Special Report

Disorders in Cucumber, Squash, and Watermelon Shipments to the New York Market, 1972-1985

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Cucumber (Cucumis sativus L.) and watermelon (Citrullus vulgaris Schrad.) are popular fresh produce crops consumed in salads or "eating-out-of-hand" and rank in the top 10 vegetables delivered to the New York City market (15,16). Consumption of squash (Cucurbita spp.) has doubled in the last 10 years (Table 1), and squash is now popularly used in salads or as a cooked dish.

This report is a continuation of a series (1-13) based on computerization of USDA inspection data on shipments of major produce crops on arrival at New York City terminal markets. Inspections are generally requested when shippers or receivers question the quality of produce at arrival. USDA personnel inspected 5,287 shipments of cucurbits during 1972-1985. Information derived from these inspections should be useful in improving quality and reducing market losses of cucumbers, squash, and watermelons.

Cucumbers. During 1972–1985, USDA personnel inspected 3,060 shipments of cucumbers, representing about 5% of the 577,000 t delivered to New York markets (Tables 1 and 2). Thirteen parasitic diseases, eight physiological disorders, and seven types of injury were reported (Table 3). Parasitic diseases accounted for 43%, physiological disorders for 49%, and injuries for 8% of the 6,592 occurrences, which averaged 2.2 per shipment.

The soft rots were the most destructive diseases, dominated by cottony leak (Pythium aphanidermatum), followed by bacterial soft rot (Erwinia and Pseudomonas spp.) (Table 3). Cottony leak was detected in 58.4% of shipments and was distributed throughout all incidence classes, with 559 shipments having 11 to >50% of the contents rotted; characteristically, this disease spreads by contact and forms nests of decay. Although noted less frequently (11.2% of shipments), bacterial soft rot was also distributed throughout all incidence classes. A substantial number of decays were unidentified (12.1%) but most were in the 1-5% incidence class. Federal inspectors often do not name a disease when the grade tolerance is met or when the characteristic symptoms are not fully developed or recognized. Black rot (Mycosphaerella citrullina), an important disease of cucumber whose early symptoms can be easily mistaken for other diseases, was detected in 5.2% of shipments. Diseases of lesser importance were anthracnose (Colletotrichum lagenarium), gray mold rot (Botrytis cinerea), watery soft rot (Sclerotinia sclerotiorum), Alternaria rot (Alternaria sp.), and Fusarium rot (Fusarium sp.). Mosaic (cucumber mosaic virus), soil rot (Pellicularia filamentosa), bacterial spot (Pseudomonas lachrymans), and scab (Cladosporium cucumerinum) were reported infrequently.

Yellowing and shriveling were the most frequently reported nonparasitic disorders and were distributed throughout all incidence classes (Table 3). Sunken areas of indeterminate size were reported in 10.7% of shipments and in most cases were probably due to exposure to low temperatures, although chilling damage was reported specifically in 1.1% of shipments. Freeze damage was reported infrequently (2.4% of shipments) but caused extensive damage.

Mexico and Florida are the principal suppliers of cucumbers to the New York markets, particularly during the winter and spring months. The percentage of occurrences and the distribution throughout incidence classes of cottony leak, bacterial soft rot, and unidentified decays in shipments from both sources were very similar (Tables 4 and 5). Black rot, the other disease of note, was reported more frequently in Florida shipments than in those from Mexico. The remaining diseases were similarly profiled and, with the exception of gray mold rot (Mexico and Florida shipments) and anthracnose and Alternaria rot (Florida shipments), occurred in less than 1% of the shipments.

Squash. During 1972-1985, USDA personnel inspected 1,332 shipments of squash, representing about 3% of the 188,182 t delivered to New York markets (Tables 1 and 2). Sixteen parasitic diseases (1,199 occurrences), eight physiological disorders (352 occurrences), and eight types of injury (218 occurrences) were identified or described (Table 6).

