

Sugar Baby

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 ¼ 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