

HOW TO GROW



Direct Seed: 1/2"
Deep



Seeds to Hill: 6-8
Seeds



Thin: To 3-4 Plants



Light: Full Sun

Plant outside after danger of frost has passed, and soil is warm.

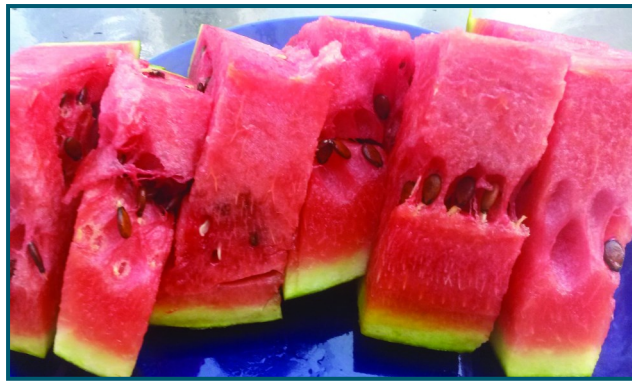
Water consistently. Seeds should sprout in 4-10 days.

Vines can grow 10 feet long or more - direct them by picking up the end of the vine and aiming them in the direction you want them to grow.

HOW TO HARVEST

Harvest watermelon when the underbelly turns yellow, the tendril closest to the melon turn brown, and the fruit easily detaches (slips) from the vine, about 65-75 days from planting seed. Fruits should be 6-12 pounds each.

Harvest cantaloupe when rinds are fully tan, fruit is fragrant and easily slips (detaches) from the vine.



HOW TO EAT

Enjoy watermelons sliced or cubed, and add to salads and other desserts. Puree to use in drinks. Watermelon is an excellent source of vitamin A, C, and lycopene.



HOW TO SAVE SEED

RATING: EASY

Melons are insect pollinated and annuals. The easiest way to save pure seed is to grow only one variety of watermelon, and/or one variety of cantaloupe in your garden at a time. If you grow more than one variety of either, flowers may produce seeds that aren't pure. Hand pollination techniques must be used to avoid cross pollination.

Hand Pollination: Melon plants have yellow male and female flowers. Male flowers are on a long thin stem, and female flowers have a swollen stem behind the flower.

When a watermelon plant has both male and female flowers, hand pollination can be done over a two-day period. On the first day, choose a male and female flower that have not opened. Secure them shut with clothes pins, tape, or enclose in a small draw-string bag.

The next day, pick the male flower and fold back the petals. Brush the pollen from the male flower onto the surface of the stigma in the center of the female flower. Reclose the petals of the female flower with the clothes pin, tape, or bag and mark the flower stem for later identification.



Eventually the petals shrivel and fall off as the new melon grows. Hand pollinating several female flowers is recommended for seed saving.



Seeds are ready to harvest when melons are ready to eat.

Slice melon and remove seeds from the pulp.

Rinse seeds repeatedly in a jar, allowing viable seeds to sink to the bottom, and pouring off pulp and immature seeds that float to the top.

Rinse several times until all remaining seeds are clean.

Drain water from seeds and spread on a coffee filter, screen or paper plate to dry.

When stored in an airtight container, melon seeds are viable for 4-5 years.

Find more information at
rplmn.org/seed

CREDITS

<https://www.seedsavers.org/blacktail-mountain-organic-watermelon>

<https://www.seedsavers.org/learn#growing-guides>

Slices: https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0043/4900/1839/products/Watermelon-Blacktail-Mountain-CMYK_2560x.jpg?v=1536619576

Seeds: https://deskgram.net/p/1905351673204060125_5520930591

http://plantbreeding.coe.uga.edu/index.php?title=20.6_Watermelon

On plate: <https://www.diggers.com.au/media/products/142904/m.jpg>



MELON

MUSKMELON

(Cucumis melo)

WATERMELON

(Citrullus lanatus)



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