

Family
**Vegetable
Garden**
Series

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-824 (9)

Melons, Cucumbers, Squash & Pumpkins.

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WE'RE ALIKE

Melons, cucumbers, squash and pumpkins are all closely related, and like the same things: lots of sun, warm weather, water and good soil.



WHICH KIND DO I PLANT?

There are certain types that grow best in your garden. If you have a small garden, bush type summer and winter squash and cucumbers are best. Here are some you can grow.

We all like the same things.

CUCUMBERS

Slicing

Gemini
Marketmore 70
Triumph

Pickling

Spartan Salad
Wisconsin SMR 18

SQUASH (bush type)

Summer

Zucchini Elite
Early Prolific
Straightneck
St. Pat Scallop

Winter

Gold Nugget
Table King

If you have a large garden you can plant these kinds and the ones listed below. Remember, plants need room to grow to make vegetables.



We only need a little room.

MUSKMELON

Burpee Hybrid
Supermarket
Gold Star

WATERMELON

Market Midget
Petite Sweet

SQUASH

Waltham Butternut
Buttercup
Table Queen

PUMPKINS

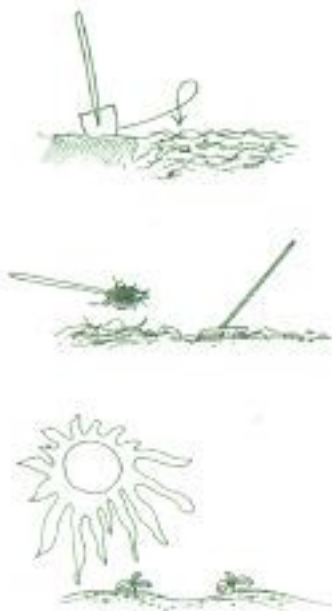
Cinderella (bush)
Small Sugar

THINGS TO DO FOR BEST RESULTS

1. Prepare the soil.

Spread animal manure and/or half of the recommended amount of a commercial fertilizer such as 5-20-20 (a total of 2 pounds of 5-20-20 should be used for every 100 square feet) on top of the soil.

Turn over the soil with a shovel, plow, or rototiller to a depth of 8 inches and add another pound of fertilizer per 100 square feet.

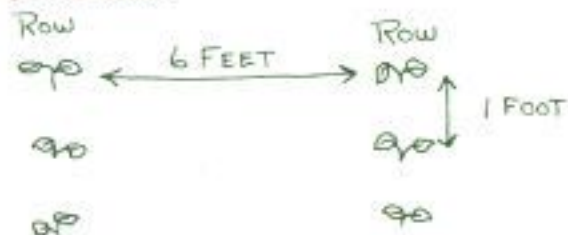


2. Plant after all chances of frost are past (May 20-June 1).

Remember cucumbers, melons, squash and pumpkins grow best during warm weather. Don't plant them before May 20.

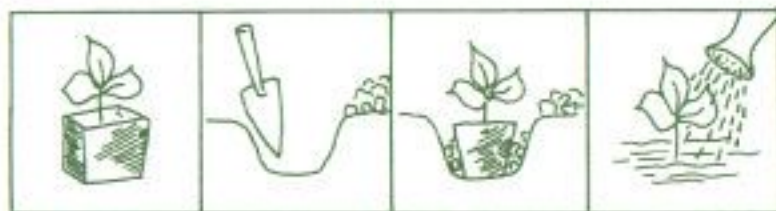
3. How to plant melons.

Seeds can be planted in the ground or you can buy plants from a garden center.



Plant 5 seeds per hill with hills 3 - 4 feet apart in rows 4 - 5 feet apart. Then thin to 2 strongest plants. Plant seeds 1 - 2 inches deep.

If you buy transplants from a store, space them 1 foot apart in the row and leave 4-5 feet between rows. Follow steps below for transplanting.



BUY
PLANT

DIG HOLE
IN GROUND

PUT PLANT
IN HOLE

WATER WELL

4. How to plant cucumbers.

Cucumbers grow fast and can be planted from May 20-June 20. Cucumbers are usually grown from seeds, but plants can also be purchased.

Plant cucumber seeds 3-4 inches apart in rows and leave 4-6 feet between rows. Plant seeds 1-2 inches deep. Thin the plants after they are 3 inches tall to 1 plant every foot. Those plants that would be thinned could be dug up and used as transplants.



5. How to plant pumpkins and squash.

Plant summer and winter bush type squash closer than winter vine type and pumpkins.

Summer and winter bush type squash



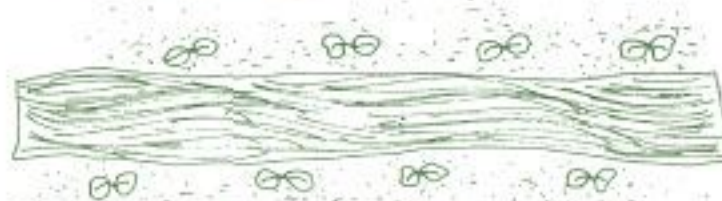
Plant seeds 1½ inches deep. Plant 6-8 seeds per hill and thin to 2 strongest plants after they are 3 inches tall.

Winter vine type squash and pumpkins



6. Cucumbers, squash and pumpkins can be tied to a fence with soft twine to save space.

7. Black plastic put down along the rows will make plants grow faster and keep weeds from growing.



8. Fertilize around plants when they flower using a high nitrogen fertilizer such as urea or ammonium nitrate. (See bulletin E-824(2))

A small handful of commercial fertilizer placed 4 inches from the plants or hills and worked into the soil will be satisfactory.



9. Water plants and pull weeds when needed. This is very important to get good yields.

THINGS NOT TO DO!

1. Don't plant large fruited varieties of watermelon because they will not mature in your garden.
2. Choose cucumber type carefully. Slicing cucumbers can be used for slicing and pickles when they are small. Pickling cucumbers cannot be used for slicing. They will get soft when they get old.
3. Don't kill honeybees that are visiting the flowers. They are necessary to pollinate the flowers to produce the vegetables.
4. Don't plant vine type varieties if you do not have the space. They will overrun other vegetables.
5. Don't plant too much (8-12 hills of melons or cucumbers and 2-3 hills of squash are plenty for a family of 4).

HOW TO STORE VEGETABLES

1. Muskmelons should be kept in the shade or inside after picking for a week to improve flavor. They can be stored in the refrigerator after this time.
2. Cucumbers, summer squash and watermelons can be refrigerated for a week or so. They will start to shrivel and lose flavor if kept too long.
3. Winter squash should be kept in a cool area but not refrigerated. They can be stored this way for a month or longer.
4. Pumpkins can be stored in a cool area after picking until Halloween. They're great for decorating and carving.



Other bulletins in this series provide additional information on vegetable gardening.

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