

WATERMELON

Planting guide,
Crop Tips & Spray
Guide



Land Preparation



**Soils should be ploughed sufficiently to eliminate debris and clods
The field should be deeply ploughed to a depth of 20 – 30 cm and harrowed**

Direct Seeding-week 1

- Drips-Prepare the beds by mixing FYM at a ratio of 1 wheelbarrow to 1 meter square.
The beds should be at least from 1 meter by 2 meters
- Furrow/Basin- Prepare the basins adding FYM at a ratio of 1 wheelbarrow to 1m²

TIP:

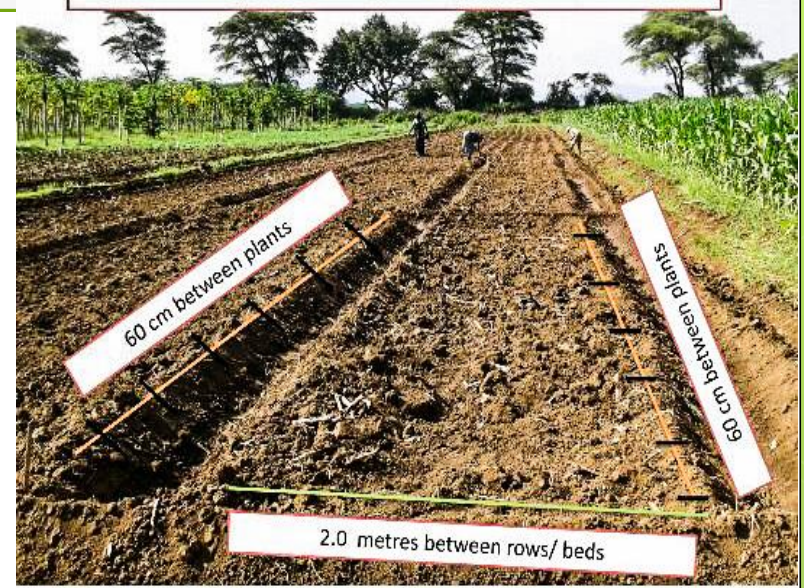
To break dormancy, soak the seeds in either warm water or a seed breeding solution.



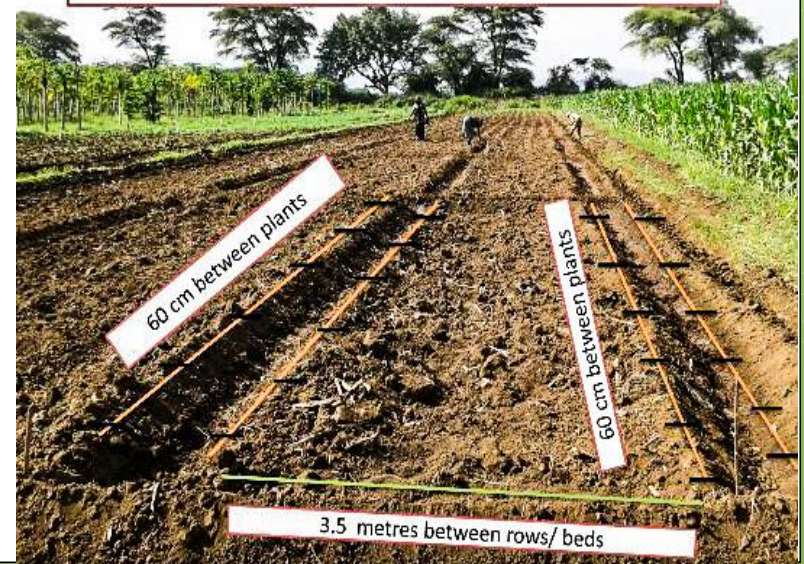
Spacing

- Plant the seeds with a spacing of at least 50cm and the rows should be at least 2 meters wide.
- Watering-Regular watering is very important to make sure the germination is uniform.
- It is also important to have some seeds set aside to gap in case not all the seeds germinate.