Bacterial soft rot (Erwinia and Pseudomonas spp.) was found in 736 shipments and accounted for 61% of all disease occurrences. Considering a 2% tolerance for this disease, at least 81% of the shipments failed to meet U.S. No. 1 grade standards. Shipments with more than one-third of the squash rotted were probably complete losses. Other damaging diseases were cottony leak, gray mold rot, and Rhizopus rot (Rhizopus sp.), with most occurrences in the 11 to >50% incidence classes. Black rot and Alternaria rot were similarly distributed but occurred in fewer shipments. Unidentified decays occurred in substantial numbers, nearly all in the lowest incidence class. Blossom-end rot (Choanephora cucurbitarum), Phytophthora rot (Phytophthora sp.), Fusarium rot, anthracnose, and Cladosporium rot (C. cucumerinum) all were identified in less than 1% of shipments (Table 6).

Table 1. Volume of cucumbers, squash, and watermelons shipped to the New York market, 1972–1985

| | Numb | er of 45,400-l | g units |
|-------|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| Year | Cucumbers | Squash | Watermelons |
| 1972 | 908 | 171 | 1,107 |
| 1973 | 954 | 207 | 1,450 |
| 1974 | 995 | 202 | 1,397 |
| 1975 | 1,008 | 209 | 1,364 |
| 1976 | 1,035 | 197 | 1,285 |
| 1977 | 1,044 | 205 | 1,434 |
| 1978 | 778 | 280 | 790 |
| 1979 | 810 | 251 | 480 |
| 1980 | 806 | 410 | 971 |
| 1981 | 1,026 | 389 | 1,265 |
| 1982 | 953 | 395 | 1,058 |
| 1983 | 933 | 403 | 1,087 |
| 1984 | 812 | 399 | 1,111 |
| 1985 | 636 | 422 | 813 |
| Total | 12,698 | 4,140 | 15,612 |

Table 2. Cucumber, squash, and watermelon shipments inspected by the USDA on the New York market, 1972-1985

| | Cuc | umbers | Sq | uash | Wateri | nelons |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Year | Shipments (no.) | Packs ^a (no.) | Shipments (no.) | Packs ^b (no.) | Shipments (no.) | Packs ^c (no.) |
| 1972 | 249 | 105,897 | 55 | 16,117 | 77 | 96,279 |
| 1973 | 342 | 143,851 | 43 | 8,255 | 73 | 74,629 |
| 1974 | 165 | 84,713 | 48 | 12,202 | 71 | 68,750 |
| 1975 | 152 | 58,964 | 69 | 11,191 | 52 | 60,421 |
| 1976 | 156 | 73,923 | 99 | 21,756 | 151 | 179,627 |
| 1977 | 164 | 61,045 | 51 | 8,537 | 67 | 108,292 |
| 1978 | 120 | 64,944 | 49 | 9,339 | | |
| 1979 | 80 | 42,379 | 20 | 4,458 | 39 | 34,637 |
| 1980 | 128 | 51,386 | 47 | 9,889 | 45 | 40,481 |
| 1981 | 173 | 50,457 | 97 | 22,209 | 28 | 19,923 |
| 1982 | 229 | 78,448 | 105 | 23,663 | 56 | 44,642 |
| 1983 | 362 | 132,737 | 198 | 46,970 | 61 | 75,096 |
| 1984 | 414 | 166,039 | 330 | 91,439 | 75 | 70,378 |
| 1985 | -326 | 135,185 | 121 | 43,341 | 100 | 38,924 |
| Total | 3,060 | 1,249,968 | 1,332 | 329,366 | 895 | 912,079 |

^a Bushel, carton, or crate with net weight of 25 kg.

