Baby Klondike Watermelon

seeds of eight-inch watermelon of good eating quality commercially available in quantity

Glen N. Davis

The seeds of the Baby Klondike Watermelon—one of the midget melons—are available commercially in California.

Midget melons are of advantage for small families. They can be eaten in a single meal, and storage in refrigerator or cooler—if needed—is simple. They can be shipped to market in much the same manner as honey dew or Casaba melons.

One disadvantage is that midgets contain a considerably smaller percentage of heart flesh—compared to regions of seed—than do larger melons.

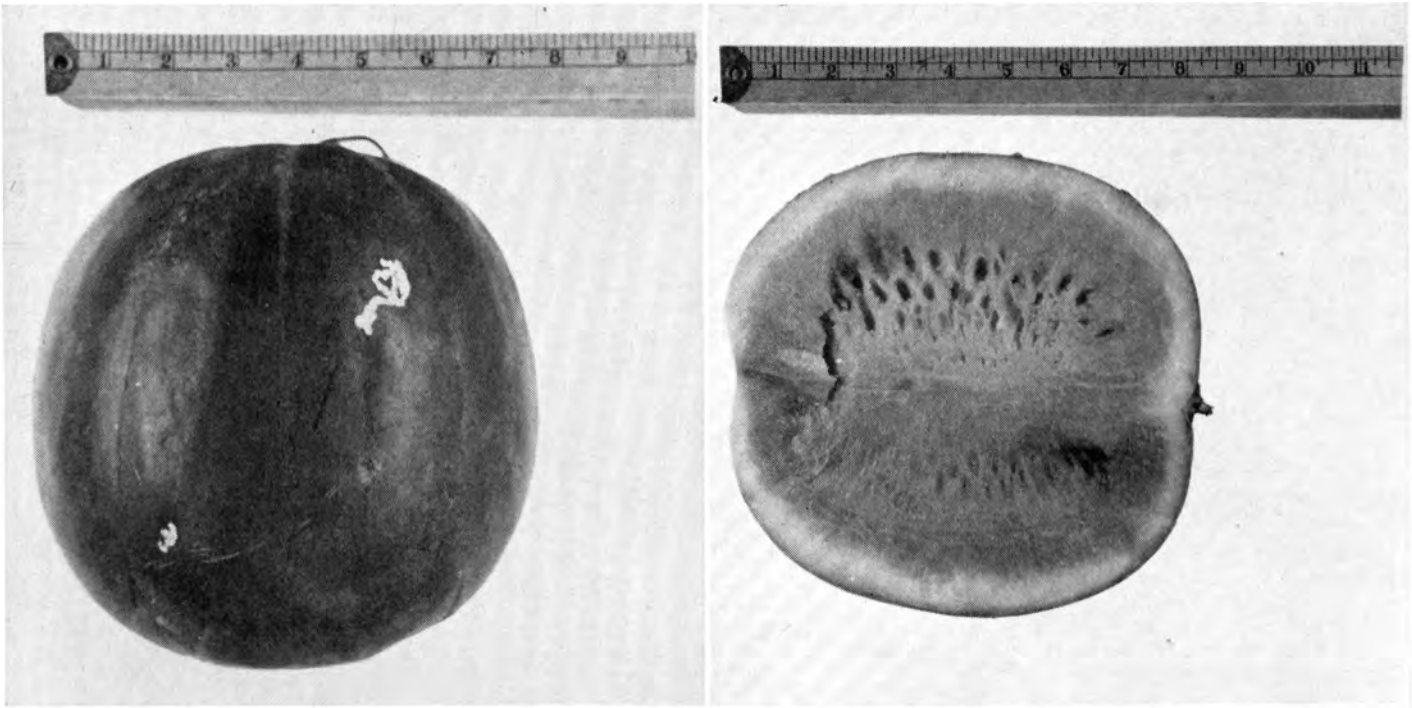
Baby Klondike is a late maturing, round, green-skinned watermelon which at maturity weighs eight to 12 pounds. It has red flesh with small tan seeds, its flesh quality is good to excellent, and it is resistant to Fusarium wilt. Other pertinent data from the test plots at Davis are:

Average number of melons per acre	2,896
Average weight per mellon	11.4 lbs.
Tons per acre	16.1
Average refractometer reading	11.3
Average shape	round

Baby Klondike originated from a cross of Baby Delight and Klondike R-7. This was followed by four generations of self-pollination and selection. A plant from the fourth selfed generation was backcrossed to R-7. This again was followed by four years of self-pollination with selection. The seed from a single fruit of the fourth selfed generation was planted in isolation to grow the increase of stock seed for distribution. Small amounts of stock seeds were released to interested commercial seedsmen in the fall of 1949.

Glen N. Davis is Associate Professor of Truck Crops, University of California College of Agriculture, Davis.

The above progress report is based on Research Project No. 906.



Baby Klondike watermelon. *Left*, the whole fruit; *right*, longitudinal section.

VITICULTURE

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In the grape breeding program over 40,000 seedling vines of known parentage have been grown to fruiting, and data on the inheritance of fruit and vine characters obtained. Major objectives of the program are to develop seedless table grapes, varieties better adapted to wine and juice preparation, and rootstocks resistant to phylloxera and nematode. Promising new varieties are tested thoroughly by comparison with standard varieties before release to growers. Nine table varieties and 75 wine and juice varieties are now undergoing comparison.

Over 100 rootstock plots in a variety of climatic and soil conditions are supplying data on vine vigor, yield, and fruit quality for fruiting varieties on the various rootstocks. The grape breeding program involves breeding for resistance to virus diseases.

Fertilizer tests in all grape-growing areas from Mendocino to Riverside counties indicate some response to nitrogen on a number of soils, but practically no response to applications of phosphorus and potassium.

The application of trace-minor—elements, with the exception of zinc, have

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