Planting Method – Single row system



Planting Method – Double row system
















Week 2-Germination

- ◉ Watermelon germinates after 5- 10 days.
- ◉ Drench with an insecticide that has Lambdacyhototwin which helps prevent soil pests like cut worms from chewing the plants that have germinated.
- ◉ Lambdacyhototwin (karate, lambda, pentagon etc.)

TIP: A watermelon is a heavy feeder therefore addition of farm yard manure is very helpful to the plants.



The Syngenta Cucurbits Spray Programme

Category	Pests / Diseases	Week 0	Weeks 1-2	Weeks 3-5	Weeks 5-6	Weeks 8-9	Weeks 10-11	Weeks 11-12	Usage Rate		
		Planting	Vegetative	Early Runner	First Flower	Fruit Expansion	Fruit Ripening	Harvesting	15-20 ltr/ Knapsack sprayer	PHI	Spray interval in days
Seed Treatment									10g / 4kg of seed	N/A	N/A
Insects / Pests	Aphids								8ml	5	7
	Melon fly White flies Thrips								20ml	7	7
	Leaf miner Red spider mites								8gm	3	7
									25ml	7	7
Fungal Diseases	Leaf spots Anthracnose								20ml	14	10
									20ml	3	10
									80gm	3	7
	Powdery mildew								20ml	14	10
									20ml	3	10
	Downy mildew								20ml	3	7
Grass Weed Control		 (apply when weeds are between 2-8 leaf stage)							150ml	N/A	N/A

Week 3

- By now, most if not all of the seeds have germinated.
- Apply a phosphorous based basal fertilizer to boost the root formation and to help the watermelons start their nutrient uptake.

TIP:

Gapping should now be done using a plant hormone like Citi shooter or DI grow green. This helps fasten the uniformity of the plants.

Week 4

- Weeding should now be done to make sure the field is clean
- Watermelon is a very sensitive plant and therefore a lot of care should be taken especially in the early stages.

TIP:

Do not use any herbicides, manual weeding is the best option

Week 5 – Insect Traps

- Insect attacks-Watermelon attacks very many pests.
- This does not replace the sprays needed but reduces the chances of the watermelon flowers and fruits from being attacked.
- Thrips and melon fly can reduce the yield by causing flower abortions and deformed fruits. This causes major losses to the farmers

TIP: Using insect traps for thrips and melon fly at this point is very important.

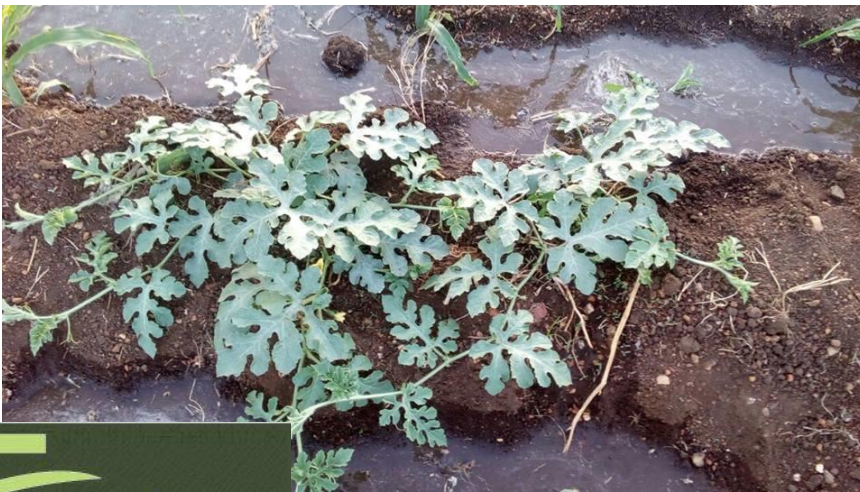


Week 6 - Top-dressing



- The vegetative stage of the watermelon is a very important stage.
- Apply a nitrogen based basal fertilizer to boost this stage
- The foliage acts as a cover to the fruits and is the part of the crop that feeds on the nutrients

Vegetative Stage



Week 7 – Budding, Flowering & Fruiting

- Budding, flowering and Pollination

This is a very sensitive stage as it determines your yield.