Table 3. Frequency of disorders reported in USDA inspections of 3,060 cucumber shipments on the New York market, 1972-1985

| | Shipments affected | | Number of shipments affected according to incidence class (% fruit) | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------|---|-------------|----------|--------------|---|-----|--|--|--|
| Disorder | (%) | 0 | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | 21-33 | 34-50 | >50 | | | |
| Cottony leak | 58.4 | 1,273 | 639 | 589 | 341 | 117 | 50 | 51 | | | |
| Yellowing | 47.5 | 1,607 | 417 | 484 | 408 | 113 | 25 | 6 | | | |
| Shriveling | 33.9 | 2,024 | 498 | 295 | 178 | 54 | 8 | 3 | | | |
| Unidentified decays | 12.1 | 2,689 | 355 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Bacterial soft rot | 11.2 | 2,717 | 157 | 110 | 39 | 24 | 7 | 6 | | | |
| Sunken areas | 10.7 | 2,733 | 183 | 106 | 31 | 5 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Grade defects ^b | 10.1 | 2,751 | 153 | 122 | 21 | 9 | | 3 | | | |
| Soft fruit | 9.9 | 2,757 | 142 | 99 | 52 | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Black rot | 5.2 | 2,901 | 67 | 57 | 31 | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Freeze damage | 2.4 | 2,986 | 3 | 10 | 24 | 12 | 3 | 22 | | | |
| Bruise damage | 2.3 | 2,991 | 55 | 10 | 3 | # 1 a | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Anthracnose | 1.7 | 3,007 | 22 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 0 | | | |
| Scarring | 1.5 | 3,013 | 38 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Gray mold rot | 1.4 | 3,017. | 18 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Misshapen fruit | 1.3 | 3,020 | 31 | 8 | 0 | # 11. | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Chilling damage | 1.1 | 3,027 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Sunken discoloration | 1.0 | 3,028 | 15 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Watery soft rot | 0.9 | 3,032 | 15 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Alternaria rot | 0.8 | 3,036 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | | | |
| Fusarium rot | 0.7 | 3,039 | 14 | 5 | 1 1 | 1111 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Cracking | 0.5 | 3,044 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Insect damage | 0.3 | 3,050 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Mosaic | 0.1 | 3,056 | 0 | Barry Harri | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Rhizopus rot | 0.1 | 3,056 | 0 | 1. 集 1篇 | E Partie | 1 | de la | 0 | | | |
| Soil rot | 0.1 | 3,057 | 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Bacterial spot | 0.1 | 3,057 | 2 | 1 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Scab | 0.1 | 3,058 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Sunburn | <0.1 | 3,059 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Russeting | <0.1 | 3,059 | I THE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ŏ | | | |

^a From 19 states, Puerto Rico, and 10 foreign countries.

Soft fruit and bruise damage were the most frequently reported physiological disorder and injury, respectively (Table 6). Shriveling was reported in a considerable number of shipments, mostly in the lower incidence classes. Chilling damage was reported infrequently but some instances may have been reported as sunken areas or sunken discoloration. Freeze damage was extensive in some shipments. Of the remaining

nonparasitic disorders, grade defects were most common.

Approximately 85% of the squash shipments inspected were from Florida and Mexico. Cottony leak and gray mold rot were reported more often, and bacterial soft rot less often, in shipments from Mexico than in those from Florida (Table 7). Rhizopus rot was noted with almost equal frequency. Disease profiles of zucchini and yellow squash were similar overall,

^bSummer squash, 0.5-bushel carton or crate with net weight of 9.5 or 11.8 kg; winter squash, carton with net weight of 22.7 kg.

^cCarton with net weight of 34 kg.

^bMinor scars, bruises, mechanical damage, and unidentified defects.

Table 4. Frequency of parasitic diseases reported in USDA inspections of 1,260 Mexico cucumber shipments on the New York market, 1977-1985

| Disorder | Shipments affected | Number of shipments affected according to incidence class (% fruit) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--|--|
| | (%) | 0 | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | 21-33 | 34-50 | >50 | | |
| Cottony leak | 57.3 | - 538 | 262 | 273 | 121 | 33 | 18 | 15 | | |
| Unidentified decays | 13,4 | 1,091 | 160 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | (| | |
| Bacterial soft rot | 4 11.1 | 1,120 | 62 | 54 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 3 | | |
| Black rot | 3.9 | 1,211 | 24 | 19 | 5 | 1 | 0 | (| | |
| Gray mold rot | 1.3 | 1,243 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | (| | |
| Anthracnose | 0.7 | 1,251 | 3 | 4 | 2 | . 0 | 0 | (| | |
| Watery soft rot | 0.6 | 1,253 | 3 | 3 | 41 | 0 | 0 | (| | |
| Alternaria rot | 0.6 | 1,253 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | (| | |
| Fusarium rot | 0.3 | 1.256 | 2 | 1 | | 0 | 0 | (| | |
| Mosaic | 0.3 | 1,256 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | (| | |
| Rhizopus rot | 0.2 | 1,258 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | (| | |
| Soil rot | 0.1 | 1,259 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (| | |
| Scab | 1.0 | 1,259 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (| | |

