



## Squash Planting Guide

### About Squash

Squash are easy-to-grow, annual, warm season vegetables. Their use expands beyond just the culinary scene, as they have been transformed into art pieces, musical instruments, and can even be used for cleansing and cosmetic use with their plant derived organic chemicals. They can be stored for long periods, well into winter months if stored correctly.

### When to Plant

Squash does not grow well in cooler weather as they typically need 50-65 days of soil and air temperatures between 60-75 degrees F. Either direct sow in your garden 2 weeks after all danger of frost has passed, or get a head start on the season by starting plants indoors, 2-3 weeks before the last frost and transplant to the garden about 4 weeks later.

### Where to Plant

Plant squash in full sun using loose, well-drained soil. Planting beds should be prepared by working in plenty of compost.

### How to Plant

Dig a hole 12" deep and 24" wide, fill with compost, manure and several handfuls of sand - this will create an area that is both moisture retentive and well-draining. Use the soil that was removed from the hole to create the mound and then sow your seeds or transplant. Sow squash seeds 2-3" deep, planting 4-6 seeds (or transplanting 2-3 of your strongest seedlings) in mounds. Make sure mounds are 4-5' apart from one another.

### Caring for Squash

Squash grow best in soil that is kept evenly moist, and they require a lot of water in hot weather. Plants may wilt on hot days, but as long as water is regular and deeply applied (about 1" per week), plants will liven up as the days get cooler. Add aged compost to the planting beds prior to planting and side dress with more compost around mid season. Harvest squash about 50-65 days from sowing, depending on the variety. Pick when they are young and when rinds are still tender. You can break them clean off the stem by twisting, or use a knife. Squash grows rapidly, so be sure to check and harvest often. Store squash in a cool, dry place with a temperature of 50-55 degrees F and relative humidity of 50-70%.