

S4 Table. Grafted watermelon reference genes ranked according to their expression stability as determined by geNorm in different sample sets.

Scion samples under N, P starvation	Stability value (M)	Squash rootstock samples under N, P starvation	Stability value (M)	Bottle gourd rootstocks samples under N, P starvation	Stability value (M)	All scion and rootstocks under normal growth conditions	Stability value (M)
<i>Cl</i> -miR167c*	0.371	<i>Cmo</i> -miR167c*	0.118	<i>Lsi</i> -miR166b*	0.290	<i>miR167c</i>	0.747
<i>Cl</i> -miR167f*	0.371	<i>Cmo</i> -miR167f*	0.118	<i>Lsi</i> -U6*	0.290	<i>miR166b</i>	0.747
<i>Cl</i> -18S*	0.582	<i>Cmo</i> -miR166b	0.251	<i>LsPP2A</i>	0.399	<i>miR167f</i>	1.053
<i>CLYLS8</i> *	0.740	<i>Cmo</i> -miR167b	0.360	<i>Lsi</i> -miR167f	0.468	<i>U6</i>	1.437
<i>Cl</i> -miR82	0.776	<i>Cmo</i> -18S	0.473	<i>Lsi</i> -18S	0.502	<i>18S</i>	1.791
<i>Cl</i> -miR81	0.819	<i>CmYLS8</i>	0.525	<i>Lsi</i> -miR166u	0.528		
<i>Cl</i> -miR170	0.866	<i>Cmo</i> -miR319b	0.554	<i>Lsi</i> -miR167c	0.568		
<i>Cl</i> -U6	0.916	<i>Cmo</i> -U6	0.615	<i>Lsi</i> -miR398b	0.605		
<i>Cl</i> -miR169n-5p	0.969	<i>CmPP2A</i>	0.664				
<i>Cl</i> -miR166b	1.045	<i>Cmo</i> -miR160a	0.717				
		<i>Cmo</i> -miR3511-3p	0.786				

"*": represents the optimal reference genes determined by pairwise variation analyses which are presented in Fig 3. The recommended threshold of 0.15 is adopted.