

# GOURDS



## INFORMATION FORM

Please fill out the following questions for each gourd variety that you grow. When applicable, all measurements should be metric. Weight can be in lbs. as it's easily converted to grams or kilos.

**CATALOG No/CROP NAME:**

Date of planting: .....

Date transplanted into garden  
(if applicable): .....

No. seeds planted:

No. seeds germinated (date):

Date of 1<sup>st</sup> germination: .....

Did the crop receive full sun, partial sun, or full shade?  
.....

Date to 1<sup>st</sup> male flower(s): .....

Date to 1<sup>st</sup> female flower(s): .....

*continued*

## PHOTOGRAPHING GOURDS

Since we have yet to regenerate our gourd collection (we will be growing about 60 or so accessions of gourds this summer!), we don't have any good samples of how to photo-document gourds. If you're growing other crops, particularly squash, melon, or watermelon, use those layout examples. For gourds, the most important feature is the **shape of the mature fruit**.

Female flowers of gourds sit on small fruit-shaped "stems".

Photo-documentation should include the **whole fruit, leaves, flowers** and if possible, **seeds**. Some varieties may include more than one shape of fruit, or even of leaves. Be sure to include examples of this diversity.

## SAMPLE PHOTOS



GOURDS



Date 1<sup>st</sup> fruit produced: .....

Date of harvest: .....

Total number of gourds harvested?

Primary shape of gourds:

.....

Was the surface of the leaves fuzzy (small hairs), smooth, rough, etc?

.....

What color were the flowers?

.....

Did you notice pollinators among the flowers (bees, beetles, other insects— please list insect names if you know them):

.....

.....

.....

Were the plants subject to any unusual or particularly harsh weather (hail, hard rain, early frost or freezing etc.)? When? How did they fare?

Were there any problems with disease, fungus, insects, or other pests? How did plants respond? Did you use anything to treat the problem? How well did it work?

Please provide an overall description of how you grew this crop, including a brief description of how you watered (hose, drip, rain only, etc.) and about how often (i.e., did it experience some drought, weekly soakings), whether it needed trellising, was it intercropped and with what, did it need extra shade, did the grasshoppers seem to like it particularly, etc.

## QUESTION KEY

# GOURDS



**Date planted:** the date you sowed the seeds, either directly into the ground or in a seedling tray.

**Date transplanted into garden:** the date you transplanted the seedlings into the garden.

**Date of 1st germination:** the date you noticed the first seedling emerge (either from the ground or in a seedling tray; if a seedling tray, be sure to let us know how/where you started the plants).

**Total number of germinated seeds (date):** when you decide that no more plants are likely to germinate, include the date; be sure to count how many seeds you plant!

**Date to 1st male flowers:** the date when you notice the first male flower on any plant; male flowers are produced on slender stalks (see photographs); male flower can occur for several weeks before female flowering begins.

**Date to 1st female flowers:** the date you notice the first female flower on any plant: female flowers are produced above what look like miniature gourds (see photographs). Female flowers are usually produced later than male flowers, but gourds can not be produced until female flowers open and are pollinated.

**Date of 1st fruit:** the date you first noticed small fruit forming.

**Date of harvest:** the date at which you either had to harvest the gourds because of winter weather or when you considered them “mature” and able to be harvested; if you harvest once at the end of the season, simply record that date; if you harvest periodically,

just record the dates of your first and last harvests.

**Total number of gourds harvested:** try to count the number of gourds as you harvest them; keep a tally if you harvest periodically.

**Primary shape of the gourds?** Most varieties are predominantly a single type of shape—rattle, bottle, dipper, bilobal, etc. But some are mixed. Try to determine the predominant shape. **A photograph is essential here.**

**Was the surface of the leaves fuzzy (like velvet), smooth, rough, etc.?** Gourds can vary in leaf texture. Please note how the leaves feel to you.