

PACKAGE OF PRACTICES

CROP: WATERMELON

Sl. No.	Particulars/operations /Practice	Details of operation
1	Suitability for the area/ Agro climatic zone	Watermelon requires a dry hot climate with warmer days and cooler nights. Cannot withstand frost and low temp
2	Land / Soil	Well drained sandy loams and alluvial soils. Soil pH 5.5 to 6.5 is ideal.
3	Season/Sowing time	June-Oct. Feb-April in South India. July-Aug Feb- March in Northern and Western India, June-July in Eastern India
4	Seed rate	250-300g canal method.
5	Preparation of Main field and planting	Apply 10 tonnes of decomposed FYM followed by harrowing to mix in the soil. * Form sowing cannals * Apply basal dose of fertilizers in sowing canals and cover the fertilizer * Irrigate the field two days prior to sowing. * Dibble two seed per hill, immediately give light irrigation for quick and better Germination
6	Spacing	Row to Row(canal) 200-240cm; Plant to plant: 45cm
7	Seed treatment before sowing	Seed treatment with Gaucho(Imida) 2 ml/kg
8	Manures and Fertilizers	* Basal dose before sowing : 30:50:50 Kg NPK * First top dressing 20-25 days after sowing: 50kg N * Second top dressing 20-25 days after first top : 20 kg N Apply 10 kg Furadan along with basal fertilizer
9	Irrigation schedule	Irrigate field depending on soil type. Light and frequent irrigation once in 5-6days interval. Ensure sufficient moisture at root zone especially during flowering fruit stage
10	Weeding/inter-cultivation	Two hand weeding is required. Keep plots free of weed. Earthing up at 30 and 60 days after sowing. vine guiding
11	Micronutrient/growth regulator sprays	*Spray Calcium Nitrate(1% solution) at the time of flowering to increase fruit set
12	Pest and Disease control	Powdery Mildew: Karathane 1.0ml/Lit. Downy mildew: Ridomil 2g/lit Leaf miner: Triazhophos(Spark) 1.0 ml/Lit Red pumpkin beetle: Thiamethoxam 1ml/lit Sucking pest: Confidor 0.3ml/Lit, Actapride 1.0 ml/lit Fusarium Wilt: Drench 0.2% Bavistin
13	Expected yield	Fruits ready for 1 st harvest 90 DAS. Tendril nearest to fruit should dry is the indication of maturity. 17-18 t/ha fruits from a well managed crop.