				60-ct 9–13.5 lb	45-ct 13.6–17.5 lb	36-ct 17.6–21.4 lb	30-ct > 21.5 lb					
Large Triploid (Seedless) "Crimson Stripe" Rind Type Watermelons												
7197 HQ	88	43.2	16.0	22	36	30	12	13.3	Oval	Light	Dark	n/a
Cracker Jack	80	50.7	16.4	16	36	35	13	13.8	Oval	Dark	Dark	anthracnose, fusarium wilt
El Capitan	85–90	43.6	15.9	22	41	24	13	11.8	Oval	Dark	Dark	fusarium wilt
Excursion	83	55.1	18.1	10	25	33	31	12.0	Blocky	Light	Dark	anthracnose, fusarium wilt
Jetski	78	51.8	15.6	24	44	23	9	13.6	Oval	Light	Dark	fusarium wilt
Miramonte	90	46.3	15.1	28	39	23	10	11.4	Blocky	Medium	Dark	fusarium wilt
Sierra Nevada	85–90	34.6	16.7	14	47	22	17	12.4	Oval	Medium	Dark	fusarium wilt
Troubadour	82	26.7	13.4	33	41	19	7	12.6	Oval	Medium	Dark	anthracnose
Valor	79	62.3	16.8	11	26	44	19	12.9	Oval	Medium	Dark	anthracnose, fusarium wilt
Large Solid "Black" Rind Triploid (Seedless) Watermelons												
Blackjack	78	54.3	16.9	14	37	32	17	13.7	Oval	Very dark	Bright	anthracnose, fusarium wilt, powdery mildew
Dark Knight	80	22.0	15.6	18	53	16	13	11.6	Globe	Very dark	Dark	anthracnose, fusarium wilt, powdery mildew

†Days to maturity and disease resistance sourced from seed catalogs/websites; all other data from UGA field trials.

Mini Triploid (Seedless)

Table 2. Characteristics of Mini-Triploid (Seedless) Watermelon Varieties Recommended for Georgia.

Variety	Days to maturity†	% yield at first harvest	Avg. weight (lb)	Size distribution of total marketable yield (%)				Brix (%)	Shape	Rind color	Flesh	Disease resistance†
				3–5 lb	5–7 lb	7–9 lb	> 9 lb					
Mini Triploid (Seedless) "Crimson Stripe" Rind Type Watermelons												
Bolita	—	87.3	7.7	2	28	38	32	12.4	Round	Dark	Medium red	fusarium wilt
Excite	84	57.5	7.5	6	25	40	29	12.2	Round	Dark	Dark red	powdery mildew
Proxima	—	76.3	7.4	4	32	41	23	11.7	Round	Dark	Medium red	anthracnose, fusarium wilt
Non-harvestable Pollinizer												
SP-7	—	—	—					—	Round	Medium	Medium yellow	anthracnose, fusarium wilt, powdery mildew
†Days to maturity and disease resistance sourced from seed catalogs/websites; all other data from UGA field trials.												

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