



Long Season Crop Cantaloupes

Days to Germination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 to 14
Days to Maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 to 90
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 6.0 to 6.5 • Well-drained sandy or silt loam soil
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between plants: 60 in. • Between rows: 48 in. if cultivated by hand; 60 in. if field implements are used
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cantaloupes are ripe when they separate easily from the vine and the skin takes on a slightly yellowish appearance. • Cantaloupes that will be shipped long distances can be picked just prior to ripening.
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ripe cantaloupes can be held for 5 to 14 days at 32°F to 36°F. • Cantaloupes are highly perishable.
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cantaloupes are frequently planted in hills, but this is not necessary and may not be practical when growing large quantities.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: aphids, cucumber beetles, squash bugs • Diseases: Fusarium wilt, anthracnose, Alternaria leaf spot, bacterial wilt, powdery mildew, gummy stem blight, damping-off, root rot/vine decline, root knot
Other Considerations	

Fruit and Vegetable Production

Commercial Vegetable Production Guides. “Melons: Cantaloupe, Muskmelon, Honeydew, Crenshaw, Casaba, Etc.” Oregon State University.
<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/melon.html#storage>.

The Gardener’s Network. “Cantaloupes and Melons.”
<http://www.gardenersnet.com/vegetable/cantlope.htm>.

Jett, L. W. *Vegetable Planting and Planning Calendar*. University of Missouri Extension.
<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06201cantaloupe.htm>.

Motes, J., W. Roberts, J. Edelson, J. Damicone, and J. Duthie. *Cantaloupe Production*. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.
<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1405/F-6237web.pdf>.

Reimer Seeds. “Cantaloupe and Melon Seeds.”
http://www.reimerseeds.com/cantaloupes-melons_442.aspx.

Sources accessed November 28, 2005.



Long Season Crop Gourds

Days to Germinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 to 15
Days to Maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 to 180
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 6.5 to 6.8 • Sunny, well-drained site
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between plants: 24 in. • Between rows: 60 in. • Hills: 48 in. to 60 in. apart with rows 84 in. apart
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest gourds when the stems are dry and brown and before frost.
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean gourds with soap and water, dry, and apply rubbing alcohol to the surface. • Curing Cucurbita and Lagenaria gourds is a two-step process. The first step, surface drying, takes approximately a week. This is followed by internal drying, which can take from 4 weeks to several months, depending on the variety. • Luffa sponges are prepared by removing the seeds, soaking and removing the skin, and bleaching the sponge to achieve the desired appearance.
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of their long growing season, gourds should be started indoors 4 weeks before planting outdoors. • Gourds are often grown on a trellis or arbor. Gourds vary greatly in weight and size. Be sure the structure will support the weight of the gourds.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: aphids, cucumber beetles, squash bugs, squash vine borers • Diseases: angular leaf spot, bacterial wilt, mosaic viruses, powdery mildew
Other Considerations	<p>There are three main types of gourds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cucurbita: ornamental gourds • Lagenaria: large, utilitarian gourds • Luffa: vegetable sponges

Fruit and Vegetable Production

Grassbaugh, E., S. Metzger, and M. Riofrio. *Growing and Curing Gourds in the Home Garden*. Ohio State University Extension. <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1630.html>.

Schultheis, J. R. *Growing Gourds*. North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-29.html>.

Yankee Gardener. <http://www.yankeegardener.com/seeds/hartseed5.html>.

Sources accessed November 28, 2005.



Long Season Crop

Pumpkins

Days to Germination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 to 10
Days to Maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 to 120
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 5.5 to 6.5 • Moderate potassium and phosphorus and high nitrogen content
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between plants: 12 in. to 18 in. • Between rows: 72 in.
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumpkins are ready to harvest when they are a deep solid color and the vine has begun to shrivel. • Harvest pumpkins before the first hard frost. • Leave 3 in. to 4 in. of stem attached to the pumpkin.
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be held for 2 to 3 months at 50°F to 55°F and 50% to 75% relative humidity
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pumpkins regularly throughout growing season and keep plants evenly moist. • Watering plants early in the day and keeping water off foliage helps prevent mildew.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: squash vine borers, cucumber beetles • Diseases: bacterial wilt, anthracnose, downy mildew, powdery mildew
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not plant pumpkins until the danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed.

Fruit and Vegetable Production

Banse, G. *Growing Pumpkins*. Farm and Garden. <http://www.farm-garden.com/growing-vegetables/pumpkins>.

