WATERMELONS, LARGE IRRIGATED

Cultural Information

General

Climate Requirement: Although they will tolerate very hot conditions Watermelons prefer warm conditions with 25-32 degree days and 18-22 degree nights. Frosts and cold (<10 C) will cause severe yield reduction or total losses. Soil temperatures should be over 18 C	
Frost Sensitivity: Very sensitive to cold and or frosty conditions.	
Seed Requirement Direct Plant (kg/ha): 2-3	**Seed Planting Depth (cm)**: 3.0
Seed Requirement Transplant (g/ha):	**Seeds per gram (approx)**: 10-30
Plant Population: 2800-7500 per Ha	
Row spacing: 1.5-2.4 METRES **Plant Spacing**:. 75-1.5 METRES	
Potential Disease Problems: Powdery & Downy Mildew and Mosaic viruses are the most common diseases of Watermelons but Gummy stem blight and Bacterial fruit blotch can also be problems.	

Germination Information

Germination Temperature: Range 15-35 c Optimum 25-30 c	
Days to Emergence: 3-7 days	**Emergence to Transplant**: 8-14 days
Plant to Maturity: 38-48 days	
Transplant Recommendation: Extreme care required to prevent transplant shock, maximum 3rd true leaf.	

Soil and Nutrition

Salinity Sensitivity: Medium tolerance	**Optimum pH**: 5.5-7.8
Nutrient Removal (kg/ha) (At average yield, greater if yield is higher)	
Vegetative: N 60 Kg, P 12 Kg, K 60 Kg, Ca 95 Kg, Mg 22 Kg. per Ha	
Harvested Product: N 40 Kg, P 10 Kg, K 35 Kg.	
Total Nutrient Removal	
N 90 Kg , P 22 Kg, K 95 Kg, Ca 120 Kg, Mg 25 Kg. per Ha	
Fertiliser Application: Approximately 70 % of total including all P should be applied as a basal application and the balance as side dresses when the vines begin to flower and actively run.	

Irrigation Requirement

Irrigation System: Flood or trickle irrigation is preferred, over head systems can increase incidence of fungal disease	
Water Usage (average): 2.8-3.5 Ml per Ha	

Yield Potential

Average Yield: 28000-35000 kg per Ha
Packing: Usually sold in by the kg in bulk bins, cages of 1000 kg, sometimes bought in bulk in the field by produce agents.

This information is subject to the following disclaimer.