

## Crimson Sweet

WATERMELON *Citrullus lanatus*

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For the sweetest fruits, reduce watering 1 week before harvest. Use row cover to warm the soil before sowing and to protect young plants from pests; uncover flowering plants for pollination.

**Culture:** Direct sow when soil has reached 70°F and all danger of frost has passed. (Or, carefully transplant 2-3 week old seedlings grown indoors in pots – not flats. Avoid overwatering seeds. Harden off 2-3 days before transplanting out, and handle gently to avoid damaging the tender roots.) Provide rich, well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter and even moisture.

**Harvest:** To determine ripeness, look for reduced rind glossiness, browning of the tendril closest to the fruit, a yellow patch where the fruit touches the ground, and a change in fruit sound when thumped.

**Seed Savers:** To save seeds for home planting, isolate from other watermelon by at least 1/8 mile.

Soil  
Temp.  
70–95°F

Sowing  
Depth  
1"

Final Plant  
Spacing  
12–18"

Final Row  
Spacing  
6–8'

Light  
Full Sun

Days to  
Emerge  
7–14