Commercial Vegetable Production Guides. "Pumpkin and Winter Squash." Oregon State University. <http://oregonstate.edu/Dept/NWREC/pumpkin.html>.

Jett, L. W. *Vegetable Planting and Planning Guide*. University of Missouri Extension. <http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06201pumpkin.htm>.

Urban Programs Resource Network. "Growing Pumpkins." University of Illinois Extension. <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/pumpkins/growing.html>.

Sources accessed November 16, 2005.



Long Season Crop

Watermelons

Days to Germination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 to 14
Days to Maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 to 95
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 5.0 to 8.0 • Well-drained sandy or sandy loam soil
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between plants: 96 in. • Between rows: 96 in. if hand cultivated; 120 in. if field implements are used
Harvest	<p>Timing is important because sweetness does not increase after harvest. Indications of ripeness include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground spot (the portion of the melon in contact with the soil) turns from white to yellow • Tendrils near the fruit become brown and dry • Rind has a shiny appearance • Thumping produces a hollow sound—less effective on varieties with firmer flesh
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be stored for 2 weeks at 52°F to 60°F and 85% to 90% relative humidity • Not suited for long storage • Will lose flavor and color if stored below 50°F
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate water early in the season improves vine growth and yield.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: aphids, cucumber beetles • Diseases: Alternaria leaf spot, anthracnose, downy mildew, Fusarium wilt
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit disorders: misshapen melons, blossom-end rot, bursting, white heart, hollow heart, sunburn, rind necrosis

Fruit and Vegetable Production

Heirloom Seeds. "Seed Germination Soil Temperatures."

<http://www.heirloomseeds.com/germination.html>.

Jett, L. W. *Frequently Asked Vegetable Questions*. University of Missouri Extension.

<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06400.htm#Watermelon>.

Jett, L. W. *Vegetable Planting and Planning Calendar*. University of Missouri Extension.

<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06201watermelon.htm>.

Marr, C. W., and N. Tisserat. *Commercial Vegetable Production: Watermelon*. Kansas State University.

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/mac/links/linkview3.asp?catnum=240&linknum=4131>.

Roberts, W., J. Motes, J. Damicone, J. Duthie, and J. Edelson. *Watermelon Production*.

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service.

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/mac/links/linkview3.asp?catnum=240&linknum=5834>.

Sources accessed November 17, 2005.



Long Season Crop

Winter Squash

Days to Germination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 to 10
Days to Maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 to 120
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 5.5 to 6.5 • Fertile, well-drained soil
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between plants: 60 in. • Between rows: 48 in. if cultivated by hand; 60 in. if field implements are used
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter squash are ready to harvest when their stems begin to shrivel. • Cut squash off the plant and leave 2 in. of stem attached to the fruit.
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curing is often recommended for many types of winter squash to harden the skin and extend storage life. To cure, store squash for 10 to 20 days at 75°F to 80°F. • Fully cured squash can be held 84 to 150 days at 50°F to 55°F and 50% to 70% relative humidity. • Do not cure acorn squash. Acorn squash can be held 5 to 8 weeks at 50°F.
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep squash evenly moist throughout the growing season. • Monthly application of a complete organic fertilizer is recommended to improve plant health and yield.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: aphids, cucumber beetles, squash vine borers, squash bugs • Diseases: bacterial wilt, anthracnose, downy mildew, powdery mildew
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squash plants are not hardy and are susceptible to frost in the spring and fall.

Fruit and Vegetable Production

Banse, G. *Growing Winter Squash*. Farm and Garden. <http://www.farm-garden.com/growing-vegetables/wintersquash>.

Boyhan, G. E., D. M. Granberry, and W. T. Kelley. *Squash*. University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C527.htm>.

Commercial Vegetable Production Guides. "Pumpkin and Winter Squash." Oregon State University. <http://oregonstate.edu/Dept/NWREC/pumpkin.html>.

The Gardener's Network. "How to Grow Squash." <http://www.gardenersnet.com/vegetable/squash.htm>.

Jett, L. W. *Vegetable Planting and Planning Calendar*. University of Missouri Extension. <http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06201squash.htm>.

Sources accessed November 16, 2005.

Long Season Crop

Days to Germination	
Days to Maturity	
Soil	
Spacing	
Harvest	
Postharvest	
Production Concerns	
Pests and Diseases	
Other Considerations	

