

MELONS



INFORMATION FORM

Please fill out the following questions for each melon/watermelon 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 1st germination:

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

Date to 1st male flower(s):

Date to 1st female flower(s):

continued

PHOTOGRAPHING MELONS

Getting good photographs of plants in the field can be difficult. Mostly what we're looking for with melon/watermelon is some sense of the **overall spread of the plant** (this can vary with how/where it's planted, so don't worry about this), the overall **size and shape** of the fruit as well as the **color and texture** of the skin and inside flesh. At right are several examples to help you best document each variety you grow. If you're growing more than one melon/watermelon variety (melon varieties will cross with each other, as will watermelon varieties, but melons will not cross with watermelons), be sure to label each photograph with the catalog name and number. If you're only growing one variety, it's still a good idea, but less critical. A ruler helps give scale to your photograph and is an important feature for NS/S. If possible, be sure to include **something for scale** in each photograph—a yard/meter stick, shovel, person, etc. for whole plants; a ruler, business card, etc. for close-ups.

Female flowers of both melon and watermelon sit on small fruit-shaped "stems".

Photo-documentation should include the **whole fruit, cross-section, leaves, seeds and flowers**. Some varieties may include

SAMPLE PHOTOS



more than one shape of fruit, or even of leaves. Be sure to include examples of this diversity.

MELONS



Date 1st fruit produced:

Date of harvest:

Total number of fruit harvested?

Average weight of fruit?

Do you consider this a high, medium or low yielding plant?

.....

What color is the rind? Stripes or splotches? If so, what color?

.....

What color is the meat? The seeds?

.....

How does the fruit taste? Is it juicy, meaty, pithy, etc?

.....

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

MELONS



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 flowers are usually produced 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 fruit (see photographs). Female flowers are usually produced later than male flowers, but fruit can not be produced until female flowers open and are pollinated.

Date of 1st fruit: the date you first noticed small fruit forming (after pollination).

Date of harvest: the date at which you consider the melon/watermelon mature and able to be harvested; for both types, a pale spot on its underside is often used as a sign of maturity.

Most of our melons do not “slip”, so this may not be helpful. Let us know how YOU determined whether it was ripe or not.

Total number of fruit harvested: try to count the number of fruit.

Average weight of fruit? Try weighing at least 5 fruit to get an average weight or weigh them all and record individual weights—we can average them.

Do you consider this a high, medium or low yielding plant? Did it produce well enough for you that you’d grow it again (assuming you liked it otherwise).

How does the fruit taste? Was the meat stringy, pithy, bitter, etc? Give us your genuine opinion of whether you liked this melon/watermelon. If you didn’t, chances are others might not also. We want to know what’s the best and the worst!