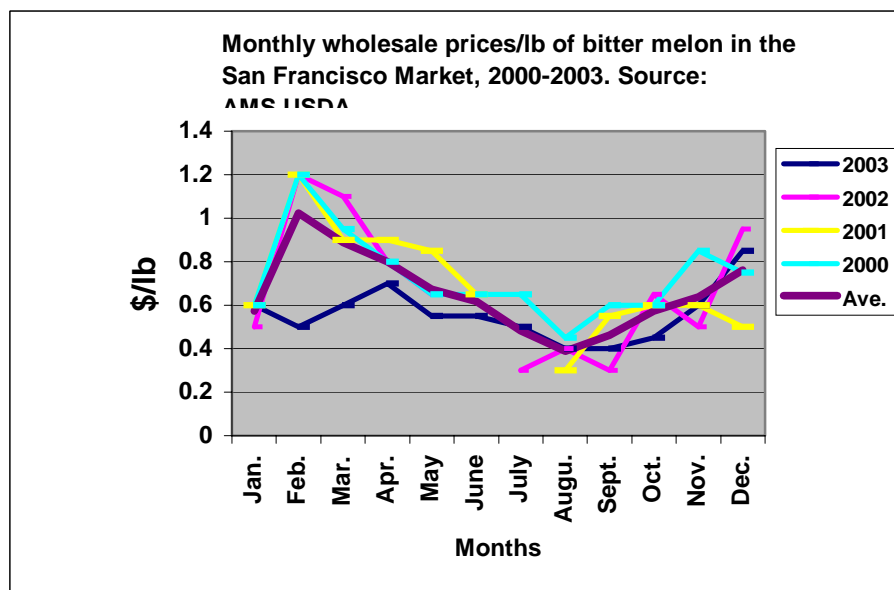
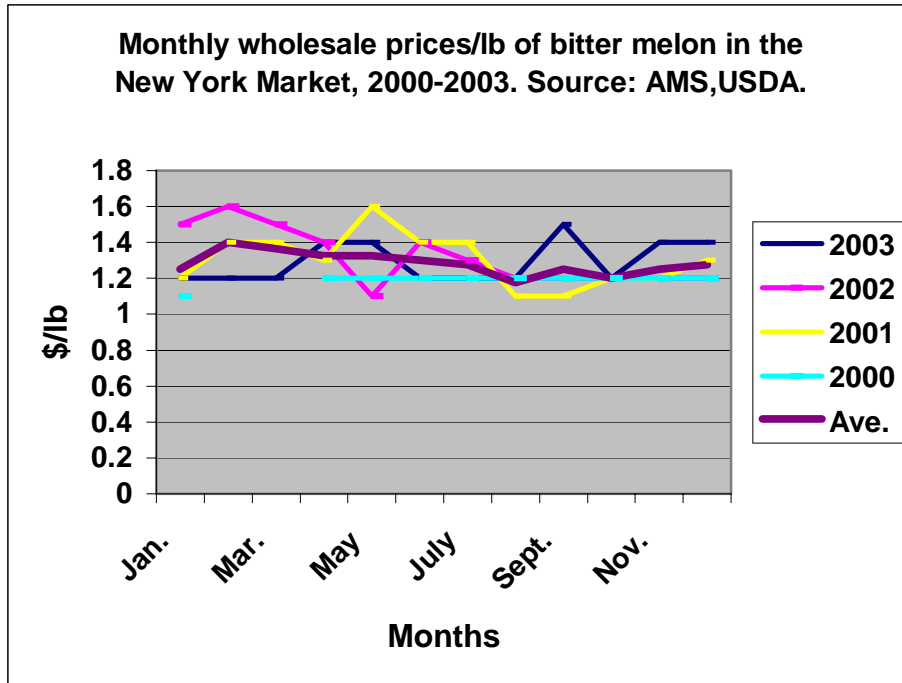


Bitter melon:

- **Production:** Bitter Melon, *Momordica charanti*. Bitter melon is a cucurbit vine and it is considered to be a native to Asia. Other cucurbits are squash, watermelon, muskmelon and cucumber. The other names for bitter melons are bitter gourd (U.S.A.), balsam pear (U.S.A.), fukwa (China), kerala (India), nigai uri (Japan) and ampalaya (Philippines). Bitter melon is normally grown in hot, humid areas as an annual crop. Bitter melon production requires a trellis to provide support for the climbing vine. The trellis should be 6 feet high, 4-6 feet apart. The seed can be planted directly or grown as seedling at 1.5-2 feet spacing and between rows spacing at 3-5. Under favorable conditions, the yield could reach 5-7 metric tones per acre. California and Florida are the main producers of bitter melon in the United States. Considerable volume of bitter melon is imported from Mexico, Dominican Republic and Honduras. The best bitter melons are harvested when the fruit is pale green. Beyond this stage, the fruit becomes too bitter and losses market appeal. For more production information refer to linkages provided below.
- **Market:** from the Market News Report prepared by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, the monthly wholesale prices of bitter melon for both the New York and San Francisco wholesale markets for four years (2000-2003) was obtained and graphed (bellow). Also, an average of the prices for the four years was calculated and added to the graphs to show yearly and monthly price fluctuations. The price for each month was determined using only one day of each month to represent the price for the month (20th of each month). If the 20th of each month was a weekend or a holiday, then the price for the day 18th of the month was used.





More information for bitter melon:

<http://www.herbalprovider.com/bitter-melon.html?src=ggl&w=bitter-melon>

<http://www.rain-tree.com/bitmelon.htm>

http://www.nt.gov.au/dbird/dpif/plants/horticulture/pdf/PDF%20Fact%20Sheets/bitter_melon_fact_sheet.pdf

<http://www.rain-tree.com/bittermelon-tech.pdf>

<http://www.rircd.gov.au/reports/AFO/02-134.pdf>

<http://www.theproducehunter.com/productdisplay.asp?ID=1959>

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/proceedings1996/V3-488.html#Bitter%20melon>

<http://www.fintrac.com/indoag/prodguid/usuniv/ucdavis/bitterm.htm>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/CV/CV13900.pdf>

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