- Remember to apply a flowering plant hormone like Plantone, that induces flowering and fruiting

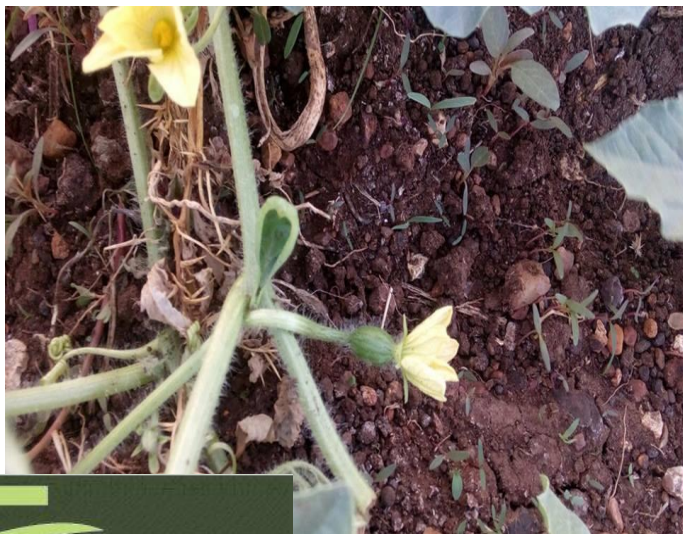
TIP:

Watering should be increased during this stage as the plant gets stressed while producing flowers.

Apply a boron based folia spray to reduce flower abortion.

TIP:

Having a bee hive near the watermelon farm/field helps in pollination and boost flower and fruit production. This also helps to reduce the deformity in fruits. If you do not have a bee hive, spray the watermelon in the evening using a mist sprayers so that bees can come or plant sunflower.



Week 8 - Fruiting

- Since you want uniform sized fruits, remember to dedicate this week to removing the first flower so that most buds can develop into fruits at the same time.

TIP:

This should be done before spraying. After finishing add a stress reliever folia spray like Optimizer, to the weekly sprays to help the plant recover. Adding a calcium based folia fertilizer helps the fruits to harden



Week 9

- Now fruits have formed.
- Apply a potassium based basal fertilizer like NPK 17:17:17 or YARA Winner to provide the needed nutrients for the fruits to form uniformly and increase in size
- It also helps in increasing the sweetness of the watermelons

TIP:

Having a bee hive near the watermelon farm/field helps in pollination and boost flower and fruit production. This also helps to reduce the deformity in fruits. If you do not have a bee hive, spray the watermelon in the evening using a mist sprayers so that bees can come or plant sunflower.

Week 10

- The watermelon fruits are very sensitive.
- Remember to mulch as well as putting some grass under the fruits so that they are not damaged by water or the surface.

TIP:

Use extra care when mulching. The people doing this work have to wash their hands after every 50 fruits so that they reduce and spread of diseases.



Week 11

- Start looking for market for your watermelons
- But before that, make sure you limit the number of fruits per vine depending on your target market. Mostly 3 to 4 fruits per vine helps the fruits to be of good size and weight

TIP:

IMPORTANT: STOP WATERING THE WATERMELONS AS THIS MIGHT MAKE THE MATURE FRUITS BURST.

Week 12 - the Money week

- You should be ready to harvest.
- If you have not got a good buyer or you would like some guidance in getting a good buyer. You can contact us
- If you get a good buyer please remember to rate them.
- TIP:
- How to know your watermelon is ready.
 - When you tap it, it sounds like a football which has inflated with air.
 - The part that the watermelon fruit was touching the ground changes colour
 - Cut one watermelon and taste.





Your 1st step
to
Better Yields

To place your order
Call: 0722907203, 0799087084
eteinafarms@gmail.com
www.eteinafarms.com



...we care from the start