Table 5. Frequency of parasitic diseases reported in USDA inspections of 974 Florida cucumber shipments on the New York market, 1972-1985

| Disorder | Shipments affected | Number of shipments affected according to incidence class (% fruit) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--|--|
| | (%) | 0 | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | 21-33 | 34-50 | >50 | | |
| Cottony leak | 63.2 | 358 | - 216 | 193 | 130 | 44 | 17 | 16 | | |
| Bacterial soft rot | 11,4 | 863 | 58 | 26 | 12 | 13 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Unidentified decays | 10.5 | 872 | 98 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Black rot | 7.5 | 901 | 29 | 27 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Anthracnose | 2.0 | 955 | 8 | 6 | 1116 | 3 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Gray mold rot | 1.8 | 956 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Alternaria rot | 1.0 | 964 | -6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Fusarium rot | 0.9 | 965 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Watery soft rot | 0.9 | 965 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Bacterial spot | 0.2 | 972 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Rhizopus rot | 0.1 | 973 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | . 0 | | |
| Scab | 0.1 | 973 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |

although some variation was noted in specific diseases.

Watermelons. During 1972-1985, USDA personnel inspected 895 shipments of watermelons, representing about 5% of the 709,636 t delivered to New York markets (Tables 1 and 2). Twelve parasitic diseases, eight physiological disorders, and eight types of injury were reported (Table 8). Parasitic diseases accounted for 40%, physiological disorders for 20%, and injuries for 40% of the 1,873 occurrences.

Stem-end rot (Diplodia natalensis) was the most frequent and damaging disorder reported (Table 8); 38.5% of shipments were affected, and in approximately one-half of these, more than 10% of the contents were rotted. Anthracnose was reported in 19.8% of shipments and anthracnose rot (decay extending beyond the rind into the pulp) in 4.7%. The distribution of anthracnose in the incidence classes was similar to that of stem-end rot. Another disease of importance was blossom-end rot; although this disease may be induced abiotically, secondary infections are common and make the true cause difficult to determine (14). Of the seven other diseases identified, black rot, bacterial soft rot (Erwinia sp.), and Rhizopus soft rot occurred in more than 1% of the shipments; the others occurred less frequently. Unidentified decays were reported in 11.4% of the shipments, but nearly all were in the 1-5% incidence class.

Overripe fruit (18.7%) and soft fruit (10.7%) were the physiological disorders reported most often. Among the remaining six such disorders, misshapen fruit accounted for over one-half of the occurrences.

Bruise damage was reported in 34.5% of the shipments and

was the most damaging nonparasitic disorder. Other kinds of damage included scarring (20%), cracking (4.6%), transit rubs (3.2%), and grade defects (15.3%).

Two-thirds of the inspections were conducted on watermelons shipped from Florida, Texas, and Mexico (Table 9). The percentage of shipments affected by stem-end rot did not differ among sources or between types. Anthracnose and anthracnose rot occurred more frequently in shipments from Florida than in those from Mexico; the reverse was true for Phytophthora rot. In some diseases, differences between melon types were more apparent than differences among sources.

