

## **2004 Field Evaluation of Maui LCF (Liquid Compost Factor) Effect on Pumpkin**

M. D. Orzolek

The Pennsylvania State University

Penn State Horticulture Research Farm, Rock Springs, PA

LCF is a California Registered Fertilizer consisting of Hawaiian pineapple juice, sugarcane molasses, papaya puree and mushroom spawn. The mushroom spawn composts the fruit juice slurry and the resulting liquid or Compost Tea is harvested, filtered and heat processed as a liquid fertilizer.

**Date Transplanted:** June 9, 2004

**Variety:** Snack Jack – edible seed type

**Spacing:** 3' in-the-row and 5' between rows with 7 plants per plot.

**Production system:** Conventional on bare soil.

**Statistical design:** Randomized Complete Block with 3 replications

**Harvest date:** September 8, 2004.

### **Treatments:**

1 – None

2 – LCF applied at time of transplanting at 1.0 qt./100 gallons of water.

3 – LCF applied as a foliar application every 2 weeks at 1.0 qt./A.

4 – LCF applied as a foliar application every 3 weeks at 2.0 qt./A

5 - LCF applied at time of transplanting at 1.0 qt./100 gallons of water plus as a foliar application every 2 weeks at 1.0 qt./A.

### **Number of Applications:**

Treatment 2 – one (May 27).

Treatment 3 – six (June 9 through September 3).

Treatment 4 – five (June 16 through September 3).

Treatment 5 – six (June 9 through September 3).

### **Results:**

All treatments of Liquid Compost Factor applied to pumpkin plants increased the number of pumpkin fruit harvested from the field compared to the control (Table 1). In addition., the application of LCF at time of transplanting at 1.0 qt./100 gallons of water plus as a foliar application every 2 weeks at 1.0 qt./A produced the largest average size fruit compared to the other treatments. There was no visual difference in the appearance of the pumpkin plants regardless of treatment.

Table 1. The yield of marketable pumpkins treated with Liquid Compost Factor grown at the Horticulture Research Farm, Rock Springs, PA – 2004.

Treatment	Number of fruit	Wt. of fruit – lbs.	Avg. fruit wt. – lbs.
1	18.3	45.5	2.5
2	24.0	59.2	2.5
3	20.0	52.2	2.6
4	23.0	57.3	2.5
5	22.7	64.4	2.8