Summary. The results presented in this report are not intended to reflect the arrival condition of all cucurbit shipments to the New York markets, as data are derived from inspections of shipments whose quality was suspect or being questioned. Nonetheless, the examination by trained personnel of 5,287 shipments of cucumbers, squash, and watermelons over a 14-year period provides a fairly accurate profile of the disorders that cause considerable losses in these crops. Every inspection usually involves examination of six packs or more, if needed, to evaluate the quality of the produce. The most damaging disorders on cucumber and watermelon were the field diseases cottony leak and stem-end rot, respectively. Cottony leak also caused considerable damage on squash. Other serious field diseases found on arrival were black rot on cucumber and anthracnose on watermelon. The common occurrence in the market of these field diseases points up the need for improved disease control in the field. Data presented here also underscore the need for improved handling practices

Table 6. Frequency of disorders reported in USDA inspections of 1,332 squash shipments on the New York market, 1972-1985

| | Shipments affected | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--|
| Disorder | (%) | 0 | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | 21-33 | 34-50 | >50 | |
| Bacterial soft rot | 55.3 | 596 | 140 | 208 | 197 | 116 | 47 | 28 | |
| Soft fruit | 16.0 | 1,119 | 45 | 56 | 72 | 23 | 9 | 8 | |
| Cottony leak | 11.9 | 1,175 | 15 | 37 | 58 | 31 | 8 | 8 | |
| Gray mold rot | 7.7 | 1,230 | 18 | 26 | 29 | 14 | 9 | 6 | |
| Bruise damage | 6.2 | 1,249 | 33 | 24 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 1 | |
| Grade defects ^b | 5.9 | 1,254 | 54 | 21 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Shriveling | 5.8 | 1,255 | 34 | 22 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 1 | |
| Unidentified decays | 5.0 | 1,265 | 63 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| Rhizopus rot | 5.0 | 1,266 | 4 | 22 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 4 | |
| Freeze damage | 2.4 | 1,300 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 10 | |
| Sunken areas | 2.1 | 1,304 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| Sunken discoloration | 1.4 | 1,314 | 6 | 3 - | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | |
| Black rot | 1.3 | 1,315 | 3 | 5 | 2 | . 3 | 2 | 2 | |
| Alternaria rot | 1.2 | 1,316 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - 1 | |
| Scarring | 0.9 | 1,320 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Blossom-end rot | 0.7 | 1,322 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Chilling damage | 0.6 | 1,324 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Phytophthora rot | 0.5 | 1,325 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Ō | |
| Scuffing | 0.5 | 1,325 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Fusarium rot | 0.5 | 1,326 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| Yellowing | 0.4 | 1,327 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Anthracnose rot | 0.4 | 1,327 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| Dry rot | 0.2 | 1,329 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Ō | Ō | |
| Mushy brown decay | 0.2 | 1,329 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Cuts/punctures | 0.2 | 1,329 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Ó | 0 | |
| Cladosporium rot | 0.2 | 1,330 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Cracking | 0.2 | 1,330 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Misshapen fruit | 0.2 | 1,330 | 1 | 1 | Ō | Ō | Ō | ő | |
| Black mold rot | 0.1 | 1,331 | ı | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Stem-end rot | 0.1 | 1,331 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Insect damage | 0.1 | 1,331 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Russeting | 0.1 | 1,331 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Ö | 0 | Ŏ | |

^a From 12 states, Puerto Rico, and five foreign countries.

Table 7. Parasitic diseases reported in USDA inspections of yellow (summer) and zucchini squash in Florida and Mexico shipments on the New York market, 1972–1985

| | | Diseases and percentages of shipments affected | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| Source Type | Number of shipments | Bacterial soft rot | Cottony leak | Gray mold rot | Rhizopus rot | Uniden- tified decays | Alternaria rot | Phytoph- thora rot | Black rot | Blossom- end rot | Other | |
| Florida | 529 | 64.1 | 8.1 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 0.4 | |
| Yellow | 101 | 59.4 | 5.9 | 4.0 | 8.9 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 ^a | |
| Zucchini | 402 | 65.7 | 9.2 | 6.0 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 ^b | |
| Mexico | 607 | 47.4 | 14.0 | 9.6 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 1.6 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.8 | |
| Yellow | 107 | 45.2 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 8.4 | 5.6 | 0.9 | 0 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 3.7° | |
| Zucchini | 473 | 48.4 | 15.0 | 9.5 | 4.9 | 5,9 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 1.1 ^d | |

^a Anthracnose rot.

to reduce injuries that enable opportunistic organisms to cause decay. Hopefully, the information in this report will be a stimulus for the industry to develop more effective measures of maintaining quality and reducing losses in the marketing of cucurbits.

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^b Minor scars, mechanical damage, and unidentified defects.

^b Mushy brown decay.

^c Anthracnose and Fusarium rots.

^dFusarium, Cladosporium, and stem-end rots.

Table 8. Frequency of disorders reported in USDA inspections of 895 watermelon shipments on the New York market, 1972-1985

| | Shipments affected | Number of shipments affected according to incidence class (% fruit) | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--|--|
| Disorder | (%) | 0 | 1-5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | 21-33 | 34-50 | >50 | | |
| Stem-end rot | 38.5 | 550 | 91 | 89 | 84 | 45 | 25 | 11 | | |
| Bruise damage | 35.4 | 578 | 148 | 81 | 54 | 24 | 6 | 3 | | |
| Scarring | 20.0 | 716 | 122 | 45 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Anthracnose | 19.8 | 718 | 45 | 37 | 58 | 20 | 11 | 6 | | |
| Overripe fruit | 18.7 | 728 | 39 | 30 | 51 | 31 | 9 | 7 | | |
| Grade defects ^b | 15.3 | 758 | 26 | 64 | 19 | 16 | 10 | 2 | | |
| Blossom-end rot | 14.5 | 765 | 45 | 42 | 29 | 11 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Unidentified decays | 11.4 | 793 | 97 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | |
| Soft fruit | 10.7 | 799 | 47 | 24 | 17 | 7 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Misshapen fruit | 7.5 | 828 | 49 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Anthracnose rot | 4.7 | 853 | 7 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 4 | | |
| Cracking | 4.6 | 854 | 20 | 15 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Sunburn | 3.8 | 861 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Transit rubs | 3.2 | 866 | - 11 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Brown discoloration | 2.0 | 877 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Black rot | 1.8 | 879 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Bacterial soft rot | 1.5 | 882 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Rhizopus soft rot | 1.3 | 883 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | |
| Shriveling | 1.2 | 884 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Hollow heart | 1.1 | 885 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Insect damage | 1.1 | 885 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Phytophthora rot | 0.8 | 888 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Immature fruit | 0.8 | 888 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Internal rind necrosis | 0.3 | 892 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Fusarium rot | 0.2 | 893 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | . 0 | | |
| Freeze damage | 0.2 | 893 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Gray mold rot | 0.1 | 894 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Pitting | 0.1 | 894 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |

^a From 20 states, Puerto Rico, and six foreign countries.

Table 9. Parasitic diseases reported in USDA inspections of Florida, Texas, and Mexico watermelon shipments on the New York market, 1972-1985

| Source Type | Number of shipments | Stem-end rot | Anthrac- nose | Blossom- end rot | Uniden- tified decays | Anthrac- nose rot | Black rot | Phytoph- thora rot | Bacterial soft rot | Other |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Florida | 301 | 38.2 | 19.9 | 13.6 | 14.3 | 6.6 | 1.7 | 0 | 1.0 | 1.3ª |
| Long, Charleston Gray | 145 | 37.2 | 17.2 | 8.3 | 17.9 | 5.5 | 1.4 | 0 | 0 | 0.7 |
| Long, striped | 69 | 46.4 | 18.8 | 17.4 | 10.1 | 5.8 | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 | 0 |
| Texas | 148 | 39.2 | 14.9 | 14.9 | 10.8 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 3.4 ^b |
| Long, striped | 73 | 38.4 | 12.3 | 23.3 | 12.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 5.5 |
| Mexico | 143 | 41.3 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 6.3 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 2.1° |
| Long, Charleston Gray | 67 | 41.8 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 0 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Long, striped | 43 | 44.2 | 16.3 | 11.6 | 9.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 7.0 |

^{*}Rhizopus soft rot and internal rind necrosis.

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^bMinor bruises, scars, and unidentified defects.

^bRhizopus soft rot.

^{&#}x27;Fusarium and gray mold rots.